



Australian Government
Australian Maritime Safety Authority

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THREE RESCUED FROM GROUNDING YACHT IN AUSTRALIA'S FAR NORTH-WEST

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) today coordinated the rescue of three people from the sloop *Petama* which had run aground on a reef 500 kilometres north of Broome.

The people had abandoned ship to a small inflatable dinghy and activated a Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) which was confirmed by satellite at around 10am (EST).

A Customs Coastwatch Dash-8 aircraft was diverted to the EPIRB position and located the yacht *Petama* aground on a shallow reef with the occupants of the vessel in a dinghy.

The 23-metre fishing vessel *Titan* responded to an AMSA request for assistance from ships in the area as did the tanker *Torben Spirit*.

One male survivor paddled a surf ski to the *Titan* before a line was attached to the remaining survivor's dinghy and it was pulled to the fishing vessel through the breaking waves around the reef.

All survivors were on board the fishing vessel by about 3.15 pm (EST).

The *Petama* was badly damaged after running aground in heavy seas.

Hi-resolution aerial photographs of the *Petama* aground are available in the media room on the Australian Customs Service website www.customs.gov.au

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