

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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CAPSIZING/SINKING OF THE *GOLDEN*  
RAY IN THE BRUNSWICK RIVER,  
GEORGIA, ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

Accident No.: DCA19FM048

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Interview of: CRISON DIEGO  
Ordinary Seaman

Tuesday,  
September 10, 2019

## APPEARANCES:

DAVID FLAHERTY, Marine Accident Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

CARRIE BELL, Marine Accident Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

LEE WILLETT  
United States Coast Guard

LES LEDET  
United States Coast Guard

LT [REDACTED]  
District 7 Legal  
United States Coast Guard

TOM BREMER, Maritime Administrator  
Republic of Marshall Islands

JAMES MOSELEY, JR.  
(On behalf of *Golden Ray* and P&I Club)

COLIN McRAE, Attorney  
Hunter Maclean  
(On behalf of the slot charterers)

JOHN OSSICK, Attorney  
(On behalf of the ship's officers)

STEPHANIE AMIOTTE McDONALD, Attorney  
(On behalf of Mr. Diego)

RYAN GILSENAN, Attorney  
(On behalf of the Brunswick pilots)

THRIA LIBERATOS  
Interpreter

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I N T E R V I E W

1  
2 MR. FLAHERTY: This is David Flaherty. I'm with the National  
3 Transportation Safety Board. This is an interview for related to  
4 the investigation into the Golden Ray marine casualty.

5 Sir, if you could please state your name?

6 MR. DIEGO: I am Crisnon Diego, sir.

7 MR. FLAHERTY: Could you please spell your last name, sir?

8 MR. DIEGO: D-i-e-g-o.

9 MR. FLAHERTY: Sir, is it -- do I have your permission to  
10 record this interview for the investigation?

11 MR. DIEGO: Yes, sir.

12 MR. FLAHERTY: Thank you very much.

13 Please introduce yourself.

14 MS. LIBIERATOS: Thria Libieratos, L-i-b-i-e-r-a-t-o-s,  
15 Filipino translator for Mr. Crisnon.

16 MS. AMIOTTE McDONALD: Stephanie Amiotte McDonald, A-m-i-o-t-  
17 t-e, M-c-D-o-n-a-l-d, legal counsel for Crisnon Diego.

18 MR. WILLETT: Lee Willett, investigator, Coast Guard,  
19 W-i-l-l-e-t-t.

20 MR. LEDET: Les Ledet, U.S. Coast Guard investigator,  
21 L-e-d-e-t.

22 MS. BELL: Carrie Bell, investigator for NTSB.

23 LT [REDACTED]: Lieutenant [REDACTED], [REDACTED], U.S. Coast Guard,  
24 District 7 Legal.

25 MR. McRAE: Colin McRae, M-c-R-a-e, attorney for the slot

1 charters, M-c-R-a-e.

2 MR. BREMER: Tom Bremer, B-r-e-m as in Mike-e-r. Republic of  
3 Marshall Islands, maritime administrator.

4 MR. OSSICK: John Ossick, O-s-s-i-c-k, attorney for the  
5 officers of the ship.

6 MR. MOSELEY: Jim Moseley, Jr., vessel interest, M-o-s-e-l-e-  
7 y.

8 MR. FLAHERTY: Sir?

9 MR. GILSENAN: Ryan Gilsenan, counsel for the pilots, G-i-l-  
10 s-e-n-a-n.

11 LCDR [REDACTED]: Lieutenant Commander [REDACTED], United  
12 States Coast Guard, [REDACTED].

13 (Whereupon, THRIA LIBIERATOS, a Filipino interpreter,  
14 translated the questions and answers for CRISNON DIEGO as needed.)

15 INTERVIEW OF CRISNON DIEGO

16 BY MR. WILLETT:

17 Q. All right. Tell us about your experience on vessels. How  
18 many years have you been sailing?

19 A. Since 2011, sir.

20 Q. 2011. And what is your position currently?

21 A. Ordinary seaman, sir.

22 Q. Ordinary seaman. So tell us about a typical day for an  
23 ordinary seaman at port. What would you normally be doing?

24 A. (In English) Assist chief officer, cargo division.

25 INTERPRETER: They're assisting the chief officer for cargo

1 operation.

2 BY MR. WILLET:

3 Q. So what are some of the tasks or some of the things you would  
4 be doing?

5 A. (Through interpreter) For example, putting down the ramp.

6 Q. And would you check cargo to make sure it's secure?

7 A. (Through interpreter) Yes.

8 Q. Did you do that in the Port of Brunswick?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. You did? What decks did you work on?

11 A. Deck 11, sir, 12, and deck 5.

12 Q. Deck 5, 11, and 12. Did -- were you present when they  
13 offloaded some cars or took cars off the boat?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. What deck did they remove cars from?

16 A. From the first one, sir.

17 Q. Which is?

18 A. Deck 11.

19 Q. Okay. And then did you take cars back on, on -- I guess what  
20 I'm asking is every deck, was it filled with cars?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. Okay. Is that normal? Would you always sail with a full  
23 cargo? You know what, let's scratch it. I'll ask the chief mate  
24 about that.

25 So you took cars off of deck 11; is that correct?

1 A. You mean, sir, me driving --

2 Q. No, not you. Did cars come off of deck 11?

3 INTERPRETER: He mean not you --

4 MR. WILLETT: Yes. The longshoremen, yeah.

5 MR. DIEGO: Yes, sir.

6 BY MR. WILLETT:

7 Q. And did they come off of deck 5? Did any come out of deck 5?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. Okay. And then after they came off, they loaded more cars;  
10 is that right?

11 A. Yes. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Okay. And then they loaded on 5, 11, and 12?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. And the cars they took off, were they small cars or big cars?

15 A. They small cars, sir.

16 Q. So the cars coming off were small?

17 A. Yeah. Just a normal car.

18 Q. Like a sedan or --

19 INTERPRETER: Yeah, sedan.

20 MR. FLAHERTY: Does he know the make and model?

21 MR. DIEGO: The one discharge, sir?

22 MR. FLAHERTY: Yeah.

23 MR. DIEGO: Ki- -- I'm not --

24 MR. FLAHERTY: Kias?

25 MR. DIEGO: Yes, sir. I'm not very sure.

1 BY MR. WILLET:

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. Kia and Hyundai, I think.

4 Q. Hyundai? So the cars going on, were they bigger?

5 A. SUV, sir. You will know -- some, some --

6 Q. So they were bigger?

7 A. Yeah, a little bit big.

8 Q. Okay. Do you remember, because you took bigger cars, did the  
9 chief officer have to ballast or move -- because the bigger cars  
10 are heavy, heavier, did he have to discharge ballast?

11 A. I don't remember.

12 Q. You don't know?

13 A. I don't know, sir.

14 Q. Okay, okay. So what decks did you work on? Did you go look  
15 at 5, 11, and 12, or just 5 -- did he work every deck?

16 A. Yes, sir. When loading -- because only one (indiscernible),  
17 so when loading deck 11, I also watching deck 11.

18 Q. Okay. So when you're done with deck 11, where did you go  
19 after that?

20 A. The stevedores go to deck number 12.

21 Q. Okay. So they offload deck 12 and then load it back up,  
22 correct? Or is that incorrect?

23 A. No, first they will -- they all discharging. And after  
24 finish discharging, they start loading.

25 Q. Okay. So they started where to load?



1 A. 11 deck, sir.

2 Q. 11. And those were SUVs?

3 A. Yes, sir, a little bit big.

4 Q. Okay. What about deck 12? How big were those cars?

5 A. Same, sir, SUV.

6 Q. They're all SUVs? Okay. And deck 5?

7 A. Same, sir.

8 Q. Okay. All right. After you're done loading, what time did  
9 you go get off work or stop work?

10 A. After loading, sir, we close down.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. The ramp close, so we dismiss and wait for final.

13 Q. So when you close the ramp, what is your job to make sure  
14 it's closed and secured?

15 A. I am checking the cleats, sir.

16 Q. The cleats?

17 A. Yes, sir, the lock.

18 Q. All the way up or just in certain decks?

19 A. Just in 5 and 6 deck.

20 Q. Okay. Are there cleats at every deck or just some decks?

21 A. Only in upper deck, sir, have also, and 7 deck.

22 Q. Okay. And you always take --

23 A. 5 and 6 deck, sir.

24 Q. 5 and 6.

25 A. I am checking all --

1 Q. And you just do a visual?

2 A. Yes, sir, this one. And report to second officer.

3 Q. You report to who? Second officer?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. And then where did you go after that, after you made  
6 sure the ramp was closed?

7 A. We little bit take rest, sir, waiting for (indiscernible).

8 Q. Were you in your state room?

9 A. In my cabin, sir.

10 Q. Do you have your own cabin by yourself?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Okay. And were you laying in bed?

13 A. Only in sofa, sir, because -- and only I think short time, so  
14 I wait.

15 Q. So you were sitting in your bed or sitting in a chair?

16 A. Yes. Like a sofa, sir.

17 Q. Sofa. Okay.

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. And then did you notice -- when did you notice something was  
20 wrong?

21 A. Even, sir, we are not leaving yet the port.

22 Q. Oh, okay, okay. So --

23 A. We are not leaving yet the port.

24 Q. Okay. So you're -- okay, I understand now. So you went to  
25 your room. You were in your sofa.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Where were you when you noticed something was wrong?

3 A. I -- when we already sailed, sir, you mean?

4 Q. Yes. Yeah, yeah.

5 A. I was in my cabin, sir.

6 Q. Were you in bed?

7 A. I only just change clothes and -- yeah, I lie in bed. And  
8 after that, I immediately -- it's very --

9 INTERPRETER: Everything went fast. So he did not account  
10 for the time, how long he was in his bed.

11 BY MR. WILLETT:

12 Q. Okay. Did you hear any alarms?

13 A. No, sir.

14 INTERPRETER: Did you hear any alarms?

15 MR. DIEGO: No, sir.

16 INTERPRETER: During?

17 MR. WILLETT: Yeah, after. Yeah.

18 INTERPRETER: After.

19 MR. WILLETT: Or before.

20 INTERPRETER: Before or after?

21 There's no alarm

22 BY MR. WILLETT:

23 Q. Okay. Was it completely dark?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. Did you grab your life jacket?

1 A. No, sir. Because it's very dark. I can't see.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. Only I'm looking for --

4 Q. Your flashlight?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Do you have any emergency lights in your room, in your state  
7 room?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. And they didn't come on?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Never? They never come on?

12 A. Only after -- there are none, sir, but immediately a little  
13 bit a short time, I can --

14 Q. Okay. Where is your state room on the vessel?

15 A. It's in the port side, sir.

16 Q. Port side. Okay. So how did you get out?

17 A. So --

18 INTERPRETER: He went out -- he opened the door of his cabin,  
19 then he went outside. And he was like searching for a flashlight.

20 BY MR. WILLET:

21 Q. Did you find a flashlight?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. Oh, good, good.

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. And then did you go by helicopter or a boat?

1 A. By boat, sir.

2 MR. WILLETT: Okay. All right. I have no questions.

3 BY MS. BELL:

4 Q. How long were you on the vessel?

5 MS. AMIOTTE McDONALD: Do you mean before?

6 MS. BELL: Before it happened.

7 MS. AMIOTTE McDONALD: Like the number of days?

8 MS. BELLS: Yes. Or months.

9 MS. AMIOTTE McDONALD: Okay.

10 INTERPRETER: When did he start?

11 MS. BELL: When did he --

12 MR. DIEGO: You mean, ma'am, how long I stayed on the Golden  
13 Ray?

14 BY MS. BELL:

15 Q. Yes.

16 A. I on board, ma'am, March 9th, around.

17 Q. March 9th?

18 A. Yes, ma'am, this year. March 9th. Only I think almost 6  
19 months, but not, not -- less than. Maybe 5 months, ma'am; almost  
20 6 months.

21 Q. Okay. Was this your first time on the vessel?

22 A. No, ma'am.

23 INTERPRETER: In this vessel (indiscernible) --

24 BY MS. BELL:

25 Q. Did you have another contract with this vessel before?

1 A. Yes, ma'am. This my first time on this vessel.

2 Q. Okay. Okay. And about how many hours did you guys do cargo  
3 ops that day?

4 A. I think when we start -- I'm not sure, ma'am, when we  
5 started. 1900 and (indiscernible) 22 to -- 2225 finish. But I'm  
6 not sure, ma'am, that specific time.

7 Q. Okay. But that's about how long you worked?

8 A. Yeah, yeah, this -- yeah.

9 MS. BELL: Okay. That's all the questions I had. Thank you.

10 MR. FLAHERTY: I have no questions.

11 MR. McRAE: I've just got a few questions. I'm Colin McRae.  
12 I represent the slot charterer of the vessel.

13 BY MR. McRAE:

14 Q. Did you check lashings on cars that had been loaded in  
15 Brunswick?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. And did you do that by a visual check or by using your hand  
18 or your foot to check the tightness of the lashings?

19 A. This one, I'm hands and foot also, sir. And we check it,  
20 sir, by row by row, one by one, like this.

21 Q. And did you do the check of the lashings on all three of the  
22 decks you mentioned earlier: 11, 12, and 5?

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. Did you find anything out of the ordinary about the lashings?  
25 Any problems?

1 A. No, sir.

2 Q. So the lashings were all tight?

3 A. Okay, sir.

4 Q. They were all okay?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. Okay. And if you find a problem with a lashing, what do you  
7 typically do? Do you report it to someone?

8 A. Yes, sir. I report to chief officer, sir.

9 Q. Okay. And you didn't report any problems here in Brunswick?

10 INTERPRETER: On that day?

11 MR. McRAE: On that day.

12 INTERPRETER: He did not report any problems because he  
13 didn't find any problems.

14 BY MR. McRAE:

15 Q. You've discussed the cars that were loaded. Was there any  
16 other type of cargo on board the vessel besides these cars and  
17 SUVs?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Okay. What other types of cargo was there?

20 A. Like RV.

21 Q. RVs?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Like recreational vehicles?

24 A. There is car --

25 (Through interpreter) It looks like a little house but it's a

1 car.

2 Q. Okay. Camper. RV. Okay.

3 How about any -- were there any steel coils or any other  
4 large or heavy type cargos?

5 A. No, sir.

6 Q. Are you familiar with what a MAFI trailer is?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. Was there any cargo on any MAFI trailers?

9 A. No, sir.

10 Q. Are you familiar with the term project cargo? Or a crate?  
11 Do you know what a crate is?

12 A. Not really, sir.

13 Q. Big box?

14 INTERPRETER: Is it a container bin?

15 MR. McRAE: Not a container, but -- like a big wooden box.

16 MR. DIEGO: It's a big (indiscernible)

17 MR. McRAE: Well, I don't know.

18 BY MR. McRAE:

19 Q. If you don't remember seeing it, that's okay.

20 Any heavy machinery? Any like tractors or farm equipment,  
21 anything like that?

22 A. No, sir. Only one this -- maybe same like --

23 INTERPRETER: He saw one --

24 MR. DIEGO: Same like container, sir, but it's a truck.

25 MR. McRAE: A truck. Okay. Okay, That's all I have. Thank



1 you.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No questions here.

3 MR. BREMER: No questions.

4 LCDR [REDACTED]: No questions.

5 MR. WILLETT: All righty. This completes the interview, at  
6 1654.

7 (Whereupon, at 4:54 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:           CAPSIZING/SINKING OF THE *GOLDEN*  
                                  RAY IN THE BRUNSWICK RIVER,  
                                  GEORGIA, ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2019  
                                  Interview of Crisnon Diego

ACCIDENT NO.:               DCA19FM048

PLACE:

DATE:                        September 10, 2019

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.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kay Maurer  
Transcriber