

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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SINKING OF THE CFV *EMMY ROSE* WITH
LOSS OF LIFE, OFF THE COAST OF
PROVINCETOWN, MASSACHUSETTS,
ON NOVEMBER 23, 2020

Accident No.: DCA21FM007

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Interview of: LEEANN NEWTON

Girlfriend of Deckhand Ethan Ward

Via Zoom videoconference

Monday,
January 11, 2021

APPEARANCES :

CDR [REDACTED]
U.S. Coast Guard

CWO [REDACTED]
U.S. Coast Guard

LT [REDACTED]
U.S. Coast Guard

[REDACTED]
U.S. Coast Guard

LT [REDACTED]
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BRIAN YOUNG, Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

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I N T E R V I E W

1
2 CDR [REDACTED]: All right. So if we're good with the recording,
3 we can just introduce the people who will be actually doing the
4 interviewing. So my name is Commander [REDACTED]. I'm just
5 going to spell my last name, [REDACTED].

6 [REDACTED], if you can introduce yourself?

7 CWO [REDACTED] My name is Chief Warrant Officer [REDACTED]

8 [REDACTED].

9 CDR [REDACTED]: And then Mr. Young?

10 MR. YOUNG: This is Brian Young with the National
11 Transportation Safety Board, Y-o-u-n-g.

12 CDR [REDACTED] And then, LeeAnn, if you can just introduce
13 yourself and just spell your last name for the transcript.

14 MS. NEWTON: LeeAnn Newton, N-e-w-t-o-n.

15 CDR [REDACTED]: Great. All right. With that said, I will kick
16 it over to CWO [REDACTED] for the first round of questions.

17 CWO [REDACTED]: All right.

INTERVIEW OF LEEANN NEWTON

18
19 BY CWO [REDACTED]:

20 Q. Hi, LeeAnn.

21 A. Hi.

22 Q. So I'm just going to ask you some basic background questions,
23 and if you don't know the answer, that's completely fine.

24 A. Okay.

25 Q. Can you tell me about Ethan's experience as a commercial

1 fisherman?

2 A. Ethan has been a commercial fisherman since 2017, 2018,
3 roughly. End of 2017, beginning of 2018.

4 Q. Okay. And how many different boats has he been on, do you
5 know?

6 A. Quite a few. He went on the *Titan* out of Gloucester, he was
7 doing lobstering this past summer out of Portland, he was -- he
8 had been on so many boats. Based out of Gloucester, Boston --
9 there's just so many.

10 Q. Okay. And has he been on ground fishing vessels before? Has
11 he done this type of fishery before?

12 A. Yeah. He was doing eel fishing on -- like slime eel fishing
13 on the *Titan*. He was usually a dragger. Lobstering had actually
14 been a newer thing for him. He hadn't really done much lobstering
15 like closer to shore. He was usually offshore.

16 Q. Okay. Sorry, I'm just taking some notes.

17 A. No, you're good. Sorry if I talk too fast, or if you need me
18 to repeat something --

19 Q. Okay. About how many trips a month would he normally do?

20 A. He would do back-to-back trips usually. They might take like
21 a day or two break, but usually, they would do turnarounds. He --
22 recently, he had taken a week off because we had been going
23 through some things, so he just wanted to spend some time and --
24 but he usually was fishing more than at home.

25 Q. Okay. So what would his normal like work hours, work

1 schedule -- would it be that he would go out for 4 or 5 days, come
2 back for a day --

3 (Simultaneous speaking.)

4 A. Sometimes, it would be -- so like, when he was doing the
5 offshore, he was gone for 5 days at least. It all depended on
6 their catch and food, and everything like that was really the
7 biggest factors for them.

8 Q. Okay. And then would they go out 5 days, would they come
9 back, offload the fish, get groceries, and then go back out?

10 A. Sometimes, yes. Depending on like how rough the trip was or
11 weather, but usually they would do a turnaround, yeah.

12 Q. And then, how long have you guys been together?

13 A. Ethan and I first started dating in the 6th grade.

14 Q. Oh, wow.

15 A. Yeah. We had been recently heavily (verbatim) since the end
16 of like 2017, beginning of 2018.

17 Q. Okay. So you've been with him for the majority of his
18 fishing career?

19 A. Yeah. I have the mileage on the cars to prove it. E-ZPass
20 tolls.

21 Q. Those add up.

22 A. Yes, they do. My car actually got -- my registration got
23 suspended from unpaid tolls from it.

24 Q. Oh.

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. So, when he would go underway, was it typical, like on any of
2 the boats that he served on, for him to be able to call you and
3 just check in with you?

4 A. So he, yes, had the ability -- hold on, I have to plug in my
5 phone, sorry. Yes, he -- like most of the phones, he did have the
6 satellite -- yes, he did have a satellite phone on every boat that
7 he had been on. It was just hit or miss if we has able to call
8 me. It was all depending on like how busy they were, but usually,
9 like when he was driving, he would take time, or he would skip
10 sleeping for a little bit to be able to call me. Because it was
11 important, because he was always gone for so long, and I have
12 really bad anxiety, so --

13 Q. Okay. How did he decide -- do you know like why and how he
14 decided to get into the fishing industry?

15 A. So he actually had moved to Harpswell, and one of his friends
16 had gotten him on a boat out there, and ever since then, he -- he
17 loved the money.

18 Q. Did he ever have any type of training -- like did he go -- do
19 you know if he went through any type of like survival suit
20 training or --

21 (Simultaneous speaking.)

22 A. I know they went --

23 Q. -- or anything like that?

24 A. -- over that on the boats with him. Like they would kind of
25 do a rundown of the -- like the -- I don't know how they explained

1 it, I guess --

2 Q. Like the safety equipment --

3 A. Because like every boat had -- yeah, because every boat had
4 like a different protocol, I guess, so they would just kind of go
5 -- like he obviously knew how to put on his survival suit and
6 everything like that. He -- that was his biggest thing. He
7 wanted to know how to do that, obviously, for safety reasons. But
8 yeah, every boat he went on, that was the first thing they went
9 over with him.

10 And that was the first thing he went over with me, too, when
11 I -- because when I went on the boat with him, like God forbid
12 anything would happen when we were docked or whatever, he just
13 wanted me to know where all the exits and stuff, and stuff like
14 that. So he would show me like the map layouts, because they had
15 it right there up in the wheel well, so --

16 Q. Okay. And did he have his own survival suit, or did he use
17 what was on the boat?

18 A. It was what was on the boat, provided on the boat.

19 Q. All right.

20 A. I was going to say, he only provided his gear and his own --
21 he only had to get his own gear and stuff like that.

22 CWO ██████: Okay. Thank you so much. I don't have any
23 further questions.

24 MS. NEWTON: Okay.

25 CDR ██████: All right, LeeAnn. Commander ██████ here again.

1 So I'm going to ask some additional questions, just a little more
2 specifics on Ethan's experience on the *Emmy Rose*.

3 MS. NEWTON: Okay.

4 BY CDR [REDACTED]

5 Q. So first one is, do you know what positions he held on the
6 vessel?

7 A. He wasn't -- I don't -- he wasn't -- so it went captain,
8 first hand -- he was like second. It all depended, also, on who
9 went on the trip with them, because they sometimes would change
10 the crew, like because some person had family issues going on or
11 something like that, so it depended on who went. There was one
12 guy who, when they went, he was above Ethan, but when it went with
13 a different crew, Ethan was like the captain's first hand, I
14 guess. It just really mattered on who went out. And the captain
15 was trying to get Ethan into a higher position, because he saw
16 potential in Ethan and wanted him to become his own captain at
17 some point.

18 Q. And you mentioned kind of the first hand and second hand. Do
19 you know, what duties or what work would he traditionally do in
20 those positions?

21 A. I honestly don't know. We didn't really like get into that
22 much depth/detail about it.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. It wasn't just conversation we -- like I --

25 Q. I mean, just some of the conversations you had with him, do

1 you know was he -- was he like driving the boat around? Was he --

2 A. Yeah, he did drive.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. He drove quite frequently --

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. -- for Bobby, I do know that, because that's when he called
7 me frequently was when he was driving, because it was really the
8 only free time he would have. He would call me for like 5, 10
9 minutes, if that, depending --

10 Q. Are there -- would there be a specific time? Like, hey, I've
11 got -- I'm standing this watch and I'm driving the boat, or just
12 be like, hey, I'm in the wheelhouse and I'm calling you --

13 A. It was the most randomest (verbatim) times.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. I would get phone calls at 1:00 a.m., 7 o'clock at night --
16 it was never the same. And he'd be like, oh, I'll call you
17 tomorrow, and then, half the time, he wouldn't call me because
18 they got so busy and --

19 Q. Um-hum.

20 A. -- he just didn't have time.

21 Q. Okay. Next question is, do you know how many trips he's made
22 on the *Emmy Rose*?

23 A. He started on the *Emmy Rose* when -- so we had gotten into a
24 fight in August and broke up for a week or so, and that is when he
25 started on the *Emmy Rose*.

1 Q. August, so 2020?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. And then I know you mentioned when [REDACTED] was asking you
4 some questions, so how many trips would you say -- I guess like
5 every 2 weeks or every other week, he would go --

6 A. He had gone on every trip they had been on since he'd gone on
7 the boat except for one.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. He missed --

10 (Simultaneous speaking.)

11 Q. And do you know when that one was?

12 A. It was not the -- I think it was the -- two trips before
13 last.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. Because he had gotten redfish poisoning in his hand --

16 Q. Oh, no.

17 A. -- and he had been taking antibiotics for a really long time,
18 and he just -- we had just gotten back together and everything,
19 and he just wanted to take time and -- yeah, so he took a week
20 off.

21 Q. Okay. All right, next question. I know you -- when we
22 talked on the phone before, you had mentioned that you had been on
23 the vessel a couple times, and just -- can you kind of explain
24 what your experience with the vessel, what you did, how you got
25 onboard, that type of thing?

1 A. I would meet them down in Gloucester when they were unloading
2 and would help them wash -- I would put on the suit and help wash
3 boards and unload the boat. I would be there when they got
4 groceries and put all the groceries away in the fridge and play
5 Tetris, because it drove me crazy how they would just throw
6 everything in there, like how do you guys find anything? So I
7 would like play Tetris and put all the groceries away. I would
8 make the beds and help clean the boat. The only thing I didn't do
9 was go down in the engine room, because it was too loud; I refused
10 to put the earmuffs on.

11 Q. Okay. Have you been down in the fish hold and everything,
12 too, and --

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. -- lazarette, those types of areas?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. Okay. Can you maybe just describe for me, just kind of walk
17 us through your recollection of the vessel, like how it was laid
18 out and how it was set up?

19 A. So I usually would get on on the front of the boat, because
20 that was how I felt safest getting on, and would go through the --
21 yeah, the cabin, I guess -- the wheelhouse actually. Yeah, the
22 wheelhouse. And then there was a staircase down, and the bathroom
23 would be right there off on the right, and then you'd go down a
24 little bit, and then off to the left there was one bunkroom with
25 four bunks; there was two up against the wall and then two up

1 against this wall, and then cabinets off to the side for their
2 clothes.

3 And then you'd go down a little bit further and then, on the
4 right, there was a last door with another bunkroom with one bunk,
5 which I believe was Bobby's bunk, the captain's. And then next to
6 that was like the kitchen and the dining room table area, and then
7 -- and the stove was right there and the sink and the fridge, and
8 then you'd walk through this little cubby area kind of space, and
9 then down below was the engine room right there.

10 And then you'd walk out on deck, and then off to the right,
11 there was a -- like a hallway, I guess, where they just had ropes
12 and stuff like that, and there was a big wheel with -- I want to
13 call it like a hose deck, I think, was on it, right there off to
14 the right. And then there was the controls for the draggers, the
15 arms and stuff like that, and then you'd walk down a little bit
16 further, and there was another hull (ph.) room where they had all
17 of the oil and stuff like that for random tools and -- it was like
18 their tool room, like the toolshed or whatever.

19 And then, out on the deck, like -- so they had the controls
20 for the arms and shit -- or stuff, sorry, and they had kind of
21 like a lobster tank right in front of that. And then in front of
22 that was the hole down into the ice -- the fish hold. And then it
23 like opened out into the deck, and then the wheels.

24 Q. And then, so did you ever go down -- you said you didn't go
25 in the engine room because it was too noisy, but any other spaces

1 below? Have you ever been down in any of those spaces?

2 A. I kind of went down the stairs into the fish hold. I didn't
3 like touch foot down into it because it was really cold down
4 there, and I was just trying to hand him his cigarettes, but he
5 couldn't really come up because he had to blow ice, and there was
6 like the ice pens or whatever.

7 Q. Um-hum. Sorry, and then one other thing you mentioned, just
8 checking my notes here, is you said they would carry a lobster
9 tank on the -- was that back on the back deck you said?

10 A. So like, when you walked out onto -- yeah, so when you walked
11 out onto the first deck, where the controls were for the arms and
12 stuff like that for the draggers, like right in front of that. I
13 don't know if it was for lobster; I don't really know like -- it
14 was just a lobster-sized tank, like one of those big, square fish
15 -- maybe it was for their bait maybe. I don't know.

16 Q. If you had to guess, how big was it, would you say?

17 A. Like hot tub sized.

18 Q. Oh, okay. And was it made out of plastic or --

19 A. Yeah, it was like the thick plastic bait barrels that they
20 used. Not like the thin round ones, like the really super thick
21 plastic.

22 Q. Um-hum. Okay.

23 A. I never opened the lid to see what was in it because I didn't
24 need to. It was always covered with stuff, so --

25 Q. Um-hum.

1 A. And then there was a stair like right there to go up onto the
2 -- the deck-deck, I guess.

3 Q. Up to the wheelhouse, or up to the upper deck?

4 A. Yeah, up to the upper deck.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. Because there was like a deck, and then you would go
7 downstairs, and then it would go into the wheelhouse.

8 Q. Okay. All right, next question. So what was -- I guess what
9 was your opinion of the *Emmy Rose*, and then, if Ethan ever
10 disclosed to you what his opinion of the vessel was --

11 A. My first impression of the boat was it was the cleanest boat
12 he had ever been on.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. It was in very impeccable, clean shape. I had -- like the
15 floors were spotless, all the furniture was put together, there
16 weren't any rips in it; it was actually very clean and maintained.
17 And, I mean, the only thing that I kind of thought was odd was
18 like how high the sides of it was, because every other boat he had
19 been on, they -- I mean, they were like kind of high, but not like
20 over-your-height high, I guess.

21 And I guess Ethan's biggest thing -- he always bitched about
22 it -- he's like, it's not set up to be a dragger boat. Just the
23 way that it was set up, I guess, just wasn't mechanically -- in
24 his opinion, I guess, compared to other boats he had been on, he
25 just didn't feel like it was right because it was -- the size and

1 everything.

2 Q. So just that it --

3 A. (Indiscernible).

4 Q. Yeah. So you're saying that the side shells, where they
5 raised up there --

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. -- he didn't really like that, and then just the boat, he
8 just felt it wasn't built for being a dragger or --

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. -- a ground fisher?

11 A. Yeah. He just said the way that it was just set up, he said,
12 compared to other boats, he just said the flow of it just wasn't
13 what he -- I don't know, that was just his personal thing, I
14 guess. I don't know.

15 Q. Okay. Sorry, just taking some notes. All right, next
16 question is -- you kind of already answered this, but I'll ask it
17 again. The typical schedule, so they would leave Portland, go out
18 and fish, and then come back. Like how did that work? What was
19 the typical schedule routine?

20 A. It really depended on like how much they caught, because they
21 were all about the money. They just wanted that big paycheck, so
22 they would try to push it as long as they could to fill up,
23 because they didn't want to come back unless they were full.
24 Because they're like, well, what's the point; that's kind of a
25 waste of food, money, gas -- you know what I mean?

1 Q. Um-hum.

2 A. So it really depended. They usually were gone for at least
3 5 or 6 days though. And I would meet them down in Gloucester and
4 help them unload, and sometimes Ethan would come home with me for
5 2 days, if that, depending on if they needed to fix a net or what
6 had happened.

7 Q. So they would -- would they leave from Portland, go out and
8 fish, and then come back into Gloucester? Is that how it would
9 work? And then sail back to Portland?

10 A. Yeah, they would unload in Gloucester and then sail back to
11 Portland and then leave from Portland and go back again and then
12 unload in Gloucester. And if -- depending on if they had -- were
13 doing a turnaround or not --

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. -- because if they did a turnaround, they just left right
16 from Gloucester.

17 Q. Oh, okay. Did they do -- did he do frequent turnarounds, or
18 was it kind of hit or miss?

19 A. He had done -- yeah, it was hit or miss. It really depended
20 on how the trip went and the weather and -- everything was based
21 off of so much other factors; it was so annoying.

22 Q. Okay. Next question is, can you discuss -- I know you've
23 been on there, but just how -- do you understand how the vessel
24 fished and how the things -- how the nets and doors and rigging
25 and pens and all that, any -- did he ever mention anything about

1 how that was set up or, you know, any --

2 (Simultaneous speaking.)

3 A. I mean, kind of. I had watched them work on the doors, like
4 the anchor doors for the nets. I know they were doing welding and
5 fixing those. I had seen that done down in Gloucester, and they
6 had done it in Portland, too, because they just didn't like the
7 way that -- Bobby didn't like the way they were set up or
8 something like that, and he thought, by the way they changed them
9 or whatever, it would work better for them. But --

10 Q. And who was doing the work on those?

11 A. The guys.

12 Q. Do you remember -- yeah, do you know who was -- somebody --
13 you said somebody was welding. Do you know who was welding?

14 A. Bobby and the crew, all of the guys --

15 Q. Okay, so everybody would weld. Would Ethan weld as well?

16 A. I don't think Ethan knew -- he would like hold the torch to
17 melt the bolt, but he's not a welder. He can't weld. I will
18 openly admit that. He would not do that because he does not know
19 what he's doing. He's like, nah, I'm good; thanks, though.

20 Q. Understood. And then any -- I know we briefly talked to it,
21 but anything else about the booms? I know you said that he would
22 sail as either the first or second mate and kind of be in the fish
23 hold sometimes. Did he ever say anything about working in the
24 fish hold or anything along those lines?

25 A. I know they were fixing the net a lot, but other than that, I

1 just -- the doors and the net was really the only thing that I
2 heard about.

3 Q. Did he ever say anything about the -- why were they fixing
4 the doors? Because like you mentioned --

5 A. He just -- because the way that -- Bobby thought that, if
6 they had changed the way they were set up, it was -- maybe the net
7 wouldn't get caught as much or something. He was just trying to
8 see if it would help them. They literally only took -- they
9 didn't like change the complete door; they changed like the bottom
10 -- it looks like a -- you know how like Santa's sleigh has those
11 shoe things?

12 Q. Um-hum.

13 A. So, at the bottom of the door, like it looks like an anchor,
14 and then on the bottom of it, it has like one of those shoe
15 things, and they literally only took the shoes off. That's all
16 they were doing.

17 (Simultaneous speaking.)

18 Q. (Indiscernible) --

19 A. And they -- I think they would take like a chain link maybe
20 and change the length of it, the door, but that was really all
21 they were doing.

22 Q. Okay. Do you -- next question is, do you know how the catch
23 was stored? So they would go out and fish, and then how would
24 they -- where would they put the fish once they caught it?

25 A. Down in the fish hold, on ice.

1 Q. Do you know how they would -- would they separate it out or
2 how would they -- with the fish pens and --

3 A. So they had like the pens downstairs. I don't know exactly
4 how they put them in there, but I know they did have to separate
5 like each -- because they had -- they would catch different types
6 of fish, so they did have to separate like the different types.
7 Because when they were unloading, they unloaded by the type of
8 fish, and they would go pen by pen and get each type of fish
9 before they would move on to the next type, because every type is
10 like a different price per weight and stuff like that, so --

11 Q. Okay, so segregate it. And anything about how they -- would
12 they do like ice, fish, ice, or would it just be kind of, hey,
13 we're putting all these over here and over there?

14 A. Like --

15 Q. If you don't know, that's fine. I mean --

16 A. Honestly, I don't really know, because when they were
17 unloading, they didn't really -- they weren't down in the hold
18 unloading the fish; they hired people to go down there and like
19 load the buckets with the fish. Ethan just stood at the door and
20 held the bucket when it came up to make sure that it didn't hit
21 anything.

22 Q. Okay. And then I -- again, another question. So kind of the
23 -- do you know what his typical work-rest -- what his work hours
24 were onboard, kind of what the schedule was?

25 A. (No audible response.)

1 Q. No?

2 A. Whatever Bobby wanted him to do.

3 Q. Okay. He never said like, hey -- sorry, go ahead.

4 A. I was going to say, there was no schedule whatsoever.

5 Q. Just whatever --

6 (Simultaneous speaking.)

7 A. -- like where they were.

8 Q. Where they were in offshore or in what they were doing?

9 A. Like depending on the quota-wise, like how they were doing
10 catching fish. Like, if they were on fish, they would just keep
11 kind of circling the fish to catch all that they could in that
12 area. So they would literally just like pick the net up, take all
13 the fish out, reset the net, then just keep doing that over and
14 over again if they were on fish until they pretty much --

15 Q. Okay. So it was safe to say that it was some -- you know, it
16 wasn't like, hey, you're on watch for 6 hours, and then you have
17 6 hours off and --

18 A. There was no --

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. I don't think there's ever been a boat he's worked on like
21 that.

22 Q. Um-hum.

23 A. The only boat that he actually had like a schedule was when
24 he was lobstering, and that's because I dropped him off at 5:30 in
25 the morning and I picked him up at 6 o'clock at night. That was

1 literally the only job -- like fishing job he's had with a
2 schedule like that.

3 Q. And then you mentioned, I guess it was Bobby would pretty
4 much determine the schedule, so the captain would say, hey, this
5 is what we're doing and --

6 A. Yep.

7 Q. Okay. Next question is, did you ever discuss about any
8 unresolved maintenance issues or things that needed to get fixed
9 and weren't fixed, or like problems with certain systems or --

10 A. Never.

11 Q. -- devices on the vessel?

12 A. Never said anything to me about it.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. But, I mean, Ethan also wasn't really like in -- like that
15 was more of like a boat owner and Bobby situation. It wasn't
16 really like --

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. -- crew wasn't really involved unless it was something that
19 they could fix.

20 Q. Got you. I was just saying like, hey, if he's, you know,
21 down in the fish hold all the time and like, hey, the ice maker
22 doesn't work or this system keeps --

23 A. They --

24 Q. -- malfunctioning --

25 A. So they don't have an ice maker on the boat.

- 1 Q. Yeah.
- 2 A. They would load ice before they left.
- 3 Q. Um-hum.
- 4 A. They would get like 5,000 pounds or tons or whatever. I
5 can't -- it was a very large amount that I was like, that's
6 ridiculous.
- 7 Q. Um-hum.
- 8 A. And they -- and that was another factor, too, because they
9 had to -- the ice would only last so long, so if they were running
10 out of ice and stuff like that -- there was just a lot of ifs,
11 buts, nots -- yeah.
- 12 Q. Yeah, no, I understand --
- 13 (Simultaneous speaking.)
- 14 A. Fishing is the most --
- 15 Q. All right --
- 16 A. -- hectic thing ever. And being like the girlfriend or
17 fisherman's wife is not easy.
- 18 Q. No, no, no. I can only imagine. So just -- it's nonstop,
19 and yeah, I can only imagine. All right, the next question I have
20 for you: did he ever talk about any leaks or any flooding
21 conditions onboard?
- 22 A. (No audible response.)
- 23 Q. No?
- 24 A. Nope.
- 25 Q. Okay. And then the next question --

1 A. I remember there was one time they -- he called me, it was
2 like the first or second trip I think he went on, that they had
3 smoke in the engine room or something like that, but it was -- I
4 can't remember what he said it was, but they were able to fix it.
5 It was something -- somebody didn't flip a switch or something
6 like that. I don't remember exactly what it was.

7 Q. Would Ethan do work in the engine room? Would he work the
8 machinery at all?

9 A. (No audible response.)

10 Q. No?

11 A. Nope.

12 Q. Who would do that --

13 A. Like he would go down and maybe like -- he would maybe go
14 down and flip a switch or something if Bobby told him to, but he
15 didn't do any of the mechanical work, no.

16 Q. Who typically did all that stuff?

17 A. I usually saw Bobby or Rink down there. That's who I saw
18 down in the engine room.

19 Q. Okay. The next question -- so has he -- did he ever go in
20 the lazarette at all? Did he ever tell you about going in there
21 or up in the bosun hole or anything like that? Any stories or
22 anything?

23 A. What do you mean by lazarette? I'm sorry --

24 Q. Lazarette -- yeah, yeah, no worries. It's like the most aft
25 compartment on the vessel. So you know where the big fish reels

1 are back there?

2 A. Yep.

3 Q. There's like a compartment underneath the fish reels. So I
4 think they store some things back there, but I don't know if he
5 ever told you like, hey, went in this space and, you know, hey, I
6 saw this or --

7 A. (No audible response.)

8 Q. Okay. No worries. And then last question I have for you is,
9 how was the crew compensated? How did he get paid?

10 A. He got a paycheck.

11 Q. Okay. I mean, do you know --

12 A. I don't mean -- like 2 days after they would get back, Rink
13 would call him and be like, I have a check for you.

14 Q. Do you know if it was based on like, hey, you're getting a
15 set amount when they (indiscernible) or, hey, it depends on how
16 much we catch; you get a percentage?

17 A. So it was like -- it was share-based.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. Based on your -- yeah, it was based off of knowledge and like
20 how -- your experience and where you were ranked with the crew
21 that you were working with and -- so it went like half share,
22 three-quarter share, and full share. And there was a couple times
23 Ethan got full share, but he usually got three-quarter share, so
24 he was one of the highest paid people on the boat.

25 It usually went Bobby, then it would be somebody else or it

1 was Ethan. He was either second or third on the high -- on the
2 pay stub thing. Because I have all of his pay stubs. Well, not
3 really pay stubs, I guess, but it just breaks down how much they
4 had for weight on the boat, their grocery bills, and their gear
5 bill and stuff like that.

6 Q. But their shares would be based on the costs of operating the
7 vessel?

8 A. Yeah. And Bobby, depending on -- so there's a couple times
9 Ethan, I would pick him up in Gloucester because he didn't want to
10 ride back to Portland, so Bobby would dock him like 100, 200 bucks
11 for not helping clean the boat on the way back. Stupid shit like
12 that, just because he knew that it would kind of irk him a little
13 bit just because he was like, I don't want to have to sit on a
14 boat for another 8 hours, like I want to go home.

15 Q. Yeah. Did he ever talk about his -- what was his opinion of
16 Bobby as a captain? Did he ever disclose his opinion of him?

17 A. He had a lot of respect for Bobby, because Bobby saw Ethan's
18 potential and wanted to help Ethan advance. He wanted Ethan to be
19 in the captain's chair. He wanted -- because he knew Ethan could
20 do it; he had the determination, and that kid loved being out on
21 the ocean.

22 Q. Okay. And then last question I have for you is, did he ever
23 tell you about any alarms, like hearing alarms going off or like
24 having to silence alarms or anything?

25 A. I mean, there was -- when they were at the dock, like when

1 they had dock sometimes, there was an alarm going off in the
2 wheelhouse, but he said he -- I can't remember what he said it
3 was, but it was one that went off like all the time because of
4 when they -- like the weight of the boat was changing rapidly,
5 like because they would be blowing ice or something like that. It
6 was just like a sensor alarm. But other than that, no.

7 CDR ██████ Okay. That's all the questions I have for you.
8 I believe Mr. Young will be next. Thank you.

9 MS. NEWTON: Yeah.

10 MR. YOUNG: Thanks, LeeAnn. This is Brian Young with the
11 NTSB. You need a break or doing all right?

12 MS. NEWTON: Nope, I'm good. I'm good.

13 MR. YOUNG: Great. Well, again, thank you for helping us out
14 today.

15 BY MR. YOUNG:

16 Q. When you said that you had been aboard the *Emmy Rose* several
17 times, did you ever go out on the water on it, or was it always
18 dock side?

19 A. It was always dock side.

20 Q. Did --

21 A. It had been discussed about me going out with them, but I was
22 like, ehh, I'm going to get seasick. Nope, I'm all good; thanks,
23 though. Because I was always on helping them.

24 Q. Right. Did Ethan ever talk to you about how the *Emmy Rose*
25 rode out there as compared to other vessels, whether he talked

1 about it maybe rolling or pitching more or less?

2 A. Never mentioned that, nope. The only -- he -- he and I
3 didn't -- we talked about it, but we didn't, because he -- when he
4 did have time to call me, we tried to not discuss certain things
5 just because we never know what's going to happen, clearly. And
6 I, with my anxiety, have really bad issues with that worrying
7 aspect, so he tried not to really tell me too-too much of -- if
8 there was much going on. Like, if there was bad weather, he would
9 tell me that and leave it at that. Just to inform, just to be
10 like, hey, just so you know, there is some pretty high seas, like
11 -- because the phone would be kind of choppy or something like
12 that, so --

13 Q. Right.

14 A. But he didn't really divulge that much, just because I
15 worried already so much, he didn't really want to -- there was a
16 time, actually, the Friday before everything happened, he had
17 service off the coast of Provincetown, because they were back in
18 Provincetown because the weather was kind of bad, and he had
19 service on his phone because they were close enough to land, and
20 he had sent me a video of how high the seas were. It was
21 terrifying. I was like, why would you show me that?

22 Q. Was that a video that he took while they were out there prior
23 to --

24 A. Yeah, on his phone, he had taken -- he literally was standing
25 in the wheelhouse and was taking a video, and the boat literally

1 was like going up and then straight down. And he was laughing.

2 And I was like, no, stop. Like that's -- no, that's crazy.

3 Q. Is that something that maybe you would feel comfortable
4 sharing with us, that video? Is that something that we might be
5 able to take a look at if you --

6 A. I can see if I have it on my phone. I'm not sure if it was
7 saved or not, but I can definitely look and see if I have it.

8 Q. And several of us on this team have previously gone to sea,
9 and I understand exactly some of the -- what you're talking about.
10 I went to sea for 25 years, and I wouldn't tell my wife everything
11 we do out there, what we went through, and exactly that: not to
12 make her worry. But there are, you know, some things we do talk
13 about, and did he ever talk about how well or how -- what kind of
14 working relationship he had with Bobby and Jeff and Mikey on this
15 vessel?

16 A. So, out of all crews, that was the best working crew they had
17 had. He, yes, had some issues with Bobby in the beginning, just
18 because Bobby was pushing him so hard, because Bobby wanted him to
19 advance; he just wanted him to do what he knew he could do, so he
20 was hard on him. Which, I mean, you want it bad enough, you'll
21 suck it up.

22 Q. Right.

23 A. And he was the kid on the boat, youngest one, and Bobby knew
24 that calling him kid really got under his skin, so he called him
25 kid all the time. And he would talk to me, he would be like, you

1 know what this fucking kid did? And he'd like start talking crap
2 about him, just right in front of him, just to drag him down. But
3 it was the best crew, like I literally looked Bobby in the face
4 and told him thank you, because it was the best crew that he had
5 been with all around. Not just the money, like they genuinely
6 cared about him.

7 Q. That's -- and cared about each other? Was there a sense that
8 they worked together --

9 A. Yeah, like they would keep in communication with each other.
10 Like I had to go to the hospital because I was having some issues,
11 and Ethan couldn't be there to work on the net because he was with
12 me or whatever, and Bobby called them and was like, what's going
13 on? Like checking in. And we had gone back the next day to the
14 dock for him to help finish the net, and Bobby was checking in
15 with me and making sure I was okay and everything. It was just,
16 it was a family. It was the best boat that Ethan had been on.

17 And Rink personally -- because when Ethan first had -- was
18 first starting on the boat, and Bobby was being hard on him before
19 he and Bobby had their like dad conversation, and he was talking
20 to Rink and venting, and Rink was like, well, I have another boat
21 if you want to try it. Because Rink really liked Ethan, and he
22 was a hard worker, and he just wanted to make sure he was taken
23 care of. And Ethan's like, nah, I'm going to stick it out; I'll
24 stick it out. And then him and Bobby had this big heart-to-heart
25 conversation, and everything was peachy keen.

1 I mean, I drove Bobby and Ethan around for like 4 or 5 hours
2 the day before they left, just talking, shooting the shit, and
3 Bobby was just trying to tell Ethan, he's like, dude, I just want
4 you to be me, like you have the potential; I can see it. And he's
5 like, I wouldn't be pushing you as hard as I am and working as
6 hard as I am if I didn't see the potential that I did.

7 Q. Right. So he was pretty much taking him under his wing so
8 that he could advance and --

9 A. Pretty much.

10 Q. Did you ever -- how frequently, when they were out fishing
11 and they had satellite communications, how frequently would you be
12 able to speak with Ethan? Would it be kind of every day you guys
13 would touch base if you could?

14 A. Yeah, yeah. Like, if he had time, he -- like depending on
15 everything, he tried to call me every day, and once in the
16 morning, once at night. Usually, it was first thing in the
17 morning, around like 4 o'clock in the morning, depending. But
18 then there were some times where he's like, oh, I'll call you
19 right back, and then I don't hear from him for a day and a half.

20 Q. Right.

21 A. Because he was so busy, and then he slept and this or that,
22 and he just didn't have time.

23 Q. Did he ever say that, when they did get busy, that there
24 would be times that they would not get to sleep for a long amount
25 of time?

1 A. There were some long shifts for sure, but they definitely
2 tried to all pull their weight and get -- there's only four of
3 them, but they somehow made it work.

4 Q. Right.

5 A. I -- personally, I don't know. I just -- and when we did
6 talk on the phone, we didn't have very long conversations usually.

7 Q. Right.

8 A. I think maybe the longest one we had was 30 minutes, and
9 that's because they were on their way home.

10 Q. Um-hum. And when they were on --

11 A. I mean --

12 Q. Sorry.

13 A. I was going to say, yeah, Sunday night, when they were on
14 their way to Gloucester, that phone call wasn't even 10 minutes
15 long, I think.

16 Q. Right.

17 A. Because he was driving, and I could hear them all in the
18 background laughing and giggling and ready to just be home. And
19 then he's like, I got to go; I'm going to go take a -- he was
20 going to go sleep on the way, so that way -- because I was going
21 to meet them the next morning, so he wanted to get sleep before
22 they docked, because we were going to go do stuff.

23 Q. During that phone call, that was -- we had seen some of the
24 phone records; that was about close to midnight on that Sunday
25 night. Was there -- did Ethan know or have an idea that they were

1 going to do a back-to-back, or is that something that you guys
2 discussed?

3 A. Yeah, they were going to do a turnaround trip. Because we
4 were going on vacation for my birthday the week after, so he was
5 doing a turnaround trip to make sure we had enough money, because
6 apparently he was going to propose, and so he wanted to make sure
7 he had the money saved for the trip and everything. Because he
8 wouldn't get his check from the first trip until he got back from
9 the second trip, so we would have two checks at once. So it would
10 be a very large check, so --

11 Q. When they do a back-to-back, then, if that was the plan for
12 the trip right before the incident, you would have met them in
13 Gloucester and loaded up food --

14 A. Yeah, I was on my way down to Gloucester that morning. I was
15 in Kittery when I got the phone call. Because I was bringing him
16 clothes, because he had -- he left a couple sweatshirts at home,
17 and he was doing a turnaround trip, so the only way I was going to
18 be able to see him was if I went down there, so I was --

19 Q. Do you know from previous trips if a back-to-back trip is
20 pretty much agreed upon by the crew or they don't have a say in it
21 or people want to do it, or do you know --

22 A. It's agreed -- it's usually an agreed-upon thing.

23 Q. It is.

24 A. It's not just a, we're doing this. It's usually the whole
25 crew (indiscernible) agreed upon.

1 Q. And would you think this last trip, because of the money, it
2 would've been something that Ethan would've wanted to do or -- to
3 do that second trip?

4 A. The whole crew wanted to do it, because it was right before
5 Christmas and that time of year, and everybody was like, yeah,
6 let's do it.

7 Q. Right. Did he say anything on -- as they were heading into
8 Gloucester on what kind of trip they had, when it comes to the
9 amount of fish, that it was a good trip or a crummy trip?

10 A. He said it was the biggest catch they had ever had, and he
11 was so excited, because he knew it was going to be a big paycheck.
12 And he was excited because he'd finally been able to pay for our
13 vacation that we wanted for so many years, and he did it all on
14 his own.

15 And the only reason I found out about it because I would not
16 (indiscernible) where \$1,200 went. So I only knew we were going
17 to Florida; that's all I knew was that he bought plane tickets and
18 the hotel room. I didn't find out that he was going to propose
19 until the day after everything happened, when his grandmother had
20 told me, so --

21 Q. I'm sorry to hear that. That's --

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. And I know you said that it was the biggest catch they ever
24 had. Do you have any idea as to about how much he estimated was
25 aboard? Is there some number he might've told you?

1 A. He said it was like close to 45, I want to say.

2 Q. And, based on what you've heard in the previous few months,
3 was that a larger amount than they typically had?

4 A. His -- I want to say the check before, the last check he got
5 was just under 43,000 pounds.

6 Q. Okay. So this would've been somewhat more, but no idea how
7 much more, right?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. You had mentioned, when you were on the phone with Ethan that
10 night, you heard people in the background. Do you think you --

11 (Simultaneous speaking.)

12 A. -- Bobby and Mikey were all fucking talking shit. They were
13 laughing because they had gotten a hatchman for once in -- Bobby
14 can't remember the last time that they had gotten a hatchman, all
15 because I was driving down there to see him.

16 Q. And what's a hatchman? I don't understand. A hatchman?

17 A. So the hatchman would like stand -- when they were unloading,
18 he would be the one holding the rope. So when they were unloading
19 the bucket of fish to like put it on the belt for it to be weighed
20 and stuff, the hatchman had to stand there and hold the rope to
21 make sure that the bucket didn't hit anything on the boat when it
22 was getting brought up to the slide thing for the fish.

23 Q. And who was going to be the hatchman?

24 A. I don't know. They had hired somebody from the company that
25 they -- like the same people that went down in the fish hold to

1 unload.

2 Q. We heard from a previous interview those people are called
3 lumpers. Would that be correct?

4 A. Yes. That's the name that I was looking for. Thank you.

5 Q. So the crew was excited that they had a hatchman for the
6 unloading?

7 A. Ethan was, anyway, because he was always the one that had to
8 be the hatchman, because he was the kid, so --

9 Q. Um-hum. So, if you heard others, would that have meant that
10 everybody was in the wheelhouse, around the phone?

11 A. I don't -- see, I don't know exactly where the phone was.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. I don't know if it was corded or if it was a -- I don't know
14 where it was, so I honestly couldn't tell you if they were all in
15 the wheelhouse, if some of them were down in the kitchen, if some
16 of them were out on the bow; I have no idea. I just knew I could
17 hear all the guys yelling in the background at Ethan and giving
18 him shit.

19 Q. And was he driving at that time or was he just finishing
20 driving or --

21 A. I have no -- they had just finished their last haul, and he
22 was just calling to let me know how far they were from Gloucester
23 and what time I needed to be down there to meet him.

24 Q. And, during that call, was anything brought to your attention
25 that anything was out of the ordinary or anything strange?

1 A. Nope. They were all laughing, giggling, and so excited to be
2 coming home.

3 Q. Did you -- before the vessel left on that trip, were you --
4 I'm in Portland; were you in Portland at their dock or Portland
5 Services -- Vessel Services?

6 A. They didn't leave from Vessel Services that day. They left
7 from the desert (ph.), because they had just finished putting the
8 net on that night when they left. I watched him leave.

9 Q. I'm sorry. If you want to take a minute or --

10 A. No, you're good. I'm sorry.

11 Q. No, no. It's all right.

12 CDR [REDACTED] Hey, LeeAnn, it's Commander [REDACTED] here. If you
13 want to take a couple minutes, we can do that, or if you want
14 to -- we can pick up another time --

15 MS. NEWTON: Can I just take a minute?

16 CDR [REDACTED] Yeah, yeah. Sure. Just put it on -- just turn
17 your screen off, and we'll be standing by when you're ready.

18 MS. NEWTON: All right. Thank you.

19 CDR [REDACTED] Thank you. Yeah.

20 (Pause.)

21 MS. NEWTON: Okay, I'm good.

22 MR. YOUNG: Thank you. I'm sorry. And if there's any --

23 CDR [REDACTED] Thanks again, LeeAnn. I really, really do
24 appreciate it.

25 Brian, if you want to pick up where you left off with. Thank

1 you.

2 MR. YOUNG: Sorry. I didn't mean to --

3 MS. NEWTON: No, you're good.

4 BY MR. YOUNG:

5 Q. So we knew that they were loading ice over at Vessel
6 Services, but when you said after that they went over to the
7 desert to load a net?

8 A. Yeah, they had finished -- they had been working on the net
9 for a couple of days, because there was a tear or something in it.
10 All I know is I was down there for 2 days sitting in my car for --
11 literally from 8:00 a.m. until the sun went down with them working
12 on the net. And they wanted to leave the day before, but the net
13 just didn't get done in time, so they waited until the next day.
14 And they had to finish a couple things, and they had left later
15 that night.

16 Q. And the desert, that's behind Becky's, right? That big area
17 over by the Coast Guard --

18 A. Yeah, over next to the -- yeah, the exchange where they --
19 (Simultaneous speaking.)

20 Q. (Indiscernible) exchange?

21 A. Yeah. Thank you.

22 Q. And, when they fix the net, what do they have to do? Do they
23 actually get in there and mend each little section?

24 A. Yeah, they hand mend.

25 Q. They do. Do you know if it's the same net or did they get a

1 different or a larger net or it's the same one they were using
2 before?

3 A. It was the same one; they just kept mending the same one.

4 Q. Because it gets beat up as it's getting dragged on the
5 bottom, right?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Okay. And then they departed from the desert?

8 A. Yep.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. It was like 6 o'clock at night. It was dark out.

11 Q. Did you ever see them load ice?

12 A. Yep. I was down there all day, every day with them.

13 Q. So forgive me for asking this stupid question, but they --

14 A. You're good.

15 Q. They take this big hose, and the ice is just shooting out,
16 right?

17 A. Yep.

18 Q. And did they put it into every single pen or they put it into
19 alternating ones?

20 A. They put it in every single pen, that I'm aware of. Except
21 for towards the front of the boat, they didn't fill those pens as
22 much because that's where they kept like extra milk, creamer,
23 food, stuff like that. And then they had like a decent storage
24 (audio skip) in the front ones maybe. But, when I saw them
25 unloading, it was mostly from the back of the boat.

1 MR. YOUNG: Okay. I had one more question. I'm going to
2 have to look at my notes. But I'll let someone ask any further --

3 MS. NEWTON: No, you're good.

4 MR. YOUNG: -- but thank you so much. We appreciate your
5 help.

6 CDR [REDACTED] All right, LeeAnn. Thank you very much. This
7 concludes the formal portion of the interview panel. I wanted to
8 just open it up to the other people, other members, if they had
9 any additional questions.

10 So I'll start off with, [REDACTED] did you have any other
11 additional questions or anything you wanted to follow up on?

12 (No audible response.)

13 CDR [REDACTED] [REDACTED] any additional questions?

14 CWO [REDACTED] Yes. Sorry.

15 CDR [REDACTED] No worries.

16 BY CWO [REDACTED]

17 Q. I just had just a couple questions. So, going back to the
18 ice, is that what -- when you were referring earlier to blowing
19 ice, is that what that is, is when they're loading the ice?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And then, when you went onboard, do you know where they
22 stowed the survival suits at? Did you ever see them any of the
23 times you went on the boat?

24 A. Yeah, there was -- see, that's the thing is there was a
25 couple everywhere, if that makes sense, because I remember asking

1 him what like -- because there was like this random rubber bag
2 thing just kind of chilling there, and I was like, what is that?
3 And he was like, it's a survival suit. And I was like, oh.

4 There's a couple --

5 Q. Okay, yep.

6 A. -- randomly placed everywhere.

7 Q. Just randomly placed?

8 (Simultaneous speaking.)

9 A. Yeah, I don't know if they --

10 Q. So there wasn't like a set spot --

11 A. I don't know if that's just because they were cleaning the
12 boat and they got moved when they -- before they left, or I don't
13 know if that's where they stayed, because they weren't always in
14 the same spot every time I went on the boat. So I don't know if
15 they had certain spots when they -- because they -- it was like a
16 day steam for them to even get to where they fish, so they -- I
17 don't know if they like moved stuff around while they were
18 steaming out. I have no idea.

19 CWO ██████ Okay. All right, that's all I have. Thank you.

20 MS. NEWTON: You're welcome.

21 CDR ██████ All right, moving on. ██████ did you -- are you
22 still -- you're probably still -- don't have access, but if you
23 have any questions or anything, please let me know, and I can ask
24 those.

25 Moving on to Mr. Young -- oh, wait. Sorry. Nothing -- ██████

1 has nothing additional to ask. Okay, roger. Thank you, [REDACTED]

2 Moving on to Mr. Young, anything additional?

3 MR. YOUNG: Yes, thanks.

4 BY MR. YOUNG:

5 Q. I did check my notes, and I found the question I was going to
6 ask you previously. While they were at Vessel Services and then
7 at the desert, were there any other repairs or big work projects
8 going on that you knew about prior to them leaving that trip?

9 A. Not that I was aware of. I mean, I saw Rink bringing like
10 big oil drums on to maybe do an oil change maybe or something like
11 that. I have no idea. And I knew they were getting a new pump
12 for the deck, like for the water or something like that maybe.
13 They were just updating it to like a bigger one. But, other than
14 that, I don't think --

15 Q. Okay. And I know you talked previously about a video that
16 you had seen. Whenever you were on the boat, did you take any
17 pictures? Because we're trying to understand how the vessel was
18 laid out and some of the equipment. Might you have any pictures
19 on your phone that you might be able to share with us at some
20 point?

21 A. I have very many pictures. I -- my biggest thing was I liked
22 being on the boat because, every time I was down there, there was
23 a seal, and he would come up to the back of the boat, so I'd shoot
24 him the bait off of the boat. So I was always taking pictures on
25 the boat, because nobody would believe me that I would go down

1 there and work with him either, so --

2 Q. That's neat. So what we're looking for is kind of -- we want
3 to understand how the back deck was laid out. And, you know,
4 maybe at some point in the next few days or weeks, we can talk
5 about some of the parts of the boat that we are very interested
6 in, and maybe you could help us out to understand how it's built
7 or what kind of equipment was there, too. So, if you'd be willing
8 to, we'll -- this team, somebody will get in touch with you and
9 kind of help us --

10 A. Yeah, definitely. I was going to say, just let me know where
11 I need to send or whatever.

12 Q. Okay, great. Thanks. And the last question, on that last
13 night phone call, was that just started as an ordinary phone call?
14 Nothing that prompted the phone call? It was --

15 A. He just was calling to let me know what time to meet him at
16 the dock.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. Because he was finally -- they had finally pulled in the last
19 haul, they were finally on track, radar set to unload in
20 Gloucester, so he called me just before I was going to bed. So he
21 -- because I was going down there to meet him, so he was just
22 letting me know what time to be down there. I mean, I usually
23 showed up hours early, but this time I wanted to sleep in, so I
24 was going to be right on time.

25 Q. And my last question is, I know you said that Bobby was kind

1 of bringing Ethan up under his wing to teach him how to do a lot
2 of things on the boat; did he ever mention anything that he was
3 training Ethan how to do anything engineering-wise, such as, say,
4 some repairs on the engines or pumping fuel? Like do you know if
5 there's anything where they would pump fuel every day to different
6 parts of the boat?

7 A. Not that I saw. I didn't really -- I mean, I saw where like
8 the fuel went, but I didn't see it go anywhere else except for one
9 spot, so --

10 Q. Okay. I just wondered if that's anything Ethan was ever --
11 (Simultaneous speaking.)

12 A. Yeah, he never --

13 Q. -- kind of put in charge of doing or talked about.

14 A. No.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. No. At least he didn't tell me about it, so --

17 MR. YOUNG: Okay. Thank you. I don't have any other
18 questions. Thank you again. We appreciate all your help.

19 MS. NEWTON: Yeah.

20 CDR [REDACTED] All right. Thank you, Brian.

21 LeeAnn, I had just one other question for you from my side,
22 which was, regarding the times where Ethan would talk to you when
23 they were coming back to port, what was the typical routine?
24 Would he bring the boat in? Would he call you when he's underway
25 bringing it in? Or was there someone who always brought it in and

1 then everybody else would either like, you know, clean up the deck
2 or bring stuff back -- do you know -- to the best that you can,
3 tell us how that kind of return to port worked when they're about
4 to offload a catch?

5 MS. NEWTON: So Bobby would obviously drive the boat in,
6 because he was the captain, so he would obviously (indiscernible).
7 And Ethan would throw lines. From there, it really all depended,
8 I guess.

9 Ethan's job was to unload when they were there, so he would
10 obviously be at the manhole, and that's where he pretty much stood
11 for the day; Bobby would be running around, figuring out if gas,
12 ice, what they were doing, that situation with Rink, food and all
13 that; and then one of the other guys would be up in with the fish
14 while they were unloading, getting like weights and prices and
15 everything like that; and then one of the other guys would be like
16 cleaning up inside, like the kitchen area. If it wasn't one of
17 the guys cleaning inside the kitchen, it was me, or one of us was
18 out washing boards.

19 CDR [REDACTED] Okay.

20 MS. NEWTON: That's usually how it worked. Because when they
21 were unloading the fish, they had boards for the pens of ice, so
22 when they unloaded and the pens were empty, they would take all
23 the boards up and wash them all down before they would like reload
24 it with ice and everything.

25 CDR [REDACTED] Okay, thanks. That's -- I have one other

1 question, but I'm going to open it up to everybody else. Let's
2 see here. Sorry.

3 Lieutenant [REDACTED] do you have any questions?

4 LT [REDACTED] Commander, I just have one more question.

5 LeeAnn, sorry for my visual issues here with my computer, but
6 when -- on the last phone call, you had said that he said he was
7 going to be going to sleep. Did he mention who was going to be
8 taking over at the helm?

9 MS. NEWTON: No, he did not.

10 LT [REDACTED] Okay. Thank you.

11 MS. NEWTON: You're welcome.

12 CDR [REDACTED] All right. Mr. [REDACTED] did you have any
13 follow-up questions?

14 MR. [REDACTED] Commander, maybe just one.

15 Again, thank you, LeeAnn. Your composure was remarkable.

16 MS. NEWTON: Thank you.

17 MR. [REDACTED] And my question is, you know, you've
18 answered a whole lot of questions; are there any concerns you may
19 have had, either with conversations with anyone about what may
20 have happened, or any concerns about either safety of people on
21 that vessel, that hasn't been the subject of any of your questions
22 so far? And that's all I have, and thank you very much for your
23 time and effort.

24 MS. NEWTON: I think the only thing that like -- the only
25 thing that comes to my mind I guess really is like there was only

1 four of them, so -- and that included the captain, so I just --
2 it's not very many people, especially with how much fish they were
3 getting and the amount of time. I just feel like things were -- I
4 just feel like sleep and diet weren't properly maintained like
5 they should have been for how rough they were working.

6 Ethan was definitely starting to lose weight from -- like
7 obviously it's a very physical job, but he hadn't really lost
8 weight like that in the past working on boats. So that was kind
9 of like my thing was maybe they just weren't taking the necessity
10 (verbatim) time; they were just trying to push themselves as hard
11 as they could. I don't know.

12 MR. [REDACTED] Thank you. That's all.

13 CDR [REDACTED] All right. Thank you.

14 Lieutenant [REDACTED] did you have any follow-up questions?

15 LT [REDACTED] Thanks, Commander.

16 I just have a few questions, LeeAnn. Again, thank you very
17 much for your time. So, in your phone call that evening, you
18 mentioned that you heard the guys laughing, and you mentioned that
19 he was going to go to sleep. Did you hear any alarms or any other
20 odd noises in the background?

21 MS. [REDACTED] All I could hear were the guys screaming and
22 laughing. I could barely hear what Ethan was saying over the guys
23 screaming and laughing. I had to have him repeat what he was
24 saying a couple times because I couldn't hear him over the guys.
25 They were being that loud and obnoxious.

1 LT [REDACTED] And -- yeah, I think that's all the questions I
2 had, so thank you again very much. Appreciate your time.

3 MS. NEWTON: Yeah.

4 CDR [REDACTED] All right. Thank you.

5 BY CDR [REDACTED]

6 Q. I just had two additional questions for you, LeeAnn. The
7 first one was -- I kind of hit this, but I just wanted to make
8 sure. So it's your understanding that, once they were done
9 fishing, coming into Gloucester to offload, Captain Blethen was at
10 the wheel, and it's assumed that the rest of the crew, or at least
11 Ethan, was sleeping; is that correct?

12 A. I -- honestly, I don't know who was driving. All I know is
13 that Ethan said he was going to bed. I don't know anything else
14 about it.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. He didn't say who was driving, who else was sleeping or
17 anything. He just told me that they had set the radar tracker to
18 the pier to unload or whatever and gave me the time when they were
19 going to be home and made sure to tell me to grab his sweatpants,
20 his sweatshirts, and all that crap, and that was it.

21 Q. Yeah. And then the last question I have is, do you have any
22 theories or insight or ideas of what might've happened based on
23 your understanding of the vessel and knowledge of the situation?

24 A. I just know my boyfriend, and something had to have happened
25 that -- they weren't awake, something -- I don't know. Something

1 had to have happened, because he would not just go down. He
2 wouldn't.

3 Q. Um-hum.

4 A. He had to have been -- he, himself, had to have been sleeping
5 and something out of the blue happened, some -- I don't -- there's
6 just -- yeah. I literally spoke to them like 3 hours before it
7 happened. I just -- but he didn't say anything about rough seas,
8 nothing. Like I understand it doesn't take much for things to
9 change; I get that. But like to go from laughing, giggling, so
10 excited, we're going to be there at this time and everything, and
11 then I get a phone call that the boat is just gone, and there's
12 not a single trace -- something happened. They got hit, they -- I
13 don't know. Something happened. I just, I know those men, and
14 they just wouldn't go down like that. They all have way too much
15 to come home to.

16 CDR ██████ Okay. Thank you very much for sharing. And,
17 again, on behalf of the Coast Guard and on behalf of the
18 investigation team, we offer our sincerest condolences to you and
19 can only imagine what you're going through. So I sincerely
20 appreciate you taking the time today to talk to us. It was very
21 helpful, and we'll definitely use it going forward to, again, try
22 and figure out what happened here and what -- preventing this from
23 happening in the future. So thank you.

24 I also wanted to offer you the opportunity to ask us any
25 questions or anything you have based on the questions we asked

1 you. Anything we can try and answer for you at this point?

2 MS. NEWTON: At this point, no. I don't think so. I just, I
3 want to know what happened. I know it's not going to bring him
4 back, but I want to know what happened, and I want to know if it's
5 preventable to make sure it doesn't happen again.

6 CDR [REDACTED] Okay. Thank you. I think what we'll do -- oh,
7 sorry. Go ahead.

8 MS. NEWTON: I was going to say, I don't want anybody else to
9 experience the hell that I've been through the past month and a
10 half, 2 months. I wouldn't wish that upon my worst enemy. I have
11 a funeral that I have to plan without a body, so --

12 CDR [REDACTED] Like I said, my sincerest condolences. I can
13 only imagine, so I'm very sorry for you. But, if you want -- if
14 we can -- I think we're good, we can stop recording right now, and
15 then I'll just give you a brief on kind of what the team's plan
16 is --

17 (Whereupon, 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: SINKING OF THE CFV *EMMY ROSE* WITH
LOSS OF LIFE, OFF THE COAST OF
PROVINCETOWN, MASSACHUSETTS,
ON NOVEMBER 23, 2020
Interview of LeeAnn Newton

ACCIDENT NO.: DCA21FM007

PLACE: Via Zoom videoconference

DATE: January 11, 2021

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.

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature of the transcriber.

Autumn Weslow
Transcriber