

Torres Strait Marine Safety Strategy

A new approach to safety in the Torres Strait




The Torres Strait region






Regional marine safety profile

- Strong local seafaring culture
- Marine fatalities
 - 9 fatalities 2002-2006
 - No fatalities 2007-2008; 2 fatalities 2009
- Over-represented in Search and Rescue events






Addressing safety concerns

- Torres Strait Marine Safety Strategy developed in collaboration with AMSA
- Conducted extensive consultation
 - Determine local safety issues and concerns
 - Program of culturally appropriate initiatives
 - Review the effectiveness of initiatives

Strategy objectives

- Reduce the incidence of lost seafarers
- Increase the survival of lost seafarers
- Increase community and industry commitment to safety
- Achieve outcomes through strong trusting partnerships that make communities & industry safer

1. Reduce the incidence of lost seafarers

OBJECTIVE: Improve training, maintenance of vessels and trip planning




Integrated safety campaign

- Range of materials prepared
 - TV commercials
 - Radio
 - Newsprint
 - Publications
- Provides key safety messages in both English and Torres Creole



BoatSafe Training

- Improve access to training and licensing
- Emphasise issues of local importance



2. Increase the survival of lost seafarers

OBJECTIVE: Improve the carriage of safety equipment and distress signals

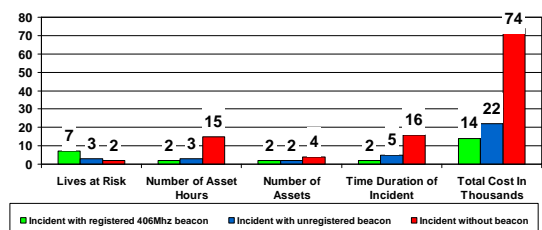


EPIRB exchange program

- EPIRBs are expensive and difficult to access
- Cost-subsidised 406 Mhz EPIRBs
- Recover, disable and dispose of 121.5 MHz beacons
- 390 beacons distributed to date
- EPIRBs distributed have been activated in successful rescues



Torres Strait Search & Rescue March 2008-March 2009



Data supplied by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority



3. Increase commitment to safety

OBJECTIVE: Enhance boating safety culture in the region



4. Achieve outcomes through partnerships

OBJECTIVE: Strong trusting partnerships that make communities and industry safer

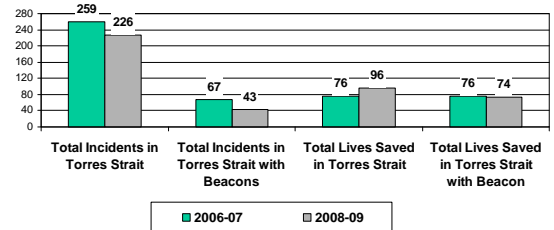


A new approach to safety in the Torres Strait

- Sub-regional, place-based focus
- Risk management and partnership approach
- Build on the strengths of the Torres Strait seafaring culture and identity



Incident statistics Torres Strait Search & Rescue
2006-07 and 2008-09



Thank you

For further information contact:

Captain John Watkinson
General Manager
Maritime Safety Queensland

