

Date: 7/29/2017

To: NTSB

Water take-Off mishap—N1400P

(7/27/2017)

After the owner/operator Ray Johnson received a briefing from the dock manager(s) and went with the briefer(s) for a visual look at the water conditions, he decided it was safe and could take-off. Ray Johnson was PIC of his own aircraft.

The plane was towed out through the Gap and released.

Ray conducted a powered-up circling take-off in the bay and headed out. The plane broke water, it seemed, and then hit some waves. From my view inside the right seat of the cockpit, it appeared after bouncing about 3 times, the right sponson/float caught a wave and sucked it down. At the point the plane flipped on its side with the right wing in the water. The right door popped open on impact but I was under water when the plane came to rest. Water pressure holding it down, trying to rush in, and made it really difficult to open it.

After managing to open the door, I was able to escape under water. I could see an air cavity in the cockpit through the left-side window. Shortly after the plane sunk.

Allen Stanlake