



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, D.C. 20594
Office of Marine Safety

Interview Summary - DCA23FM008

Interview of:	Thu T Deo - Crewmember of fishing vessel Captain Alex (translated by Jenny Nguyen)
Date/Time:	November 28, 2022, 1238 to 1303 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:	Jenny Nguyen - interpreter for Mr. Le (former owner of the Captain Alex and owner of the dock where Captain Alex departed from), Thanh L'han - Owner of Captain Alex, Don T Le - Captain of the Captain Alex, Man V Nguyen - crew member of the Captain Alex, Hoi Van Nguyen - crew member of the Captain Alex
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).

This interview summary has been compiled based on NTSB investigator notes taken during the interview of Mr. Thu T Deo, crewmember of the fishing vessel Captain Alex, provided through translation of Vietnamese to English by Mrs. Jenny Nguyen.

- There was about 1 hour from when the time the Coast Guard arrived on the Captain Alex until the time when they got off. From the time when the captain found that there was water coming in the hull, Mr. Deo came out to help the captain patch up the hold but there was too much water coming in. When the Coast Guard got to the Captain Alex, they sent the pump over. Mr. Deo opened the container, and he got the pump started but it wouldn't pump. Two Coast Guard crew came over to help get the pump working but they couldn't get it to work, it wouldn't suck any water.
- The Coast Guard then instructed the captain to abandon the Captain Alex. At that point since they couldn't get the pump to work, the crew of the Captain Alex went over to the Coast Guard boat.
- When asked if he heard the Coast Guard crew telling the captain to abandon the Captain Alex or if he heard this from other crew, Mr. Deo said the two Coast Guard crew on the Captain Alex were the ones that asked them to go to the Coast Guard boat.
- When asked if they had a working pump if it would have saved the Captain Alex, Mr. Deo said yes, they would have saved the boat.

- When asked if the Coast Guard crew that were on the Captain Alex seemed nervous, scared, or uncomfortable, Mr. Deo said no they did not.
- When asked if he noticed or heard any helicopters around, Mr. Deo said there was a helicopter. When asked if anything was lowered to the Captain Alex or the Coast Guard boat, Mr. Deo said nothing was lowered.
- When asked if he knew why the Coast Guard boat departed after recovering the crew of the Captain Alex, Mr. Deo said he did not.
- When asked if there were any crew injured, Mr. Deo said there were not.
- When asked where he was when he was notified when they were taking on water, Mr. Deo said he was on the back deck working with the nets. They had just finished the drag.
- When asked if he took any pictures and video, Mr. Deo said yes, and he will provide them to the Coast Guard investigators.
- When asked if they were able to grab any of their belongings before abandoning the Captain Alex, Mr. Deo said he did not.
- When asked if he saw where the hole in the engine room was, Mr. Deo said no, he was trying to help the captain cover it where it was, but he did not see it.

End of summary