



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Caswell Beach, North Carolina	Accident Number:	CEN23LA290
Date & Time:	July 7, 2023, 08:30 Local	Registration:	N38HP
Aircraft:	GOOD JAMES AIR CAM	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Dragged wing/rotor/float/other	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

After a successful landing in the open sea, the pilot reported that the water was rougher than it appeared from the air and while making a subsequent take off attempt, the right float caught a swell and the airplane spun to the right resulting in substantial damage to both wings. The airplane came to rest inverted in the water. The pilot reported that there were no pre-accident mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

The pilot's failure to properly evaluate the sea state during an open sea landing and subsequent takeoff attempt resulting in an inadvertent impact with the water.

Findings

Personnel issues	Monitoring environment - Pilot
Environmental issues	Choppy surface - Ability to respond/compensate

Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Dragged wing/rotor/float/other (Defining event)
Takeoff	Nose over/nose down

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	61,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea; Multi-engine land; Multi-engine sea	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:	Class 3 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	October 19, 2021
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	May 11, 2023
Flight Time:	2501.7 hours (Total, all aircraft), 179.5 hours (Total, this make and model), 2376.2 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 35 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 6.5 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 0 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	GOOD JAMES	Registration:	N38HP
Model/Series:	AIR CAM	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	2002	Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	111042
Landing Gear Type:	Amphibian	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	January 27, 2023 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1500 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	768 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Rotax
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	912ULS
Registered Owner:	TYL HOLDINGS LLC	Rated Power:	100 Horsepower
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:	N/A	Operator Designator Code:	N/A

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KSUT, 25 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	5 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	08:30 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	323°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	260°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.88 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	29°C / 27°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Southport, NC (SUT)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Southport, NC (SUT)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	08:10 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	33.862177,-78.014984(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Rutt, Brian

Additional Participating Persons: Patricia Criscoe; FAA
Tim McQuain; FAA

Original Publish Date: September 28, 2023

Last Revision Date:

Investigation Class: [Class 4](#)

Note: The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.

Investigation Docket: <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=192573>

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant events in other modes of transportation—railroad, transit, highway, marine, pipeline, and commercial space. We determine the probable causes of the accidents and events we investigate, and issue safety recommendations aimed at preventing future occurrences. In addition, we conduct transportation safety research studies and offer information and other assistance to family members and survivors for each accident or event we investigate. We also serve as the appellate authority for enforcement actions involving aviation and mariner certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and US Coast Guard, and we adjudicate appeals of civil penalty actions taken by the FAA.

The NTSB does not assign fault or blame for an accident or incident; rather, as specified by NTSB regulation, “accident/incident investigations are fact-finding proceedings with no formal issues and no adverse parties ... and are not conducted for the purpose of determining the rights or liabilities of any person” (Title 49 *Code of Federal Regulations* section 831.4). Assignment of fault or legal liability is not relevant to the NTSB’s statutory mission to improve transportation safety by investigating accidents and incidents and issuing safety recommendations. In addition, statutory language prohibits the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report (Title 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b)). A factual report that may be admissible under 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b) is available [here](#).