



NTSB MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Adam Gerhardt
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region, Office of Aviation Safety (ERA)
National Transportation Safety Board

Date: 8/31/2020
Person Contacted: Frederick Cahn (FAA Inspector)
NTSB Accident Number: ERA20LA289

Narrative:

The following record contains excerpts from an email from the Federal Aviation Administration Inspector that traveled to the accident site and subsequently examined the airplane:

The airplane was submerged in a saltwater bay inverted. It was brought to the shore and examined.

1. Ignition was on both and Master switch on.
2. Fuel was on.
3. Carb heat was off.
4. Mixture and throttle forward.
5. Prop was able to be pulled though easily once water was removed from cylinders.
6. Crankcase was full of sea-water. Oil level reportedly was checked at preflight by pilot and tanks were sumped. The right tank was half full of sea water and the left tank was empty.
7. At least one gallon of avgas was recovered at the Gascolator and likely more was lost as the aircraft was inverted for several days.
8. Significant electrolysis evident in engine bay.
9. Impact damage, probably from underwater rocks, indicates probable spar damage on left wing.
10. Bottom of left wing wrinkled and shows bend.
11. Windshield departed aircraft upon impact. (Pilot's Statement)
12. Cowl departed aircraft and was recovered at site.
13. Right wing upper leading edge significantly damaged.
14. Upper vertical stab and rudder damaged.
15. Fuselage and instrument panel appear to be intact.