

Interview Summary

Capsizing of the Charter Fishing Vessel TAKI TOOO at Tillamook Bar On March 23, 2005

Witness: Linda Buell
Co-owner, with Husband Mitchell Buell, of Garibaldi Charters

Date: March 23, 2005

Location: Telephone from NTSB office

Persons present: W. R. Woody, NTSB

Statement in response to Questioning:

Informed Mrs. Buell that a review of the information that had been gathered during the investigation has resulted in some questions from some of our staff and management. I stated that we had some questions that we planned to send in writing, and I briefly read some of the questions. I explained that we desired to obtain information about Captain Douglas R. Davis's earnings from Garibaldi Charters following his sale of that company to the Buell family. In response to a brief reading of the questions from the March 23, 2005 letter, which is attached, Mrs. Buell provided the following information:

1. Captain Davis, and the other captains, earned about 30% of the gross from the ticket sales.
2. That if a captain aborted a trip, because of bad weather or sea conditions, he received no compensation and that Garibaldi Charters also did not receive any compensation because the money paid by the passengers for tickets was refunded.
3. That Captain and Mrs. Davis received payments for a lease/buy-out of the TAKI-TOOO and the D&D amounting to [REDACTED]
4. The TAKI-TOOO and the D&D were each valued at \$55,000. However, Mrs. Buell stated that they had been unable to buy a replacement vessel at that price.
5. The TAKI-TOOO had sustained a little separation of the deck from the hull, and Garibaldi Charters would have tried to repair the vessel; however, the insurance company owned the vessel and the insurance company had elected not to repair it. The insurance company did sell the engine and Garibaldi Charters attempted to buy the engine because it was a good engine; however, someone else bought it ahead of them. Mrs. Buell knew that the engine was more powerful than the engine in the D&D; she stated again that the engine was a good engine.

6. That Garibaldi Charters had been purchased in 2001, and that she would look up the precise date, which was in records stored at their home. She recalled that she and her husband had run one year with the NORWESTER and then bought the business (Garibaldi Charters) about March 1, 2001.
7. Garibaldi Charters had a personnel file for Captain Davis which contained a copy of his license, CPR certification, and maritime consortium card. The record is stored at home and she will try to find it.
8. Captain Davis ran the TAKI-TOOO the first year they bought the business, which was part of the deal. The next year he was doing mostly requests, i.e. operating the TAKI-TOOO when customers requested him. It was two years later and it was time for us [the Buell family] to make the money, so Mitchell had taken over more and more of the operation of the TAKI-TOOO.
9. He [Captain Davis] was not hurting for money at all. They had plenty of things set up from sale of the business and income from the sale of the business. He was "not hurting for money." Doug "had more money than any of us." His wife was able to give what was in the Davis Fisheries account, a "goodly sum" and the money from the insurance on the boat to the accident victims. Believed the money from the boat insurance was \$50, 000, but may have been \$40, 000. They had plenty of money set aside. Any one believing that Captain Davis took the boat out that day because of a need for money is "totally wrong" They would be "barking up the wrong tree."
10. Captain Davis loved going fishing, "loved doing that." His wife may have pushed him into getting rid of the business before he was ready. But they did not need the business, or the income from the business. They had their retirement funds; they had their extra things. Mrs. Davis did not want to run the office anymore, but he still loved running the boat.
11. Currently, Garibaldi Charters is running the NORWESTER and the D&D. Tammy (daughter) got her captain's license, so hopefully in a year or so we can get a boat for her. Presently, she has a job in Alaska running a skiff as a captain for a couple of months. She felt it was a good idea to have experience on her resume, in addition to working for the family.