



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, D.C. 20594

Office of Marine Safety

Date: January 22, 2003

Place: OMS NTSB Washington, D.C.

Person Interviewed: Bob Lawrence CWO USCG T and K Boat Inspector

Interview Conducted By: Jim Walsh
Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

INTRODUCTION

CWO Lawrence was interviewed in conjunction with the investigation into the sinking of the *Panther*. The text that follows is not a verbatim record of the conversation. It has been developed from my handwritten notes of the conversation and is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

INTERVIEW

Lawrence has been part of the K and T Boat inspection team for the last several years. His formal survey training was conducted in San Diego at Captain Frankie's Wooden Boat School. He is presently in the USCG Tampa MSO. Lawrence has plans to retire from the USCG and start his own T and K boat-consulting firm with a fellow warrant.

Lawrence was familiar with the National Park Boat tours Operations and had participated in inspections of the tour boats. Lawrence did not recall anything remarkable about the operations. The inspections were conducted in the AM usually prior to the start of Tour operations. The typical inspection included a review of the life saving apparatus, including lifejackets, use of the VHF, man-over-board drill, and what to do in the event of a fire.

Lawrence compared the tour boats to the general commercial marine craft in the area, fishing and crabbing boats, and stated that when issues were identified the owners quickly complied with the USCG findings and recommendations. It was Lawrence's feeling that the

local boat operators did not fully understand the requirements mandated by the Code of Federal Regulations. Lawrence did not know of a formal USCG sponsored operator education outreach program for the local commercial operators.

Lawrence did state that he would be retiring from the USCG shortly and was planning on starting a marine safety-consulting firm with an emphasis on USCG inspection readiness support.

END OF INTERVIEW

Jim Walsh