



N3790W Preliminary Accident Report

Published 14th June 2023

Location	Accident number
Waters off North Andros, Bahamas (25°21'15.0"N 78°11'50.6"W)	OCC – 2023/0019
Occurrence Date & Time	Registration
1 st June 2023 2:40 pm EDT (1840 UTC)	N3790W
Aircraft	Serial Number
Flight Conducted Under Instrument Flight Rules	32-715

Information:

Narrative:

On the 1st June 2023 at 3:10 pm EDT (1910 UTC), the Aircraft Accident Investigation Authority (AAIA) received notification of an occurrence involving a Piper PA-32-260 aircraft with United States registration N3790W that was ditched into waters off of North Andros, Bahamas while enroute to the Palm Beach International Airport (KPBI), West Palm Beach, FL, USA with five (5) persons on board.

The accident flight which departed the San Andros Airport (MYAN), Andros, Bahamas at approximately 2:20 pm EDT, was the fifth (5th) leg of a trip that originated from the Kissimmee Gateway Airport (KISM), Kissimmee, FL, USA, at approximately 6:45 am that morning.

The first stop was at Hidden Lake Airport (FA40), New Port Richey, FL, where the aircraft was topped off with 30 gallons of Avgas fuel, then on to Plant City Airport (KPCM), Plant City, FL, followed by Palm Beach County Park Airport (KLNA), West Palm Beach, FL, then to San Andros Airport (MYAN), Andros, Bahamas.

Before departing MYAN, an additional 25 gallons of Avgas fuel was purchased. The pilot in command of the aircraft advised that at no point prior to the accident flight was there any indication of a malfunction or fault observed with the aircraft.

At approximately 2:20 pm, N3790W departed MYAN on an Instrument Rules (IFR) flight plan with a filed altitude of 8,000 ft. The pilot in command indicated that upon transitioning to cruise flight and while at an altitude of 6,000 feet, he observed a loss of engine power.

Subsequently, he commenced emergency procedures in accordance with the manufacturer's checklist, also attempting to restart the engine. Those efforts were unsuccessful. Miami Center (Air Traffic Control) was advised of the emergency situation by the pilot, and he stated his intention to return to MYAN. Miami Center transferred the aircraft to Nassau Air Traffic Control and the pilot, upon realization that he would be unable to make the field, opted to ditch the aircraft in shallow waters (depth 8 – 10 feet) approximately 20 miles northwest of MYAN.

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Nassau Air Traffic Control initiated emergency response protocol and notified the Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPF), Royal Bahamas Defense Force (RBDF), US Coast Guard, and the Bahamas Air Sea Rescue Association (BASRA).

Marine and aerial assets were dispatched to the area, and all five occupants were located and rescued a while later. They were transported to North Andros, Bahamas where they were seen by medical professionals and there were no injuries reported in relation to this occurrence.

The coordinates where the aircraft came to rest was identified as latitude 25°21'15.0"N and longitude 78°11'50.6"W.

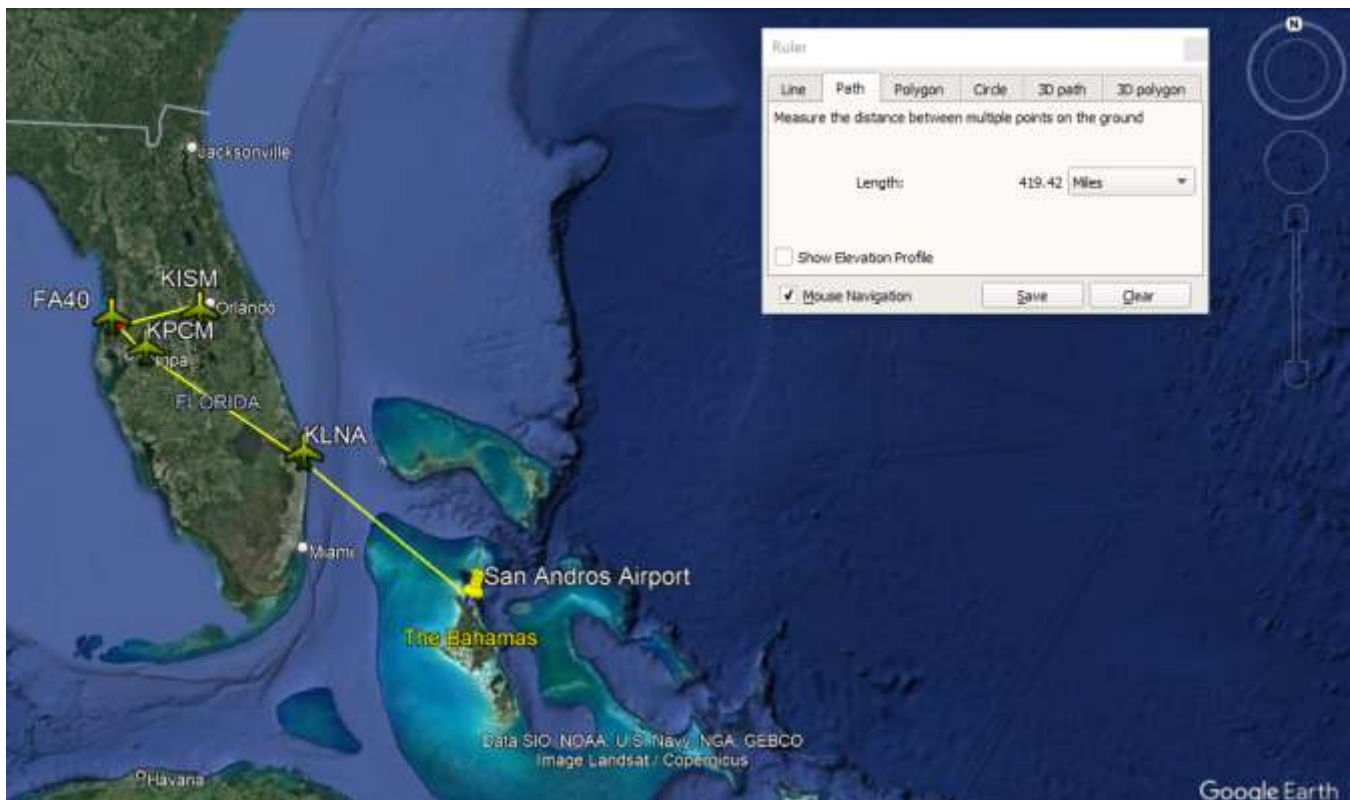


Fig.1 Aircraft route prior to accident flight

This is preliminary information, subject to change, and may contain errors. Any errors in this report will be corrected when the final report has been completed.



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Aircraft and Owner / Operator Information:

Aircraft Manufacturer

Piper Aircraft

Registration

N3790W

Model / Series

PA-32-260

Aircraft Category

Normal

Amateur Built**Operator**

Not Applicable

Air Carrier**Operating****Certificate**

Not Applicable

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan:

Conditions at Accident site

Visual Meteorological
Conditions

Condition of Light

Day

Observation facility**Elevation**

16 feet

Observation Time

1800 UTC

Distance from Site

31 miles

Temp /Dewpoint

29°C/25°C

Lowest Cloud Condition

SCT020

Wind Direction/Speed

230/05KT

Lowest Ceiling

BKN200

Visibility

>6 statute miles

Altimeter Setting

29.89 in.HG

Type of flight Plan**Filed**

Instrument Flight Rules

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Departure Point	Destination
San Andros Airport (MYAN), Andros, Bahamas	Palm Beach Int'l Airport (KPBI), West Palm Beach, FL, USA

Wreckage and Impact Information:

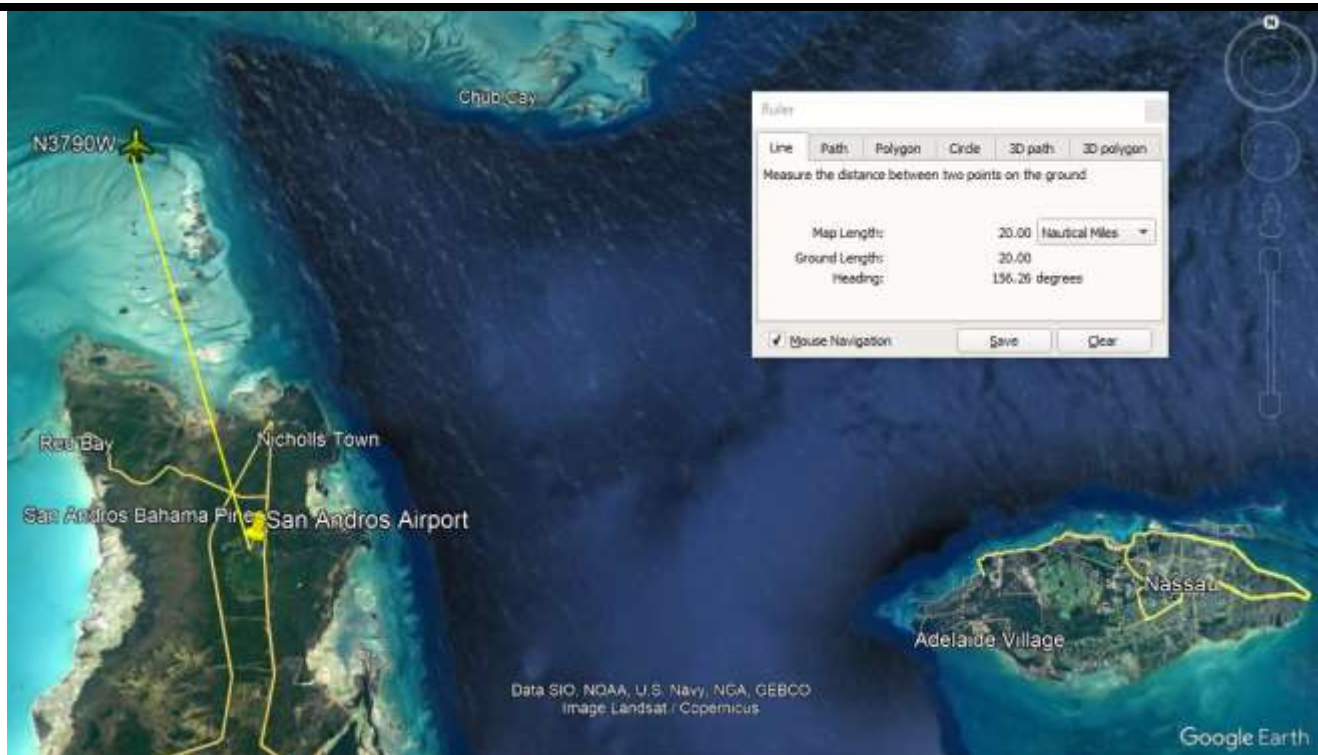


Fig. 2 Location of N3790W

Crew Injuries	Aircraft Damage
None	Aircraft Submerged
Passenger Injuries	Aircraft Fire
None	Not Applicable
Ground Injuries	Aircraft Explosion
None	Not Applicable

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Total Injuries

None

Latitude, Longitude

25°21'15.0"N 78°11'50.6"W



Fig.3 N3790W submerged off North Andros, Bahamas



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Administrative Information:

Investigator in Charge

Mr. Saint-Tino Morley

Additional Information

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