



## National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, D.C. 20594  
Office of Marine Safety

### Interview Summary - DCA23FM008

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**Interview of:** BM3 [REDACTED] - Crewmember of RBM 45630  
**Date/Time:** November 29, 2022, 1308 to 1333 CST  
**Location:** US Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Texas City conference room  
**Interviewed by:** CWO [REDACTED] - USCG, Adam Tucker (by phone) - NTSB, [REDACTED]  
- USCG, Lt. [REDACTED] - USCG  
**Attendees:** [REDACTED] - USCG  
**Accident:** November 25, 2022, flooding and subsequent sinking of the fishing vessel Captain Alex, about 11 miles south of Jamacia Beach, Texas (NTSB No. DCA23FM008).

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This interview summary has been compiled based on NTSB investigator notes taken during the interview of BM3 [REDACTED]

- BM3 [REDACTED] has been qualified as a RB-M boat crew member for about 15 months.
- BM3 [REDACTED] said when they got on scene at the coordinates provided to them, the fishing vessel was not there. They requested the fishing vessel over the radio to shoot a flare, but it sounded like they didn't know how to.
- The helicopter got there and found the fishing vessel, and they proceeded to its position.
- When they got to the Captain Alex, the crew were signaling for help, so they rigged the P6 pump to send across. They used a heaving line so the crew could pull it over from the water.
- The crew had trouble setting up the P6 pump, so they determined the best option was to send two of the 45 crew on the Captain Alex to help with the P6 pump.
- The Captain Alex was taking on too much water and the P6 pump was not working so they decided to take the crew off the Captain Alex. The Captain Alex crew came on first and then their crew got back onboard. They stayed on scene for a bit while the guys got organized and then the headed back home.
- When asked what happened to the P6 pump and why they couldn't get it to work, BM3 [REDACTED] said he heard the handle came off or something.
- When asked if there was any discussion of having the dewatering pump lowered from the helicopter, BM3 [REDACTED] said no there was not.
- When asked what his role was on board, BM3 [REDACTED] said his job for this case was to follow whatever the coxswain tells him to do, like rig lines. He was sent out to the bow on scene to see what was going on with their guys and the shrimp boat crew, so he could pass information to the coxswain since he was working to not bump into the boat.

- When asked when the decision was made to have the Captain Alex crew evacuate to the 45, BM3 [REDACTED] said they went and got their stuff. They were quick in being ready to get off the boat. To him, it appeared they didn't want to be on the boat anymore.
- When asked if he saw the lights go out on the Captain Alex, BM3 [REDACTED] said no because, he was helping secure the Captain Alex guys in the survivor's compartment. He provided them with blankets and made sure they were OK.
- When asked what the crew of the Captain Alex had with them, BM3 [REDACTED] recalled two of them had backpacks and one had a trash bag. There was a total of three backpacks and one trash bag that came on board with them.
- When asked if he spoke with any of the crew, BM3 [REDACTED] said he tried to speak with the captain, but he didn't speak English so the oldest of the crew was trying to translate what the captain was saying. BM3 [REDACTED] said he asked what happened and how flooding happened. He noted, it was really hard to understand what they were saying and all he understood was that there was a hole, and an alarm. The guys were working outside with the shrimp and the captain called everyone inside. There was too much water, and the pump was not working. The captain said didn't think they hit anything, and that he didn't know how they got the hole.
- When asked what he recalled about the Captain Alex upon arriving on scene, BM3 [REDACTED] said from when they first got on scene, it was riding "pretty smooth" and that is why they thought the P6 pump would be a help. But the Captain Alex got deeper in the water and the rocking of the boat got really slow because it had too much water that would roll to one side. He thought the waves were off the port side so when it rocked to starboard, it would be slow to return upright.
- When asked if he took any pictures with his phone on scene, BM3 [REDACTED] said he did and he sent them all over to their station duty phone.
- When asked if he heard any of the captain Alex crew express that they wanted to stay with the vessel to continue dewatering it, BM3 [REDACTED] said no, it looked like they were ready to leave the boat.
- When asked if any of the Captain Alex crew were injured, BM3 [REDACTED] said no. Only one guy was covered with oil. Another guy got seasick, so they put him on the aft deck of the 45.
- When asked if he was on board the Captain Alex, BM3 [REDACTED] said he did not.
- When asked to estimate how deep the Captain Alex sank in the water from the time when the arrived on scene to the time when the evacuated the crew, BM3 [REDACTED] said he estimated it was down by about 2 to three feet. When they started taking off the crew, when the boat rocked water was going into the freeing ports.

**End of summary**