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Office of Aviation Safety - Central Region

Date: 06/14/2023

Subject: CEN23FA201

Contact: Capt. Warner A. Ketnor

According to Captain Ketnor, his fishing boat left the company docks about 1015 on the day of the accident. He noted the company boats were mainly fishing to the west. About ½ way down the shipping channel, about 1030, the accident pilot contacted the captain via company radio. The pilot was going to make a short flight to the west of the channel for a quick scout of any fish. The captain stated the pilot seemed upset, agitated, discourage, due to some type of situation that occurred the day before with his colleagues. The pilot stated several cuss words over the company radio, which was extremely abnormal and against company policies.

The accident pilot went down to about 500 ft for a buzz towards Cat Island. The captain stated he could continue to tell the pilot was upset and told him to go land to take a break. The pilot said he was going to fly up towards the north. That was the last communication the captain had with the pilot. At 1104, the captain texted the pilot to let him know he was not going to fish way out to the west, and there was no response from the pilot.

The captain heard no distress or emergency calls from the pilot.