



Australian Government

Australian Maritime Safety Authority

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Search Suspended for Missing Fishermen

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) has suspended the search for two missing fishermen from a fishing trawler in the Torres Strait.

The search was initiated after the Rescue Coordination Centre in Canberra received a satellite detection of a 406 MHz distress beacon (EPIRB) at around 2.00am this morning. The distress beacon was subsequently located in the water 100 nautical miles north east of Thursday Island.

At around 8.15am one survivor was located in a small dinghy by AMSA's Cairns-based Dornier aircraft approximately five nautical miles from the last known position of the trawler. The man was able to provide authorities with information indicating how the trawler had rolled onto its port (left) side, and partially submerged before it sank. The man had not sighted either of his companions after the vessel had capsized. The search area was clearly identified by debris and fuel from the vessel.

Assets tasked during the search included: four fixed wing aircraft (including AMSA's Dornier search and rescue aircraft from Cairns and Darwin), five helicopters, four fishing vessels and an Australian Customs Vessel.

Information received from the survivor of the vessel and discussions with medical experts indicate the two missing crewmen will not have survived.

State authorities now have responsibility for the investigation of this incident.

Media inquiries:

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