



Media Release

Saturday, 13th July 2013

SEARCH AND RESCUE UNDERWAY NORTH OF CHRISTMAS ISLAND

A search and rescue operation is underway following the capsizing of a vessel on Friday night about 87 nautical miles north of Christmas Island.

Initial reports received by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority's Rescue Coordination Centre Australia (RCC Australia) at approximately 11.15am AEST on Friday suggested the vessel was in need of assistance.

Assistance was requested from Border Protection Command at 12.31pm to locate the vessel and subsequently RCC Australia issued an urgency broadcast to shipping in the area at approximately 3.05pm AEST.

An oil tanker responded to the broadcast and reported the vessel was making way.

ACV Triton was tasked to respond and arrived on scene at approximately 10pm on Friday and boarded the vessel.

The vessel capsized about 10.30pm.

A total of 88 people have been safely recovered, there is one deceased and an estimated eight people missing.

A search of a 285 square nautical mile area involving two contracted aircraft and a Defence P3 Orion began at first light.

HMAS Bathurst and HMAS Albany remain in the area and have been searching for the missing people.

Media Enquiries:

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