



**National Transportation Safety Board**  
Washington, D.C. 20594  
Office of Marine Safety

**Interview Summary**

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2 **Interview with:** Mr. Linton Ritchie  
3 **Date/time:** January 4, 2022  
4 **Location:** By phone (Interview was at the BMA Office in Nassau.  
5 **Interviewed by:** LT [REDACTED], USCG; Marcel L. Muise, NSTB  
6 **Case:** DCA22FM009

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8 **OVERVIEW**

9 I participated by telephone in a U.S. Coast Guard led interview of Mr. Linton Ritchie. Mr. Ritchie was the  
10 vessel manager of the product tanker *Tropic Breeze*. He was interviewed by U.S. Coast Guard LT [REDACTED]  
11 [REDACTED] in Nassau, Bahamas, accompanied by Mr. Kenneth Carey (Bahamas Maritime Authority), Mr.  
12 Berne Wright (Bahamas Port Controller), Mr. Patrick McKenzie (counsel for *Utopia IV*), Mr. Caleb King  
13 (CGIS), Mr. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (CGIS), Mr. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (USCG Investigator), and Mr. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (USCG  
14 Inspector).

15 Unless specifically delineated by quotes, the text that follows is not a verbatim record of the  
16 conversation. It has been developed from notes taken of the online conversation.

17 **INTEVRIEW SUMMARY**

18 Mr. Linton Ritchie sailed as a master for 20 years. He learned of the collision in a phone call from the  
19 DPA.

20 The operator, Maritime Management LLC, had an ISM compliant safety management system. The DPA is  
21 Mr. Norbero Alfonzo and is based in North Miami Beach. There are company procedures for  
22 watchstanding in the SMS. Ship captains also have their own standing orders. The company has seven  
23 other ships and all of the company's new vessels since 2003 are double hull. There's one other single  
24 hull tanker left in the fleet, though not a *Tropic Breeze* sister ship.

25 *Tropic Breeze* was stretched in 1997 in a Jacksonville shipyard. 20 feet was inserted aft of no. 2 or no. 3  
26 tanks. The vessel operated in the Northern Bahamas carrying marine gas oil (MGO), liquid propane gas  
27 (LPG), among other products. *Tropic Breeze* made this specific trip twice monthly.

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29 **END SUMMARY**

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