

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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FIRE AND SINKING OF THE CFV
LUCKY ANGEL OFFSHORE PASCAGOULA,
MISSISSIPPI, ON DECEMBER 10, 2020

Accident No.: DCA21FM010

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Interview of: SON NGUYEN, Captain
Lucky Angel

U.S. Coast Guard Sector Mobile
Investigations Division Shop
Mobile, Alabama

Wednesday,
December 16, 2020

APPEARANCES:

MICHAEL KUCHARSKI, Senior Marine Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Investigating Officer
U.S. Coast Guard Sector Mobile

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] Senior Investigating Officer
U.S. Coast Guard Sector Mobile

DEVAN PHAN
Translator

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I N T E R V I E W

(9:30 a.m.)

1
2
3 MR. KUCHARSKI: So we had a little bit of a gap, but okay,
4 I'm good to go when you are.

5 LT [REDACTED] Okay. Good morning, this is Lt [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
6 I'm an investigating officer for Sector Mobile. Today's date, all
7 right, is December 16th, 2020. It is 0930 and we are at Sector
8 Mobile in the Investigations Division Shop.

9 Again, this is Lt [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and I will also introduce
10 everyone at the table. Mr. [REDACTED]

11 MR. [REDACTED] My name is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I am the senior
12 investigating officer with Coast Guard Sector Mobile.

13 LT [REDACTED] Devan, if you could please say your full name
14 and also spell it.

15 MR. PHAN: Yes, my name is Devan Phan, D-e-v-a-n, P-h-a-n.

16 LT [REDACTED] All right. And, Mr. Nguyen, could you state
17 your full name and spell.

18 CAPTAIN NGUYEN: Yes, my name is Son Nguyen, and the last
19 name is N-g-u-y-e-n, first name, S-o-n.

20 LT [REDACTED] Okay, thank you. And Captain.

21 MR. KUCHARSKI: Hi. This is Mike Kucharski; I'm a senior
22 marine investigator at the National Transportation Safety Board in
23 Washington, D.C., although I am not in Washington right now, okay.
24 But yes, thank you.

25 LT [REDACTED] And just a few safety items in this shop. So

1 first off we have bathrooms, heads. We have two back there, one
2 on the left, one on the right. And if at any time you need to use
3 them we also have a water fountain there, so if you'd like to take
4 a break and get a drink of water, just speak up, that will be
5 fine. And in the case of a fire or any emergency, we exit out of
6 this door here, and we go to the softball fields.

7 Okay. Anything else --

8 MR. [REDACTED] No, I guess that's it.

9 LT [REDACTED] -- before we get started? All right. Captain,
10 so we're going to have Mr. -- Captain Mike Kucharski, he's going
11 to start off with questions.

12 Devan, for translation purposes, what's the easiest way? Is
13 it for us to ask the full question to you and then you'll just
14 translate?

15 MR. PHAN: I mean, he understood a little bit, so yeah.

16 LT [REDACTED] Okay, okay. So what will probably happen is
17 Captain Mike probably will ask a question, have you translate it,
18 wait for the answer, and then if you could just repeat the answer
19 back to him, that would be awesome.

20 And one thing I did not mention yet is that we are here for
21 the investigation of the commercial fishing vessel *Lucky Angel* on
22 December 10th, 2020, at approximately 2200. The vessel caught
23 fire and the vessel eventually sank.

24 So with that, Captain Kucharski, I will hand it over to you.

25 MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay, great. And please feel free to call me

1 Mike is fine.

2 LT [REDACTED] Okay.

3 MR. KUCHARSKI: So, Devan, would you ask Mr. Nguyen for the
4 recording -- I know we asked him beforehand if we could record,
5 but would you please check with him to make sure it's okay that we
6 record?

7 MR. PHAN: He's fine with it, yeah.

8 MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay.

9 LT [REDACTED] We just have to get a recording.

10 MR. KUCHARSKI: Yep, yep. Thanks, sir. And, okay,
11 gentlemen, would you look at the -- do you see the picture that I
12 -- of the fishing boat that I have on the screen, do you see that?

13 LT [REDACTED] It hasn't blown up fully yet. It's a thumbnail.

14 MR. [REDACTED] It's a thumbnail.

15 LT [REDACTED] It's a thumbnail still.

16 MR. KUCHARSKI: You said it is not?

17 LT [REDACTED] It's thumbnail size right now.

18 MR. KUCHARSKI: Oh, thumbnail, how does that happen? Let me
19 see, let me see if I can --

20 LT [REDACTED] So right now what we're seeing is the folder,
21 and it looks like you haven't double clicked it yet even though
22 I'm sure you have.

23 MR. KUCHARSKI: Well, yeah, yeah, yep. Let me try one more
24 time. I see. And let me do this, stop share. Okay. Let me pull
25 that up and actually you could -- while we're going through this

1 you could -- if you have that photo printed up there that may be
2 helpful just to show him that.

3 LT [REDACTED] The only thing I printed was the chart and I
4 printed the diagram.

5 MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay.

6 LT [REDACTED] So I do not have the print of that vessel.

7 MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay. Let me, let me, let me do a couple
8 little things, yep, and I will pull that up myself then.

9 LT [REDACTED] Okay.

10 MR. KUCHARSKI: I'm going to go into maybe a third screen at
11 the same time so you may see a slight interruption here, but this
12 way it will be a little bit easier, then I can pull from one
13 screen to another and go ahead and show the, show the particular
14 picture.

15 LT [REDACTED] Okay.

16 MR. KUCHARSKI: So bear with me one second and let's see what
17 it says here. All right, we're getting close and then we can look
18 at that, the *Lucky Angel* and pics, and let's see if we get the
19 full one now. Okay, all right, navigating between screens. So
20 let's see now if --

21 LT [REDACTED] Yes, sir. There we go, yes, we see it.

22 MR. KUCHARSKI: Let me, let me make it a little bit bigger.
23 Is that a little bit bigger now?

24 LT [REDACTED] Yes.

25 (Whereupon, Mr. Devan Phan translated the proceedings for

1 Captain Son Nguyen.)

2 INTERVIEW OF CAPTAIN SON NGUYEN

3 BY MR. KUCHARSKI:

4 Q. Okay. Now, Devan, would you ask Captain Nguyen, this is
5 another, another shrimp boat, it shows -- our records show it was
6 made by the same builder of the *Lucky Angel*, it shows it's the
7 same hull number as the *Lucky Angel*. Does this look like the
8 *Lucky Angel*?

9 A. Yes, at first he was, he was saying not the ladder in the
10 back, but I told him to focus on the cabin and the vessel profile
11 and he said, yes.

12 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

13 BY MR. KUCHARSKI:

14 Q. Okay. And what is different, what is different -- what is
15 the difference between this boat here, the *Canon Ali* (ph.), and
16 the *Lucky Angel*? What is different?

17 A. He was talking about what do you call that, a boom going back
18 and the ladder (indiscernible) the (indiscernible) of whatever
19 that is.

20 MR. [REDACTED] So the spool on the back?

21 TRANSLATOR: Yes.

22 MR. [REDACTED] And then which boom?

23 TRANSLATOR: The boom coming out, yeah, that's the boom.

24 MR. [REDACTED] So are you saying the spool on the back and then
25 the boom that's -- no, that's an outrigger?

1 TRANSLATOR: Yes.

2 MR. [REDACTED] Those are two outriggers?

3 TRANSLATOR: Yes.

4 MR. [REDACTED] The two white tipped ones are the outriggers?

5 TRANSLATOR: Yes.

6 MR. [REDACTED] And you're talking about the boom in the middle?

7 TRANSLATOR: Right, the outrigger.

8 MR. [REDACTED] Yeah, yep.

9 TRANSLATOR: Okay.

10 MR. [REDACTED] And then the boom -- all right, okay.

11 So, Mike, he's --

12 TRANSLATOR: It's pretty much like single pole boom --

13 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

14 TRANSLATOR: -- (indiscernible). Yeah, single
15 (indiscernible) and then the ladder from here going up.

16 MR. [REDACTED] Roger that.

17 So, Mike, he's pointing that the vessel is the same as the
18 picture.

19 MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay. Who's speaking now?

20 MR. [REDACTED] Two outriggers.

21 MR. KUCHARSKI: Sorry, who's speaking?

22 MR. [REDACTED] Sorry, this is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] with Coast Guard Sector
23 Mobile.

24 MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay.

25 MR. [REDACTED] With regard to the *Canon Ali* photo you're

1 currently showing us, the two outriggers are the same; the vessel
2 hull and cabin are the same. He's saying the boom that's coming
3 in that picture, the boom out the aft of the cabin is different.
4 His is a single pole, not a dual pole.

5 MR. KUCHARSKI: Great, great.

6 MR. [REDACTED] The spool on the stern is not there and there's no
7 ladder on the back of the hull.

8 MR. KUCHARSKI: Perfect.

9 TRANSLATOR: It's (indiscernible). I thought (indiscernible)
10 -- this is Devan again. I'm getting (indiscernible) okay.

11 MR. [REDACTED] Yes.

12 TRANSLATOR: I mean, let me speak to him and confirm what I
13 said to you.

14 MR. KUCHARSKI: Don't get too far away from the phone. Move
15 the phone towards you if you do.

16 LT [REDACTED] He's speaking in Vietnamese.

17 MR. [REDACTED] He's speaking in Vietnamese, Mike.

18 MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay.

19 MR. [REDACTED] Sorry.

20 TRANSLATOR: Okay. So what is at the picture -- so one other
21 difference that we -- that *Lucky Angel* with this one that we can
22 see where the picture is, it looks like they can come in the
23 engine to the back of the wheelhouse. But *Lucky Angel* different,
24 *Lucky Angel* you can't go to the engine room in the back of the
25 wheelhouse.

1 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

2 TRANSLATOR: But if you want to go to the wheelhouse, it's
3 actually -- they have a little door right in the middle of the
4 side, on the port side --

5 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

6 TRANSLATOR: -- of the vessel itself.

7 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

8 MR. KUCHARSKI: Great, great. That's very helpful, because
9 when Captain Nguyen describes, you know, what happened then, you
10 know, we can -- you know, we have a lot of -- we have a lot of
11 experienced people at the NTSB in engineering and fire and
12 forensics and we can, you know, talk these things through.

13 So what Captain Nguyen -- when he explains these things to
14 us, it's very helpful that we can see this, okay. So I'll maybe
15 ask before you leave or ask Lt [REDACTED] there if he can download
16 that picture, and then you can mark those things that are
17 different. So, you know, that may be helpful then.

18 And, Lt [REDACTED] what I can do is you send me by PDF or you
19 scan that and send that to me, I can roll that right into the --
20 have the court reporters roll it into the interview, okay?

21 LT [REDACTED] Okay. It should be in the folder.

22 MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay.

23 LT [REDACTED] Public folder for it.

24 BY MR. KUCHARSKI:

25 Q. Okay. And I'm going to now bring up another photo -- or

1 actually, so you're going to see no sharing for the time being,
2 but I'm going to bring up now, this is a schematic, okay, that
3 you're going to see of another fishing boat that we investigated,
4 okay, the accident.

5 And I am going to ask the same thing, if Captain Nguyen would
6 look at it and then say, yeah, this layout, layout of my boat is
7 the same or maybe some things that would change, okay. Tell me
8 when you see the schematic.

9 A. We see it now, and he also has one in front of him.

10 Q. Okay, good.

11 A. I've given him a pen.

12 Q. Great.

13 A. So he'll be able to mark on there.

14 Q. Great. Okay. And let me -- Devan, let me, if I can, explain
15 too. Do you see where it says MPD?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. That's the main propulsion diesel, that's the one that powers
18 the propeller, okay.

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. Then this boat had a generator, okay, coming off the MPD, and
21 it also had a separate -- this diesel to generator, so it had a
22 separate diesel that powered this generator, okay. And then it
23 also had -- this is a refrigeration unit, okay. So those are the
24 -- that was the layout on that particular boat, so the main
25 engine, generator, then the --

1 A. Right, yes.

2 Q. -- then the diesel to the generator had a separate diesel and
3 then the refrigeration unit.

4 A. Yes, sir. Okay. I asked the Captain to print the print that
5 we have over that way he can print much (indiscernible) because I
6 see what you have up there, but --

7 Q. Perfect.

8 A. -- not -- normally I don't know about (indiscernible). I
9 never actually went down to the engine room. But I'll tell you
10 right now that that's not going to be similar to this, and that's
11 why I asked him to print over (indiscernible) because --

12 Q. Yeah.

13 A. -- they -- normally we have two generators and two
14 compressors that run the brine tank and the fish hold. So is not
15 the same setup, because whatever you've got there, they probably
16 do something else besides shrimping.

17 Q. Okay. No, actually this was a shrimper that caught fire off
18 of the Florida Keys, not too far from there actually over, so this
19 was actually a shrimp boat.

20 A. Oh, okay.

21 Q. But the other thing which is critical --

22 A. I was --

23 Q. The other thing which is critical -- this is Mike Kucharski
24 speaking -- is you see this area where the batteries -- if the
25 *Lucky Angel* had batteries and a charger for the batteries, okay,

1 and then the main electrical panel, the electrical panel, that's
2 critical where that is, okay, breaker panel they call it.

3 MR. [REDACTED] Hey, Mike, give us just one second. They're
4 trying to, they're trying to figure out how to draw the diagram
5 for the engine room.

6 MR. KUCHARSKI: Sure.

7 MR. [REDACTED] So if you could give them just a minute, we'll
8 have them start labeling all that stuff.

9 MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay.

10 LT [REDACTED] Yeah, whatever they miss, we can have them fill
11 in.

12 MR. KUCHARSKI: Good.

13 (Pause.)

14 TRANSLATOR: Okay, gentlemen. Well, like I say, I never went
15 down there, so I thought he had two generators. He don't have but
16 one generator.

17 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

18 TRANSLATOR: Okay. So, Mike, we're right, it's pretty much
19 similar to that (indiscernible) except you can see right here
20 which you've got brine tank compression --

21 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

22 TRANSLATOR: -- from the brine tank.

23 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

24 TRANSLATOR: And this is (indiscernible) compression. This
25 is pretty much like a breaker --

- 1 BY MR. [REDACTED]
- 2 Q. That's the breaker right there?
- 3 A. Breaker panel, okay.
- 4 Q. Okay.
- 5 A. Okay. And you can see this one and this (indiscernible) that
- 6 he went up to his wheelhouse.
- 7 Q. Is that the hatch right there?
- 8 A. Yes, that's the hatch.
- 9 Q. And went down there and go into the engine room?
- 10 A. Yeah.
- 11 Q. Okay.
- 12 A. It's a ladder.
- 13 Q. Right.
- 14 A. You have to have two accesses --
- 15 Q. Right.
- 16 A. -- in case of emergency. Okay. Well, right here is a ladder
- 17 which I told you it come from the back.
- 18 Q. Right, back (indiscernible).
- 19 A. And you go straight up here to (indiscernible).
- 20 Q. Okay.
- 21 A. Yes, sir.
- 22 Q. Is that where he entered or did he enter through the hatch?
- 23 A. I didn't get there yet.
- 24 Q. Okay, yeah.
- 25 A. Okay. And this right here, this pump, we have three pumps

- 1 but this pump is the (indiscernible).
- 2 Q. Okay.
- 3 A. (Indiscernible) okay, something like that.
- 4 Q. Yeah, yeah.
- 5 A. Okay. To (indiscernible) down, yeah.
- 6 Q. (Indiscernible) put that?
- 7 A. Yeah, yes, sir.
- 8 Q. All right, deck wash. Okay. (Indiscernible)?
- 9 A. They have two pumps here for the fuel pump.
- 10 Q. Okay, so this is bilge?
- 11 A. Yes, sir.
- 12 Q. Okay.
- 13 A. And pretty much --
- 14 Q. Where's the batteries located?
- 15 A. (Indiscernible).
- 16 Q. Are they off the ground, are they elevated?
- 17 A. Platform, they're platform.
- 18 Q. Platform.
- 19 A. It's on the platform. Yeah, it's actually above the
- 20 platform.
- 21 Q. Okay. How many batteries?
- 22 A. Four. Okay, one for generator -- one a battery for
- 23 generator, three for the main engine.
- 24 Q. Okay. Are they enclosed?
- 25 A. It's in the (indiscernible).

- 1 Q. Yeah.
- 2 A. But the (indiscernible).
- 3 Q. Okay. And this is the electrical panel?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Electrical panel. And these are the compressors --
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. -- for the brine tanks?
- 8 A. Yes, sir.
- 9 Q. And the fish hold?
- 10 A. Yeah.
- 11 Q. Generator, one generator?
- 12 A. Yes, sir.
- 13 Q. This is the main diesel engine?
- 14 A. Uh-huh.
- 15 Q. What kind of engine was it?
- 16 A. Cummings V6.
- 17 Q. V6 Cummings?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 MR. KUCHARSKI: I've got, I've got a whole bunch of questions
20 on for --
- 21 MR. [REDACTED] Sorry, I was just trying to get the --
- 22 TRANSLATOR: The diagram right.
- 23 MR. KUCHARSKI: Yeah, yeah, yeah.
- 24 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.
- 25 MR. KUCHARSKI: Yeah. But, you know, as far as specifics on

1 the equipment, I've got a slew --

2 MR. [REDACTED] Roger.

3 MR. KUCHARSKI: -- of questions for that.

4 MR. [REDACTED] Right. I didn't mean to step on your toes.

5 MR. KUCHARSKI: No, no, no, no, no, not at all, not at all.

6 MR. [REDACTED] I'm going to go --

7 MR. KUCHARSKI: Not at all. I just want you --

8 MR. [REDACTED] (Indiscernible).

9 MR. KUCHARSKI: Hey, you know, you don't know that. I may
10 not ask that, and if you didn't ask it, we wouldn't have that,
11 right?

12 MR. [REDACTED] I'm going to go scan this real fast, Mike, and
13 send this to you so you'll have a picture of what we're looking
14 at, if that's okay?

15 MR. KUCHARSKI: Yeah, sure. Sure, sure. Do you want to --

16 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. (Indiscernible).

17 MR. KUCHARSKI: -- do you want me to, do you want me to
18 continue with the interview in the meantime? I think I can
19 because --

20 MR. [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

21 MR. KUCHARSKI: -- the detailed questions don't --

22 LT [REDACTED] Writing that down (indiscernible).

23 MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay.

24 LT [REDACTED] Mike, your email, just to verify so that

25 Mr. [REDACTED] can send it to you, is [REDACTED].gov, right?

1 MR. KUCHARSKI: That's it.

2 LT [REDACTED] Okay. I'm going to hand this to him. Devan
3 stepped in to go to the bathroom real quick.

4 MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay. Let me -- let's go off the recording
5 then and we'll come back on when he comes back.

6 LT [REDACTED] Okay.

7 (Off the record.)

8 (On the record.)

9 MR. KUCHARSKI: There we go, okay. So we're back recording
10 again, and the time is 11:07 Eastern Standard Time, which is 10:07
11 Central Standard Time, and we're back interviewing Captain Nguyen.

12 So if I can sort of walk this through, right now we're
13 looking at a schematic that -- of the vessel that Mr. Nguyen --
14 Captain Nguyen along with Translator Devan and the Coast Guard
15 have put together. And each one of the items have been labeled on
16 this diagram of the vessel, so the tankage where the batteries
17 are, the generator, electrical panel, and those have all been
18 marked up and these will be included with the interview. But we
19 will use this to continue with the interview when we get to
20 specifics. So I'll leave that up there right now to look at.

21 BY MR. KUCHARSKI:

22 Q. So I'd like to go ahead and continue with the actual
23 interview. And so, Captain Nguyen, tell us a little bit about
24 yourself. I mean, mainly we're looking for work experience in the
25 marine industry. Now, I understand you came from Vietnam. By the

1 way, I've been to Vietnam from Ha Long Bay down to Ho Chi Minh
2 City or Saigon visiting the different ports. Beautiful country, I
3 really enjoyed myself there. So tell us about yourself, your work
4 experience, any marine training, whether it's here or in Vietnam.
5 Let's start with, start with your Vietnam first, okay?

6 A. Okay. Let me -- it gets a little touchy there. Well, this
7 is Devan again. Captain Nguyen was telling me that, after the
8 fall of Vietnam, South Vietnam, he was ■■■, and so he started with
9 the new regime, whatever you call that, and he started working, he
10 started working as a fisherman in Vietnam when he was ■■■.

11 He said he was ■■■, he and a group of friends, they planned to
12 escape like, you know, the familiar term that they are
13 (indiscernible) would know that like four people. So they, him
14 and a group of friends escaped from Vietnam in ■■■ to
15 (indiscernible) Da Nang, Central Vietnam, four -- I believe it was
16 four, but to -- their destination was supposed to be -- was to
17 Hong Kong. But they escaped with the -- one of those motors with
18 the little propeller. You could see, yeah. And one of the
19 propellers had three, and in the middle of the journey, one broke
20 off, so they were struggling to get there, and they couldn't even
21 make it to Hong Kong, they got to pull into (indiscernible).

22 And they stay in (indiscernible), the Portuguese, you're all
23 familiar with that, okay, so -- and then he came to America in
24 (indiscernible) 1980 and lived in Ohio. They sent him to Ohio,
25 stayed there a little bit, and then he go to California for the

1 Vietnamese Community there was, you know, much bigger than Ohio.
2 So he went and lived in California for four to five years working
3 in a machine shop.

4 1991 he came to -- he went to Florida for vacation, and when
5 he get there, he see the fishing industry there, so he decide to
6 stay. And he worked with the Vietnamese fishermen in Florida, and
7 he actually moved back to -- he actually went to live -- go back,
8 go back in '96 or so, he bought a trailer there. He got to travel
9 and he said it was like an hour or so. So he bought a trailer in
10 the Bayou and stayed there and worked as a fisherman, worked on a
11 shrimp boat until Katrina.

12 So he moved back to Pensacola, and the rest is history, you
13 know. I mean, he traveled back and forth running boats for other
14 people before. Yes, he would work as a deckhand, but the one
15 before this had a captain, Captain Eric, which he seemed to
16 (indiscernible) to.

17 MR. [REDACTED] That's the vessel name?

18 TRANSLATOR: Yes.

19 MR. [REDACTED] Captain --

20 TRANSLATOR: Eric.

21 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

22 TRANSLATOR: *Captain Eric II*, I think, yeah.

23 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

24 BY MR. KUCHARSKI:

25 Q. That's very good, very good, okay. So I see. Is it correct

1 that Captain Nguyen, so he worked on fishing boats since, since
2 when? '90 -- somewhere in the '90s?

3 A. One.

4 Q. '91, okay.

5 A. Yes, '91.

6 Q. Okay, okay. And he worked as a deckhand then in '91 when he
7 started?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. Okay. Did he also during -- from '91 until he -- I believe
10 he's the owner of the *Lucky Angel*, correct, is that correct?

11 A. His daughter is.

12 Q. His daughter, okay, okay. So and I'll come back to some
13 questions on that too. So did he -- between '91 and when he went
14 on the *Lucky Angel*, was he also captain on any other fishing
15 boats?

16 A. Yes, the other boat was *Captain Eric II*.

17 Q. Okay. And how long was he captain on that boat for?

18 A. Well, he worked on that boat *Captain Eric* for close to 10
19 years, but he ran that boat as a captain around two years.

20 Q. Oh, okay. Okay, great, great, understood. So *Captain Eric*
21 about two years as captain and worked on it for about 10 years as
22 a deckhand too. Did he also -- I know on some of the shrimpers
23 I've worked with --

24 A. Let me correct that. I don't know if it matters or not, but
25 10 years on *Captain Eric II* as a captain.

1 MR. [REDACTED] Oh, eight years as deckhand.

2 MR. KUCHARSKI: Right, 10 years on the *Captain Eric II* as a
3 deckhand, is that correct?

4 MR. [REDACTED] Eight years as a deckhand and two years as
5 captain --

6 MR. KUCHARSKI: As a captain.

7 MR. [REDACTED] -- 10 years total.

8 BY MR. KUCHARSKI:

9 Q. Okay, good. Good, good, good, good. And was that also a
10 shrimper, a shrimp boat?

11 A. Yes, it is.

12 Q. Okay, okay. And his time from '91 on, is it mostly on shrimp
13 boats or has it been different types of fishing boats?

14 A. Yes, just shrimp boats.

15 Q. Okay. Okay, so he has quite a bit of experience in the, in
16 the shrimping industry. Okay, okay. And the *Lucky Angel* -- so I
17 understand, was he captain of the *Lucky Angel*, is that correct?

18 A. Yes, sir, he is.

19 Q. Okay. And --

20 A. To sum up the question, I would not waste our time to
21 translate for him because --

22 MR. [REDACTED] Yeah, information that you know.

23 TRANSLATOR: Yeah, information I know for sure.

24 MR. [REDACTED] Yeah.

25 TRANSLATOR: If I'm not certain, I would not speak up.

1 MR. [REDACTED] Are you okay with that, Captain Mike?

2 MR. KUCHARSKI: Yeah, yeah, that's fine, that's fine.

3 BY MR. KUCHARSKI:

4 Q. And but his daughter is the owner of the boat, is that
5 correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Yes, okay. Like you mentioned earlier his daughter is --
8 okay.

9 A. Yes, owner.

10 Q. The *Lucky Angel*, is the only thing that that boat did was
11 shrimping?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Okay. And how long -- how much time did he have with the
14 *Lucky Angel* as captain of the boat total?

15 A. The daughter bought the boat in June of this year.

16 Q. Okay, June of 2020 she bought the boat?

17 A. Yes, sir, 2020.

18 Q. Okay. So, so and he was the captain on there in June of
19 2020?

20 A. Yes, sir, (indiscernible).

21 Q. Okay. So if the Captain would explain to us on a daily
22 basis, you know, what he did on the boat, when it was, when it was
23 underway, what did he do?

24 A. Okay. Well, pretty much, pretty much he goes straight to the
25 core and pretty much telling me that he -- every time the boat

1 shrimping and every time we shrimping, we always tried to see, to
2 see what the shrimp looked like when we dragging. So every hour
3 that they shrimping, he always not walking down to the engine
4 room, but he always stand up there just looked down at it, you
5 know what I'm saying, pretty much like observing, observing the
6 engine.

7 BY MR. [REDACTED]

8 Q. The deck?

9 A. All the deck.

10 Q. Okay. So he's observing the engine room from --

11 A. From the deck.

12 Q. Through which hatch?

13 A. The back.

14 Q. The back?

15 A. The back, yeah.

16 Q. Where the ladder is?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Okay. So he just glances down --

19 A. Yeah, down, you know, like he indicated that it's an old boat
20 so, you know, he always, every hour that they were shrimping, he
21 pretty much -- before he'd pick up the (indiscernible) he kind of
22 stood there and kind of like looked down and make sure, you know
23 what I'm saying, get a little glimpse.

24 MR. [REDACTED] Yeah. Do you understand that, Captain Mike?

25 MR. KUCHARSKI: Yeah, yeah.

1 BY MR. KUCHARSKI:

2 Q. I guess my question is, in his normal activities during the
3 day, does he drive the boat --

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. -- all the time? In a normal day, a normal day, so out there
6 shrimping, when do they shrimp? Start, start us from normal day,
7 not this accident voyage, but a normal shrimping day. So what --
8 do they go out for four or five days at once, do they go out for
9 how long?

10 A. Okay.

11 Q. And during that time, do they shrimp 24 hours a day or do
12 they anchor at night or are they -- you know, I've worked with
13 different shrimpers; I just need to know how Captain Nguyen
14 normally does it?

15 A. Okay. Well, the normal -- see, shrimping business is very --
16 it depends on the season and the, and the location where their
17 home (indiscernible) is. Normally they catching shrimp at night,
18 they only work at nighttime, but there are times that they can --
19 they work day and night, like lately out there, it's been day and
20 night. And some days they anchor up and work at night only, but
21 some days they work throughout the day. And they pretty much
22 spread out evenly six hours a drag.

23 BY MR. [REDACTED]

24 Q. Six hours they're dragging?

25 A. Yeah, they drag.

1 Q. And they pull up?

2 A. They pull up, dump it, drop it again. Drag them every six
3 hours while the net gang were picking. So he pretty much told me
4 that every other -- let's just say that he drag at night. He
5 always took the first shift. After six hours and then pick up,
6 drop it, go again until the deckhands finished picking the shrimp
7 and get it all done. Until then, then one of them would take over
8 so he could get a little nap.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. In between like three or four hours.

11 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

12 BY LT [REDACTED]

13 Q. From when to when?

14 A. For pretty much, pretty much, I mean, at nighttime it's like
15 5-something or 6 o'clock when it gets dark here.

16 Q. Yeah.

17 A. On the season anyway. So he dragged. He dragged
18 (indiscernible) around 6 to midnight and then midnight to morning,
19 and that's pretty much --

20 Q. So somewhere between midnight and 6 in the morning is when he
21 takes a nap?

22 A. Yes. It's pretty much around like two or three.

23 Q. So his daily routine on a normal day, so he gets up when?
24 What times does he wake up usually?

25 A. I mean, if there's shrimp, if not they anchor. There's time

1 they can anchor out there for like a day.

2 Q. Okay. So while they're shrimping and dragging, what is he
3 doing?

4 A. So he pretty much runs the boat, the first shift, one and a
5 half really. So when the other crew finish with what they catch
6 on the first batch --

7 Q. Yeah.

8 A. -- he went and go to sleep and then the next one he took.
9 And then, you know, (indiscernible).

10 Q. So for six hours he's at the helm, he's running the boat, and
11 then they pick up the net. And then the deckhands, while the
12 deckhands are sorting through and picking --

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. -- that's two to three hours of them doing that, he's still
15 at the helm?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And then, and then when the deckhands are done, they take
18 over and let him get sleep until that other six hours are done and
19 they need to pick up again?

20 A. Right.

21 Q. Okay.

22 MR. [REDACTED] Okay, okay.

23 LT [REDACTED] All right.

24 MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay, great, that gives us a good picture.

25 Gents, I'll remind you though when you -- please identify

1 yourselves. It's too late now.

2 LT [REDACTED] Yes, sir. Sorry, Captain Mike.

3 MR. KUCHARSKI: But I think, I think -- yeah, I think the
4 court reporter will recognize Devan's voice and my voice, but if
5 you two gents would --

6 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

7 MR. KUCHARSKI: -- it's very helpful, but if you would so we
8 don't see unidentified voice throughout the transcript.

9 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

10 LT [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

11 TRANSLATOR: Excuse me.

12 MR. KUCHARSKI: Yeah.

13 TRANSLATOR: I'm sorry, Mike, you say the court will
14 recognize?

15 LT [REDACTED] Court reporter.

16 TRANSLATOR: Okay.

17 MR. KUCHARSKI: No, it's a court --

18 TRANSLATOR: Okay. I'm not going to -- I take my civil
19 rights very, very sincerely.

20 LT [REDACTED] No, no, they're just going to transcribe it.
21 Transcribing, that's all.

22 TRANSLATOR: Okay.

23 LT [REDACTED] Not like when there's court.

24 TRANSLATOR: Yeah, I mean, when you've been to court.

25 LT [REDACTED] Yeah, no, no.

1 TRANSLATOR: Like I say, I would take my Fifth Amendment any
2 day any time, walk out of here right now.

3 LT [REDACTED] No, they're going to take the --

4 TRANSLATOR: Okay, look, I'm not going to be involved in
5 something I don't know.

6 LT [REDACTED] Right.

7 TRANSLATOR: And I'm not going to allow him to get himself
8 involved on something that would be criminal. I mean, I'm going
9 to be straight up, guys.

10 LT [REDACTED] No, no.

11 MR. [REDACTED] Mike, can I take this one?

12 MR. KUCHARSKI: No, sure. So, Devan, this is -- we
13 transcribe this, that's all. We use court reporters, this is not
14 a court proceeding, okay, this is --

15 TRANSLATOR: Okay, okay.

16 MR. KUCHARSKI: This is just -- I don't -- I'm not good --
17 you know, court reporters, you've probably seen them, they
18 transcribe a recording, that's all.

19 TRANSLATOR: Okay.

20 MR. KUCHARSKI: Because I'm not good at that, so that's what
21 we hire. This is not, this is not a court proceeding.

22 LT [REDACTED] He'll explain it.

23 MR. [REDACTED] That's fine. I mean -- okay, so I just wanted --
24 this is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] the SIO, Sector Mobile. So just for your
25 comfort level, this is not a criminal or civil investigation or

1 anything like this. This is a marine casualty investigation; it
2 is just a safety investigation. We are trying to get to what
3 happened with the vessel so that if the Coast Guard and NTSB see
4 something that, hey, we could prevent this if we do this, change a
5 law or something like that to make it so that it doesn't happen
6 again, put out a safety alert or marine safety broadcast to let
7 everybody know that, hey, if you do this this won't happen again.

8 TRANSLATOR: Okay.

9 MR. [REDACTED] So all we're trying to do is get to the -- just
10 kind of find out what happened.

11 TRANSLATOR: Okay.

12 MR. [REDACTED] Just one thing. So the recording is he's
13 recording the interview.

14 TRANSLATOR: Yes, sir.

15 MR. [REDACTED] That interview will be given to a person that --
16 what they do is they put headphones on, they listen to the
17 recording --

18 TRANSLATOR: Yes, sir.

19 MR. [REDACTED] -- and then they type it out so we have a written
20 transcript of this and this.

21 TRANSLATOR: Okay.

22 MR. [REDACTED] That's as far as that goes.

23 LT [REDACTED] So I don't have to be sitting here taking down
24 notes all the time.

25 MR. KUCHARSKI: Yeah.

1 LT [REDACTED] (Indiscernible) transcriber.

2 MR. [REDACTED] This is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Sector Mobile. It's yours,
3 the floor is yours again, Captain Mike.

4 MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay, okay. And maybe, you know, I should
5 have explained that that it will be transcribed. We call it
6 transcription. So this way instead of listening to a tape for
7 hours and hours, it's easy when you have a transcription and just
8 say, okay, generator, you know, and I can find where he was
9 talking about the generator. It's just much easier.

10 TRANSLATOR: Yes, sir.

11 BY MR. KUCHARSKI:

12 Q. So the boat, before it went out on the accident trip, where
13 was it before? Where was it actually docked?

14 A. Well, I can help you out on that one --
15 (Phone ringing.)

16 TRANSLATOR: I don't need to answer that, I'm sorry, guys.

17 MR. [REDACTED] That's okay.

18 TRANSLATOR: He was at the dock that morning, my dock.

19 BY MR. [REDACTED]

20 Q. In Bayou La Batre?

21 A. Bayou La Batre. It's called Bayou Marine Products.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. Okay. Located on 13790 Tram Avenue. He went to dock, he
24 coming into -- so he go into a doctor visit because he got
25 something like planning for the operation on his stomach.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. So he at the dock. He -- as I reconfirmed with him what time
3 he went into dock, he had to dock at 6 in the morning so he get
4 ready to go to his doctor visit.

5 Q. What day was that?

6 A. The 10th.

7 Q. Okay.

8 LT [REDACTED] This is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] So he's
9 saying that he went to the doctor, he came in to go to the doctor
10 on the 10th which was the morning of the incident, and he was at
11 Bayou Marine Products in Bayou La Batre.

12 BY MR. KUCHARSKI:

13 Q. Okay, thank you. And when did the boat -- this is Mike
14 Kucharski. When did the boat -- did it come in at 6 a.m. or was
15 it there the night before or what was it doing over the past two
16 or three weeks? Can you give us an idea what it was doing over
17 the past two or three weeks before the accident?

18 A. Well, he actually was out shrimping. He came into the dock
19 at 6 in the morning that day so he can go to his doctor
20 appointment that he had about his stomach or some kind of
21 operation. So he was at the dock early and then so he can make
22 his appointment.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. So he went to get his blood work at 8 in the morning.

25 (Indiscernible).

1 Q. Okay. So how long had he -- he came in at 6 in the morning
2 roughly on the 10th. Before that, was he out for a week or 10
3 days or a month shrimping? What -- give us an idea, a feel for
4 what he was doing?

5 A. He told me five days and five nights. He went out for five
6 days and come in.

7 Q. Okay, okay. And then -- and before that, was the boat laid
8 up there at the dock for a period of time since June or had he --

9 A. Yeah. The trip -- and he would not remember, but we can look
10 back on his sail (indiscernible) that way you can have an idea
11 what the trip is, you know. I mean, they only come in, come in
12 and sailed their (indiscernible) and set up I think and take care
13 of their personal things, and they can leave for like two or three
14 weeks. Bigger boats leave up to like five, six weeks, but
15 normally about 28 days in four weeks' time. So, I mean, he would
16 not remember what beyond that.

17 LT [REDACTED] But you have, what did you call it, a deck
18 purchase order?

19 TRANSLATOR: That we buy shrimp from him.

20 LT [REDACTED] Okay.

21 TRANSLATOR: And pretty much we can help him out because
22 ain't no way he'd remember the trips prior to that.

23 MR. [REDACTED] So this is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] out of Sector Mobile. Would
24 you be able to provide us with that particular document, say going
25 back like two weeks, three weeks?

1 TRANSLATOR: Yeah, I mean, (indiscernible).

2 MR. [REDACTED] Thank you.

3 MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay, great.

4 BY MR. KUCHARSKI:

5 Q. This is Mike Kucharski. So from when they purchased the boat
6 in June, the boat was purchased, did they go out actively
7 shrimping since June with the boat?

8 A. Okay. He said about four or five trips, but it's a short
9 trip, two weeks, 10-day trip only. Only one trip, it's a 20-day
10 trip. So said he purchased, since he captain of *Lucky Angel*, they
11 have done four or five trips.

12 Q. Okay, great. And the trips, trips are about a total of about
13 20 days, is that correct?

14 A. No, only one trip in 20 days. Other trip is shorter than
15 that.

16 Q. Okay, okay.

17 A. (Indiscernible).

18 Q. So --

19 LT [REDACTED] This is [REDACTED] He said that, of those trips,
20 most of those trips were 10 to 14 days; only one trip was 20 days.

21 MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay, great, great.

22 BY MR. KUCHARSKI:

23 Q. And then in between then, in between the trips, how long
24 would he stay in port in between the trips about? And, Devan, so
25 you understand, when I -- I will -- there will be a written report

1 on this, and I give a basic background on the operation, that's
2 all, you know, to make the reader -- when they look at this, they
3 go, okay, how did we get out there all of a sudden and right in
4 the accident? So, you know, there's like just a short paragraph
5 usually that gives a general -- the reader an overview of what
6 happens.

7 A. Normally, normally, I mean, there's nothing needs to be based
8 on. The crew needs to work on the boat, so pretty much they stay
9 -- it depends, but him personally about four or five days, okay.
10 But the problem with this here is a lot of storms, that's why the
11 trip was cut short. See, we are now -- we've got a record of
12 hurricanes in the Gulf this year, so since June, that's why he
13 only able to go four or five trips, but it's short because that
14 couple weeks there's storms. And it's not necessarily major
15 storms. Any storm would push the shrimp boat anchor upcoming to
16 the --

17 MR. [REDACTED] So this is [REDACTED] So on average, when he came in,
18 how long would he stay in for?

19 TRANSLATOR: Four or five days.

20 MR. [REDACTED] Four or five days, okay. Thank you.

21 MR. KUCHARSKI: Perfect, perfect. Great.

22 BY MR. KUCHARSKI:

23 Q. And during that time, did they work on the boat during that
24 time at all when they were in for four or five days?

25 A. As I was saying earlier, unless the thing that needed to be

1 work on the boat, I mean (indiscernible) they stay four or five
2 days. But if there are issues, it would take longer.

3 Q. Okay.

4 MR. [REDACTED] Go ahead, Captain, I'm sorry.

5 MR. KUCHARSKI: Great, great, that's very helpful.

6 BY MR. KUCHARSKI:

7 Q. So, Captain, when the crew -- tell us, tell us about the crew
8 on the boat. How many were they and what positions did they hold?

9 A. Yes. It's two crew in the back plus the captain would be
10 three.

11 Q. Okay.

12 LT [REDACTED] And what were their positions?

13 TRANSLATOR: We don't have --

14 LT [REDACTED] Deckhands?

15 TRANSLATOR: -- yes, just deckhands.

16 MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay.

17 BY MR. KUCHARSKI:

18 Q. Sometimes I've dealt with some shrimpers, they have -- one
19 will be called a rig man, so -- you know, depending on the
20 particular boat and the particular company so --

21 A. Right, and one thing about this business is it's not like --
22 it's pretty much subcontractor. They can be there one trip and
23 gone another, so it's pretty much we just call it deckhands.

24 Q. Okay. And ask Captain Nguyen, how long were they -- was this
25 just a first trip they were with him or had he worked with them

1 before, had he worked with them for the four or five trips?

2 A. This two crew would have three trips.

3 Q. Was that two trips? I didn't hear you.

4 A. Three.

5 LT [REDACTED] Three trips.

6 BY MR. KUCHARSKI:

7 Q. Three trips, okay. Had he ever worked with them before?

8 A. One of them.

9 Q. Okay, great.

10 LT [REDACTED] This is [REDACTED] Which one did he work with,
11 Ben or who?

12 TRANSLATOR: Ben.

13 LT [REDACTED] Ben, okay. So he worked -- this is [REDACTED]
14 again. He worked three trips with both crew members prior to this
15 trip, and he had worked with Ben for one trip prior to that.

16 MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay, great. Good. So are we okay to
17 continue, do we need any break?

18 TRANSLATOR: We're good.

19 MR. KUCHARSKI: No, okay. So --

20 LT [REDACTED] I do want to -- this is [REDACTED] I did want to
21 ask Devan, because I know he's here just to help and translate,
22 how much time do you have? Because we want to respect your time,
23 you coming here, both of you, before we continue on.

24 TRANSLATOR: I mean, I'm here, but -- I mean, I'm sure
25 there's not much, you know what I mean, not much more to -- pretty

1 much in detail another hour or so.

2 LT [REDACTED] Okay.

3 TRANSLATOR: Pretty much how I look at it.

4 LT [REDACTED] Does that sound -- what do you think, Mike,
5 another hour or so?

6 MR. KUCHARSKI: I don't know, it depends on how fast we go
7 through the questions. But let's move on, and then we can -- if
8 we have to stop, we can stop, that's all.

9 LT [REDACTED] Okay.

10 BY MR. KUCHARSKI:

11 Q. So if the Captain would now tell us in his own words, okay,
12 what happened starting from the preparing for the voyage, if you
13 will, when he left port and then getting out? Continue right
14 through to when they were rescued, if he can tell us in his own
15 words what he remembers.

16 A. Okay. So he was back from the doctor visit (indiscernible)
17 to the boat around 2 o'clock, okay, 1400 your time. And he picked
18 up groceries and pretty much just checking everything out, just a
19 normal day. So he left at 3 o'clock, he leave back out at
20 3 o'clock, and then he --

21 LT [REDACTED] Underway with the --

22 TRANSLATOR: On the way with the boat at 3. And he reached
23 his spot where he wanted to be at 8, okay. So he, you know,
24 floated around using his dry net to find the shrimp. So he start
25 dragging at 9, 9 p.m.

1 LT [REDACTED] Okay. Since you -- this is [REDACTED] Since you
2 said you got to your location, before you continue, just have him
3 put on there where.

4 This is [REDACTED] for the recording. I just had Captain
5 Nguyen circle on a chart that I have in front of him where he was
6 located the night of the incident.

7 TRANSLATOR: I mean, he was around this area. He come out,
8 and this is when --

9 LT [REDACTED] Yeah.

10 TRANSLATOR: -- as he can remember.

11 LT [REDACTED] Just so I can see it on the chart, that's all.
12 All right, sorry. Continue on.

13 TRANSLATOR: Okay. So, I mean, so he started dragging at 9,
14 and then 30 minutes -- like he indicated earlier, every time he
15 dragging, he pretty much take a look at the engine room before he
16 pick up his dry net. 9:30 he's fine and 10 were fine too, but
17 somewhere after that -- so he -- pretty much around 9:30 he pick
18 up his dry net, so he do his observation on deck at the engine
19 room, were fine -- 9:30, 10 o'clock he's fine too, so -- but and
20 then when he went into the wheelhouse about six to five minutes,
21 and then the alarm start, activated.

22 MR. [REDACTED] Which alarm? The engine room?

23 TRANSLATOR: The engine room alarm is going off. So he went
24 in. Pretty much he went to the back to go down to the engine room
25 so and as soon as he get there he can see pretty much the electric

1 is sparking. And smoke pretty much. By that time it's not really
2 clear that -- he cannot see the engine room, all he see is right
3 there on the step ladder, electrical wire was sparking. So he
4 grabbed the fire extinguisher and pretty much it pointed to the
5 engine room and let it rip. After he went through three of
6 them --

7 MR. [REDACTED] Three fire extinguishers?

8 TRANSLATOR: Yes, three fire extinguishers, and he tried to
9 flip to the fuel pump to turn it on, and it actually -- it got
10 electrical shortage, so he got a shock, you know, every time he'd
11 try to turn the switch on.

12 BY LT [REDACTED]

13 Q. Okay. This is [REDACTED] Where was that switch located that
14 he tried to turn on?

15 A. Actually, when you walk into this open, before the step down
16 ladder to the engine room, it's on the right hand side wall.

17 Q. Before you walk in, okay?

18 A. No, no, no, before you walk down.

19 Q. Before you walk down, okay.

20 A. Yeah, got a little platform before you step down to the
21 ladder.

22 Q. Okay. Keep going.

23 A. So and as it's getting hard to describe the situation, pretty
24 much smoke everywhere. He indicated the electrical was burning
25 so, I mean, he went to the wheelhouse and cut off all the breakers

1 in the wheelhouse to try to eliminate the spread of the fire.

2 Q. Then what happened?

3 A. I mean, he did have some flashlight, and pretty much it's
4 walk outside toward the engine room and just they could see
5 there's smoke, but there's fire, so they're using their spring
6 water bottle (indiscernible) splashing and a five gallon bucket,
7 they get water from the Gulf just to reach out with the rope and
8 to -- but you can only do so much, okay. So pretty much, pretty
9 much after 10, 20 minutes of trying to blast water into the engine
10 room, pretty much they all wore out, tired, exhausted.

11 So the Captain -- his phone had reception, so the Captain
12 went to the front of the boat and called pretty much the
13 (indiscernible) of the other boat and the *Sea Spider*. They kind
14 of like hang out with each other, kind of communicate, and they
15 can't -- he can't reach none of them, so he called his wife. He
16 called his wife to let her know what was going on, so she tried to
17 reach the other person family, so they can reach.

18 Those two (indiscernible) boats (indiscernible) and *Sea*
19 *Spider*, and then he called, he called 911. He called 911 and
20 spoke to the operator pretty much telling the situation and get
21 them to transfer to the Coast Guard. So when he transferred to
22 the Coast Guard, he was able to pretty much tell them, you know,
23 like I'm 10 miles south past (indiscernible) Pass, something like
24 that.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. (Indiscernible).

2 Q. Yep.

3 A. Okay. And then the reception got bad, so it's gone. So it's
4 pretty much (indiscernible). So (indiscernible) was to get in
5 touch with them and *Sea Spider* pretty much called *Mississippi* --
6 the boat *Mississippi* called the Coast Guard for him. At that
7 time, he pretty much -- when he lost reception with the Coast
8 Guard, he pretty much get this raft and his people off the boat.

9 So his wife was able to get in touch with the *Sea Spider*
10 Captain, and *Sea Spider* Captain pretty much asked the *Mississippi*,
11 the Captain on the *Mississippi* which one would (indiscernible)
12 better in this. So pretty much reach out to the Coast Guard for
13 him and then see as *Sea Spider* would pick up and head his way. By
14 the time they're getting real close to it, the Coast Guard got
15 there and picked them up and took them in.

16 LT [REDACTED] Okay.

17 BY MR. KUCHARSKI:

18 Q. Okay, great. This is Mike Kucharski. A couple follow-on
19 questions. Were they -- did they actually have gear out when the
20 fire started; did they have any nets out?

21 A. Yes, sir, they were shrimping. They were dragging.

22 Q. They were dragging, okay.

23 A. They would draw.

24 Q. Yep, okay. And ask the Captain, did he hear anything? So
25 the alarm went off on the bridge; did he hear anything leading up

1 to that, any noises? Or when he went to the engine room, what did
2 he hear? Did he hear any popping? Did he hear any sounds
3 particularly that were different?

4 A. No, sir.

5 Q. No, okay. Okay. And when he said alarm -- okay, so is there
6 -- there's an alarm panel; is there a panel on the bridge on the
7 wheelhouse?

8 A. Yes, sir, the alarm panel -- pretty much nobody on the bridge
9 with a (indiscernible) light indicating what is the problem, you
10 know, like the engine room, (indiscernible), you know, even low
11 water on the generator or engine. So yes, it's right at the
12 wheelhouse.

13 Q. Okay. And yeah, that -- I have a question later on down the
14 line, but this is actually good there. So this alarm, is there --
15 is it a high temperature alarm, is it water in the bilges, is it
16 low lube oil? What type of an alarm could --

17 A. Okay. So pretty much they got -- according to him, he got
18 alarm for the water on the bilge, alarm on the (indiscernible)
19 tank for the generator and the (indiscernible) tank for the main
20 engine, and alarm for in the fish hold, the little high water
21 alarm, and the smoke alarm in the engine room.

22 Q. Okay. And was it the smoke alarm in the engine room that he
23 got, is that what it was?

24 LT [REDACTED] Which alarm was going off?

25 MR. [REDACTED] The smoke alarm?

1 TRANSLATOR: Yes.

2 MR. [REDACTED] Smoke alarm.

3 MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay, okay. Great, great, that's very
4 helpful.

5 BY MR. KUCHARSKI:

6 Q. Okay. And this is sort of really important when -- so he
7 left the wheelhouse, and he accessed the engine room by that door
8 you said from the back of the wheelhouse, like to go down in
9 there, is that correct?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. But he never -- when the alarm came off, go off, he pretty
13 much get to the back, to the engine room, but he never actually
14 went down because --

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. -- it pretty much -- there's a little platform there before
17 the step ladder.

18 Q. Yeah.

19 A. That's as far as he got.

20 Q. Okay, okay, that's great. Now this is, this is really
21 critical too. What did he smell and what color was the smoke?
22 What did he smell?

23 A. Yeah. A little whitish smoke, and he smelled pretty much
24 like the electrical shorting.

25 Q. Okay. And when the Captain mentioned that he saw sparks,

1 where were the sparks coming from?

2 A. He had mentioned earlier that he saw sparks right there where
3 the step ladder -- the end of the platform, you know, that step
4 ladder that goes to the -- down to the engine room.

5 Q. Yeah.

6 A. Right there. Yeah, pretty much on the right hand side,
7 forward right hand side. When you enter the platform, before you
8 walk down to the engine room, it's right there. So you walk into
9 that engine room platform to enter -- it's actually what I'd
10 describe in the overhead, underneath the platform overhead where
11 in the engine room --

12 LT [REDACTED] The overhead (indiscernible)--

13 TRANSLATOR: Right.

14 LT [REDACTED] -- of the engine room, but it's lower as you go
15 down?

16 TRANSLATOR: Yeah.

17 LT [REDACTED] This is [REDACTED]

18 TRANSLATOR: Right.

19 BY MR. KUCHARSKI:

20 Q. Okay. This is Mike Kucharski. So now I'm looking at the
21 schematic. Is that -- was that in the vicinity of the batteries?
22 Look at the schematic there, okay, what you've drawn. And I see
23 the ladder; is that in the vicinity of the batteries where the
24 sparks were coming from?

25 A. No, sir, the battery -- it's pretty much before in the engine

1 room (indiscernible) bulkhead where the (indiscernible) piece is.

2 Q. Right.

3 LT [REDACTED] Let me, let me -- this is [REDACTED] I'm going to
4 bring the picture up to the camera and show. So this is -- this
5 right here, this blue dot --

6 MR. KUCHARSKI: Yep.

7 LT [REDACTED] -- is where he saw sparks. The batteries are up
8 forward.

9 MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay, okay.

10 BY MR. KUCHARSKI:

11 Q. So that, what I'm looking at, that's in back of the engine
12 area?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. Okay, okay, the ladder there. And then, so is it in the
15 vicinity of the bilge pump itself?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. So --

18 A. Yeah, but no closed but the bilge pump actually, and the one
19 that was deck washed was actually right at the bulkhead between
20 the engine room and the fish hold. The other bilge pump was
21 actually on the side or lower at the -- where the engine was. So
22 it actually is -- I mean, not really --

23 BY MR. [REDACTED]

24 Q. This is [REDACTED] The electrical sparks that you saw, were they
25 -- they were on a cable or on the roof itself? Were they coming

1 from the cabling?

2 A. At that location where he see the sparks, there actually a
3 whole bunch of electrical wire kind of like in one bundle.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. Bundle.

6 Q. Is that -- so all the cables for the engine room, are they
7 included in that bundle?

8 A. Those electrical wires would operate on the bilge pump switch
9 and those flood lights.

10 Q. So the only cables -- this is [REDACTED] So I understand, so the
11 cabling where he saw the sparks were on the bilge pump and the
12 flood lights for the deck?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. Okay. And those are --

15 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. Sorry, Mike.

16 MR. KUCHARSKI: No, that's very helpful, that's very helpful.

17 BY MR. KUCHARSKI:

18 Q. Was there -- the bilge pump, could it run in automatic mode
19 or did you actually have a switch that you had to turn on?

20 A. There's a switch we have to turn on.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. It's illegal to have an automatic pump because there might be
23 oil and stuff that you can actually pollute the environment.

24 Q. I see, okay. So it's a switch. Was there, was there any
25 water in the bilges that he noticed when he either left the dock

1 or when he went down there for the first time, looked in the
2 engine room?

3 A. Not that he know of.

4 Q. No, okay. And how about any vibrations, whether there was
5 any vibrations to the boat or any shaking at all?

6 A. It's pretty much a normal routine environment.

7 Q. Okay. And he mentioned he got an electric shock. Where did
8 he get an electric shock from?

9 A. Right there when you enter where the platform, before you can
10 get to the step down ladder to the engine room, it's the right
11 hand side, there's a switch on that wall for the bilge switch.

12 Q. So it was from the switch that he actually got the shock?

13 A. Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. He actually -- let me confirm this. Okay. Since he have --
16 just (indiscernible) that he have some kind of (indiscernible).

17 LT [REDACTED] (Indiscernible).

18 TRANSLATOR: So, when he turn on the light with his left
19 thumb and index finger, he got a shock and he fell, and when he
20 fell, it actually hurt him, so that's why, when the Coast Guard
21 rescued him, he actually went to the hospital. Oh, the Coast
22 Guard actually checked him out. Well, actually he indicated to
23 the Coast Guard that he was hurt with his --

24 LT [REDACTED] Ulcer.

25 TRANSLATOR: -- ulcer in his stomach, so the Coast Guard

1 actually give him an X-ray.

2 LT [REDACTED] Okay.

3 BY MR. [REDACTED]

4 Q. So this is [REDACTED] So I just want to kind of reiterate. So
5 he entered into the back hatch on the back of the deck, and he
6 stepped down onto the platform in the engine room that you would
7 go down into the engine room to?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. He saw sparks coming from the cabling on the right side of
10 the overhead?

11 A. Yeah, and smoke.

12 Q. And smoke, right, whitish smoke.

13 A. Whitish.

14 Q. So he smelled electrical smell, like burning smell?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. But he reached to turn the bilge pump on at that time?

17 A. He grabbed the fire extinguisher first.

18 Q. First. Okay. What type of fire -- this is [REDACTED] -- what
19 type of fire extinguisher was it?

20 A. I mean, normal requirement for the shrimp boat.

21 Q. Was it dry, was it dry chemicals?

22 A. Yes, sir, they all dry.

23 Q. All dry, okay. And then he fought the fire, so with one
24 extinguisher?

25 A. Three.

- 1 Q. Three extinguishers?
- 2 A. Yes, sir.
- 3 Q. Then did he grab the switch?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Yes. So he -- this is [REDACTED] So he grabbed the switch,
6 turned it on?
- 7 A. Yes, sir.
- 8 Q. Got a shock?
- 9 A. Yes, sir.
- 10 Q. He fell. Did he fall on the platform or (indiscernible)?
- 11 A. He just fell backwards.
- 12 Q. Onto the ladder?
- 13 A. Yeah. No, actually on the side of the -- because it's like a
14 little platform.
- 15 Q. Oh, so he fell to the side of the platform?
- 16 A. Yes. Side of the --
- 17 Q. The back (indiscernible). Okay, yeah, understood. What did
18 he -- so he fell. Did he come out?
- 19 A. Yeah, he did (indiscernible) back out.
- 20 Q. Okay, okay. And then what happened, what did he do at that
21 point?
- 22 A. That's when he went and turned off the breaker --
- 23 Q. Okay.
- 24 A. -- at the wheelhouse.
- 25 Q. All of the breakers, shut the whole ship down?

1 A. Yes, yes.

2 Q. Thank you.

3 A. He shut, he shut what he control in the wheelhouse.

4 Q. Okay. So just the breakers?

5 A. Right. You cannot shut the -- see, the engine -- pretty much
6 the engine run everything, all the electronic components in the
7 engine, in the back, whatever. The breaker (indiscernible)
8 breaker or something like that run into the wheelhouse, so he
9 pretty much --

10 Q. So what does that breaker control?

11 A. Everything on the wheelhouse.

12 Q. Just the wheelhouse?

13 A. Just the wheelhouse.

14 Q. So it wouldn't have affected the bilge?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Okay. Did that shut down his radios, the VHF?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Yes, okay.

19 MR. [REDACTED] Captain Mike.

20 MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay. Thank you. Well, that answers my
21 question why he didn't use the VHF radio, because I was going to
22 ask that too.

23 MR. [REDACTED] Yeah.

24 MR. KUCHARSKI: So, but a question here: Why did he turn on
25 the switch to the bilge pump if there's no water in the bilges?

1 Does that do anything else? Why turn that on?

2 TRANSLATOR: Oh, he turned on the switch for the deck wash.

3 MR. [REDACTED] Oh, so it wasn't from the bilge pump?

4 TRANSLATOR: No, no, for the pump.

5 MR. [REDACTED] For the deck pump or the deck wash?

6 TRANSLATOR: Deck pump. He used that.

7 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. And that's when he got the shock from --

8 TRANSLATOR: Yes, sir.

9 MR. [REDACTED] -- the switch to the deck wash?

10 TRANSLATOR: Deck wash.

11 MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay, good, good.

12 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. Thank you.

13 MR. KUCHARSKI: Now, so that --

14 TRANSLATOR: (Indiscernible).

15 MR. [REDACTED] Right. Yeah, understood.

16 MR. KUCHARSKI: So this is Mike Kucharski again. So, on the
17 schematic that you showed us with two bilge pump -- oh, I see,
18 then there's a deck wash pump in back of the bilge pump, so that's
19 the switch he turned on, okay. Now it's making sense. So I'm
20 thinking to myself, you know, if there's no water in the bilges,
21 why turn on the bilge pump, okay. And then the -- after all those
22 attempts, what else did he do? Did he close doors? Did he do
23 anything else?

24 TRANSLATOR: Okay. Yes, after all failed with the

25 (indiscernible) fishermen -- and we heard the story, we go to

1 training all the time. So what he did was he closed all the
2 hatches or door, engine room and cabin too (indiscernible) to
3 pretty much eliminate, try to stop, you know, the oxygen
4 (indiscernible).

5 MR. [REDACTED] This is [REDACTED] Are there any vents to the engine
6 room, like other than hatches or doors?

7 TRANSLATOR: Yes. There are two, there are two exhaust fans.

8 MR. [REDACTED] Did he close those as well?

9 TRANSLATOR: No.

10 MR. [REDACTED] So all the hatches and doors are closed but the
11 exhaust fans are still open?

12 TRANSLATOR: The exhaust, yes, the exhaust. Yes, the exhaust
13 pretty much on the back deck above the main wench and it pretty
14 much got screens for safety.

15 MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay. This is Mike Kucharski. So, back to
16 the one question about the cables, the wires. So the wires that
17 were sparking, was it the bilge pump wires or was it, was it the
18 deck pump or the --

19 TRANSLATOR: Mike, I pretty much had this conversation with
20 him before. I know truthfully at that time he tried to remember.
21 That time he just freaked out (indiscernible) I mean, you can see
22 why. He don't know what wire that is. I mean, you can see and
23 you can -- I spoke to him after our other meeting, so pretty much
24 (indiscernible) him to make -- you know, to allow to happen,
25 shouldn't have that happen but whatever the reasoning. But he

1 pretty much -- like he don't remember. I mean, the incident
2 happened; right now, he don't know why. He just seen sparks. He
3 don't know.

4 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. So we talked about -- this is [REDACTED] So we
5 talked about the bilge switch and was taken back for the deck
6 wash. Was the deck wash pump included in that, in
7 (indiscernible)?

8 TRANSLATOR: As he say earlier --

9 LT [REDACTED] They're separate.

10 MR. [REDACTED] They're separate. So that deck wash pump
11 wiring --

12 TRANSLATOR: Yeah, that section, that section that he saw
13 within all the smoke and stuff, that he could see, like he say,
14 just the flood light and the --

15 LT [REDACTED] Bilge.

16 TRANSLATOR: Yes, the bilge and the flood light was along
17 there.

18 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

19 TRANSLATOR: The deck wash --

20 MR. [REDACTED] Separate.

21 TRANSLATOR: -- pump is separate.

22 MR. [REDACTED] Roger that. Okay.

23 TRANSLATOR: Normally it would be the same, but the previous
24 owner, he ran it separately, whatever the reason (indiscernible)
25 because (indiscernible). That's why I asked, I said hey, if

1 they're aligned, they're going to be in there wired separate. And
2 he said -- pretty much told me that the previous owner run it --

3 MR. [REDACTED] Separate.

4 TRANSLATOR: -- separate.

5 LT [REDACTED] So this is [REDACTED] I'm just pointing to the
6 picture to see. So this is where he saw the sparks and that
7 cabling runs here. This is the deck wash. Does it run around?
8 It looks like you were --

9 TRANSLATOR: Okay. So this deck wash pump, it went up
10 vertically along the bulkhead of the engine room and the fish hold
11 and run across. Yeah, it pretty much run across here with the
12 switch, like where they --

13 LT [REDACTED] Okay. That's all I have, Mike.

14 MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay.

15 BY MR. KUCHARSKI:

16 Q. When he closed the doors, closed all the hatches, was the
17 engine still running and was the generator still running?

18 A. Yes, they both running.

19 Q. Okay, great. And when they went to abandon, did everybody
20 put their life jackets on?

21 A. Yes, sir. I mean, he -- they used the life raft, but no --

22 MR. [REDACTED] No lifejackets?

23 TRANSLATOR: No lifejackets, because when the incident --
24 there's smoke, and they closed the doors. It's in the wheelhouse,
25 so pretty much they took the life raft and just hopped on it.

1 MR. [REDACTED] Is that where the lifejackets were located, in the
2 wheelhouse?

3 TRANSLATOR: Yes. All the flares and everything is on the
4 wheelhouse.

5 MR. KUCHARSKI: Right. And so then, the decision to abandon,
6 there was just too much smoke? Was there any -- or was there an
7 explosion or was there any --

8 TRANSLATOR: No. I mean, nothing, just smoke.

9 MR. [REDACTED] In the wheelhouse?

10 TRANSLATOR: Yes. And the engine, the engine and the main,
11 engine and the generator shut off while he was making phone calls
12 to his wife and the police.

13 BY MR. KUCHARSKI:

14 Q. Okay, great. So shifting gears a little bit, maintenance on
15 the boat was from when he -- I know in his statement and in the
16 2692 he sort of thought that it was the lighting that caused this.
17 What -- is there something that would make him think that it was
18 the lighting that caused the electrical fire?

19 A. What do you mean lighting?

20 MR. [REDACTED] Flood lights (indiscernible).

21 TRANSLATOR: Oh, okay.

22 BY MR. KUCHARSKI:

23 Q. Lighting, lights.

24 A. Okay. I mean, all he can tell pretty much, when he went to
25 the back to get to the engine room, he just saw electrical sparks.

1 Q. Okay. Was there any work done to any equipment on there, the
2 lighting or anything recently?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Was that a no?

5 A. No. No, sir.

6 Q. And over the course of the four days before the accident, how
7 much rest did Captain Nguyen get about?

8 A. Yes, it's just a (indiscernible). Yes, several days before
9 that day, he come in, and then the incident happened at 10 o'clock
10 at night. He only shrimped during the -- at nighttime, so he got
11 plenty of rest.

12 MR. [REDACTED] This is [REDACTED] So how many hours every 24 hour
13 period would he think he got?

14 TRANSLATE: I mean, you know, with working at night -- so he
15 pretty much -- during the day, he got -- he get at least six or
16 seven hours plus, you know, two or three hours at nighttime. So,
17 yeah, he had plenty. What he said was he got extra.

18 MR. [REDACTED] Extra sleep. (Indiscernible). I wish I could get
19 extra sleep, yeah.

20 BY MR. KUCHARSKI:

21 Q. So he felt that -- he didn't feel tired when he left the
22 dock?

23 A. No, sir.

24 Q. No, okay. And was there -- when they got underway from the
25 dock on the accident voyage, is there any type of checks or

1 anything he goes to before they get underway?

2 A. He indicate earlier that he -- when he came back from the
3 doctor visit, he pretty much grabbed some groceries, some
4 vegetables and then just, you know, do routine things, start the
5 engine. Most boats, they had to go to the engine and start the
6 engine, so they do that (indiscernible) before the engine in the
7 engine room.

8 Q. Okay. So he did it.

9 A. Yeah. He (indiscernible) actually start the engine, but --

10 LT [REDACTED] (Indiscernible) from the engine room.

11 TRANSLATOR: Yeah, most is from the engine room.

12 LT [REDACTED] This is [REDACTED] Captain Nguyen said, yes, it's
13 from the engine room.

14 BY MR. KUCHARSKI:

15 Q. Okay, okay. And could you -- just some gear information now,
16 so the engine was a diesel engine, is that correct, the main
17 engine?

18 A. Yes, it is.

19 Q. Okay. And was it Cummings, did you say?

20 A. Yes, sir, Cummings V6.

21 Q. Do we know a model number or anything on that?

22 A. No, sir.

23 Q. No, okay. And the engine speed, the controls from the
24 wheelhouse, is that, is that electric shift or is there a cable or
25 is --

1 A. Cable. I know, that's why I answered.

2 Q. Okay. And the generator, what kind of a generator was on
3 there, do you know?

4 A. Yeah, Cummings (indiscernible).

5 Q. And you said the refrigeration plant was a brine system?

6 A. I'm sorry, what is the question?

7 Q. For the fish hold, how did you keep it cold? Was it a brine
8 system that was used on the -- for the refrigeration?

9 A. Brine system. I mean to keep it cool you mean?

10 Q. Yeah.

11 A. Had compressor, it's a refrigerator which is to keep cool for
12 -- like there's a (indiscernible) under the boat keep cool. And
13 we have two 15 horse, right, 15 horse for the brine tank and the
14 fish hold each.

15 Q. Okay. Okay, okay.

16 LT [REDACTED] Two compressors each or --

17 TRANSLATOR: Two compressors, one each.

18 LT [REDACTED] One each, okay.

19 BY MR. KUCHARSKI:

20 Q. Okay. And you said there were four batteries on there, one
21 battery was for the --

22 A. Generator.

23 Q. -- generator and then you had four for the -- I'm sorry, one
24 for the generator and four for the -- three for the engine or vice
25 versa?

1 A. Yes, three for the engine, one for generator.

2 Q. Okay. And the lighting on there, was that AC or -- do you
3 know if it was AC or DC?

4 LT [REDACTED] Current wise, so the lighting?

5 MR. KUCHARSKI: The deck lights.

6 TRANSLATOR: Yeah, 120.

7 LT [REDACTED] 120. So it ran off the generator or off the
8 battery?

9 TRANSLATOR: Yeah, generator. It's AC120 (indiscernible).

10 BY MR. KUCHARSKI:

11 Q. And that's for the deck lights too, Devan?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Okay. So on there, there were two switchboards, one in the
14 engine room, the panel -- electrical panel and then one on the
15 bridge, is that correct?

16 A. Yes, it's (indiscernible) breaker panel, one in the engine
17 room and the other one at the wheelhouse.

18 Q. Okay, great, great. And since he purchased the boat, was
19 there any -- did he make any changes to the -- any of the systems
20 on the boat since he purchased in June?

21 A. No, sir. I mean, there's some plan for, you know, two teams,
22 you know, but for the winter, not during the -- you know, there
23 were plans --

24 MR. [REDACTED] To make modifications?

25 TRANSLATOR: Yeah, make modifications, you know, changing,

1 you know, like just the normal things, you know.

2 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

3 TRANSLATOR: (Indiscernible) the boat and stuff like that.

4 MR. [REDACTED] But he didn't do anything -- he hasn't done
5 anything since he owned it?

6 TRANSLATOR: No, sir.

7 MR. [REDACTED] This is [REDACTED]

8 BY MR. KUCHARSKI:

9 Q. Okay. So there were no major changes from when he bought the
10 boat in June?

11 A. No, sir. No, sir.

12 Q. Okay. And the deck gear, the wenches, they run off the
13 generator I suppose, is that correct?

14 A. Yes, the deck lighting, you mean?

15 Q. No.

16 MR. [REDACTED] Wenches, the (indiscernible) and everything.

17 MR. KUCHARSKI: Wenches.

18 TRANSLATOR: Yeah, the wenches. Well, I mean, the main
19 wench, and it pretty much is you connect it with the PTO of the
20 main engine.

21 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

22 MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay.

23 MR. [REDACTED] No hydraulic?

24 TRANSLATOR: No, no hydraulic.

25 MR [REDACTED] Some boats --

1 TRANSLATOR: Have hydraulic --

2 MR. [REDACTED] Yeah.

3 TRANSLATOR: -- outrigger (indiscernible) but --

4 MR. [REDACTED] Yeah.

5 TRANSLATOR: -- (indiscernible).

6 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

7 BY MR. KUCHARSKI:

8 Q. Okay. So it was a PTO, power take off, for the -- to the
9 main wench that -- off of the PTO off the engine, the main engine,
10 is that correct?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Yeah, okay. And I think we've covered the life raft. Where
13 was the life raft actually located?

14 A. On top of the wheelhouse.

15 Q. So they took that then and brought it off of the wheelhouse
16 and launched it on the stern; is that where they launched it to
17 abandon?

18 A. On the side of the boat.

19 MR. [REDACTED] Starboard or port?

20 TRANSLATOR: Starboard.

21 BY MR. KUCHARSKI:

22 Q. Okay. And getting towards the end, very, very close. As far
23 as planned maintenance from June when he bought the boat, what
24 kind of maintenance does he do on a regular basis? Change
25 filters, test, anything that he -- give us an idea of what he,

1 what he did on planned maintenance?

2 A. I'm sorry, we got into (indiscernible) personal expression,
3 he indicated the doctor canceled his visit because the doctor
4 pretty much give him a year so --

5 LT [REDACTED] I'm sorry to hear that.

6 TRANSLATOR: Yeah. But now, what was your question? I mean,
7 just the routine stuff, you know, oil changing and --

8 LT [REDACTED] Filters?

9 TRANSLATOR: Yeah, filters. You know, if it don't break,
10 don't mess with it. So pretty much, you know, filter, water,
11 (indiscernible) just the basic maintenance stuff.

12 He's getting tired.

13 LT [REDACTED] You're tired, okay.

14 TRANSLATOR: He's getting (indiscernible).

15 LT [REDACTED] Okay.

16 MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay.

17 LT [REDACTED] This is [REDACTED] My Captain is indicating to
18 Devan that he's getting tired, and he's starting to have pain in
19 his stomach.

20 MR. KUCHARSKI: I'm sorry to hear that. Is there anything
21 you'd like to add? Because I'm finished with my questions.

22 TRANSLATOR: He just asked if the life raft -- even though
23 the Coast Guard picked it up and it deflated and stuff like that,
24 can he have that, because that's the one that saved him and his
25 man's life; he'd like to have that if he could.

1 MR. [REDACTED] We'll see if we can get that back.

2 LT [REDACTED] Okay, yeah. I believe it's (indiscernible) that
3 it sank, but I will call the station and see if they picked it up.

4 TRANSLATOR: Let me know.

5 MR. [REDACTED] Yeah.

6 LT [REDACTED] I will. I'll let you know. This is [REDACTED] I
7 just have one, maybe two questions. They're very quick. They're
8 basically yes or no.

9 BY LT [REDACTED]

10 Q. (Indiscernible) did he have one?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And didn't take it with him, did not take it with him in the
13 life raft, did he grab it?

14 A. Just the life raft.

15 Q. Just the life raft.

16 LT [REDACTED] Okay. Those were my few questions.

17 MR. [REDACTED] This is [REDACTED] The only thing I would add is we
18 have our cards on the table right here. Please (indiscernible)
19 please take those. If at any time after this interview that he
20 gets to thinking -- because over time you start thinking about
21 things and things come to the forefront. If you think of anything
22 we didn't ask you today, would you please reach out and let us
23 know that information? That would be very helpful.

24 TRANSLATOR: Okay (indiscernible).

25 MR. [REDACTED] Yeah, yeah. So (indiscernible). We're going to

1 stop the interview, Mike.

2 MR. KUCHARSKI: Yep, yep. The time is 12:59 Eastern Standard
3 Time. Thank you very much.

4 (Whereupon, at 12:59 p.m., the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: FIRE AND SINKING OF THE CFV
LADY ANGEL OFFSHORE PASCAGOULA,
MISSISSIPPI, ON DECEMBER 10, 2020
Interview of Captain Son Nguyen

ACCIDENT NO.: DCA21FM010

PLACE: Mobile, Alabama

DATE: December 16, 2020

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed
to the best of my skill and ability.



Cheryl Farner Donovan
Transcriber