U.S. Department of Homeland Security
United States Coast Guard

Commanding Officer
United States Coast Guard
Marine Safety Office Juneau

2760 Sherwood Lane, Suite 2A
Juneau, AK 99801-8545
Phone: (907) 463-2450
Fax: (907) 463-2445

10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 10-4-04 approx 10 am

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: 10-4-04 1915 CARE OF RV PARSONS

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: SARAH PARSONS 601144 1895253658)

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN:

I was sitting in the front row of the forward lounge watching a film putting a container ship vessel our boat swung right and seemed to be approaching the other vessel rather quickly and then there was a scraping sound & we stopped the crew told us to go to the muster station & then to stay where we were. & then ~~[illegible]~~ gave out life jackets & reassured everyone. Life boats were lowered in an orderly fashion and passengers left the ship. We were among the last to go from the back deck & everyone was most helpful. First we went to a smaller cruise ship & then transferred to another catamaran ferry.

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: about 10 hrs 10.5 04.

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: 19 15 hrs 10.5 04

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: Mrs ELIZABETH PARSONS (LONDON U.K.) 01144-1895-253658

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN:

I was sitting in the front row of seats in the observation lounge at about 10.00 hrs

The weather was fine and visibility perfect

Shortly before running aground [illegible] a [illegible] and

[illegible] cargo barge crossed our path as we were turning left. We passed behind [illegible] and shortly after ran aground as we were making our way left of an island.

The crew were extremely helpful and reassuring - but as the last [illegible] to be evacuated it took us 2 hours to leave the ship.

First to a lost life boat then onto a private hunting boat and then onto a catamaran.

Where we spent about 3 hours circling around without any information why - except passenger number did not tally and two dogs had to be collected - we eventually arrived in Sitka at 19 15 hrs

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: approx 10 am.

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: 19.15. 10th May 04

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: R.V. PARSONS 01144 1895 253658

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN:

I was seated in the front lounge of the ferry Le Coste. I was looking forward and saw the Tug "Marmer" pulling a barge crossing our bow from starboard to port. No apparent change of speed was noted and I was briefly concerned as to whether we would avoid them!

I then noted we passed to the right of a green marker and was heading for the water way between the island and shore. The boat then ran aground. The crew assembled all passengers in the forward lounge where we were counted and subsequently accounted via the rescue boat to a hired catamaran & brought to Sitka by 19.15 pm

R.V. Parsons

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: Approx 10:00 AM 5/10/04

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: 5:05 PM 5/10/04

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: Larry Gamble Sr. 966-3034 Work 747-5074 Home

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN:

I was coming back to Sitka from Angoon. After going through Peril straights we were coming up on Astoya Island. AML barge was passing to our port side. The captain of the LeConte started turning left just as the barge made it by us. He was attempting to go on the inside of Astoya Island. We no sooner made it past the currents of the barge when we ran aground. He did not slow down at all so we hit the rock at cruising speed. The crew calmed the passengers down in a few minutes and began a head count. 30-45 minutes later the abandon ship bells went off. We had to put on life vests. The vests were wore to big for toddlers and babies. I was on the first group to be taken to the liferafts. Approximately 30 people were on this lifeboat when they started to lower us on the starboard side. We were listing to the port so when they lowered as the lower rebrail on the LeConte was out far enough the lifeboat got caught and tilted the boat to about a 45° angle, then it cut loose and threw people back and forth being we were sitting side to side. 2 women were hurt and the rest of us had minor injuries. Once in the water the coast guard and The Port Western Marine did a fine job making sure we were safe till the Allen Marine boats arrived.

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

Larry Gamble - severe back pain.

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 5/10/04 10:00am

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: 5/10/04 5:10p

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: Larry Gamble Jr 747 3434

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN:

Ferry went out of Pearl Strait - tried to cut in between island instead of going around - the ferry hit aground and tilted to the port side on evacuating the ship due to the [illegible] the life boat caught on the side of the ferry and nearly went over - several got hurt and I now am having severe back pains

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 0955

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: 1913

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: BERTINA PETERSEN

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN: SP?

I WAS UP IN THE SOLARIUM WAS WATCHING A TUG N' TOW GO BY REALLY CLOSE SO I LOOKED UP & SAW WE WERE REALLY CLOSE TO IT & GOING STRAIGHT FOR AN ISLAND & I thought to my self well - they know what they are doing but no sooner boat happened ~~[illegible]~~ I heard my back a large noise, [illegible] ~~[illegible]~~ the boat started ~~tilting~~ & got scared & yelled out we hit bottom People started panicking [illegible] saw one little girl that was [illegible] to her mom I've got a lot more to say but everyones off the [illegible] now but I do have ~~[illegible]~~ more I wrote down on a separate piece of paper.

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 5-10-04 10:AM

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: 5-10-04 7:18 PM

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: Henry T. Howard

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN:

I was reading my book and looked up and say the AML barge go by on the port side and thought it was rather close. then I started reading my book again then we hit the reef on our way to Sitka at 12:20 PM I was lowered into the life raft. We were transferred on to a charter boat and waited for Alan Marine fast ferry to pick us up.
Alan Marine arrived about 1:PM
5:26 we left the shipwreck and headed to Sitka arriving at 7:18.

Henry T. Howard

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: May 10, 2004 @ 9:50 Am

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: May 10 2004 @ 5:10 pm

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: Barry Lestenkof & Pam James

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN:

Barry & I & my brother Elliot was out back left watching the Lavante pass a tug towing a barge. It looked like we were turning into the barge, that is why we went outside. About 3 minutes after we passed the barge, we dead stopped. I thought I was going over the rail, I hung on and slammed into the rail. Right away you could smell that low tide smell. I looked over the side and as dirty as it was, I could see bottom. It was a good 10 minutes before we were told to go back inside. It was a good hour before abandon ship was called. It was another 30 minutes before they started loading us into the rafts. We floated around another 4 hours before we finally loaded onto the tug before they loaded us on the catamarans. All we got on the life rafts was pop, juice & water. We were told there was going to be sandwiched but all we got was small pastries and crackers, coffee, juice & water.

My daughter Melynda Mercurief & infant and daughter Nicole Jones got off the life boats on to my cousin Royce Koolesh skiff. He brought them to Sitka and they were able to catch their flight to Anchorage.

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: Approx 10:00 AM 5/10/04

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: 5:05 PM 5/10/04

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: Larry Gamble Sr. 966-3034 Work
747-5074 Home

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN:

I was coming back to Sitka from Angoon. After going through Peril Strait we were coming up on Astoya Island. AML barge was passing to our port side. The [illegible] LeConte started turning left just as the barge [illegible] by us. He was attempting to go on the inside of Astoya Island. We no sooner made it past the currents of the barge when we ran aground. He did not slow down at all so [illegible] back [illegible] speed. The crew calmed the passengers down in a few minutes and began a head count. 30-45 minutes later the abandon ship bells went off. We had to put on life vests. The vests were [illegible] for toddlers and babies. I was on the first group to be taken to the liferafts. Approximately 30 people were [illegible] life [illegible] when they started [illegible] the starboard side. [illegible] so when they lowered as the [illegible] on the LeConte was out far enough the life boat [illegible] and tilted the boat to about a 45° angle, then [illegible] loose and [illegible] back and forth. Being we were sitting [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] of us had [illegible]. Once [illegible] the water the [illegible] The boat Western Marine [illegible] fine job [illegible] we were safe till the Allen Marine [illegible].

3

EVIDENCE CONTROL
#2064493 TMN 32

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: approx 10 am

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: 19.15 10th May 04

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: RV PARSONS 01144 1895 253628

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN:

I was seated in the front lounge of the ferry Le Coste. I was looking forward and saw the tug "? Mariner" pulling a barge crossing our bow from starboard to port. No apparent change of speed was noted and I was briefly concerned as to whether we would avoid them!

I then noted we passed to the right of a green marker and was heading for the water way between the island and shore. The boat then ran aground. The crew assembled ~~[illegible]~~ all passengers in the forward lounge where we were counted and subsequently escorted via the rescue boat to a hired catamaran & brought to Sitka by 19 15 pm

RV Parsons

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: about 10 hrs 10.5.04.

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: [illegible] 10 [illegible]

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: [illegible] PARSONS [illegible] U.K. 01144-1895 [illegible]

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN:

[illegible] of [illegible] about 10.00 [illegible]

[illegible] perfectly [illegible]

[illegible] and [illegible] as [illegible]

as we [illegible]

[illegible] and [illegible] 2 hours to [illegible] the ship

[illegible] third [illegible]

[illegible] about 3 hours [illegible]

[illegible] and [illegible] days [illegible]

[illegible] Sitka at 19 15 hrs

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 10-4-04 approx 10am

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: 10-4-04 19 CARE OF RV PARSONS

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: SALLY PARSONS 601144 1895253658)

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN:

I was sitting in the front area of the forward lounge watching a tug pulling a container vessel. The boat swung right and seemed to be approaching the other vessel rather quickly and then there was a sudden sound as we stopped. The crew told us to go to the muster station & then to stay where we were & then ~~[illegible]~~ gave out life jackets & reassured every one. Life boats were lowered in an orderly fashion and passengers left the ship. We were among the last to go from the boat deck & every one was most helpful. First we went to a small day cruise ship & then transferred to another catamaran ferry.

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 5-10-04 10:AM

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: 5-10-04 7:18 PM

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: Henry T. Howard

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN:

I was reading my book and looked up and say the AML barge go by on the port side and thought it was rather close. then I started reading my book again then we hit the reaf on our way to Sitka. at 12:20 PM I was lowered into the life raft. We were transferes on to a charter boat and waited for Alan Marine fast ferry to pick us up.
Alan marine arrives about 1:PM
5:26 we left the shipwreck and headed to Sitka arriving at 7:18.

Henry Howard

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: May 10, 2004 @ 9:50 Am

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: May 10 2004 @ 5:10 pm

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: Barry Lestenkof & Pam James

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN:

Barry & I & my mother Elliot was out back left watching the Laconte pass a tug towing a barge. It looked like we were turning into the barge, that is why we went outside. About 3 minutes after we passed the barge, we dead stopped. I thought I was going over the rail, I hung on and slammed into the rail. Right away you could smell that low tide smell. I looked over the side and as dirty as it was, I could see bottom. It was a good 10 minutes before we were told to go back inside. It was a good hour before abandon ship was called, it was another 30 minutes before they started loading us into the rafts. We [illegible] around another 4 hours before we finally loaded onto the tug before they loaded us on the catamaran. All we got on the life rafts was pop, juice & water. We were told there was going to be sandwiches but all we got was small pastries and crackers, [illegible] juice & water.

My daughter Melynda Mercurief & infant and daughter Nicole James & son got off the life boats on to my cousin Stoyne Kochesh skiff. He brought them to Sitka and they were able to catch their flight to Anchorage.

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: May 10th 2004, Around 10:00pm

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: May 10th 2004, 5:10pm

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: Lorraine Meyers, 788-3918

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN:

I was sitting in the cafeteria visiting and noticed a barge turn really fast in front of the ship. I heard a loud noise & the ship started tipping. When it stopped it took a long time to [illegible] finally got on the lifeboats. It took a long time to finally get off the lifeboat & moved [illegible] & then on the catamaran & off to sitka

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 5/10/04 9:50 am

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: 5/10/04 5:05 pm

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: Jeremy D. Goff 738-1662

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN:

I was sleeping in the Salrium with my my wife when we ran aground. A Barge was coming through the channel instead of stopping and waiting, the captain decided to go around the Barge. The ferry went on the wrong side of the ~~[illegible]~~ green day marker. The door I was sleeping on moved about a foot and a half. The crew members on the Le Conte didn't know what was going on. It took the longest time for them to get off the ferry.

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 05/10 9.45 A.M.

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: 05/10 5.05 P.M

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: MARIO SAINT-PIERRE 954-946-2141

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN:

M/V LE CONTE CAME TO A INTERSECTION WITH A TUG BOAT (M/V LE CONTE TOOK A WIDER TURN AND GOT STUCK IN THE REEF.

I TOOK ONE HOUR TO GET IN THE SAFETY BOAT AWT 4 HOURS TO GET IN THE RESCUE BOAT.

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 05-10-04 / 9:50 am

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: 05-10-04 / 5:11 pm

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: Jennifer James / 301-7708

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN:

I was in the TV Room watching The movie "Brother Bear" and I felt a Rumbling underneath me I turned to my older Brother and was sleeping and we both jumped up and I started to help my sister and her Baby we were told to go into the Cafeteria and stay there they gave us life jackets and we waited to get off the ship boat and we ended up waiting to get on the other maran for about three hours then we had to wait for almost half hour to leave so they can get a head count.

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 10:00 am

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: 5:00 pm

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: Aaron Williams 738-1204

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN:

I was standing on deck, watching as the M/V struck, threwd me off board and threwd me into one of the cleaning closets. I got up ran around to see what happened. That's when I found out the front of the boat was on the rocks. I would like a full refund, + interest + room + board.

Once on the lifeboat the crew courtessy released the life boat and almost whiplashed all passengers.

I am not happy

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: [illegible]

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: [illegible]

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: [illegible]

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN:

[illegible]

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: May 10th 10 am.

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: May 10th 5:10 pm

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: Trina Simpson 772-3435

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN:

We hit land & tipped to one side
Don't know too much [illegible]
cafeteria, we [illegible] bottom pretty good
And then we were in the life [illegible]
[illegible]

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 05-10-04 9:50 am

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: 05-10-04 5:15 pm.

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: David B. Janies #279-1010

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN:

I was sitting in the TV area watching Bro. Bear the movie almost asleep. When LaCante hit the reef and I got up, went to the outside stern to see what happen! And when I looked down into the water it was very sandy and I could see bottom. But, it is my understanding to come to a complete stop, we had to have hit a reef. The LaCante was already listing on its side. Then everyone was advised to gather in the dining rm area.
A head count was done about at least a half a dozen times. Before, life jackets were handed out. 10 or 15 mins later, we were advised on how to strap on the jackets.
And about 30 mins later an announcement was made to abandon ship.
But before we were loaded into life boats 30-45 mins past.
Then we waited aroud for another 30 mins or so before I count a ride to Sitka on a fishing boat. Last thing I knew was Alan Marine boats out of Sitka were on there way to the rescue.

David B. Janies

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 5/10/04 APPX 10 AM

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: 5/10/04 5:00 PM

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: SueAnn Sexton-Hill 747-8497 cell# 752-7013
& my 3 kids: Gabriel Sexton, Samantha Sexton, Shilon Sexton

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN: My family & I were sitting in the Dining Area in the starboard (left side) I noticed an Ami tug barge coming towards us - we came very close to them, passed them and then hit something hard & fast. The impact knocked me over. The ferry stopped fast and tilted to the left. I thought we hit a sandbar. I immediately took my kids to the front of the boat. We were told to sit and stay for a head count. We waited for approx 25-30 minutes before we were told to abandon ship. We were given PFD's and put into a life raft. On the way down to the water we got hung up on the boat and it felt as though we were going to flip over. We tilted about 60% and then tilted back to level. We landed safely in the water & [illegible] [illegible] or more (not sure) before we were able to [illegible] to the Ami tug.

(I just stood up at impact)

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 5/10/04

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: 5/10/04

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: Marguerite C. Mann

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN:

I was in the cafeteria when the boat started to shake. 5 min before we hit my aunt Pam said we are passing a buoy and the next thing I knew we were tipping to the left and stopped moving. I stopped what I was doing and rushed up front by my nephew Larry because I had my great nephew David who is 7 mos old. We were told to stay up front and be seated. I was only able to carry off my purse. We were escorted or to a rescue boat which hit the bumper ramp on the MV Le Conte & hit and jerked the rescue boat and hurt several passengers backs due to the impact. I saw that my aunt was hurt and not moving so I proceeded to demand that she be medivac off of the rescue boat. I assisted with the rescue by the Coast Guard. Dave and the tug boat. We had 2 crew members, and 3-4 tug boat crew and 1 EMT rescue

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 9:45am. 05-10-04

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: 7:20pm 05-10-04

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: Lana Williams 747-3693 h
966-2417 w

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN:

I was just falling asleep with my grandson next to me on the floor in front of the boat. I heard this loud scrapping sound that shook me on the floor, that made me sit up to see what was going on. At that time the boat came to a complete stop. And my niece was screaming and crying carrying her 3 month old baby to a chair and alot of other people very angry, some with a wonder whats going on look on their face. My son Tim came by me and said that we hit a rock which probly put a hole in the boat and that we may have to leave.

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 5-10-04 10:30 A.M.

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: 5-10-04 19:17 P.M.

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: THOMAS J YOUNG

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN:

I was asleep up forward when the ship stopped
I was wrote there was no panic
I not sure what the cause for the incident
the crew did an outstanding job my complements
to the ships crew

I will continue to sail with A.M.H system

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: _____

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: _____

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: Mitchell Young 738 3554

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN:

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 5/10/04 9:55 AM

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: 5/10/04 7:00pm

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: Glenn Glover 945-3484

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN:

Boat hit ground. I wasnt really paying attention. I am not sure what else to say. I think I caught a glimpse of the barge passing us. But I am not quite sure how far it was away from us.

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 9:55

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: 7:20

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: (907) 784-3239 Brandon Johnso

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN:

I personally was in the cafeteria playing cards when there was a sudden and abrupt stop. It wasn't the crash that disturbed me in was when the Ferry crew acted rude and disorganized, like a chicken with its head cut off

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 10 MAY 04 - 1030

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: 10 MAY 04 - 1920

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: EM3 OYER, TIMOTHY J. 938-1977

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN:

I WAS SLEEPING WHEN THE SHIP LURCHED FORWARD. WE WERE TOLD WE HAD GROUNDED. ONE LONG OR SECOND BLAST WAS GIVEN. WE ALL MUSTERED. I HELPED CALM PASSENGERS AND HELPED WITH LIFE VESTS. TWO BOATS OF PASSENGERS WERE TAKEN OFF. I WENT ON AN RHI TO THE M/V WESTERNMARINER BEFORE BOARDING THE ST. EUGENE. WE STOOD BY FOR 05 HOURS BEFORE EMBARKING TO SITKA.

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 10 May 04 1000

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: 10 May 04 1915

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: Peter PARSONS

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN:

I was in the forward lounge and heard a scraping accompanied by a few jolts. Within ~~a few~~ 2 minutes the crew appeared & the anchor was dropped.

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: [illegible]

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: [illegible]

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: [illegible]

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN:

[illegible]

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 05-10-04 950 AM

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: 05-10-04 7:24 pm

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: Ernest Johnson

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN:

As we were coming up on dead man reach I had just fill a sheep up on forward deck I heard a nosie a looked out the window and saw that we have ran aground just before dead man reach at 10 AM.

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: around 9 45 or 10 00 AM 5/10/04

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: 7 20 PM (2) around three.

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: Barbara E Johnson

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN:

I was lying on a mattress reading when I heard a grinding sound comming from the bottom of the of the ferry. I rolled off my bed & crawled to the chairs (I have bad knees) some one come and told us to stay calm I really can't remember if they told us that we hit a rock or not. They started counting how many passengers were in the foreward lounge then we had to put our life jackets on we were off the ferry & put in the life boat from the ~~[illegible]~~ car deck brought to the western Profit - then to the Cat Terma oran Pardon spelling. every one treated us nice.

Barbara E Johnson

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 4:55

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: 7:20

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: Randy Williams

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN:

I just started dozing off when I heard the bottom of the M/V Le Conte scraping bottom my guess is it scraped bottom for about 7 seconds before comming to a halt, I was told it veered off to avoid hitting a barge

Randy Williams

P.S. We departed on to m/v Leconte Whaler and taken to a bear hanting boat Western Proffit and then to another boat ST. Eugene of Allen Marine

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: May 10, 2004 9:50AMish

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: May 10, 2004 5:10pm

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: Cynthia Oyer / 747-7408

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN:

I woke up to a loud noise. Everyone was wondering what was going on. I heard we hit a rock. Then they counted everyone that was on the ferry. After that they decided to abandon ship. We got off the ferry and waited for the cateraman.

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 5/10/04 [illegible] 0am

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: 5/10/04 5:10p

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: Larry Gamble Jr 747 3434

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN:

Ferry went out of Pearl Strait tried to cut in between an island instead of going around the ferry hit aground and tilted to the port side on evacuating the ship due to the angle the life boat caught on the side of the ferry and nearly went over - several got hurt and I now am having severe back pains

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 0955

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: 1913

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: BERTINA PETERSEN

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN: SP?

I WAS UP IN THE SOLARIUM WAS WATCHING A TUG N' TOW GO BY REALLY CLOSE SO I LOOKED UP & SAW WE WERE REALLY CLOSE TO IT & GOING STRAIGHT FOR AN ISLAND & I thought to my self well - they know what they are doing but no sooner that happened ~~we~~ I heard my back a large noise, squashing noise ~~&~~ then ~~we~~ the boat started tilting & got scared & yelled out we hit bottom People started panicking and screaming I saw one little girl that was crying and took her to her mom I've got a lot more to say but everyones off the boat now but I do have ~~the~~ the more I wrote down on a separate piece of paper.

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10 May 2004

Witness Statement

M/V LE CONTE GROUNDING

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: May 10th 2004, 10 am

DATE/TIME OF THE STATEMENT: May 10th 2004, 5 pm

WITNESS NAME/PHONE NUMBER: Kat Howard

EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPEN:

I was sleeping in the solarium. fell off my cott. Then when we was getting in to the life boat all shit hit tha fan. The screw up therr. They said they new what they was doin but they hit the ledge and tilted the boat all tha way on its side. the slipd off and gave all of us a nice wip-lash, + hurt four (4) of us in tha middle. 2 of them got medavact out.

I want A Refund...

also they had very Poor Aditude.

Kat Howard