



MEDIA RELEASE

Ship's Anchor and Chain Safely Recovered from Seabed

In a technically difficult operation, a large ship's anchor and 300m of heavy chain was successfully recovered from King George Sound on Saturday 18 February.

The anchor and chain was lost from the *MV Freesia*, a woodchip carrier that was manoeuvring in King George Sound on Wednesday 15 February. The anchor let go with the chain running out beyond the bitter end, to rest on the seabed near the channel in the Sound.

Retrieving an 8 tonne anchor and 300m of chain weighing approximately 45 tonnes, is a difficult operation, but it was successfully carried out with the skilled assistance of the local team of Svitzer tugs, commercial divers from Southcoast Diving Supplies and Colin Bairstow operating the workboat *Stackpool*. International supervision was also provided by parties representing the shipping company.

The Chief Executive Officer said "it is a great credit to the Harbourmaster, Captain Sean Bolt, that he was able to develop and execute a plan to recover the anchor and chain safely, and at minimum cost. This is an uncommon incident and the Port is not equipped with barges and cranes to undertake this sort of work, so it was a commendable effort from the entire team".

ENDS

Photo attached of the bow of the MV Freesia with the anchor chain being retrieved, assisted by one of the Svitzer tug boats.

For further comment please contact Chief Executive Officer, Brad Williamson.

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