



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, D.C. 20594
Office of Marine Safety

Interview Summary

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Meeting with: Mr. Eduardo Santiago
Date/time: August 16, 2022
Location: U.S. Coast Guard Sector San Juan
Interviewed by: Mr. Marcel L. Muise, NSTB; Mr. [REDACTED], USCG; Mr. [REDACTED], USCG
In attendance: Captain J. O'Mara, USCG; Captain A. G. VanTran, USPHS; LCDR [REDACTED], USCG; Mr. [REDACTED], USCG; BMC [REDACTED]
Case: DCA22PM034

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OVERVIEW

11 I met Mr. Eduardo Santiago by phone conference at about 1115. Mr. Santiago was a
12 passenger aboard American Airlines flight 1613 on August 8, 2022 who witnessed the
13 collision between the fishing vessel *Desakata* and U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Winslow Griesser*.
14 Mr. [REDACTED], the Coast Guard Investigating Officer assigned to investigation, led the
15 interview. Mr. [REDACTED] Coast Guard Investigating Officer, and members of the Coast
16 Guard's Mishap Analysis Board joined the interview.

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CONVERSATION SUMMARY

18 Mr. Santiago was in seat 5A on the left side of the Airbus 321 on a flight from Miami to San
19 Juan. He noted that the flight was full. As the aircraft approached Puerto Rico in the vicinity of
20 Dorado beach, he noticed a westbound vessel, proceeding "pretty fast.". He described the
21 weather as clear and seas as "pretty high waves" with "lots of white caps." He attempted to
22 zoom in and take a picture of what he thought was a naval vessel but the window blurred the
23 picture.

24 He then noticed a smaller vessel northbound, near the beach. It appeared white with black
25 outboard motors. He stated that the "boat was struggling because of the waves" and that the
26 "boat was going fairly slow" though "moving the whole time."

27 He watched the vessels for an estimated five minutes as they proceeded on a constant course
28 and speed. Mr. Santiago noted that vessels got "closer and closer" until the "cutter passes on
29 top of the boat." He did not know at the time the larger vessel was a Coast Guard cutter. He
30 stated that it was "like they were on a collision course [the whole time] and didn't know it.

31 The aircraft engine blocked his view of the scene after the collision. He texted his family at
32 14:17 after landing. He estimated the collision as about 14:15.

33 Mr. Santiago stated he had previously provided a diagram to Special Agent [REDACTED]

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END SUMMARY