

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: \*

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COLLISION BETWEEN USCG CUTTER \*

WINSLOW GREISSER & F/V DESAKATA \* Accident No.: DCA22PM034

OFFSHORE OF DORADO, PUERTO RICO \*

ON AUGUST 8, 2022 \*

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Interview of: SAMUEL ROSARIO BELTRAN

Guaynabo, Puerto Rico

Monday,  
August 29, 2022

APPEARANCES:

MARCEL MUISE, Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

██████████ ██████████

██████████ ██████████ Agent in Charge  
Coast Guard Investigative Services

██████████ ██████████ Agent  
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CORIA SAGRADO

JUAN SOTO, Attorney  
(On behalf of Mr. Beltran)

I N D E X

ITEM

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I N T E R V I E W

1  
2 MR. MUISE: -- the NTSB investigator assigned to this case.  
3 Just -- the NTSB is investigating this -- we have an overlapping  
4 jurisdiction with the Coast Guard to look at accidents like this.

5 I'm sorry, [REDACTED] do you want to translate?

6 MR. [REDACTED] I am going to speak in Spanish only.

7 UNIDENTIFIED MALE 3: Only in Spanish?

8 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. NTSB is the federal agency that that  
9 investigates these types of accidents, when a government ship, uh,  
10 a non-government ship like yours. They are in charge of  
11 conducting this investigation (indiscernible) and as they mostly  
12 (indiscernible) it's the primary agency that conducts this  
13 investigation. So they do it in coordination with us  
14 (indiscernible) to check what happened, how it happened, and  
15 mainly, how to prevent these things from happening. I just said  
16 (indiscernible) what you guys are doing, how we do factual  
17 findings, and the role of NTSB as lead investigator and the -- on  
18 the investigation for non-public and public.

19 MR. MUISE: Okay, and we've discussed how we're an  
20 independent agency; we're not law enforcement or regulatory. It's  
21 just easier for us to work together with the Coast Guard at this  
22 point, but we'll go our separate ways and produce our own report  
23 later.

24 MR. [REDACTED] Exactly. So, it's a -- like us, we're not a  
25 penal agency, they are an independent public agency that --their

1 report is completely different from (indiscernible) he will make  
2 completely different report from the one I do, for example. And  
3 it's completely (indiscernible) to a board that will -- how do you  
4 say (indiscernible) do the report, and then it's sent to the  
5 public agency.

6 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: A board is a "junta."

7 MR. [REDACTED] A "junta"? Thanks.

8 MR. MUISE: Is it okay if we record this and produce a  
9 transcript?

10 (Crosstalk)

11 MR. [REDACTED] Can (indiscernible) record the interview?

12 UNIDENTIFIED MALE 5: (Indiscernible) [REDACTED] that's okay with  
13 us, and I request a copy of the transcript if that's okay with  
14 you.

15 MR. MUISE: Yes, I will give it to you to proofread, and you  
16 can correct it (indiscernible) absolutely.

17 UNIDENTIFIED MALE 5: All right.

18 MR. MUISE: All right, okay, thank you [REDACTED]

19 Thank you everybody.

20 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You're welcome.

21 MR. [REDACTED] My name is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I work for the San Juan  
22 sector for the (indiscernible). I am a civilian. I work with  
23 Marcel, in the same way, to check what happened that day, and to  
24 see how we can correct and how to make sure something like this  
25 doesn't happen again (indiscernible) in commercial or general

1 public vessels. And if we have to do (indiscernible) a  
2 correction, well we'll do it, in one way or another. And  
3 (indiscernible) a report for the general public, obviously your  
4 name we'll be (indiscernible) we will scratch -- how do you say  
5 it? (Indiscernible) scratched. (Indiscernible) will be  
6 scratched.

7 MR. [REDACTED] (Indiscernible) name of the person involved.  
8 That's me.

9 MR. [REDACTED] Name [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I'm the agent in charge of the  
10 Coast Guard Investigative Service. We are a component of the  
11 criminal Coast Guard. So we are criminal investigators, right?  
12 I'm here with my colleague to understand better what happened on  
13 the day of the incident. We're not looking at anyone to press  
14 criminal charges, not at you nor any of your family members.  
15 That's not the point of this interview. It's to understand what  
16 happened, and together with my Coast Guard colleague, to determine  
17 what can be done to improve things so that this doesn't happen  
18 again. Right? My colleague [REDACTED] [REDACTED] he is a (indiscernible)  
19 officer. He is also from here, from Puerto Rico. I have a few  
20 biographical questions, so name, date of birth, if  
21 (indiscernible).

22 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yes, proceed, proceed.

23 INTERVIEW OF SAMUEL RASARIO BELTRAN

24 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. Your full name.

25 MR. BELTRAN: Samuel Rosario Beltran.

1 MR. MUISE: Hey, excuse me, [REDACTED]

2 MR. [REDACTED] Yeah, go ahead.

3 MR. MUISE: It looks like because I didn't set up the meeting  
4 on Teams, I can't record it. Can you do that from there?

5 MR. [REDACTED] I can provide you guys a copy of ours, if that  
6 helps.

7 MR. MUISE: Yeah, that helps. (Indiscernible) usually I can  
8 record it in Teams but it's not letting me do that, I think  
9 because I didn't set it up or something.

10 MR. [REDACTED] Yeah, we'll send you a copy.

11 MR. MUISE: Okay, thank you.

12 MR. [REDACTED] Okay, date of birth?

13 MR. BELTRAN: [REDACTED].

14 MR. [REDACTED] And where were you born?

15 MR. BELTRAN: (Indiscernible).

16 MR. [REDACTED] Social Security?

17 MR. BELTRAN: [REDACTED] (indiscernible) [REDACTED]

18 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. Height?

19 MR. BELTRAN: Five something. (Indiscernible).

20 MS. SAGRADO: (Indiscernible). It seems like it doesn't say.

21 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (Indiscernible) measure (indiscernible).

22 MS. SAGRADO: No, it's like 5'10".

23 MR. [REDACTED] 5'10"? Okay.

24 MS. SAGRADO: Something like that. Yeah, because here they  
25 don't put it (indiscernible).

1 MR. [REDACTED] That's fine. How much do you weigh, more or  
2 less?

3 MR. BELTRAN: 210.

4 MR. [REDACTED] 210, okay. And married -- are you guys married?

5 MS. SAGRADO: For 20 years.

6 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. And your name?

7 MS. SAGRADO: Ana H. Coira Sagrado. Coira Sagrado.

8 MR. [REDACTED] Coira? How do you --

9 MS. SAGRADO: Coira, C-O-I-R-A. Sagrado.

10 MR. [REDACTED] Sagrado.

11 MS. SAGRADO: (Indiscernible).

12 MR. [REDACTED] And your address?

13 MR. BELTRAN: Physical or (indiscernible)?

14 MR. [REDACTED] Physical.

15 MR. BELTRAN: [REDACTED].

16 MR. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

17 MR. BELTRAN: [REDACTED]

18 MR. [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

19 MR. BELTRAN: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (Indiscernible) [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]

20 MR. [REDACTED] Oh, [REDACTED]. And ZIP?

21 MR. BELTRAN: [REDACTED]

22 MR. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] And phone number?

23 MR. BELTRAN: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

24 MR. [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

25 MR. BELTRAN: [REDACTED] (indiscernible)



1 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. We're good. Okay, as my colleague here  
2 was saying, we're going to start from the beginning of the day  
3 when what happened happened. I have several more specific  
4 questions after we talk about all that happened that you remember.  
5 And, yeah, if you want to add any questions, likewise with Marcel.  
6 So, the day that it happened, I want you to start from the morning  
7 when you arrived at the boat, when you went out, everything. All  
8 the details you remember.

9 MR. BELTRAN: We -- the boat is always at home. We tied up  
10 the fishing poles, whatever. We go to get gas, we put gas in, we  
11 go back to the store, we buy the food and drink supplies, and we  
12 go to the beach. We left at like 9:30, something like that.

13 MR. [REDACTED] From where, specifically?

14 MR. BELTRAN: We left from (indiscernible) in the fishing  
15 supply store.

16 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

17 MR. BELTRAN: We left as we do usually, fishing normally all  
18 day. And we were going in the direction of the FAD. It's a FAD  
19 that they put out for fishermen (indiscernible) small, round  
20 (indiscernible) that they usually put in for fishing. There from  
21 San Juan to Manabí. And we were going to the FAD in front of  
22 Dorado which is 4 miles away.

23 MR. [REDACTED] 4 miles to the north? Of Dorado.

24 MR. BELTRAN: To the north. In front of Dorado. To the FAD  
25 basin. And when the accident happened, we were at the ground part

1 of the basin. On that route where (indiscernible). We were -- my  
2 brother was next to me, (indiscernible) to the north. I was in  
3 the upper part: he was below. We were talking, he finishes  
4 mounting a (indiscernible) I store it in the fridge. We're  
5 talking like normal, because I know that we're at the edge of the  
6 basin because we're at (indiscernible) I have two GPS units, one  
7 more or less like that of a phone, and the big screen. We're on  
8 the way to the river basin. And I didn't hear a horn, I didn't  
9 hear the ship, nothing. I didn't hear a noise. The only thing I  
10 felt was, since (indiscernible) going around in the water, so  
11 foam. As soon as I go out, boom! The turbulence knocked me down.  
12 And I look, that ship was going away. But -- and there I see the  
13 (indiscernible) of my boat, and my brother (indiscernible) -- I  
14 still didn't know. And I say, if the ship was a tourist ship or  
15 private, I don't know, I didn't know. But (indiscernible) when my  
16 brother comes out. (Indiscernible) I call to him; I call to him,  
17 come out! (Indiscernible) to where he was, then I knew he was  
18 dead because he was bleeding, he's missing an arm. He had a hole  
19 here with his insides sticking out, he was missing a foot. And I  
20 knew he was dead. And in that moment, the ship starts to turn.  
21 There I realized it was Coast Guard ship from the insignia on the  
22 boat. I kept swimming on the boat I also (indiscernible) the  
23 small fender. I sighted it, well, with my brother who I didn't  
24 want to let go of. I decided (indiscernible) of the raft or the  
25 piece of the boat which was bigger. But in that moment they show

1 up. The boat stops next to me; everyone spoke English. A girl  
2 comes up, I asked them to speak Spanish. The girl came out who  
3 spoke Spanish who was saying to me, let go of him, climb up the  
4 ladder, a wooden ladder they lowered down (indiscernible). Let go  
5 of him; you climb up first and then we'll get him out. And I  
6 decided that no, I didn't want to let him go, that I didn't want  
7 to let him go. Could (indiscernible) but since the ship was  
8 (indiscernible) racking, the ladder, it was very uncomfortable to,  
9 well, I decided to separate from the ship and the girl said,  
10 they're going to turn the boat around, (indiscernible) the rear  
11 part. Due to the time I spent swimming, they threw me a little  
12 small raft. I grabbed and kept swimming (indiscernible) the raft.  
13 They threw me the raft, same thing. They wanted to lift me up; I  
14 said no. Take my brother, take my brother. And we had that  
15 interchange until they decided to lift him up. And then they  
16 lifted me up. We went back to the raft -- to behind the boat.  
17 (Indiscernible) they lifted it up there. And from there they took  
18 me to San Juan.

19 MR. [REDACTED] Anything you want to add to that?

20 MR. [REDACTED] I'm going to follow up with -- so I was going to  
21 ask another thing (indiscernible) questions. So, ask Samuel, how  
22 many years of fishing experience do you have?

23 MR. BELTRAN: I've been fishing since age 15, 10, something  
24 like that. And if you can note that the commercial fishing  
25 licenses started from (indiscernible) and it's now been 4,000,

1 5,000 (indiscernible) and up. I was one of the first, oldest.  
2 They start in the 300s. I've been fishing for almost my whole  
3 life. And my brother, as well.

4 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. (Indiscernible). We'll talk a little  
5 about the boat. What's the width of the boat?

6 MR. BELTRAN: (Indiscernible) 8 bolts of 10 inches.

7 MR. [REDACTED] Wide?

8 MR. BELTRAN: Wide.

9 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. So the engine that it had?

10 MR. BELTRAN: It was brand new. It had 100 hours of use.

11 MR. [REDACTED] What (indiscernible)?

12 MR. BELTRAN: Yamaha 115, 2022.

13 MR. [REDACTED] Yes, 115.

14 MR. BELTRAN: The boat was old but it was new in  
15 construction. Because I made it new.

16 MR. [REDACTED] So you mentioned that it had GPS.

17 MR. BELTRAN: It had everything, GPS, Depth Sounder.  
18 Everything, everything.

19 MR. [REDACTED] So (indiscernible) Depth Sounder, did it have  
20 (indiscernible)?

21 MR. BELTRAN: (Indiscernible)?

22 MR. [REDACTED] (Indiscernible).

23 MR. BELTRAN: That comes already integrated in the  
24 (indiscernible)

25 MR. [REDACTED] With the Fish Finder.

1 MR. BELTRAN: Yes. It has both; the manual and in the boat  
2 itself.

3 MR. [REDACTED] (Indiscernible). And the VHF radio?

4 MR. BELTRAN: (Indiscernible).

5 MR. [REDACTED] Was it mounted or manual?

6 MR. BELTRAN: No, fixed. Fixed microphone.

7 MR. [REDACTED] Fixed. Okay. And had you tested it that day?

8 MR. BELTRAN: Always.

9 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. So, it had Fish Finder, it had Depth  
10 Sounder, you had a radio. On that day, did you have EPIRB?  
11 What's an EPIRB? EPIRB is an emergency satellite. In case the  
12 ship sinks, you activate it.

13 MR. BELTRAN: Jairo has it. (Indiscernible) Jairo had it.

14 MR. [REDACTED] Jairo (indiscernible). Yes, but he didn't have  
15 (indiscernible).

16 MR. BELTRAN: An alarm goes off. An alarm goes off. Beep --

17 MR. [REDACTED] Exactly. Distress signal calling.

18 MR. BELTRAN: Jairo, yes.

19 MR. [REDACTED] Jairo had one. Okay. So, you had  
20 (indiscernible) you didn't have an EPIRB, nor did you have an AIS.  
21 These are the basic questions. AIS is an Automatic Information  
22 System.

23 MR. BELTRAN: No.

24 MR. [REDACTED] So it doesn't have it. And does the boat have a  
25 rear reflector? It's a metallic item, for lack of a better word.

1 (Indiscernible).

2 MR. [REDACTED] (Indiscernible) distress signal (indiscernible).  
3 So you had a (indiscernible), you did not have a (indiscernible).

4 MR. BELTRAN: (Indiscernible) we can't have (indiscernible)  
5 but we had the pipes, the normal (indiscernible) pipes.

6 MR. [REDACTED] So (indiscernible). Did it have Day Ships? They  
7 are day signals. So when you're fishing, it's like  
8 (indiscernible).

9 MR. BELTRAN: There are different types of fishing. You want  
10 that. But, for example, when (indiscernible) you want the flag.  
11 (Indiscernible) when you're trolling (indiscernible) we don't need  
12 that for that type of fishing.

13 MR. [REDACTED] That day, what were you going to fish?

14 MR. BELTRAN: Dorado. We were going to the FAD.

15 MR. [REDACTED] You were going to the FAD? At that time you  
16 were trolling when (indiscernible)?

17 MR. BELTRAN: On the way to (indiscernible), yes.

18 MR. [REDACTED] Did you have (indiscernible) behind?

19 MR. BELTRAN: Yes, (indiscernible) trolling, yes. Natural  
20 channel.

21 MR. [REDACTED] Yes. How many knots were you going?

22 MR. BELTRAN: Five.

23 MR. [REDACTED] Five?

24 MR. BELTRAN: Almost stopped.

25 MR. [REDACTED] So, the weather (indiscernible) how was it?

1 MR. BELTRAN: It was windy but it was good. It was good.

2 MR. [REDACTED] More or less?

3 MR. BELTRAN: Because where I live, since the quota is very  
4 (indiscernible) to the hole, if (indiscernible) is bad, I can't  
5 get out because (indiscernible) doesn't allow it.

6 MR. [REDACTED] (Indiscernible) moment. But more or less, how  
7 was the tide?

8 MR. [REDACTED] How many feet?

9 MR. BELTRAN: I would say 6 feet, around there, yeah.  
10 Fishable.

11 MR. [REDACTED] But 6 feet at its highest?

12 MR. BELTRAN: Yes, 6 feet.

13 MR. [REDACTED] 6 feet? And how was the wind?

14 MR. BELTRAN: The wind is (indiscernible). But it was a  
15 fishable amount of wind. Because if it's very windy, you can't  
16 fish because the (indiscernible) get tangled. (Indiscernible).

17 MR. [REDACTED] (Indiscernible) more or less?

18 MR. BELTRAN: 10, 10-12, around there. Fishable.

19 MR. [REDACTED] Yes? And visibility was (indiscernible).

20 MR. BELTRAN: It was perfect. Yes, because I'm aware we were  
21 going by boat there, and the girl who's talking to me  
22 (indiscernible) this is a hotel that's there, now we're going to  
23 pass by a rock that (indiscernible) perfect. And I pass the rock  
24 that we saw (indiscernible) I'm aware (indiscernible) I know that  
25 (indiscernible) it pains me, but I have to (indiscernible) until

1 arriving at the shore.

2 MR. [REDACTED] Usually when (indiscernible) to the river basin,  
3 (indiscernible).

4 MR. BELTRAN: Yes, to the river basin, I stay in the basin  
5 because that's where the fish go -- the dorados, the tuna, and  
6 that's the most viable activity for.

7 MR. [REDACTED] Okay, and does (indiscernible) have assistance  
8 (indiscernible).

9 MR. BELTRAN: No, because it's the (indiscernible) where we  
10 always go. There's one in Dorado, and there's one in  
11 (indiscernible) but I catch more fish in Dorado.

12 MR. [REDACTED] So what other question. Did you in any way have  
13 a case (indiscernible) have an experience like this?

14 MR. BELTRAN: Never.

15 MR. [REDACTED] Never. Usually in that area are there many  
16 boats?

17 MR. BELTRAN: Yes, they go fishing there.

18 MR. [REDACTED] And in the restricted area, is there usually a  
19 lot of traffic (indiscernible) like you find (indiscernible) in  
20 the area?

21 MR. BELTRAN: Yes, the river and further down, in that area,  
22 more or less, like that. In fact, the week before, I don't know  
23 if it was the same ship or if a different one, we were in that  
24 area, it was Tuesday of the previous week, and they come, they saw  
25 us, and they escorted us, like come out, come out, come out. And



1 then they asked for (indiscernible) where (indiscernible) were  
2 going.

3 MR. [REDACTED] Who are "they"?

4 MR. BELTRAN: The Coast Guard. A Coast Guard ship.

5 MR. [REDACTED] Your boat had (indiscernible) it obviously has  
6 (indiscernible) could see.

7 MR. BELTRAN: (Indiscernible) mm-hm.

8 MR. [REDACTED] You've never had these problems that you had  
9 that day?

10 MR. BELTRAN: Never, never, never. Never, and never any  
11 problems with the police or anything. Because if a light bulb  
12 went out, I wouldn't go fishing until I fixed the light.

13 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. (Indiscernible) never inspected the boat,  
14 right?

15 MR. BELTRAN: That boat was new. I bought it, I  
16 (indiscernible) it, I made it like new. (Indiscernible) testing  
17 the boat. The boat hasn't even been in use 8 months.

18 MR. [REDACTED] Is it a (indiscernible)?

19 MR. BELTRAN: It's a 23 (indiscernible) from 67.

20 MR. [REDACTED] And so, it was completely fiberglass, right?

21 MR. BELTRAN: Fiberglass.

22 MR. [REDACTED] It didn't have fiberglass, wood (indiscernible),  
23 we call it "godmother."

24 MR. BELTRAN: Yes, (indiscernible) wood. The godmother, as  
25 they call it, (indiscernible) on top of the floor.

1 (Indiscernible).

2 MR. [REDACTED] Fiberglass floor (indiscernible).

3 MR. BELTRAN: Everything.

4 MR. [REDACTED] Marcel, do you have any questions?

5 MR. MUISE: No. Thank you.

6 UNIDENTIFIED MALE 5: We call it "godmother"; that is what  
7 you guys call the stringers?

8 MR. BELTRAN: The stringers, yeah, something like that.

9 UNIDENTIFIED MALE 5: I'd never heard the word "godmother"  
10 like that.

11 MR. [REDACTED] (Indiscernible) I'm from here so I've heard it a  
12 fair amount of times (indiscernible) normally I hear it  
13 (indiscernible).

14 MR. [REDACTED] So, a couple of more things. To be sure that I'm  
15 getting it right, you left -- you guys left, right? You left  
16 heading north of Dorado, the Coast Guard was going west.

17 MR. BELTRAN: From San Juan to Aguadilla.

18 MR. [REDACTED] From San Juan toward Aguadilla.

19 MR. BELTRAN: Yes.

20 MR. [REDACTED] Right. You were going about 5 knots, right?

21 MR. BELTRAN: Yes.

22 MR. [REDACTED] Which would be (indiscernible) and a little more.  
23 Right? Which would be the same as a marine--

24 MR. BELTRAN: (Indiscernible) and 200 (indiscernible) more.

25 MR. [REDACTED] 200 more? Okay.

1 MR. BELTRAN: Yes, I think. 1,500 revolutions,  
2 (indiscernible).

3 MR. [REDACTED] And you say you were at the front of the boat.

4 MR. BELTRAN: The boat was going in this direction. I was in  
5 this part and my brother was here.

6 MR. [REDACTED] Who was driving the boat?

7 MR. BELTRAN: Me.

8 MR. [REDACTED] You were driving?

9 MR. BELTRAN: Yes.

10 MR. [REDACTED] At any time did either of you -- no one saw the  
11 Coast Guard boat that was coming toward you?

12 MR. BELTRAN: Neither of us. In fact, we came from outside.  
13 We came from outside, the south. We turned, we arrived at one  
14 point here in Dorado. We turned toward the direction of San Juan  
15 which is -- you have visibility. And neither of us saw it, and  
16 then we continued (indiscernible).

17 MR. [REDACTED] Which would be the direction from which it was  
18 coming.

19 MR. BELTRAN: I looked in that direction. If it was coming,  
20 I was seeing it.

21 MR. [REDACTED] Right.

22 MR. BELTRAN: But at no time did I see it. And from there,  
23 towards the basin. To the FAD.

24 MR. [REDACTED] When you say FAD, how do you spell that?

25 MR. BELTRAN: F --

1 MR. [REDACTED] F-A-T?

2 MR. BELTRAN: A-D.

3 MR. [REDACTED] A-D? Okay. F-A-D. Okay.

4 MR. [REDACTED] How long -- sorry, going back. When you turned,  
5 how long were you in that passageway? When you turned,  
6 (indiscernible) after the incident, how long were you going in  
7 that direction?

8 MR. BELTRAN: I'm coming from outside -- in that direction  
9 like this?

10 MR. [REDACTED] (Indiscernible) behind you (indiscernible).

11 MR. BELTRAN: (Indiscernible) a mile.

12 MR. [REDACTED] But approximately how long were you in that  
13 passageway?

14 MR. BELTRAN: A mile in that passageway.

15 MR. [REDACTED] Ten minutes?

16 MR. BELTRAN: No, more. It could be 40 minutes, 50 minutes.

17 MR. [REDACTED] To the north?

18 MR. BELTRAN: To get to the FAD basin.

19 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: FAD: Fish Attracting Device.

20 MR. [REDACTED] Fish Attracting Device, okay.

21 MR. [REDACTED] In that moment that you (indiscernible).

22 MR. BELTRAN: The ship (indiscernible) could be seen from  
23 afar, I didn't see it.

24 MR. [REDACTED] So apart from the systems that my colleague  
25 already asked you about, it didn't have a (indiscernible) system.

1 (Indiscernible) system.

2 MR. BELTRAN: No.

3 MR. [REDACTED] And the horn of the boat? Horn that beeps, not a  
4 loudspeaker for music.

5 MR. BELTRAN: Yes, we (indiscernible).

6 MR. [REDACTED] You had it?

7 MR. BELTRAN: Yes. We had it and we found it at the shore.

8 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. So to make noise, what you guys had to put  
9 on (indiscernible) you didn't have a horn (indiscernible)?

10 MR. BELTRAN: Yes, the horn (indiscernible) had to have the  
11 lifesaver up.

12 MR. [REDACTED] So, obviously if you didn't see -- sorry.  
13 Continue.

14 MR. BELTRAN: And when the interview that came out came out,  
15 all the lifesavers were there, the flare, everything came out in  
16 the -- in the part of the boat that came off, because half of the  
17 boat came off, that everything was still there. And the  
18 reflectors that (indiscernible) all that was there.

19 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. So, obviously if you guys didn't see the  
20 Coast Guard ship, it doesn't signal, the horn doesn't honk.

21 MR. BELTRAN: But supposedly by law, I don't know, what I  
22 understand, because I go to the class. If the ship is coming, I  
23 was approaching -- by law it's supposed to go "beep, beep" by law.  
24 That's my understanding, because I picked it up in the class. And  
25 we didn't hear that. Nothing.

1 MR. [REDACTED] Nothing was heard. Okay. So, when the crash  
2 happens, you say what you remember was being in the water, the  
3 foam. As in, you didn't even manage to see it when it hit? It  
4 was only (indiscernible)?

5 MR. BELTRAN: No, nothing. The "boom," the water and  
6 spinning around.

7 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. I'll ask again; were you on the right side  
8 or left?

9 MR. BELTRAN: Right side, (indiscernible) looking from  
10 outside, the right side. The side of the impact.

11 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. We saw an interview that an acquaintance  
12 of yours did, family friend or I don't know if a friend of yours,  
13 who's a fisherman. The information that we got is that he spoke  
14 to you and that you guys did see the Coast Guard ship.  
15 (Indiscernible) his information is that supposedly you did see the  
16 ship. But you're saying no, it just happened.

17 MR. BELTRAN: No, no, I didn't talk to anyone, only with the  
18 one who came to the house, because the news crew came to the  
19 house. I was in a lot of pain. I went out -- I went -- I arrived  
20 at around 4 at the medical center, and they discharged me the next  
21 day at 5 in the morning with a friend who picked me up. From  
22 there, to sleep, sleep, sleep. No one was spoken to, none of  
23 that.

24 MR. [REDACTED] Do you know who I'm talking about? The boy?

25 MR. BELTRAN: No.

1 MR. [REDACTED] Look for the report, (indiscernible) ask for the  
2 name of the boy to see if he knows who he is. (Indiscernible) an  
3 interview, it's information that I don't know if it's true  
4 information or factual. (Indiscernible).

5 MS. SAGRADO: But even --

6 (Crosstalk)

7 MR. SAGRADO: -- he came into the house and he was sleeping  
8 right away.

9 UNIDENTIFIED MALE 6: Yeah, he couldn't talk to anyone. He  
10 was lying in bed.

11 MS. SAGRADO: He was lying in bed, yes.

12 MR. BELTRAN: Even if I know that the boat is coming, I know  
13 the boat is coming. With all those sacrifices I made for that  
14 boat, almost a year doing it, am I going to (indiscernible) that  
15 something like this would happen? Not at all. (Indiscernible).

16 UNIDENTIFIED MALE 5: Can I ask a question about the ship?

17 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: What?

18 UNIDENTIFIED MALE 5: Can I ask him a question about the  
19 ship? The ship was a (indiscernible) center?

20 MR. BELTRAN: Mine? Yes.

21 UNIDENTIFIED MALE 5: (Indiscernible).

22 MR. BELTRAN: (Indiscernible) they're new.

23 UNIDENTIFIED MALE 5: And did this boat have outriggers?  
24 (Indiscernible).

25 MR. BELTRAN: Yes.

1 UNIDENTIFIED MALE 5: Okay. How many poles did it have?  
2 MR. BELTRAN: Six. Four (indiscernible) and two in front.  
3 UNIDENTIFIED MALE 5: Spares?  
4 MR. BELTRAN: Yes, lighter, just in case.  
5 UNIDENTIFIED MALE 5: As in there were 4 lines in the water.  
6 MR. BELTRAN: In the water. (Indiscernible).  
7 MR. [REDACTED] Usually (indiscernible) how much  
8 (indiscernible)?  
9 MR. BELTRAN: When it's dorado season, we can do 20, 30.  
10 Thirty miles like that. Looking for detritus, because the dorado  
11 goes into the detritus. (Indiscernible).  
12 MR. [REDACTED] Sargasso, (indiscernible).  
13 MR. BELTRAN: Sargasso, (indiscernible) some big  
14 (indiscernible) like that.  
15 MR. [REDACTED] And always (indiscernible)  
16 MR. BELTRAN: Dorado.  
17 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. (Indiscernible).  
18 MR. [REDACTED] What color was the motor? The on-board.  
19 MR. BELTRAN: Gray.  
20 MR. [REDACTED] Gray?  
21 MR. [REDACTED] (Indiscernible) light blue, right?  
22 (Crosstalk)  
23 MR. [REDACTED] (Indiscernible) the shirt, more or less?  
24 MR. BELTRAN: Lighter colored.  
25 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Lighter colored.



1 MR. BELTRAN: We even came to the shore because when we're on  
2 our way, the ambulance was taking us, I called it because I didn't  
3 know who to call (indiscernible). We arrived at the shore where  
4 we had lunch, and the captain came over to me and apologized, that  
5 he was very sorry, that he hadn't seen us. That that had never  
6 happened before, that I forgive him.

7 MR. [REDACTED] Who was it?

8 MR. BELTRAN: The captain.

9 MR. [REDACTED] Of the Coast Guard ship? That was on the way to  
10 San Juan?

11 MR. BELTRAN: No, when we (indiscernible) the ambulance.

12 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

13 MR. BELTRAN: And he told me that. That I forgive him, that  
14 he hadn't seen it, that he doesn't know what was it that happened?

15 MR. [REDACTED] Do you remember his name? More or less?

16 MR. BELTRAN: No.

17 MR. [REDACTED] Was he speaking to you in Spanish or English?

18 MR. BELTRAN: No, he spoke to me in English and a gentleman  
19 translated for me. (Indiscernible).

20 MR. [REDACTED] (Indiscernible) translated (indiscernible) since  
21 he picked you up in the raft.

22 MR. BELTRAN: On the raft.

23 MR. [REDACTED] On the raft?

24 MR. BELTRAN: Yes. On the raft (indiscernible) one who spoke  
25 Spanish and on the ship there was also a girl who spoke Spanish.

1 MR. [REDACTED] Do you know how (indiscernible).

2 MR. BELTRAN: The ship?

3 MR. [REDACTED] The captain.

4 MR. BELTRAN: The captain? (Indiscernible).

5 MR. [REDACTED] Manuel Córdoba. Does that sound familiar?

6 Manuel Córdoba?

7 MR. BELTRAN: No.

8 MR. [REDACTED] He's the one who gave the interview we're talking  
9 about.

10 MR. BELTRAN: No.

11 MR. [REDACTED] Samuel, on a piece of paper would you mind making  
12 like a diagram, more or less, of what you remember, as in where  
13 your ship was, where the Coast Guard was coming from. Could you  
14 do it? (Indiscernible).

15 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (Indiscernible) Coast Guard, I don't know  
16 (indiscernible).

17 (Crosstalk)

18 MR. BELTRAN: Oh, where I was going?

19 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yes, yes.

20 (Crosstalk)

21 MR. BELTRAN: My boat was going like this. I was going like  
22 this; FAD is here. I was a mile away.

23 MR. [REDACTED] You were a mile away from arriving at the FAD.

24 MR. BELTRAN: From arriving at the FAD.

25 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: And the shore was where?

1 MR. BELTRAN: Here.

2 MR. [REDACTED] There's Dorado.

3 UNIDENTIFIED MALE 5: And where is (indiscernible), more or  
4 less?

5 MR. BELTRAN: (Indiscernible) around here. Because here  
6 there's a nursery.

7 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. That's (indiscernible) water? The  
8 nursery, right?

9 MR. BELTRAN: Around here. Right there.

10 MR. [REDACTED] And you say you were on this side then, and your  
11 brother was on this side. Okay.

12 MR. BELTRAN: Here (indiscernible).

13 MR. [REDACTED] And this is 4 miles away?

14 MR. BELTRAN: This was -- first it was 6 miles away, and  
15 after moving -- from the hurricane, it moved. If (indiscernible)  
16 one more mile from the shore, one-and-a-half miles. It becomes 4  
17 miles and a half from the shore.

18 MR. [REDACTED] 4-and-a-half. Okay. Can you explain, more or  
19 less, how that works? Is it that someone goes and throws  
20 (indiscernible).

21 MR. BELTRAN: They only throw the (indiscernible). So when  
22 it starts getting really old, the fish come. The fish come;  
23 dorado, tuna, (indiscernible) and we (indiscernible) and we throw  
24 it in.

25 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. So I will add here, 4-and-a-half miles.

1 If you don't mind, the 4-and-a-half you can put there  
2 (indiscernible).

3 MR. [REDACTED] (Indiscernible) Samuel, what's the brand of the  
4 Fish Finder that you had?

5 MR. BELTRAN: Garmin. Garmin 742 (indiscernible).

6 MR. [REDACTED] He said Fish Finder.

7 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (Indiscernible).

8 MR. BELTRAN: Yes.

9 UNIDENTIFIED MALE 5: It's the GPS or Fish Finder?

10 MR. BELTRAN: Two-in-one.

11 UNIDENTIFIED MALE 5: Oh, two-in-one.

12 MR. BELTRAN: And the transducer was B270. Garmin.

13 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: And what was the, the Garmin was the  
14 first? (Indiscernible).

15 MR. BELTRAN: 742 (indiscernible).

16 MR. [REDACTED] 742 (indiscernible). And the transducer  
17 (indiscernible) Depth Sounder, below, also. B270.

18 MR. BELTRAN: Yes.

19 MR. [REDACTED] (Indiscernible). That was (indiscernible)?

20 MR. BELTRAN: Yes, (indiscernible).

21 MR. [REDACTED] (Indiscernible) Marcel.

22 MR. MUISE: (Indiscernible).

23 MR. [REDACTED] So I went through all the questions of the  
24 characteristics of the location of the incident, where it  
25 happened, his experience. You don't have a Coast Guard license,

1 right?

2 MR. BELTRAN: Yes.

3 MR. [REDACTED] You do have a license?

4 MR. BELTRAN: Yes, for boating?

5 MR. [REDACTED] Do you have (indiscernible)?

6 MR. BELTRAN: Oh, no, no. For boating. But I have the Coast  
7 Guard license that, if, for example, I go to the United States, I  
8 can rent a jet ski or something like that.

9 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (Indiscernible).

10 MR. BELTRAN: (Indiscernible).

11 MR. [REDACTED] So, I verified that he has a credential and we  
12 have a (indiscernible).

13 (Crosstalk)

14 MR. [REDACTED] (Indiscernible) characteristics of the boat, the  
15 area where it happened, if they had an incident like this one  
16 before or a close call (indiscernible).

17 (Crosstalk)

18 MR. [REDACTED] (Indiscernible) information of the vessel  
19 (indiscernible).

20 MS. SAGRADO: (Indiscernible) what appeared (indiscernible)  
21 was the Coast Guard one.

22 MR. [REDACTED] It's like a safety course, right?

23 MR. [REDACTED] Do you have any other questions that you want to  
24 ask?

25 MR. MUISE: No, that's fine. You can erase names, too, for

1 the transcriptionist, while you're there?

2 MR. [REDACTED] Yes.

3 MR. [REDACTED] Uh-huh, exactly. Yes, yes, yes.

4 MR. MUISE: You can do it before you leave. That's fine.

5 MR. [REDACTED] Yeah.

6 (Crosstalk)

7 MS. SAGRADO: Here (indiscernible) the little box appeared  
8 where we stored things (indiscernible) I don't know if you located  
9 what was around there.

10 MR. [REDACTED] Yes, yes, yes.

11 MS. SAGRADO: Uh-huh, and those licenses appeared on the  
12 shore. (indiscernible).

13 MR. [REDACTED] (Indiscernible)?

14 MR. BELTRAN: Yes, the boating one with this one.

15 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Oh, okay (indiscernible).

16 MR. [REDACTED] But it's not a (indiscernible) from the Coast  
17 Guard, exactly, right? It's not a (indiscernible).

18 MR. [REDACTED] The credential that the Coast Guard --

19 MR. [REDACTED] (Indiscernible) a course (indiscernible).

20 MR. BELTRAN: Exactly.

21 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. (Indiscernible).

22 MR. BELTRAN: For boating.

23 MR. [REDACTED] It's the 480 from here, right?

24 MR. BELTRAN: Yes. But these (indiscernible) I think, for  
25 that. That's my understanding.

1 MR. [REDACTED] (Indiscernible).

2 MR. BELTRAN: When I got that, I got that one too. They gave  
3 me both together.

4 MR. [REDACTED] (Indiscernible) I'm going to write down the  
5 number of the 480 (indiscernible).

6 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Sure (indiscernible).

7 MR. [REDACTED] (Indiscernible) in 5 days.

8 MS. SAGRADO: (Indiscernible) 5 days.

9 MR. [REDACTED] (Indiscernible) 15.

10 MS. SAGRADO: I know you well, huh?

11 MR. BELTRAN: 15 in that time.

12 (Laughter)

13 MR. [REDACTED] You have all the names, right? Just in case. I  
14 have no more questions about the incident, other than --

15 MR. [REDACTED] I think we're good. Anything else that you think  
16 we missed, that we didn't ask about, that might be is important?

17 MR. BELTRAN: I think that you have the main (indiscernible).

18 UNIDENTIFIED MALE 5: If you know something else, you can  
19 tell us privately, right? If not, well --

20 MR. BELTRAN: Right on.

21 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We're good.

22 MR. [REDACTED] I'm gonna stop my video. Time is approximately  
23 1405, conclusion of interview.

24 (Whereupon, at approximately 1405, the interview was  
25 concluded.)

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the  
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD


IN THE MATTER OF: COLLISION BETWEEN USCG CUTTER  
WINSLOW GREISSER & F/V DESAKATA  
OFFSHORE OF DORADO, PUERTO RICO  
ON AUGUST 8, 2022  
Interview of Samuel Rosario Beltran

ACCIDENT NO.: DCA22PM034

PLACE: Guaynabo, Puerto Rico

DATE: August 29, 2022

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.

  
Zhann Cifuentes  
Transcriber





Page/ Line	ORIGINAL	CORRECTION	NTSB Disposition of Party Comment
7-17	5 6-8-7-6		Concur
8-7	Sagrado		Concur
8-19	Indiscernible	Salgado	Concur
8-25	Indiscernible	Cerro Gordo	Concur
9-14	Indiscernible		Concur
9-15	Supply store	Cerro Gordo, Vega Alta	Concur
9-19	Indiscernible	Market	Concur
9-21	Manabi	So they can fish around it	Concur
10-1	Indiscernible	Manati	Concur
10-2	Indiscernible	One mile from the FAD	Concur
10-4	Indiscernible	Heading	Concur
10-6	Indiscernible	bait	Concur
10-10	Indiscernible, going around in	One mile from the FADF	Concur
10-11	foam	I was under the water, so I saw	Concur
10-13	Indiscernible	water bubbles	Concur
10-13	Indiscernible	a part	Concur
10-15	Indiscernible	was not seen	Concur
10-22	Indiscernible	later	Concur
11-7	Indiscernible	have	Concur
11-17	Indiscernible	If they could help me	Concur
11-25	Indiscernible	through a ramp	Concur
12-2	They	300	Concur
12-6	bolts of 10	mine	Concur
12-11	Indiscernible	feet, 9	Concur
12-19	Indiscernible	horse power	Concur
12-20	Indiscernible	it had	Concur
12-21	Indiscernible	chart plotter	Concur
12-22	Indiscernible	chart plotter	Concur
		chart plotter	Concur

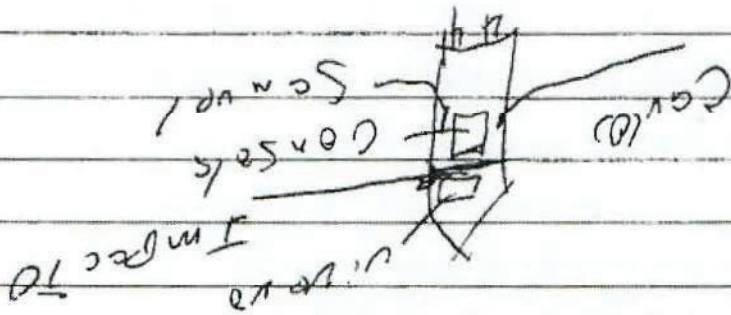
12-24	Indiscernible		GPS	Concur
13-4	Indiscernible		brand new	Concur
13-13, 14	Jairo		radio	Concur
13-15	Indiscernible		EPIRB	Concur
13-18, 19	Jairo		radio	Concur
14-1	Indiscernible		Mr. Beltrán: No, because it gets rusted. It had the normal pipes of the top	Concur
14-2	Indiscernible		Last question related to the boat	Concur
14-10	Indiscernible		diving	Concur
14-17	Indiscernible		The FAD	Concur
14-18	Indiscernible		bait	Concur
14-19	Indiscernible		when	Concur
14-20	channel		bait	Concur
14-25	Indiscernible		When you left Cerro Gordo	Concur
15-3	quota		coast	Concur
15-4	Indiscernible		near	Concur
15-4	Indiscernible		the sea	Concur
15-5	Indiscernible		the wave	Concur
15-6	Indiscernible		one	Concur
15-14	The		Sometime there is	Concur
15-16	Indiscernible		bait	Concur
15-16	Indiscernible		in my boat	Concur
15-17	Indiscernible		how was the wind	Concur
15-18	10-12		10-12 miles per hour	Concur
15-22	Indiscernible		said	Concur
15-23	Indiscernible		the sea was	Concur
15-25	Indiscernible		be strong	Concur
16-2	Indiscernible		You go fishing, you go	Concur
16-2	river basin		buoy	Concur
16-4	river basin		buoy	Concur

16-4	basin		buoy	Concur
16-7	Indiscernible		do you have any other favorite place	Concur
16-9	Indiscernible		place	Concur
16-11	Indiscernible		Cerro Gordo	Concur
16-13	Indiscernible		an event like this one, a very close encounter with another boat	Concur
16-18	restricted		in the area that you were	Concur
16-19	Indiscernible		like you find boats trolling	
16-21	the river		further up	Concur
16-25	escorted us, like come out, come out, come out		turned away, and continued going away, away, away	Concur
17-1	asked for (Indiscernible) where (Indiscernible)		continue their course where they were	Concur
17-3	Mr. Santos		Mr. López	Concur
17-5	Indiscernible		Navigation lights that I could see	Concur
17-13	Indiscernible		Your boat was never inspected by the Coast Guard	Concur
17-18	Indiscernible		Robalo	Concur
17-19	23 67		Robalo 23 77	Concur
18-22	Indiscernible		clutch	Concur
18-23	as a marine		as in a Marina	Concur
18-24	Indiscernible Indiscernible		clutch 200 revolutions (RPM)	Concur
20-6	after		before	Concur
20-10	Indiscernible Indiscernible		you have Cerro Gordo and you are going northbound	Concur
20-11	Indiscernible		we were one mile	Concur
20-21	Indiscernible		could you see the boat?	Concur
20-22	could be		could not be	Concur
20-25	Indiscernible		radar	Concur
21-5	Indiscernible		are required to have a horn	Concur

21-9	horn		whistle	Concur
21-10	Indiscernible		and whistle	Concur
21-18	Indiscernible		are required	Concur
23-5	MS. SAGRADO		MS. SALGADO	Concur
23-7	MR. SAGRADO		MS. SALGADO	Concur
23-9	UNIDENTIFIED MALE		MR. SOTO	Concur
23-11	MS. SAGRADO		MS. SALGADO	Concur
23-14	Indiscernible		take the risk	Concur
23-16	UNIDENTIFIED MALE		MR. SOTO	Concur
23-18	UNIDENTIFIED MALE		MR. SOTO	Concur
23-19	Indiscernible center		center console	Concur
23-21	UNIDENTIFIED MALE		MR. SOTO	Concur
	Indiscernible		you said it had a top	Concur
23-22	Indiscernible		yes	Concur
23-23	UNIDENTIFIED MALE		MR. SOTO	Concur
24-1	UNIDENTIFIED MALE		MR. SOTO	Concur
24-2	Indiscernible		using them	Concur
24-3	UNIDENTIFIED MALE		MR. SOTO	Concur
24-5	UNIDENTIFIED MALE		MR. SOTO	Concur
24-7	Indiscernible		how far do you go?	Concur
24-13	Indiscernible		branches	Concur
24-21	Indiscernible		the boat was	Concur
24-22	Crosstalk		MR. BELTARN: mint green	Concur
25-1	We even came		Moreover, we got	Concur
25-11	Indiscernible		were at the dock waiting for	Concur
26-1	Indiscernible		he looked?	Concur
26-4	Indiscernible		he had glasses	Concur
26-25	UNIDENTIFIED MALE		MR. LOPEZ	Concur
27-3	UNIDENTIFIED MALE is Indiscernible		MR. SOTO Where were you hit	Concur

27-7	Indiscernible	livewell	Concur
27-21	only Indiscernible	NOAA FAD	Concur
28-5	Indiscernible	XS	Concur
28-12	B270	B260	Concur
28-15	Indiscernible	XS	Concur
28-16	Indiscernible	XS	Concur
28-17	B270	B260	Concur
28-19	Indiscernible	West Marine	Concur
28-20	Indiscernible	West Marine	Concur
29-4	boating	navigation	Concur
29-5	Indiscernible	the 100 tons	Concur
29-6	boating	navigation	Concur
30-7	MS. SAGRADO	MS. SALGADO	Concur
31-18	UNIDENTIFIED MALE	MR. SOTO	Concur

op. 10  
2110!



1 m. 115  
400 @ 2 1/2 m. 115