National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, D.C. 20594
Office of Marine Safety

Visit Summary

Meeting with: Mr. Ryan Stalkfleet
Date/time: August 16, 2023
Location: Atlantic Beach, North Carolina
In attendance: Marcel Muise, NTSB; LCDR [redacted], USCG
Case: DCA23FM036

OVERVIEW

LCDR [redacted] and I met with Mr. Ryan Stalkfleet at 0900 at U.S. Coast Guard Sector Field Office Fort Macon, North Carolina. Mr. Stalkfleet is the Operations Manager at OceanGate. The previous day, the submersible *Cyclops I* and its accompanying launch and recovery platform were moved, at USCG direction, from the Beaufort NOAA facility to the USCG base.

LCDR [redacted] was a member of the USCG's Marine Board of Investigation. Unless specifically delineated by quotes, the text that follows is not a verbatim record of the conversation. It has been developed from notes taken during the visit.

VISIT SUMMARY

Cyclops I was originally named *Lula 500* and had an engine, a boat shaped floatation collar, a conning tower above the existing watertight hatch, and the pressure hull was full of older and larger equipment and controls. The vessel came with Class certification. Only the *Lula 500* pressure hull and dome window remain in Class. Bluetooth connection was only used for the controller, everything else was wired.

The stern was conical and integral to the hull as opposed to *Titan's* aft dome. *Cyclops I's* window on the top hatch and the large window on *Antipodes* needed recent replacement due to crazing. Batteries were stowed inside, below the deck. There were no external batteries.

A day trip oxygen bottle was changed out manually for each dive. Air for the platform and the submersible ballast tanks were recharged via umbilical and a compressor on the support ship. There was a gray inflatable air bag above the pressure hull that could be inflated. The landing skid could be released from inside the hull via hydraulic hand pump that open hooks that hold up the skid. The launch and recovery platform was steel and built in Texas, registration TX4413DC.

Cyclops I went on expeditions to Flower Banks in the Gulf of Mexico, Rhode Island, and Juan de Fuca. She went to University of Rhode Island for a presentation then to the NOAA facility in Beaufort, NC in March 2023. She was only stowed there and not used by NOAA.

END SUMMARY