

What was Mr. Fitzgerald's duties on the vessel prior to the UTOPIA IV?

Canadian Coast Guard – Search and Rescue stationed on Vancouver Island in British Columbia a medic/rescue specialist. Before that I was the Bosun on the Motor Yacht "After Eight". As Bosun, I was in charge of all deck maintenance. I held the same position on "Amorazur II" before that. I also stood watch on those two boats.

What was your scheduled bridge watch hours the day of the incident?

After the anchor was pulled and secured, I went to the bridge because I had two hours left on my shift that day and stood watch at the Captain's request.

How many times has the vessel sailed at night since you reported to the vessel?

My best recollection is that there was one night sailing during the crossing from Miami to Nassau and a second night passage on the night of the incident.

How many times did the Master leave the bridge the day of the incident?

On my watch that evening, the Master left the bridge two times.

Was there any reasoning stated by the master to you why he left the bridge?
The second time?

The first time the Master left, he indicated that he was going to check on the guests. The second time he stated he would be back in a few minutes but did not state why he was leaving.

What time did the master leave the bridge each time?

The first time he left was at approximately 21.00 hours and the second time was at 21.48 hours

Was the vessel in manual or autopilot prior to the incident?

Autopilot

Did any alarms alert while on the bridge? Which alarms prior to incident? Post?

Prior to the collision there were no alarms, but I had a target acquisition on the radar at approximately 5.7 miles from Utopia. This was an AIS target. After the incident, there were several alarms, but I do not recall which alarms were sounding or who responded to them since I was in shock.

Was the visibility clear or was the wipers utilized while underway?

Clear but there was intermittent wiper usage due to spray.

Is there ever a bridge watch with one person? How many times has there been one person on the bridge since you have been on board the vessel?

Recalling that I joined the vessel on December 16th in Miami when we took the short trip from Miami to the Bahamas, there were two on the bridge during the crossing. The night of the incident there was one. I have no knowledge as to how many were on watch at any other time.

Ryan Fitzgerald

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