

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD,	)	
Complainant,	)	
	)	Docket Number: 2024-0094
vs.	)	
	)	Enforcement Activity Number: 7795820
TODD DANIEL BRADEN,	)	
Respondent.	)	

**ADMISSION ORDER**

**Issued: March 15, 2024**

**By Order of Chief Administrative Law Judge: Hon. Walter J. Brudzinski**

**Appearances:**

**For the Coast Guard**

CWO Aaron P. Sala  
USCG Marine Safety Unit Port Canaveral

**For the Respondent**

Todd Daniel Braden, *Pro se*

## **ADMISSION ORDER**

On February 13, 2024, the United States Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Port Canaveral (Coast Guard) issued a Complaint against Todd Daniel Braden (Respondent) under 46 U.S.C. § 7703(1)(A) and 46 C.F.R. § 5.33, for violation of law or regulation.

Specifically, the Coast Guard alleges Respondent was serving as Master aboard the CYPRESS II, FL3376PF, an Inspected Small Passenger Vessel, while underway carrying passengers for hire, upon the waters of Cypress Lake on August 14, 2023, when the vessel collided with the CYPRESS III, FL 8688PH. The Complaint alleges Respondent violated 33 C.F.R. § 83.08(a), Inland Navigation Rule 8 – Action to Avoid Collision, for failing to take appropriate action to avoid collision by not altering the course and speed of the CYPRESS II within ample time to avoid colliding with the CYPRESS III. Respondent’s violation of 33 C.F.R. § 83.08(a) is a violation of law as described by 46 U.S.C. § 7703(1)(A) and defined by 46 C.F.R. § 5.33.

The Coast Guard further states, in aggravation, Respondent’s violation led to a collision with another vessel, resulting in 13 passengers being taken to the hospital for emergency care. The Coast Guard proposes a sanction of one (1) month outright suspension of Respondent’s Merchant Mariner Credential.

In Respondent’s Answer, dated March 11, 2024, he admits to all jurisdictional and factual allegations, and agrees with the Coast Guard’s proposed sanction.

WHEREFORE,

**ORDER**

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that Respondent's violation of law under 46 U.S.C. § 7703(1)(A) and 46 C.F.R. § 5.33 is **PROVED BY ANSWER**. I have carefully reviewed the file and find that the proposed sanction is appropriate under the provisions of 46 C.F.R. § 5.569.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Respondent's Merchant Mariner Credential is **SUSPENDED OUTRIGHT FOR ONE (1) MONTH**, commencing the date it is deposited with the Coast Guard.



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HON. WALTER J. BRUDZINSKI  
Chief Administrative Law Judge  
United States Coast Guard

Date: March 15, 2024