

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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FIRE AND ABANDONMENT OF THE *BLUE*
DRAGON F/V IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN,
ALASKA ON NOVEMBER 9, 2021

Accident No.: DCA22FM004

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Interview of: TOI NGUYEN, Captain
Tenacious

San Francisco, California

Thursday,
November 11, 2021

APPEARANCES:

LT [REDACTED] Investigator
U.S. Coast Guard

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] Investigator
U.S. Coast Guard

MARCEL MUISE, Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

Also present:

Customs and Border Protection Interpreter

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I N T E R V I E W

1
2 MR. [REDACTED] Hi, Captain. My name is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I'm with
3 the U.S. Coast Guard.

4 MR. NGUYEN: Yeah.

5 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

6 INTERPRETER: (Untranslatable), [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
7 (untranslatable), Coast Guard.

8 MR. NGUYEN: Yeah.

9 MR. [REDACTED] Since your vessel is a U.S. flagged commercial
10 vessel, we are in -- doing a safety investigation into the fire.

11 INTERPRETER: (Untranslatable). The Coast Guard
12 (Untranslatable).

13 MR. NGUYEN: (Untranslatable).

14 INTERPRETER: He say electrical issues.

15 MR. [REDACTED] Yeah, okay. So the purpose of our investigation
16 is to determine what happened and how to prevent it from happening
17 again.

18 (Untranslatable conversation)

19 INTERPRETER: He say so he didn't expect it to happen, so now
20 he just abandoned the ship.

21 MR. [REDACTED] Yep.

22 INTERPRETER: He don't know what's the matter.

23 MR. [REDACTED] Yep. So we'll ask him questions here in a
24 second, and he can address those answers.

25 MR. NGUYEN: (Untranslatable).

1 MR. [REDACTED] I just wanted to frame the interview. I
2 basically want him to know that nobody is in trouble.

3 INTERPRETER: Mm-hm.

4 MR. [REDACTED] And we just want to get all of the facts about
5 the fire so that we can sort of piece together a timeline and look
6 for things that could have been present to prevent it from
7 happening again.

8 INTERPRETER: Right. (Untranslatable).

9 MR. NGUYEN: Mm-hm. (Untranslatable).

10 INTERPRETER: Yeah.

11 MR. NGUYEN: (Untranslatable).

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We may never get a hold of this guy.

13 MR. NGUYEN: (Untranslatable).

14 MR. [REDACTED] Next time (indiscernible).

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

16 (Untranslatable conversation)

17 MR. [REDACTED] Is he going into detail, I wonder?

18 INTERPRETER: Yes, he is.

19 MR. [REDACTED] Yeah. Just tell him we'll ask him piece by
20 piece.

21 MR. NGUYEN: (Untranslatable).

22 INTERPRETER: Yeah, so --

23 MR. NGUYEN: (Untranslatable).

24 INTERPRETER: It continues, all right. (Untranslatable).

25 MR. [REDACTED] Is that okay?

1 INTERPRETER: Yeah.

2 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

3 INTERVIEW OF CAPTAIN TOI NGUYEN

4 MR. [REDACTED] Captain, how long have you owned the company?

5 Oh.

6 INTERPRETER: He understood that.

7 (Untranslatable conversation)

8 INTERPRETER: Okay.

9 MR. NGUYEN: (Untranslatable).

10 INTERPRETER: Okay, so he'd been running that boat for 20
11 years, with different owner. And they sold to him 10 years ago,
12 so.

13 MR. [REDACTED] 10 years ago, okay.

14 INTERPRETER: So he own it for 10, around 10 years.

15 MR. [REDACTED] 10 years.

16 INTERPRETER: Yeah.

17 MR. [REDACTED] But you've worked the Blue Dragon for 20 years?

18 MR. NGUYEN: Yeah.

19 MR. [REDACTED] Okay, perfect. Thank you. How long have you
20 been a captain?

21 MR. NGUYEN: (Untranslatable).

22 INTERPRETER: He was a captain --

23 MR. NGUYEN: (Untranslatable), yeah.

24 MR. [REDACTED] 20 years?

25 INTERPRETER: 20 years.

1 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. What -- when did you get underway from
2 Honolulu? When did you leave Honolulu?

3 INTERPRETER: (Untranslatable), Hawaii. Hawaii
4 (Untranslatable). October 25th.

5 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. And what were you fishing for?

6 MR. NGUYEN: Shellfish.

7 INTERPRETER: Shellfish?

8 MR. NGUYEN: Shellfish and tuna.

9 INTERPRETER: Tuna and shellfish.

10 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. And what type of vessel is the Blue
11 Dragon?

12 INTERPRETER: (Untranslatable).

13 MR. [REDACTED] Long liner?

14 MR. NGUYEN: Long linger, yeah, long liner.

15 MR. [REDACTED] Long linger, okay. Captain, what time did the
16 crew first notice the fire?

17 INTERPRETER: (Untranslatable). 9:00 to 10:00 p.m.

18 MR. [REDACTED] Okay, (indiscernible).

19 MR. NGUYEN: Yeah, (Untranslatable).

20 INTERPRETER: No, (Untranslatable). November 11 -- November
21 9.

22 MR. [REDACTED] Okay, yeah.

23 INTERPRETER: Yeah, at 9:00 --

24 MR. [REDACTED] 10:00, 10:00 p.m.

25 INTERPRETER: -- yeah, 9:00 to 10:00.

1 MR. [REDACTED] Hawaii time or California time?

2 MR. NGUYEN: Oh, Hawaii.

3 MR. [REDACTED] Hawaii, okay. Who noticed the fire?

4 (Untranslatable conversation)

5 INTERPRETER: Mm-hm.

6 MR. NGUYEN: (Untranslatable).

7 INTERPRETER: Yeah --

8 (Untranslatable conversation)

9 INTERPRETER: He say him and another person named --

10 MR. NGUYEN: (Untranslatable).

11 INTERPRETER: Keith?

12 MR. [REDACTED] Steven?

13 MR. NGUYEN: Yeah, Keith (indiscernible) and me,
14 (indiscernible).

15 MR. [REDACTED] Observer?

16 MR. NGUYEN: Yeah.

17 MR. [REDACTED] Observer noticed the fire.

18 INTERPRETER: No, they -- (Untranslatable).

19 MR. NGUYEN: (Untranslatable).

20 INTERPRETER: (Indiscernible). Oh. Mostly it -- I think it
21 was names that he don't know.

22 MR. [REDACTED] Oh, okay.

23 INTERPRETER: He says Keith something.

24 MR. [REDACTED] Oh, okay. Where were you? Where were you
25 located on the boat when the -- when you noticed the fire?

1 INTERPRETER: (Untranslatable). In the (indiscernible) in
2 his room, in his -- still called liner, right?

3 INTERPRETER: That -- the bridge.

4 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

5 INTERPRETER: Yes.

6 MR. [REDACTED] In your bed?

7 MR. NGUYEN: Yeah, yeah. (Untranslatable).

8 INTERPRETER: Mm-hm, yeah. In his room.

9 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

10 INTERPRETER: Yeah.

11 MR. [REDACTED] Were you asleep?

12 MR. NGUYEN: Yeah.

13 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

14 INTERPRETER: (Untranslatable). So he went to sleep for like
15 half-an-hour and then that's when it happened.

16 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

17 INTERPRETER: Yeah.

18 MR. [REDACTED] Who was on lunch?

19 INTERPRETER: Five. Five of his people.

20 MR. [REDACTED] Who was on watch at the helm?

21 MR. NGUYEN: I don't know (ph.), went to bed up.

22 MR. [REDACTED] Oh, okay. Okay. You went to -- he took a 30-
23 minute --

24 INTERPRETER: Nap.

25 MR. [REDACTED] -- nap.

1 INTERPRETER: Yeah.

2 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. And who --

3 INTERPRETER: Well, into his 30 minutes of like -- when he
4 went to sleep -- yeah, he went to sleep about --

5 MR. [REDACTED] Oh.

6 INTERPRETER: Within 30 minutes. Yeah.

7 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. Who woke him up? Sorry, I should ask
8 him. Who woke you up?

9 INTERPRETER: Officer now.

10 MR. [REDACTED] Observer?

11 MR. NGUYEN: NOAA (indiscernible).

12 MR. [REDACTED] NOAA?

13 MR. NGUYEN: Yeah.

14 MR. [REDACTED] NOAA.

15 MR. NGUYEN: A guy yell fire.

16 MR. [REDACTED] He yelled fire.

17 MR. NGUYEN: Yeah, the guy yell fire. The guy see smoke.

18 MR. [REDACTED] And you woke up.

19 MR. NGUYEN: Yeah.

20 MR. [REDACTED] And you saw the fire.

21 MR. NGUYEN: Yeah, I see the fire, eyes. I think my
22 (indiscernible).

23 INTERPRETER: Mm-hm, mm-hm.

24 MR. NGUYEN: (Untranslatable) what that guy yell.

25 (Untranslatable).

1 INTERPRETER: So he saw like a small fire, so he was bringing
2 in fire extension -- extinguisher?

3 MR. [REDACTED] Mm-hm.

4 INTERPRETER: To come in and like try to, you know --

5 MR. [REDACTED] Put it out.

6 INTERPRETER: -- put it out but then like it got --

7 MR. [REDACTED] Bigger?

8 INTERPRETER: -- yeah, bigger and out of control.

9 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. Captain, where was the fire located?

10 INTERPRETER: Uh-huh, it's in his room.

11 MR. [REDACTED] On the bridge?

12 INTERPRETER: Yeah, in the bridge. In his room.

13 MR. [REDACTED] Underneath the front controls?

14 INTERPRETER: He said it was under the wheel.

15 MR. NGUYEN: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

16 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

17 INTERPRETER: He see it in the water.

18 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

19 INTERPRETER: He say in the, like --

20 MR. [REDACTED] What do you keep underneath the control panel?

21 Was there any paint? Any rags?

22 INTERPRETER: Electrical.

23 MR. [REDACTED] Electrical? What was underneath the control
24 panel?

25 INTERPRETER: The control panel is where the steering, the

1 wheel is? The --

2 MR. [REDACTED] Actually, we want to know where the -- what was
3 located where the fire was?

4 INTERPRETER: Can he drive out, or?

5 MR. [REDACTED] Yeah, that's what I was getting him to say.

6 INTERPRETER: Yeah. (Untranslatable).

7 MR. NGUYEN: (Untranslatable).

8 INTERPRETER: Uh-huh.

9 MR. NGUYEN: Like wind and yeah and it blow the
10 (indiscernible), (Untranslatable).

11 INTERPRETER: Okay. You do -- the ending.

12 MR. [REDACTED] So it sounds like it was back of the bridge,
13 like the cables.

14 INTERPRETER: (Untranslatable) electrical?
15 (Untranslatable conversation)

16 MR. NGUYEN: Huh.

17 INTERPRETER: Okay. There's nothing under the control panel.
18 So he say down like inside the --

19 MR. [REDACTED] The lock (ph.)?

20 INTERPRETER: The water's like --

21 MR. [REDACTED] Insulation?

22 INTERPRETER: -- insulations, and electrical wires?

23 MR. [REDACTED] Mm-hm.

24 INTERPRETER: That's where it caught on fire.

25 MR. [REDACTED] Oh, okay.

1 MR. NGUYEN: (Untranslatable).

2 INTERPRETER: So.

3 MR. [REDACTED] So I just wanted to ask him. The NOAA observer
4 told us that he saw fire where the throttles and the wheel was,
5 right? Can just, can you guys express that to him and ask if
6 that's true?

7 LT [REDACTED] Was it where the wheel was, or was it behind?

8 MR. [REDACTED] And it sounds like the first fire he saw was in
9 a bulkhead.

10 INTERPRETER: What's a bulkhead?

11 MR. [REDACTED] A wall.

12 INTERPRETER: A wall?

13 MR. [REDACTED] A wall, yes.

14 INTERPRETER: Yeah, that's what he's saying, it's in the
15 wall.

16 MR. [REDACTED] A wall? Fire?

17 INTERPRETER: You said NOAA?

18 LT [REDACTED] The NOAA, the --

19 MR. [REDACTED] Observer.

20 INTERPRETER: Observer?

21 MR. [REDACTED] Yeah.

22 INTERPRETER: Is that his name, Observer or something?

23 MR. [REDACTED] No. His name is Steven.

24 LT [REDACTED] Steven Mukasey (ph.).

25 MR. [REDACTED] They know him as the NOAA Observer.

1 INTERPRETER: Oh. The NOAA Observer. Coast Guard
2 (untranslatable). Okay.

3 (Untranslatable conversation)

4 INTERPRETER: Uh-huh.

5 MR. NGUYEN: (Untranslatable).

6 INTERPRETER: Okay.

7 (Untranslatable conversation)

8 INTERPRETER: Oh.

9 MR. NGUYEN: Yeah, (untranslatable).

10 INTERPRETER: So (untranslatable)? The line?

11 MR. NGUYEN: (Untranslatable).

12 INTERPRETER: Okay. Was it the wheel?

13 MR. NGUYEN: (Untranslatable), yeah. (Untranslatable)?

14 INTERPRETER: Uh-huh.

15 MR. NGUYEN: They -- we went through the cabinet then up to
16 my.

17 INTERPRETER: Oh, so this is the control and then in there is
18 the -- all the electrical.

19 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

20 LT [REDACTED] Bed? Captain's bed? See the boat? Captain's
21 bed? Where was the fire? Can you point where?

22 MR. NGUYEN: Was fire here.

23 LT [REDACTED] Right there.

24 MR. NGUYEN: Yeah.

25 MR. [REDACTED] And so -- I'm sorry, yeah.

1 LT [REDACTED] And here's where you sleep? You -- bed right
2 here? Your bed?

3 MR. NGUYEN: Yeah.

4 LT [REDACTED] Okay.

5 MR. NGUYEN: Lay down here and sleep here, and after a while
6 I leave over there.

7 LT [REDACTED] Okay.

8 MR. [REDACTED] So it was the front of the bridge, okay. Okay,
9 we're back to -- okay. What actions did you take to fight the
10 fire?

11 (Untranslatable conversation)

12 INTERPRETER: Mm-hm.

13 MR. NGUYEN: (Untranslatable).

14 INTERPRETER: So he's saying like the resting (indiscernible)
15 type of thing was too wrapped up by the extinguisher.

16 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

17 INTERPRETER: And then like all his -- the people in the --
18 his --

19 MR. [REDACTED] The crew?

20 INTERPRETER: -- yeah, the crew like came in with the, like
21 the fire extinguishers.

22 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

23 INTERPRETER: Tried to like, you know, stopped the flame.

24 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

25 INTERPRETER: But it got bigger.

1 MR. [REDACTED] Too, okay.

2 INTERPRETER: Yeah.

3 MR. [REDACTED] Did you try to use your firefighting hose?

4 (Untranslatable conversation)

5 INTERPRETER: He said he finished a canister of the fire
6 extinguisher, then he used the hose.

7 MR. [REDACTED] Did the hose reach? Were you able to use water?

8 MR. NGUYEN: Yeah, water.

9 (Untranslatable conversation)

10 INTERPRETER: You know the (untranslatable). Yeah, yeah

11 (Untranslatable conversation)

12 INTERPRETER: Yeah. He said -- released the water into the
13 fire and he told --

14 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

15 INTERPRETER: -- and it's -- and it didn't help.

16 MR. [REDACTED] It did not help? Okay. Did you attempt to shut
17 off electrical power?

18 (Untranslatable conversation)

19 INTERPRETER: Oh. He said he was not able to get inside.

20 The electrical was cut off. So he didn't cut off the electric
21 when the fire start. It already malfunctioned, all the electrical

22 --

23 MR. [REDACTED] Oh, okay.

24 INTERPRETER: -- so it's not him.

25 MR. [REDACTED] Did your generator shut down?

1 MR. NGUYEN: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

2 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. So it shut down, okay. But --

3 MR. NGUYEN: They (untranslatable).

4 INTERPRETER: Say all the electrical, all the power now was
5 shut down.

6 MR. [REDACTED] Yeah, okay.

7 INTERPRETER: Yeah.

8 MR. [REDACTED] Engine? The engine kept running?

9 MR. NGUYEN: No.

10 (Untranslatable conversation)

11 INTERPRETER: Yeah, he said it was off too.

12 MR. [REDACTED] The engine? Okay.

13 LT [REDACTED] The Phillip (ph.) -- Gerald. Gerald said that
14 the engines were still running the next morning. Is that true or
15 not true?

16 (Untranslatable conversation)

17 INTERPRETER: Oh, yeah. He say that it should be under the

18 --

19 So, the engine is on the bottom -- right -- of the boat?

20 MR. [REDACTED] Mm-hm, yeah.

21 INTERPRETER: And he's saying that -- that's still
22 functioning.

23 MR. [REDACTED] Oh, yeah. Okay. So --

24 INTERPRETER: But the -- everything else on the deck of then
25 is caught on fire.

1 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

2 INTERPRETER: That those were shut down.

3 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

4 INTERPRETER: Yeah. Mm-hm. Okay so the next day he went
5 back to his boat to like, you know, investigate. And he saw that
6 like all the engine was okay.

7 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

8 INTERPRETER: It just -- and then he tried to make, you know,
9 put out any smoke that was left.

10 MR. [REDACTED] Mm-hm, mm-hm.

11 INTERPRETER: On the deck. And he's saying he wants to wait
12 for a certain ship that was 200 miles away.

13 MR. [REDACTED] Mm-hm.

14 INTERPRETER: But then he was forced to abandon that ship, to
15 on onto the ship.

16 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

17 INTERPRETER: Yeah.

18 MR. [REDACTED] After you attempted fight the fire, about how
19 long after you discovered the fire did you abandon ship? So let
20 me rephrase that. How much time passed between the time someone
21 noticed the fire to when they abandoned ship?

22 INTERPRETER: Mm-hm. So (untranslatable).

23 MR. NGUYEN: I think, I think --

24 (Untranslatable conversation)

25 INTERPRETER: Okay. So like (indiscernible) things?

1 MR. NGUYEN: I don't have nothing like (indiscernible).

2 (Untranslatable conversation)

3 MR. NGUYEN: -- I look on my deck, I shut down and

4 (untranslatable).

5 INTERPRETER: Mm-hm.

6 MR. NGUYEN: My (indiscernible) shut down --

7 (Untranslatable conversation)

8 INTERPRETER: -- down under. So they tried to fight it for
9 like half-an-hour and then after they couldn't control it anymore,
10 because then like after the -- I guess the electrical shut down?

11 MR. [REDACTED] Mm-hm.

12 INTERPRETER: They couldn't do -- use the water.

13 MR. [REDACTED] Oh.

14 INTERPRETER: So they have to abandon ship.

15 MR. [REDACTED] Oh, okay.

16 INTERPRETER: Yeah.

17 MR. [REDACTED] (Indiscernible).

18 INTERPRETER: Yeah.

19 MR. [REDACTED] Who made the decision to abandon the vessel?

20 INTERPRETER: (Untranslatable).

21 MR. NGUYEN: (Untranslatable), yeah.

22 INTERPRETER: I do -- yeah. He said the --

23 MR. NGUYEN: (Untranslatable).

24 INTERPRETER: -- he did. Yeah? He did.

25 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. Was he -- how do I want to phrase that?

1 I just want to make sure it was his decision.

2 LT [REDACTED] Yeah. Did the NOAA Observer tell you to
3 abandon ship?

4 INTERPRETER: Did the NOAA Observer (Untranslatable)?

5 MR. NGUYEN: (Untranslatable) order.

6 INTERPRETER: Coast Guard.

7 MR. [REDACTED] Coast Guard.

8 INTERPRETER: Go ahead, I so sorry.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So if I misunderstand, correct me, all
10 right? He said that Coast Guard -- whether -- told him to abandon
11 ship. So he followed Coast Guard order. Can you ask him if the
12 Coast Guard was into the radio, or was it like --

13 MR. [REDACTED] Yeah, I don't think that's right.

14 INTERPRETER: Coast Guard, they (Untranslatable).

15 MR. NGUYEN: (Untranslatable), and the Coast Guard come with
16 the --

17 (Untranslatable conversation)

18 INTERPRETER: I think he's talking about --

19 (Untranslatable conversation)

20 MR. [REDACTED] Or the Nord (ph.).

21 INTERPRETER: Okay so he say that it was his decision to, you
22 know, go onto the life raft

23 MR. [REDACTED] Life raft, yeah.

24 INTERPRETER: Right?

25 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

1 INTERPRETER: So he -- it was his choice to tell everyone to
2 go in the life raft.

3 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

4 INTERPRETER: Because of the fire --

5 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

6 INTERPRETER: -- that they couldn't control.

7 MR. [REDACTED] Okay, perfect.

8 INTERPRETER: But -- and they went with the right -- the life
9 raft until -- 7:00 to 8:00. (Indiscernible).

10 MR. [REDACTED] Until the Coast Guard told them to get on the --
11 this boat here.

12 INTERPRETER: No. So he -- what's he saying is he got the
13 life raft. And then from like 7:00 to 8:00, this how he went back
14 on the ship --

15 MR. [REDACTED] Yeah.

16 INTERPRETER: -- that he saw that they don't have any
17 telephone communication. And he said someone on his hip
18 communicated this ship, requested to --

19 MR. [REDACTED] Yeah.

20 INTERPRETER: -- go find assistance. Yeah.

21 MR. [REDACTED] That makes sense. Okay, it all makes sense.

22 INTERPRETER: Then when they got on the chip the Captain --

23 MR. [REDACTED] So, yeah. We were actually trying to figure out
24 who made the final decision to get in the life raft. So it was
25 the Captain.

1 INTERPRETER: Yeah. Yeah, it was. So it was the Captain
2 that got -- that got everyone to the life raft.

3 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

4 INTERPRETER: Until the next morning.

5 MR. [REDACTED] Okay, yeah.

6 INTERPRETER: And they went back --

7 MR. [REDACTED] Then they went back.

8 INTERPRETER: -- to the ship, yeah.

9 MR. [REDACTED] Yeah, okay.

10 INTERPRETER: Yeah.

11 MR. [REDACTED] When you went back onboard the Blue Dragon, what
12 did you see? What was the damage?

13 (Untranslatable conversation)

14 MR. [REDACTED] I don't think so.

15 (Untranslatable conversation)

16 INTERPRETER: Let's answer his question first. Yeah. So
17 your question is when he see, when he got back to the ship right?
18 So --

19 MR. [REDACTED] Mm-hm. The extent of the damage.

20 INTERPRETER: -- right. So what he saw was like ash?

21 MR. [REDACTED] Ashes, mm-hm.

22 INTERPRETER: And some smoke, and then he tried to, you know,
23 kick those out with water so it didn't --

24 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

25 INTERPRETER: -- he used water to like try to extinguish

1 whatever smoke was left.

2 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

3 INTERPRETER: Yeah.

4 MR. [REDACTED] So what I'm trying to determine is if every
5 piece of furniture and equipment, anything like combustible was
6 put -- if everything was gone it means we had a fully involved
7 fire.

8 INTERPRETER: Mm-hm.

9 MR. [REDACTED] Which means the air was on fire.

10 INTERPRETER: Mm-hm.

11 MR. [REDACTED] So I'm trying to determine if there was any
12 furniture left in the vessel.

13 INTERPRETER: Mm-hm.

14 (Untranslatable conversation)

15 LT [REDACTED] What was the answer?

16 INTERPRETER: So it was, yeah. It was --

17 LT [REDACTED] Full.

18 INTERPRETER: -- it was a fully involved fire. Fully
19 involved fire, yeah.

20 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. Captain, thank you for your time.

21 INTERPRETER: (Untranslatable).

22 MR. NGUYEN: Yeah, yeah. Thank you, thank you, yeah.

23 MR. [REDACTED] And we will -- Will and I will be contacting
24 your son-in-law and your wife, and you. We have some paperwork
25 for you to fill out, very simple. And I think your son-in-law can

1 help you fill that out -- Kevin?

2 MR. NGUYEN: Yeah, Kevin. Yeah, yeah.

3 LT [REDACTED] Yeah, Kevin. I'm going to call Kevin, give him
4 papers to fill out. You and Kevin can work on the paperwork.

5 INTERPRETER: Oh, okay.

6 MR. NGUYEN: (Untranslatable)?

7 INTERPRETER: No, no. He said that you gave him.

8 Just so you guys know, Kevin's at our office right now.

9 LT [REDACTED] Oh, is he? Okay.

10 MR. [REDACTED] Oh, good.

11 INTERPRETER: And he -- give me --

12 MR. [REDACTED] Marcel, do you have anything else?

13 MR. MUISE: Can you ask him if there was any recent
14 electrical work on the bridge?

15 LT [REDACTED] Oh, good question.

16 MR. MUISE: Like any new equipment installed or repairs?

17 MR. [REDACTED] Yeah.

18 MR. MUISE: Electrical wise?

19 MR. [REDACTED] Did you hear that?

20 INTERPRETER: No.

21 MR. [REDACTED] Can you ask the Captain? Captain, was there any
22 recent electrical upgrades or repairs conducted on the bridge?

23 (Untranslatable conversation)

24 INTERPRETER: All right, so they --

25 (Untranslatable conversation)

1 INTERPRETER: No, he said. Sorry.

2 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. Did he ever have -- did you have any
3 recent electrical problems?

4 (Untranslatable conversation)

5 INTERPRETER: No.

6 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

7 INTERPRETER: And he also mentioned that this inspection of
8 interiors.

9 MR. [REDACTED] Yeah, Coast Guard.

10 INTERPRETER: Yeah.

11 MR. [REDACTED] Fishing vessel exam? Coast Guard fishing vessel
12 exam?

13 INTERPRETER: Coast Guard --

14 INTERPRETER: (Untranslatable) with the Coast Guard?

15 MR. NGUYEN: (Untranslatable) and fishing exam.

16 INTERPRETER: A fishing exam, yeah.

17 MR. NGUYEN: Exam.

18 INTERPRETER: Yeah.

19 MR. [REDACTED] And he passed.

20 INTERPRETER: Yeah. I saw that in my (indiscernible), yeah.

21 MR. [REDACTED] Okay, Marcel. You all set?

22 MR. MUISE: I am. Thank you, Captain. I'm glad you and your
23 crew are safe.

24 MR. [REDACTED] Mm-hm, okay. Yeah Marcel, thanks. I think
25 that's it for our crew interviews. We're going to have to get off

1 the ship. So we'll try to catch the rest of the crew when they
2 come shoreside.

3 MR. MUISE: Okay. Thank you, gentlemen.

4 MR. [REDACTED] Okay, thanks. Thank you guys.

5 INTERPRETER: You're so welcome.

6 MR. [REDACTED] We really appreciate that.

7 MR. NGUYEN: Yeah, (Untranslatable).

8 INTERPRETER: Mm-hm.

9 MR. [REDACTED] Oh, let's let him have a say.

10 INTERPRETER: Mm-hm. Oh.

11 (Untranslatable conversation)

12 MR. NGUYEN: -- yeah.

13 MR. [REDACTED] I have one last set of questions.

14 MR. NGUYEN: (Untranslatable).

15 MR. [REDACTED] See if you can answer any of this or no.

16 INTERPRETER: He's telling us that like he didn't want to,
17 you know --

18 MR. [REDACTED] Abandon?

19 INTERPRETER: -- abandon his ship.

20 MR. [REDACTED] Yeah, I know.

21 INTERPRETER: And he, he knows that --

22 MR. [REDACTED] He had the fire (indiscernible).

23 INTERPRETER: -- he cannot go on there because of like the
24 governments (ph.)?

25 MR. [REDACTED] Mm-hm.

1 INTERPRETER: And so -- yeah. So all of his crew is now like
2 laid off, everybody. Yeah.

3 MR. [REDACTED] Yeah. So he feels bad.

4 INTERPRETER: Yeah.

5 MR. [REDACTED] Yeah. I'd like to ask him. Captain? Can you
6 tell me if you had PLBs -- so, it's PLBs, Papa Lima Bravo.

7 INTERPRETER: Mm-hm.

8 MR. [REDACTED] Personal Locating Beacons, and emergent suits.
9 If they had those onboard.

10 INTERPRETER: Did they --

11 MR. [REDACTED] Like, emergent --

12 INTERPRETER: PLB?

13 MR. [REDACTED] -- yeah, PLB.

14 MR. NGUYEN: Emergent suit?

15 MR. [REDACTED] Papa Lima B -- Bravo, PLB. Did your crew have
16 PLB?

17 INTERPRETER: (Untranslatable), PLB? They're like --

18 LT [REDACTED] Personal Locating Beacons.

19 INTERPRETER: Oh, personal locating beacon.

20 MR. [REDACTED] Yeah, so when they go off they, you know, send a
21 signal to the Coast Guard.

22 MR. NGUYEN: (Untranslatable), beacon?

23 (Untranslatable conversation)

24 MR. [REDACTED] I wonder if he's talking about like --

25 INTERPRETER: -- (Untranslatable), yeah.

1 (Untranslatable conversation)

2 MR. NGUYEN: They had them.

3 INTERPRETER: He said they have it in the bumper (ph.).

4 MR. [REDACTED] Oh, okay.

5 INTERPRETER: Yeah.

6 MR. [REDACTED] Okay, okay.

7 LT [REDACTED] If there were the life jackets then they would
8 have been burnt.

9 MR. [REDACTED] Yeah.

10 LT [REDACTED] If he -- they had had them.

11 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. Okay, thank you, Captain. We're very
12 happy that you made it off okay. And Customs and Border
13 Protection will help everybody get home, okay?

14 (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: FIRE AND ABANDONMENT OF THE *BLUE DRAGON*
F/V IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN, ALASKA
ON NOVEMBER 9, 2021
Interview of Captain Toi Nguyen

ACCIDENT NO.: DCA22FM004

PLACE: San Francisco, California

DATE: November 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.



Suzanne Ventura
Transcriber