VESSEL IN TROUBLE ON THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

At the time of writing, 12 January, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) is responding to a general cargo vessel, experiencing mechanical issues near the Great Barrier Reef.

Antigua and Barbuda-flagged general cargo vessel, *Thor Commander*, reported on 11 January she had damaged her main engine. The vessel is drifting approximately 31km north-east of Perkins Reef in the Swains Reefs group, about 379km north-east of Gladstone.

AMSA has tasked a tug from Gladstone to respond and two merchant vessels are nearby to assist after responding to a broadcast to shipping in the area. The tug is expected to arrive on Tuesday morning (13 January).

AMSA has directed the owners and Master of *Thor Commander* under the *Protection of the Sea (Powers of Intervention) Act 1981* to accept a tow to prevent it drifting further. Additionally, a direction was issued to the Master of the *Xinfa Hai* to engage in a towage operation and hold *Thor Commander* until the arrival of the tug. AMSA uses these powers to prevent potential maritime casualties and harm to the marine environment.

Queensland police vessel *Lyle M Hoey* has also diverted to assist, if required. AMSA will issue further updates when available.