



PFA Disgusted with Container Company Yang Ming and Aus Ship

20 September 2018

The PFA is disgusted with the behaviour of the Shipping Container company Yang Ming and their insurers Aus Ship in not cleaning up the containers fallen from their vessel the *YM Efficiency*.

Tricia Beatty, Chief Executive Officer for the Professional Fishermen's Association said, "Yang Ming and their insurers Aus Ship has shown a blatant disregard for the impact they have had on the commercial and recreational fishing communities of Newcastle and Sydney.

On 1 June 2018 the Liberian-flagged container ship *YM Efficiency* lost 81 containers about 30 kilometres southeast of Newcastle. The initial sub-sea search for missing shipping containers from the *YM Efficiency* has identified a total of 37 probable containers and associated debris on the sea floor off the coast of Newcastle. Two containers washed ashore but 42 remain unfound – remaining a danger to all maritime stakeholders.

"Our areas have essentially been closed down and fishers have been forced to work other fishing grounds due to the major safety risk that these containers pose to their lives. However, the way that the ship insurer's have set up the claims means that not a single dollar will be paid out to those fishers who have lost these viable fishing grounds," said Ms Beatty.

No work has been done to retrieve these containers and so we have lost important fishing grounds and are now forced to work far more restrictive areas. The Australian Maritime Safety Agency (AMSA) and NSW's Roads & Maritime Services (RMS) have been working with Yang Ming and Aus Ship to identify where the containers are located and discuss compensation but with little progress made.

However, in the meantime, our fishers' lives are put at risk as Yang Ming and Aus Ship show little inclination to clean up the seafloor that they have damaged or compensate those impacted.

For media enquire please contact Tricia Beatty, Chief Executive Officer of the PFA on 0429 303 371 or email ceo@pfa.com.au

[Please see attached photo to be acknowledged to the PFA]