

Summary of interview with John Tullis, 16FEB2023, approximately 1100 EST

In attendance: Captain John Tullis, retired from Washington State Ferry (WSF), Captain David Flaherty, NTSB Investigator In-Charge

Position: WSF Master.

Had worked for WSF from 1985 to 2018, had work in several positions onboard the ferry vessel including vessel master.

He wanted to contact the NTSB to pass his experience and knowledge of Captain Cole.

Both he and Captain Cole started at WSF in 1985, both had served in several positions onboard the WSF vessels and they both became licensed masters at the same time.

He passed that Captain Cole drove the vessels very fast and only slowed down when the ferry was almost at the dock.

Captain Cole had been involved in a previous ferry casualty when was the master, the vessel hit the dock causing damage to the dock and vessel.

Captain Cole was known for being late and that other crew members on watch would cover for him until he arrived onboard.

Captain Tullis passed that the managers are not very involved with oversight of the ferry crew members. They are never seen on the vessel unless they are just riding the vessel to attend a meeting. They were aware of Captain Cole's poor performance but did nothing.

Captain Tullis also passed that he had recommended that the managers become more involved following the Staten Island Ferry casualty, but his recommendations were not implemented.

Interview concluded.

Sign  / 16FEB23
Date