

EXHIBIT “D”

Peter Sotis' responses to IANTD's March 6, 2017 questions

1. Was Robert Stewart a student or a certified CCR TriMix diver at the time of the incident which caused his death. Please elaborate.

No. The trimix training on the weekend of January 28-29 was completely separate from the filming project on January 30-31. I had no involvement in the filming charter in the Keys, other than to accept an invitation to attend if my schedule permitted. My understanding is that Brock Cahill and Rob Stewart set up the charter directly with Horizon Divers in early December, independent of me or Add Helium. The upper half of the wreck is at 185 ft., within the divers' Normoxic certification levels. The arrangements for the boat, crew, gas, safety divers and dive plan. These were never intended to be training dives and they weren't training dives.

In fact, the accident happened when Stewart was doing volunteer work for the crew, because the mate did not have his diving equipment. I told Stewart twice he didn't have to go but he insisted and the captain approved. Stewart stayed within his maximum certification depth on this dive. He stayed at approximately 190 ft. while I descended to the bottom to retrieve the anchor. This was not a training dive. We were doing a job for the dive boat.

2. Do you possess a completed liability release and a completed medical form signed by Robert Stewart for the dives in question.

No. See above. I was not involved in setting up this charter.

3. If you contend Stewart was not certified by you, why did you submit certification of his course to IANTD prior to the fatal incident.

The training records were submitted inadvertently by Add Helium staff. I asked IANTD to remove the trimix certifications because the divers never completed their trimix training. They went to the Keys without it, for a charter I assume they had already paid for, to do something they had already arranged to do with Horizon. When I discovered that the training records were mistakenly submitted, I asked IANTD to correct the situation.

4. If you contend that Stewart was not certified by you, by what basis under IANTD standards and procedures can you justify taking him to a depth of 230 feet seawater on multiple dives in a single day.

I did not "take" Stewart to any depth. He had set up a charter with Horizon Divers and they took him to the wreck site and allowed him to do whatever they planned to do, which I was not a part of. I accompanied Stewart on his filming dives to act as his safety diver, I merely followed him as he filmed, and we successfully completed these dives.

On the final dive, I was doing volunteer work for the crew, because the mate did not have his diving equipment, and Stewart chose to accompany me. I told Stewart twice he did not have to go but he insisted and the captain approved. Stewart stayed within his maximum certification depth on this dive. He stayed at approximately 190 ft. while I descended to the bottom to retrieve the anchor. I was not acting as Stewart's safety diver on this dive because I had another job to do for the dive boat and we were physically separated by some distance underwater. We successfully completed this dive, too. I don't know what happened to Stewart on the surface or how the crew lost track of him, but he was fine with me underwater, when we surfaced and until some time after I was on the boat.

5. How do you justify the third dive, a bounce dive with an unqualified diver without adequate SIT time.

See above. This is a question better directed at the boat owner, captain and crew. How do they justify not bringing proper equipment for the mate to do his job and then asking passengers to volunteer to pull the hook? I did not take Stewart on this dive; he volunteered to go back in the water after he already had his gear off and I told him he did not have to go in. He stayed within his maximum certification depth while I went to the bottom to retrieve the anchor, he was fine underwater and we successfully completed the dive and reached the surface, where he was also fine until some time later, for some unknown reason.