



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

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Aviation Accident Investigator
Alaska Region

Date: September 18, 2015
Person Interviewed: David Wood
NTSB Accident Number: ANC15FA071

Narrative:

During a conversation with the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigator-in-charge (IIC), David Wood, stated that he had arrived to the Rainbow King Lodge on Sunday. Monday morning the ceiling was too low to fly, so they drove to a fishing location that morning, and the Beaver came and picked them up. He stated that the lodge had different names for the fishing spots, because of the competitiveness with the other lodges. After a group discussion, they decided to fish for silver salmon at "Wolverine", which was about 45 minutes away. Because of all of the lodges competing for a spot there, they got up early to get there first. They had breakfast at 0445, and then packed so they would be ready to leave the lodge at 0545.

He stated that when they arrived at East Wind Lake it was "pitch black", they used flashlights and the interior lights on the airplane to load up. He said that he was seated behind the pilot and Jim Spector was in the front right seat. He said he packed a small bag for the day and brought his fly rod to the airplane, all of the gear except for the fly rod was with him. He said after they were all loaded in the airplane with their headset on there was some discussion before they departed. He said that when they started taxiing before takeoff it was still dark.

He stated that after takeoff there was a loud "bang", at the same time he heard and felt an impact, he did not know what side of the airplane the sound or impact came from. After that the airplane veered left, then right, about 1-1.5 seconds later they impacted terrain. The guides pulled him out of the airplane, it was still pitch black outside.

He stated that he was not asked his weight before the flight and that he weighed about 190 pounds without gear. He said they all had chest waiters and boots on. He said there was no change in pitch in the sound of the engine, and that he "thought he was going to recover after we hit the water".