

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: *

MASTER DYLAN FISHING VESSEL *
ACCIDENT IN PORT FOURCHON, *
LOUISIANA, ON DECEMBER 1, 2020 *

* Accident No.: DCA21FM009

* * * * *

Interview of DUNG NGUYEN, Captain
Master Dylan Crew

CHIN VAN LE, Crew Member
Master Dylan Crew

LOC VAN PHAM, Crew Member
Master Dylan Crew

SON VAN NGUYEN, Crew Member
Master Dylan Crew

(Translated by Interpreter,
Cindy Nguyen)

Friday,
December 4, 2020

APPEARANCES:

DAVID FLAHERTY
National Transportation Safety Board

LIEUTENANT [REDACTED]
United States Coast Guard

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED]
United States Coast Guard

LIEUTENANT [REDACTED]
United States Coast Guard

CINDY NGUYEN
Interpreter for *Master Dylan Crew*

I N T E R V I E W

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LT. [REDACTED]: -- [REDACTED], Sabine Pass, Texas.
Good morning, Ms. Nguyen.

MS. NGUYEN: Good morning.

LT. [REDACTED]: Good Morning. Can I just have you please start with an introduction of the crew members that you have present with you right now? If you could go through --

MS. NGUYEN: Okay. Let me (indiscernible). The first one I have is the Captain. His first name is Dung Nguyen, and then I have another crew.

LT. [REDACTED]: Could I have you -- Ms. Nguyen, can I have you confirm spelling please?

MS. NGUYEN: Oh, okay. First one I have is the Captain, Dung Nguyen. First name is Dung, D-U-N-G, last name is Nguyen, N-G-U-Y-E-N. And then I have another, Chin. His first -- his name is Chin Van Le. His first name is spelled C-H-I-N. His last name is spelled Le, L-E. I have another crew member, first name is Loc, L-O-C, last name is Pham, P-H-A-M. And the last crew, first name is Son, S-O-N, last name is Nguyen, N-G-U-Y-E-N.

LT. [REDACTED]: Thank you. Ms. [REDACTED], if you would like to go ahead and, and just --

MS. NGUYEN: Do we need to let them know that the phone call is being recorded?

LT. [REDACTED]: Ms. [REDACTED]'s going to discuss that right now.

LCDR [REDACTED]: Good morning. I just have got a recording.

1 It's listening in on the phone from my perspective. All we are
2 trying to do is record the answers so that we will be able to find
3 out what happened with the investigation. We are not trying to
4 determine anything wrong with anything the crew themselves did,
5 just what happened with the actual investigation, and why -- what
6 happened on the *Master Dylan*, and why this happened. We are
7 trying to make sure that something like this does not happen again
8 and that the *Master Dylan* will not -- the *Master Dylan's* fate will
9 not be done again by another vessel.

10 MS. NGUYEN: (Interpreting) Go ahead.

11 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay. Thank you very much, Ms. Nguyen.

12 If I could just first have you go through a summary of events
13 that transpired, starting with getting underway, getting underway?

14 MS. NGUYEN: Is this the -- oh, like, what day they left?

15 LT. [REDACTED]: Yes, what day they left and just kind of go, you
16 know, have then go through a summary of what happened.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good morning, can you --

18 MS. NGUYEN: Oh, okay. So --

19 MS. NGUYEN: No, it was Sunday, sorry.

20 MS. NGUYEN: Is there a way I can pause? I can pull the note
21 to -- the note that lists -- is it the same questions?

22 LT. [REDACTED]: Sure. Right now, before we go through the
23 questions, I just kind of wanted to get a brief overview of
24 everything that (Indiscernible).

25 MS. NGUYEN: Yeah, they said it's from Sabine Pass, and it's

1 on Sunday. I'm trying to pull up the date.

2 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay, sorry.

3 MS. NGUYEN: It's November 29, 2020.

4 LT. [REDACTED]: Do they know what time?

5 MS. NGUYEN: About 1:00 p.m.

6 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay, please continue.

7 MS. NGUYEN: And then -- do you continue to -- straight to
8 the story?

9 LT. [REDACTED]: Yes.

10 MS. NGUYEN: Oh, okay.

11 Okay, okay, so on the day of the incident -- well, the --
12 okay, so approximately around

13 He said about 7:30, 8:00 a.m., he states before that, they --
14 around that time, they just pulled up the net, they pulled up the
15 net, you know, to -- their trawling net, to pull the shrimp on and
16 they just put it down, and then he, he was doing his daily
17 routine, checked the -- went down, checked the engine room, you
18 know, checked, checked his daily routine, check the engine room,
19 and when he got to the, inside the cabin in the wheel house,
20 about, he said about five to seven minutes and it just exploded.

21 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay, and what date was that again?

22 MS. NGUYEN: December 1st, 2020, a Tuesday.

23 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay. Please continue.

24 MS. NGUYEN: Okay, and then -- okay, the -- so he heard the
25 explosion, so when he was running back towards that way, in the

1 hallway towards going to that, he grabbed the fire extinguisher
2 that's right there in the hallway, in the hallway, ran to the back
3 and sprayed the -- tried to spray the engine room, but it didn't
4 -- it was uncontrollable. And then, and then -- okay, and then,
5 where was it? Okay, so when he noticed he can't control it
6 anymore, he ran out to call the crew to run, and the boat's on
7 fire, put on your life jackets, so they ran inside in the front,
8 from the front and put on life jackets, ran back out and then they
9 trawl, they drop, they pull up their -- the net and they ran to
10 the back of the boat. And then -- okay, and then they were all
11 day in the back of the boat and they were planning to about start
12 jumping down the water, but they noticed they got a good samaritan
13 boat that was really close by. He said for approximate, it looked
14 from the distance, probably like a mile or so or less. And so
15 they waited. Okay, and then, and then the *John E. Lee* backed up
16 and then the crew transferred to the *John E. Lee* boat.

17 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay.

18 MS. NGUYEN: And then -- okay, and then he went into the
19 radio, he called, another call to the -- called the other boat,
20 *Master Dustin II* to come by, which is, you know, one of the --
21 it's not -- it's just a ship. I don't know how you would call
22 that word. But another boat came and picked them up, the *Master*
23 *Dustin II*.

24 LT. [REDACTED]: So who radioed over to the *Master Dustin II*?

25 MS. NGUYEN: Oh, okay, from the radio, the Captain.

1 LT. [REDACTED]: The Captain of the *John E. Lee*?

2 MS. NGUYEN: No, no, no. Well, we used their -- we used the
3 -- our Captain radioed to the other station -- to the other boat
4 because they all, I guess they know each other's radio.

5 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay.

6 MS. NGUYEN: But he used *John E. Lee's* radio to radio over
7 there.

8 LT. [REDACTED]: Got it. Please continue.

9 MS. NGUYEN: And then -- okay, so once they transferred onto
10 the *Master Dustin II*, and then they head -- I guess, headed back
11 towards, closer to the, to the vessel the *Master Dylan*, and then
12 they noticed that there was a another samaritan big tanker boat
13 that was spraying the vessel. Spraying the water.

14 LT. [REDACTED]: What time did they meet up with the *Master Dylan*?
15 I'm sorry, the *Master Dustin II* at, approximately?

16 MS. NGUYEN: So, you want to know how long they were on the
17 boat?

18 LT. [REDACTED]: Yes.

19 MS. NGUYEN: About an hour to an hour and a half before the
20 *Master Dustin II* came. They were on the *John E. Lee*, around
21 there.

22 LT. [REDACTED]: Thank you. Please continue.

23 MS. NGUYEN: And then -- And then they said they were right,
24 that when they were on the *Master Dustin II*, the, they were just
25 on standby watching. The other boat was spraying the, the *Master*

1 Dylan vessel for about an hour. And then -- okay, and so whenever
2 they, they were on the *Master Dustin II*, they noticed the boat
3 wasn't like on big flames anymore. It was just a bunch of smoke
4 coming out of it. They came closer to the vessel and put a rope
5 on it and will start pulling it closer to shore. Okay, and then
6 while they were, then when they said while they were in tow off of
7 the boat, just stop, you know, caught back on fire again, and then
8 they just left the boat there and just was on standby. Okay. And
9 they were just a standby -- close by the *Master Dylan* -- on *Master*
10 *Dylan* boat but on *Dylan* boat to the next day -- to the next
11 morning, and then some Sunday. They probably the scene of the
12 vessel, he said about 11:00 the next day -- And then they came
13 back, they left the scene around 11:00 and came back to the
14 Fourchon about 4:00. Okay, --

15 LT. [REDACTED]: And can you confirm the date, please?

16 MS. NGUYEN: The date?

17 LT. [REDACTED]: The dates that they arrived back in Fourchon.

18 MS. NGUYEN: Oh, yeah. On December 2nd. Okay, and then from
19 -- okay, and then from there, from the time they docked, they just
20 all went home and that's pretty much it.

21 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay, thank you for that. The next thing that
22 we're going to do is just go through those questions, Cindy, that
23 I sent you. So, go ahead.

24 MS. NGUYEN: Yeah, oh, he has the -- okay. Okay.

25 LT. [REDACTED]: So, Number 1, when, when and where did the fishing

1 vessel get underway?

2 MS. NGUYEN: 11, 11/29/2020. It's November 29th, 2020.

3 Well, yeah, yeah. Witness responding) Yeah, one, 1:00 p.m.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay, you don't really --

5 LT. [REDACTED]: And where in Sabine Pass did they get underway
6 from?

7 MS. NGUYEN: At a dock?

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Your dock?

9 LT. [REDACTED]: Yes, which? Does the dock have a name?

10 MS. NGUYEN: Oh, yeah. Dustin Gulf Seafood.

11 LT. [REDACTED]: Number 2, what were the wind speeds, direction,
12 wave height, at the time of the fire and explosion?

13 MS. NGUYEN: Five, five to seven miles per hour. I guess, is
14 that, I'm saying it right? He just said five to seven, so.

15 LT. [REDACTED]: Is that for the wind or for the waves?

16 MS. NGUYEN: No, no, no, that's the wind speed.

17 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay.

18 MS. NGUYEN: And then the winds -- the wind is east and then
19 about one foot on the water -- of the wave height, about a foot.

20 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay. How was the explosion discovered?

21 MS. NGUYEN: The explosion sound by the Captain.

22 LT. [REDACTED]: What did it sound like?

23 MS. NGUYEN: He just said it just sound like an explosion,
24 not a -- okay.

25 LT. [REDACTED]: And where was he when the, when he heard the

1 explosion?

2 MS. NGUYEN: About two, no, And the, no -- and though, he
3 said he was at the wheelhouse.

4 LT. [REDACTED]: At the wheelhouse.

5 MS. NGUYEN: Yes.

6 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay, and how far before that was he down in the
7 engine room?

8 MS. NGUYEN: Like, how long he was at the wheelhouse after
9 the engine room, right?

10 LT. [REDACTED]: Between the engine room -- from when he checked
11 the engine room to when he was in the wheelhouse and heard the
12 explosion.

13 MS. NGUYEN: Okay.

14 LT. [REDACTED]: How much time had passed?

15 MS. NGUYEN: Five to seven minutes.

16 LT. [REDACTED]: When he was in the engine room doing his check,
17 did he notice anything, any unusual noises, or sounds?

18 MS. NGUYEN: He said nothing out of the norm.

19 LT. [REDACTED]: What did he check when he was down there?

20 MS. NGUYEN: He checked to make sure there's no leak, or if
21 there's no leak, or if there is not enough water, or anything,
22 like check everything, make sure there's enough water, there's no
23 leak, nothing, nothing unusual.

24 LT. [REDACTED]: So, can he go through specifically what, what
25 exactly he looked at and what he checked?

1 MS. NGUYEN: He checked the generator, he checks the engine.
2 Yeah.

3 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay. And the time of this fire, or the
4 explosion? I'm sorry, the time of the explosion?

5 MS. NGUYEN: 7:30, 7:30 to 8:00 a.m.

6 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay. So after the explosion was, was heard, can
7 you go through the process of what he did next?

8 MS. NGUYEN: Oh. He said from the -- when he heard the
9 explosion from the wheelhouse, he went towards the back to where
10 the engine room is, on the way there, on the way out, in the
11 hallway he grabbed the fire extinguisher that was right there, and
12 tried to put the fire out, but couldn't control it.

13 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay. How far down into the engine room did he
14 get with the extinguisher?

15 MS. NGUYEN: Yeah, he said there's no possible way to go
16 down. There's so much smoke and everything just from the,
17 standing from the, where the top, where the door opens and just
18 trying to spray whatever he can.

19 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay, so he just opened the door and used the
20 extinguisher.

21 MS. NGUYEN: Yes.

22 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay, and can you -- can he tell me what type of
23 agent was inside the extinguisher?

24 MS. NGUYEN: He, he said it was just something white spraying
25 out of it. He doesn't know.

1 LT. [REDACTED]: Cindy, if you could look through your --

2 MS. NGUYEN: I can, I had --

3 (Crosstalk)

4 MS. NGUYEN: -- to go on the date it was serviced. I have
5 the receipt.

6 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay and what was the service date?

7 MS. NGUYEN: 5/18/2020.

8 LT. [REDACTED]: And then does it say what type of extinguisher it
9 was?

10 MS. NGUYEN: It doesn't say what type, but I tried to call
11 them a -- my brother was the one calling for me earlier. He just
12 told me because I didn't get a chance to call them yet. He just
13 sent me the receipt, and it said it's just an ABC, the regular --
14 the -- it's Coast Guard -- Coast Guard approved, and then I didn't
15 talk to the guy that has to ask what kind it is. My brother just
16 said, I heard him say something CO something, but.

17 LT. [REDACTED]: You don't know if he -- CO1 or 2 -- CO

18 MS. NGUYEN: -- he said CO-1 or something, he said CO.

19 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay, and do you have the size of it?

20 MS. NGUYEN: If I glanced at it -- let me look at the
21 receipt. I'm guess -- I'm going to have to call them. I just see
22 on here it says ten numbers, five numbers. I'm guessing those are
23 the pounds, but I don't want to make the assumption.

24 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay, we'll follow-up.

25 MS. NGUYEN: I'll follow with that because I'm just looking

1 at the receipt, I don't want to -- it doesn't say pounds on it.

2 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay.

3 MS. NGUYEN: Okay?

4 LT. [REDACTED]: Number 5, where were the crew members at the time
5 that the explosion?

6 MS. NGUYEN: They were, they were in the, the crew were in
7 the back deck engaging in their shrimping activities. Right? Am
8 I saying it right? Yeah.

9 LT. [REDACTED]: How long had, were they down, or were they engaged
10 in shrimping before the explosion occurred?

11 MS. NGUYEN: About 30-minutes. Witness continues responding)

12 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay. Did the fire start immediately after the
13 explosion?

14 MS. NGUYEN: They said, they're saying, he said he's not sure
15 he's the, right when it exploded; it was so black he can't see
16 anything.

17 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay. Do they know what they suspect caused the
18 explosion?

19 MS. NGUYEN: They don't know.

20 LT. [REDACTED]: Thank you. Did they have any ongoing mechanical
21 issues onboard prior to the explosion?

22 MS. NGUYEN: No.

23 LT. [REDACTED]: Number 9, you just answered, was the crew actively
24 engaged in shrimping, and you said yes.

25 MS. NGUYEN: Yes.

1 LT. [REDACTED]: Did any alarms go off, or sounds?

2 MS. NGUYEN: Okay, he said he heard the alarm go off in the
3 back, the smoke alarm.

4 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay, smoke alarm?

5 MS. NGUYEN: Um hmm.

6 LT. [REDACTED]: Was that after the explosion?

7 MS. NGUYEN: After it exploded.

8 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay. Do they -- well, what other types of
9 alarms, emergency alarms do they have?

10 MS. NGUYEN: The smoke alarm.

11 LT. [REDACTED]: So that's the, that's the only one that they have
12 onboard?

13 MS. NGUYEN: Well, I know they have bilge alarms,
14 (indiscernible). Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah. That's it, it was a water
15 alarm. They only have bilge alarms, and smoke alarm. Yes, just
16 those two.

17 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay. So they only heard the smoke alarm after
18 the explosion?

19 MS. NGUYEN: Yes.

20 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay. Did they make any radio calls after the
21 explosion?

22 MS. NGUYEN: No.

23 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay. So, we received report that the EPIRB was
24 activated. When was the EPIRB activated?

25 MS. NGUYEN: (Indiscernible).

1 LT. [REDACTED]: Or where was it located?

2 MS. NGUYEN: Oh, after they, after they pulled the, the net
3 back up.

4 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay, so they brought the nets up?

5 MS. NGUYEN: Yes. So they say -- he said after they -- he
6 ran across -- all -- the first thing they did is put life jackets
7 on first. Then they ran back out and pulled the -- they put the
8 trawler, they pulled the trawlers back up and then the Captain
9 went up and flipped the switch on the beeper manually, and then if
10 you're, if you're standing from the deck in the back, the beeper's
11 on the right, on the right top of the cabin house, the cabin,
12 yeah.

13 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay. How did the crew get off the vessel, so
14 that was though the *John E. Lee*, correct?

15 MS. NGUYEN: Yes.

16 LT. [REDACTED]: Did the *John E. Lee* pull their stern up to the
17 *Master Dylan*, and then they transferred over?

18 MS. NGUYEN: Yes. Stern is the back, right?

19 LT. [REDACTED]: Yes. Did anyone enter the water?

20 MS. NGUYEN: They said, no. They were about to.

21 UNKNOWN SPEAKERS: Yeah, All six of them, --

22 LT. [REDACTED]: So, Number 14, you just answered with that. And
23 they did not use the inflatable life raft on board, correct?

24 MS. NGUYEN: They said they were about to pull it down too,
25 but they saw the boat coming, so they didn't grab it. Okay?

1 LT. [REDACTED]: So you said, just to confirm, Number 16, it took
2 about -- *John E. Lee* 30 minutes to arrive on scene, correct?

3 MS. NGUYEN: About 30 minutes.

4 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay. Did the vessel -- did they try to steer the
5 vessel after, after the explosion occurred? Did they lose any
6 power?

7 MS. NGUYEN: No.

8 LT. [REDACTED]: No, they didn't try to steer?

9 MS. NGUYEN: No, they did not try to steer.

10 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay and they couldn't tell if power was gone,
11 correct?

12 MS. NGUYEN: No, no.

13 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay, and what color was the smoke immediately
14 after the explosion?

15 MS. NGUYEN: Black.

16 LT. [REDACTED]: Did they try to operate any fuel shutdowns?

17 MS. NGUYEN: No.

18 LT. [REDACTED]: Did they try to close off any ventilations?

19 MS. NGUYEN: No.

20 LT. [REDACTED]: Did they try to turn off any blowers?

21 MS. NGUYEN: No.

22 LT. [REDACTED]: So, just to confirm, aside from using the
23 extinguisher to attempt to fight the fire shortly after the
24 explosion, there was no other means that were used to fight the
25 fire by the crew; is that correct?

1 MS. NGUYEN: No, yes.

2 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay. So once they were on board the *John E. Lee*,
3 did they try to fight the fire from the *John E. Lee*?

4 MS. NGUYEN: No.

5 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay. I'm going to go over this, skip through a
6 couple of these questions just because we've already answered
7 them. So, --

8 MS. NGUYEN: Okay.

9 LT. [REDACTED]: -- give me one moment. Did any of the crew
10 members have any type of firefighting training?

11 MS. NGUYEN: The Captain has firefighting training.

12 LT. [REDACTED]: When was that last conducted?

13 MS. NGUYEN: He said a couple years.

14 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay. Do you have any documentation of attending
15 a course? Doing any type of training?

16 MS. NGUYEN: He has the card.

17 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay. Does he have it with him today?

18 MS. NGUYEN: I think he does.

19 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay. If he does, we'll just get -- we'll have
20 the -- Lieutenant [REDACTED] get a picture of it for us.

21 MS. NGUYEN: Okay. Yeah.

22 LT. [REDACTED]: All right, when was the last fire drill conducted
23 on the vessel with the crew?

24 MS. NGUYEN: No, they didn't, they didn't conduct one
25 onboard.

1 LT. [REDACTED] So, did this crew, at all, conduct any kind of
2 fire drills on board?

3 MS. NGUYEN: No, they didn't.

4 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay.

5 MS. NGUYEN: I think this is their first or second trip on
6 this so let me ask.

7 LT. [REDACTED] So, can you, can you ask each one of the crew
8 members how long they've been onboard working for this vessel?

9 MS. NGUYEN: The second trip.

10 LT. [REDACTED] Second trip?

11 MS. NGUYEN: Yeah, that's probably what --

12 LT. [REDACTED]: For everybody but the Captain?

13 MS. NGUYEN: No, the Captain is two trips. Two trips.

14 They're all the same. It's the second trip, this all the second
15 trip on this boat.

16 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay. Do you have any pictures of the vessel
17 before the fire?

18 MS. NGUYEN: I'm going to have to call that, I haven't got a
19 chance to call the survey, so I, I don't have the picture. I only
20 have the picture how it looks now.

21 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay. If you could, give those to Lieutenant
22 [REDACTED].

23 MS. NGUYEN: Okay.

24 LT. [REDACTED]: He's going to go ahead and get those over to us.

25 MS. NGUYEN: Okay.

1 LT. [REDACTED]: So, in the engine room, --

2 MS. NGUYEN: Okay.

3 LT. [REDACTED] -- can you, as far as the, is the generator in the
4 engine room or is it a separate space?

5 MS. NGUYEN: In the same room.

6 LT. [REDACTED] Same room? Okay, and how many generators, and how
7 many engines?

8 MS. NGUYEN: Two generators and one main engine, or one
9 engine.

10 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay, and can you confirm the couple items, so we
11 had alibis for that --

12 MS. NGUYEN: Yes, the kilowatt and the beam (ph.). My dad
13 just walked out, let me ask him. Sorry. My dad would know that
14 one. Okay. Just give me a second, I'm calling his phone.
15 Okay, okay, so the generator is -- okay. 765 plus power, is the
16 engine.

17 LT. [REDACTED]: And what is the make of the engine?

18 MS. NGUYEN: Oh, I know that one, but let me confirm it. And
19 the -- let me tell you the watt before I forget. It's 70 Kilowatt
20 for each generator.

21 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay. Do they know about how old the generators
22 and the engines are?

23 MS. NGUYEN: Let me ask that too. I don't think it's old.
24 It's all Caterpillar.

25 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay.

1 MS. NGUYEN: Wait, the generator is John Deere, the two
2 generators' John Deere, and the engine is a Caterpillar.

3 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay.

4 MS. NGUYEN: Okay. They were all just got a rebuilt them and
5 fixes or something about four or five months.

6 LT. [REDACTED]: All three? The engine and the two generators?

7 MS. NGUYEN: Yes. If they're -- they just all was -- just
8 got fixed and stuff. They're all refueled and stuff.

9 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay. Can you confirm the -- how much the
10 vessel's insured for?

11 MS. NGUYEN: 300 -- 300,000.

12 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay. Was there any drug or alcohol testing that
13 was conducted?

14 MS. NGUYEN: No.

15 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay, and then as far as the 2692, I know that you
16 were working on that, Ms. Nguyen?

17 MS. NGUYEN: I submitted it this morning.

18 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay, wonderful.

19 MS. NGUYEN: To your email.

20 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay.

21 MS. NGUYEN: But I think, but I think I forgot one question.
22 So can I resubmit it again with the correction on it?

23 LT. [REDACTED]: Sure. We have Lieutenant [REDACTED], he's got a
24 blank one there. So you can fill that out with him and he can
25 take it --

1 MS. NGUYEN: Oh, [REDACTED], oh, I can fill another one?

2 LT. [REDACTED]: Yeah, you can just do that with him and then that
3 way that way you don't have to resubmit it.

4 MS. NGUYEN: Oh, okay. I don't have --

5 LT. [REDACTED]: Whatever is easier for you is fine.

6 MS. NGUYEN: Oh, no. It, easy, if on the copy, I'd rather
7 just go home and fill it out. One blank and re, and email it
8 again.

9 LT. [REDACTED]: Perfect. Then we'll do that. Can I have a phone
10 number for -- were you able to fill out the crew member
11 information for each person?

12 MS. NGUYEN: I have it. Yes, I did. It's just except for
13 one, but I can take a picture. How about I take a picture of his
14 crew member license and send it to you?

15 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay. So Lieutenant [REDACTED] will take, will take
16 this as well.

17 MS. NGUYEN: Yeah. I have it all laid out right here.

18 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay. So, as far as deliverables, we have these
19 photos for after, after the incident occurred. Any type of photos
20 that you have, as well as identification for the crew members, if
21 we can just get copies of that.

22 MS. NGUYEN: Okay.

23 LT. [REDACTED] And then, can you confirm the amount of fuel that
24 was onboard?

25 MS. NGUYEN: About five to seven-thousand.

1 LT. [REDACTED]: Gallons. Okay, next, I'm just going to ask if
2 Lieutenant Commander [REDACTED] or if Mr. Flaherty have any alibis?

3 MR. FLAHERTY: Hi, yeah, did they explain how they retrieved
4 the nets following the fire?

5 MS. NGUYEN: They said that, they said that the engine was
6 still working. That winch, that winch is in the back.

7 MR. FLAHERTY: Right. So the winch is electronic?

8 MS. NGUYEN: Well, winch is -- is not, it's the -- I guess
9 it, I guess this word, from my understanding, they said that winch
10 is connected to the main -- the engine, or something, so they have
11 power -- still had a little bit of power, but they were still
12 (indiscernible) working.

13 MR. FLAHERTY: Okay, so it's a, it's a direct -- the winch is
14 a direct drive off the main engine, and after the explosion, how
15 many minutes between the explosion and them pulling up the winch,
16 or pulling up the nets?

17 MS. NGUYEN: Okay, they said by the time they -- when the
18 incident happened, they said it'd been like less, about five
19 minutes. But they all just ran in, live jacket, ran out, and it
20 only takes a couple minutes to pull those things up, pull those
21 in, because the water is shallow right there.

22 MR. FLAHERTY: Okay, that --

23 MS. NGUYEN: Yeah. They said the water's really shallow, so
24 it only took a couple minutes to pull it in.

25 MR. FLAHERTY: Okay, and so, the -- so that indicates -- so

1 they're saying that the main engine was still operating after the
2 explosion? Or what'd the Captain --

3 MS. NGUYEN: Oh, okay, yes, the main engine.

4 MR. FLAHERTY: Okay. So, the other crew members who were out
5 on deck, could they each ex -- could they each describe what they
6 were doing just prior to the explosion? And, if they may, like,
7 try to describe what they heard when the explosion happened?

8 MS. NGUYEN: Okay. Do you want me to name one at a time?

9 MR. FLAHERTY: If, if possible, yes, please.

10 MS. NGUYEN: Okay. The first one that got out
11 (Indiscernible) is -- his first name is Son, S-O-N, and last name
12 is Nguyen. Before the explosion, he was engaged in his fishing,
13 picking shrimp in the back, in the deck. He heard the explosion
14 after, he heard the noise, the explosion. And then --

15 MR. FLAHERTY: Can, could he, was it a loud high-pitched
16 bang, a low-pitched bang?

17 MS. NGUYEN: He said, he said is small from when he's out on
18 the deck.

19 MR. FLAHERTY: Okay. Yeah, if you just continue with the
20 other two crew members there?

21 MS. NGUYEN: Okay, and then -- (indiscernible) Chin, and then
22 the next one is Chin Van Le, and then he is pick -- engaged in a
23 shrimping activity. Okay, Chin Van Le after the explosion, he
24 didn't hear it.

25 MR. FLAHERTY: Okay.

1 MS. NGUYEN: Okay. Sorry, the next person is Loc. Loc Pham.
2 He was engaged in shrimping activity. And then he just heard a
3 loud -- just heard a boom, but it wasn't like, super loud.

4 MR. FLAHERTY: Okay, and final question. Did the hull of the
5 ship, what was it made out of? What type of material?

6 MS. NGUYEN: Steel.

7 MR. FLAHERTY: Steel? And the house in the area enclosing
8 the engine room, what was that made out of?

9 MS. NGUYEN: It's steel, the boat -- everything's made of
10 steel.

11 MR. FLAHERTY: Okay. Was there wood decks or bulkheads, or
12 wood furnishings inside the ship, inside the ship?

13 MS. NGUYEN: Say that again?

14 MR. FLAHERTY: Was there wooden bulkheads, or wooden
15 furniture in the inside the vessel?

16 MS. NGUYEN: What the bulkhead? Is that the front of the
17 boat?

18 MR. FLAHERTY: No, that's the separating one.

19 MS. NGUYEN: Oh.

20 MR. FLAHERTY: Yeah, it's like a wall.

21 MS. NGUYEN: Oh, okay, okay. No, no, no. Said it's wood.

22 MR. FLAHERTY: So there is wood inside the boat?

23 MS. NGUYEN: Yeah, wood inside, like those walls, like where
24 the walls of the bedrooms and stuff, right?

25 MR. FLAHERTY: Yeah, like paneling.

1 MS. NGUYEN: Oh, yes. Wood. (Witnesses continue to respond)
2 Oh, they said outside it's metal, and then they said inside it's
3 -- and the wood is outside of it.

4 MR. FLAHERTY: Okay.

5 MS. NGUYEN: They're trying to explain it to me. I'm looking
6 at it.

7 LCDR [REDACTED]: I have a question. What equipment was
8 actually running in the engine room at the time of the explosion?

9 MS. NGUYEN: It's one generator and one -- and the main
10 engine.

11 LCDR [REDACTED]: Can somebody give a small picture of where the
12 engines -- where the engine was -- which -- where are the two
13 generators --

14 MS. NGUYEN: Okay, --

15 LCDR [REDACTED]: -- hold on, where the two generators are?

16 MS. NGUYEN: Can we draw it out?

17 LCDR [REDACTED]: -- what?

18 MS. NGUYEN: Can we draw it out on a piece of paper?

19 LCDR [REDACTED]: That's what I'm asking. Yeah, if you can draw
20 out a picture of, of where the engine is, where the two generators
21 are, and which one of the two generators was running at the time?

22 MS. NGUYEN: Okay. I can do that.

23 LCDR [REDACTED]: Okay.

24 MS. NGUYEN: And then I'll give it to Lieutenant Phil -

25 LT. [REDACTED]: Lieutenant [REDACTED]. I'll take a picture of

1 what they provide, and I'll submit all that to you all which
2 everything else.

3 LT. [REDACTED]: Thank you.

4 LCDR [REDACTED]: Okay. The last question I have for that is,
5 where was the crew member that didn't hear the explosion as well,
6 I mean, on the deck? Because I'm curious if maybe he was farther
7 away from something.

8 MS. NGUYEN: About five feet apart from each other. Well,
9 let me ask. Kind of like, they're sitting in like a circle where
10 the pile of shrimp is and they're about five, about five feet away
11 from each other.

12 LCDR [REDACTED]: Hmm.

13 MR. FLAHERTY: Could -- in that diagram showing --

14 MS. NGUYEN: Can I -- you want me to draw them out, their
15 position?

16 MR. FLAHERTY: Yeah. Also, could you point to which, or
17 indicate in the drawing of the engine room, which generator was
18 operating?

19 MS. NGUYEN: Yes. I'll include that.

20 MR. FLAHERTY: And, my final question, they got underway on
21 what date?

22 MS. NGUYEN: 29th of November.

23 MR. FLAHERTY: Thanks. Could you ask them, from the time
24 they got underway until the time of the accident, were they
25 operating on one generator? Or did they switch between one

1 generator and the other generator?

2 MS. NGUYEN: Okay. So, so -- okay. So, the main engine is
3 always running, but the generators, they swap every two days.

4 MR. FLAHERTY: Every two days?

5 MS. NGUYEN: Yes.

6 MR. FLAHERTY: When --

7 MS. NGUYEN: Rotate.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: When did they --

9 MR. FLAHERTY: The generator, which generator was on at the
10 time of the casualty?

11 MS. NGUYEN: It was the right -- wait. It was the right
12 generator that was on.

13 MR. FLAHERTY: Okay, so starboard side, I would assume.

14 MS. NGUYEN: Starboard? Okay. Right side.

15 MR. FLAHERTY: Right side. Okay, when the right-side
16 generator was previously on, did they ever lose power?

17 MS. NGUYEN: No, did not lose power.

18 MR. FLAHERTY: Did they have to add and additional lube oil
19 to it since leaving the dock?

20 MS. NGUYEN: Yes.

21 MR. FLAHERTY: Is that normal, or was it a, an excess, or did
22 it require additional oil than normal?

23 MS. NGUYEN: It's just the, it's just the norm, they change
24 it.

25 MR. FLAHERTY: All right, and there were no, that generator,

1 prior to the accident, no alarms, of any kind, associated with
2 that generator went off?

3 MS. NGUYEN: No.

4 MR. FLAHERTY: How about on previous voyages?

5 MS. NGUYEN: Before that? No.

6 MR. FLAHERTY: All right. That's all the questions I have.

7 Thank you for your time.

8 MS. NGUYEN: Okay.

9 LCDR [REDACTED]: One more.

10 LT. [REDACTED]: I have a couple --

11 LCDR [REDACTED]: One more. How long had that generator been
12 running?

13 MS. NGUYEN: He said they just changed it. Let me ask. Let
14 me confirm the date; let me pull up the calendar for him. He said
15 that he changed it over on the 30th of that, the month, the
16 evening, he said late evening on the 30th, on November 30th, 2020.

17 LCDR [REDACTED]: Thank you. That's all I have for now. I know
18 Melissa, do you have some?

19 LT. [REDACTED]: Yes, I have one alibi. They've mentioned that
20 when the vessel was in tow, that there was, it was, it was still
21 smoking and then it re-flashed when it was in tow, so the fire
22 started back up again; is that correct?

23 MS. NGUYEN: Oh, so they said that whenever, whenever that,
24 that good samaritan big boat whatever, was spraying them, after
25 that they were pulling it in. It was just smoke coming out. But

1 when they're pulling it in, it then it lighted, and then fire
2 started coming out of it again.

3 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay, and the -- when we spoke with the *Master*
4 *Dustin II*, one of the crew members, he said that when they were
5 towing it, that it grounded.

6 MS. NGUYEN: (Indiscernible).

7 LT. [REDACTED]: It hit the -- hit the bottom of the, you know, the
8 sand on the bottom of the water and got stuck.

9 MS. NGUYEN: Right.

10 LT. [REDACTED]: And that's why they stopped towing it. So was it
11 because of the fire that they stopped towing it? Or was it
12 because of --

13 MS. NGUYEN: Oh, yeah. That's what he said. He said yeah,
14 they stopped towing because it was stuck.

15 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay. So did it get stuck and then the flames
16 started coming up again, or was it flames first and then it got
17 stuck?

18 MS. NGUYEN: No. Oh, so once they got stuck, and then they
19 couldn't move, so they left the vessel there, but then hours after
20 that, then it caught on fire again.

21 LT. [REDACTED]: So, it wasn't on fire when they were towing it; is
22 that correct?

23 MS. NGUYEN: When it was towing, they said bunch of flames.
24 Oh, not flames, bunch of smoke.

25 LT. [REDACTED]: Smoke, okay.

1 MS. NGUYEN: Sorry.

2 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay, and then, we had also received report that
3 they went back onboard the vessel and were opening hatches up.
4 Can you ask them about that? If it, you know, --

5 MS. NGUYEN: Oh. They said they did not open hatches --

6 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay.

7 MS. NGUYEN: -- the doors but let me explain to them. The
8 hatches are those doors that seal the boat, right?

9 LT. [REDACTED]: So any, any -- did they open up any spaces so --
10 at all?

11 MS. NGUYEN: No. They didn't open any hatches.

12 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay. So I just want to confirm, after they got
13 off the *Master Dylan*, did anybody else go back onboard at any
14 time?

15 MS. NGUYEN: No, no. They said, they came back to get -- to
16 tie the rope on it to pull it.

17 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay, so, to tow it, they had to go back on board
18 to tie off the, the towing line, right?

19 MS. NGUYEN: Yes.

20 LT. [REDACTED] Okay, after that, did they go back on board at
21 all?

22 MS. NGUYEN: No, they didn't ever came back on the board.

23 LCDR [REDACTED]: Did they do anything else onboard the vessel
24 besides tie the tow line?

25 MS. NGUYEN: They just, they just, they sprayed a little bit

1 of water. Yeah.

2 LT. [REDACTED]: So, so when was that?

3 MS. NGUYEN: Oh, okay. They grabbed the water, they used the
4 water, so they got, when they, whenever the good samaritan boat
5 sprayed the boat, right, and then that's when the *Dustin II* came
6 to get the boat, right, when they got over there, they pulled the
7 line from that's the water hose line from that the *Master Dustin*
8 *II* while they're onboard and then they tied the road and it was
9 spraying at the same time. --

10 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay.

11 MS. NGUYEN: -- The said they were on it for safety reasons,
12 they pulled the water hose over there too.

13 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay. All right, I think that is all that I have
14 on my end.

15 MR. FLAHERTY: I'm sorry. this is David Flaherty with the
16 NTSB. What is the current status of the boat?

17 MS. NGUYEN: As of yesterday, it is capsized.

18 MR. FLAHERTY: All right.

19 MS. NGUYEN: I think I got another phone call in the morning,
20 and then if they're working on -- with the damage -- and the
21 different damage company to, to get it out, the -- as of this
22 morning, that is what they're, what they're working on. They went
23 out yesterday, but --

24 MR. FLAHERTY: Where is it capsized off of?

25 MS. NGUYEN: I know it's -- I -- they sent me, I think it's

1 the Caillou (ph.) Bay? Am I saying that right?

2 MR. FLAHERTY: All right.

3 MS. NGUYEN: And then I got a text message that someone sent,
4 they capsized the boat, and it has the position of North 29
5 02.0.062, West 09051.656.

6 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay I'm just going to, I'm going to repeat that
7 again, one moment.

8 MS. NGUYEN: Wait let me pull it back up. I think someone
9 reported it this morning and then someone --

10 LT. [REDACTED]: What time did you receive that at?

11 MS. NGUYEN: The text message, --

12 MR. FLAHERTY: Okay, it's, they're at Caillou Lake. Yeah,
13 okay, Caillou, I got it, yeah, I know where it is. I got it.

14 MS. NGUYEN: 9:44 a.m., of today -- as of today, yeah.

15 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay. All right, so have 29, tac (ph.), 02,
16 decimal --

17 MS. NGUYEN: Sorry, sorry, sorry. Pause, let me pull it back
18 up.

19 LT. [REDACTED]: Sure.

20 MS. NGUYEN: Okay, go ahead.

21 LT. [REDACTED]: 29 tac, 02.062 North.

22 MS. NGUYEN: Correct.

23 LT. [REDACTED]: 090 tac, 51.656 West.

24 MS. NGUYEN: Correct.

25 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay. And what are your plans moving forward with

1 the vessel now that it's capsized?

2 MS. NGUYEN: I just, we're working on, with the salvage
3 company. I have to talk to him about that.

4 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay, is it still Tom Salvage, or is there a new
5 company now?

6 MS. NGUYEN: Tom Salvage.

7 LT. [REDACTED] Okay. Okay, does anyone have any -- anything else
8 to ask?

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I don't have anything.

10 LT. [REDACTED]: Okay. All right. Ms. Nguyen, thank you so much
11 for your time.

12 Lieutenant [REDACTED], you can just go ahead and give me a call
13 after -- on -- off-line, once we end this call.

14 LT. [REDACTED]: Sure, absolutely.

15 MS. NGUYEN: Thank you so much.

16 LT. [REDACTED]: Great. Thank you, Ms. Nguyen.

17 MS. NGUYEN: All right, all right.

18 (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: *MASTER DYLAN* FISHING VESSEL
 ACCIDENT IN PORT FOURCHON,
 LOUISIANA ON DECEMBER 1, 2020
 Interview of *Master Dylan* Crew

ACCIDENT NO.: DCA21FM009

DATE: December 4, 2020

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.



Transcriber