

CAPTAIN THOMAS W.VILAS
SAN FRANCISCO BAR PILOT

[REDACTED]
NOVATO, CA 94945

March 10, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Thomas W. Vilas. I was on duty November 7th 2007. My contact information is as follows:

Phone [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

My assigned vessel was the container ship Lihue, a USA flag vessel of 30,877 gross tons, with a draft of 28' 04".

The vessel was berthed starboard side to Oakland Inner Harbor berth 68 (bow pointed seaward).

Scheduled sailing time was 0900.

The Lihue was bound for sea.

To the best of my recollection, all ship's equipment was in proper operating order.

I do not remember if the ship was equipped with ECDIS. I assume that it was and I may have used it, but I have no specific recollection.

The vessel's last line time was 1011, and I reported underway at 1015.

At the time we got underway visibility was about one mile and improving.

The decision to delay sailing was made largely due to low visibility (one quarter to three quarters of a mile prior to sailing). In addition, I was aware of the incident involving the Cosco Busan and with this in mind we anticipated that a large number of small craft would be in the vicinity of the incident. Small vessels can be lousy radar targets and therefore I wanted reasonable visibility when dealing with them.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas W. Vilas