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**Date:** 2/3/2023  
**Subject:** ANC23FA001 Information provided by the FAA  
**Contact:** Dustin Hopkins ASI FAA FBK AK

Dustin provided the following information via an email dated 10/13/2022 in a word attachment.

On 10/12/2022 I and another ASI Todd Murray made contact with Jerald Stansel's son to gain access to the accident aircraft. Our intentions were to get a better look at the accident aircrafts floats. We wanted to verify that in the front two chambers of each float pump out tubes for water removal was connected at the top and bottom. We removed access panels required and observed both were connected and observed. No significant hardware was discovered in the floats for the two holes discovered in the bottom of the floats upon accident investigation.

Vincent Stansel, the son of the pilot had made reference that when the aircraft arrived in Alaska the standard bumpers for the EDO 3430 floats were not installed. A tire type material was installed as a bumper. Review of the aircraft records does not indicate when this modification was completed. There was also no evidence that this modification is approved for installation. Further investigation will need to happen.

There was also no float identification plates discovered for either float, this question was asked to Vincent and his comment was his dad was working on obtaining new data tags from the float manufacture.

There was a couple questionable patches on the bottom of the floats, I had Todd Murray shine a flashlight directly on the patches and a small amount of light was transferred into the interior of the float indicating to us that the questionable patches would allow water to fill the interior of the float chamber.

The remaining chambers were not checked for connection of the pump out tubes as time constraint was an issue with the son of the pilot.

A picture of this aircraft was discovered on the internet with the float modification done I mentioned above. I forwarded this picture to NTSB IIC Mark Ward.

Dustin Hopkins



*Figure 1 Undated photo of N217C with modified front float bumpers*



*Figure 2 Undated photo of the larger float bumpers*



*Figure 3 New bumpers installed by owner*



*Figure 4* Inside the float locker. You can see the upper side holes were plugged but the lower center holes were open.

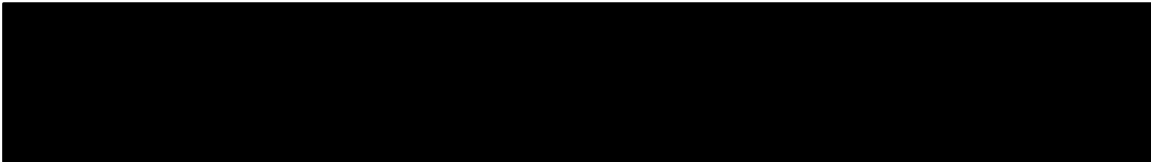
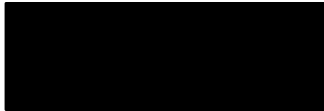
**From:** [Hopkins, Dustin \(FAA\)](#)  
**To:** [Ward, Mark](#)  
**Cc:** [Dunbar, David L \(FAA\)](#)  
**Subject:** N217C Floats  
**Date:** Thursday, October 13, 2022 2:44:26 PM  
**Attachments:** [N217C Floats.docx](#)

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**Dustin G. Hopkins**  
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