



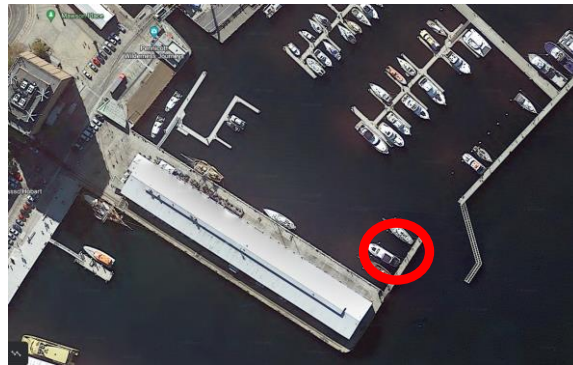
**MEDIA RELEASE (EMBARGOED UNTIL 115 PM THURSDAY 8 SEPTEMBER)**

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**MEDIA EVENT**

**115 pm Thursday 8 September**

**Elizabeth Street Pier – north side past T42 and Hobart Function and Conference Centre**



### **Seafood industry welcomes new vessel to support seafood training and mental health**

The Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council (TSIC) today announced the launch of the training vessel *Mariner* to not only support the delivery of skills and training to the Tasmanian maritime industry, but to also support seafood industry mental health.

The purchase of this locally built boat by Seafood and Maritime Training (SMT) is possible through support of a Tasmanian government Grant to TSIC.

The vessel, which is to be named *Mariner*, will be used to deliver training to the thousands of people employed or looking to be employed in the seafood and maritime industries in Tasmania and will also serve as a tender to the larger training vessel *Navigator*.

And in a double win for the industry, *Mariner* clearly promotes the Tasmanian Seafood Health and Wellbeing support delivered by Rural Alive and Well through the Stay Afloat partnership.

“Training is a key part of our seafood and maritime industry, and Seafood and Maritime Training provide majority of the training delivered in Tasmania.

It is great to be able to support this training, and even better to be able to promote our Stay Afloat program to the hundreds of students completing training with SMT each year” said Mr Julian Harrington, Chief Executive of the Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council.

Stay Afloat is a partnership between TSIC, the Tasmanian Rock Lobster Fishermen's Association, Seafood and Maritime Training, Tasmanian Salmon Growers Association, Tasmanian Abalone Council, the broader seafood industry and Rural Alive and Well Tasmania.

With two full time Stay Afloat support officers in RAW, the Stay Afloat program delivers meaningful mental health support and training to the Tasmanian seafood industry and just as important, helps build community resilience in the fishing ports and communities seafood operates in.

And in a further show of support, SMT has agreed to show a short Mental Health video, which promotes the Stay Afloat program and RAW services, as part of every entry level course they conduct.

“With health and safety underpinning the training we provide, the ability to bring mental health into our teaching via the new video, will have long term benefits for those who work in the industry and their families that support them” said Mr James Garde, Chief Executive Officer of Seafood and Maritime Training.

“To be able to have mental health on the agenda within all entry level training courses is such a positive step forward in addressing mental health issues in our industry.

The video will be developed over the following weeks, ready for delivery by mid-November.

#### **More information**

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