



Maritime &  
Coastguard  
Agency

Safer lives,  
safer ships,  
cleaner seas

# Coastguard Agreement for Salvage & Towage (CAST)

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# Why Towage

- Once a ship has broken down and is drifting towards either the shore or into shipping lanes, a towing vessel may represent the first and only line of defence.
- The timely provision of assistance invariably needs to take place at short notice and a capable towing vessel is routinely operating within a narrow window of opportunity.
- An emergency towing operation may be required to:
  - Intercept ships that are disabled as a result of mechanical failure and render assistance, thereby preventing them from being driven ashore by wind or current.
  - Assist vessels that are at risk of causing pollution following collision or grounding.
  - Where appropriate to tow a casualty to a place of refuge from the weather.



# The Principle of CAST

- CAST is a MCA sponsored framework agreement with the British Tug Owners Association (BTA) detailing emergency chartering arrangements for towing services.
- The Agreement is applicable within UK Waters and the UK's Exclusion Economic Zone (UK EEZ).
- The Agreement covers:
  - activation, contractual arrangements and Operational procedures, should the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) request assistance from any towing vessel as part of the response to an incident.

# The Principle of CAST (Cont)

- **Level of commitment ?**
  - Identification of potential vessels available for deployment:
  - Cost of hire of the vessels declared to the membership (for 1 calendar year)
  - Hire period will be paid by UK Gov (through the MCA)
  - Additional towage services to be negotiated as necessary depending on the incident.

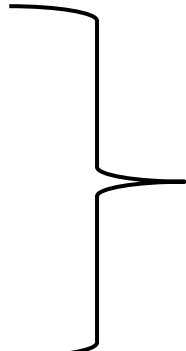


# Why CAST ?

- The Agreement acknowledges that there may be occasions when:
  - a casualty vessel needs these services, but the most appropriate salvage and towage solution is not readily available.
  - In such instances the services of a less capable towing vessel may prove invaluable in either full replacement of the anticipated requirement, or as a means of reducing further risk to the vessel casualty, until the most appropriate capability can be engaged.



# 2025 CAST Review

- Some positive progress with potentially 23 towing vessels to be published on the CAST list:
    - Targe Towing
    - Shetland Towage
    - Orkney Towing
    - A&P Falmouth
    - KML
  - Interest from:
    - Svitzer
    - Boluda
    - Eastern Marine
    - Quest Marine
- 
- Yet to be decided





# Questions

