



Professional Fishers Angry with Container Company Yang Ming and Aus Ship

6 November 2018

The Professional Fishers around Newcastle continue to foul their nets and lose income, and rubbish continues to wash up on our once pristine beaches due to lost containers from *YM Efficiency*. We are disgusted that more action has not been taking in cleaning up the containers fallen from their vessel. The environmental disaster is real.

Tricia Beatty, Chief Executive Officer for the Professional Fishermen's Association said, "The commercial and recreational fishing communities in Newcastle and Sydney have been shown a blatant disregard in relation to the impact this incident has had.

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. Five months on, there are still containers missing.

"We were promised surveys to be completed to allow fishers to minimise their risk, but this has not been completed. Five months later, still no action. The fishers are fouling their nets and putting their lives at risk, working in areas that have been partially surveyed following "modelling" that has proven to be inaccurate, as the fishers previously warned." said Ms Beatty.

The containers cover an area that is so widespread, that removal remains the only option. We ask that the surveys be completed by an appropriate vessel and plans to retrieve the containers be put into action immediately.

In the meantime, our fishers' lives are put at risk, the environment is being polluted, until those responsible take proper action to clean up the seafloor that they have damaged.

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]