



Falmouth Harbour  
Commissioners

**- Media Information-**

**FALMOUTH HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS  
CO-ORDINATE OPERATION FOR DAMAGED CARGO SHIP**

After getting into difficulty in storm force weather 200 miles west of Scilly on Friday, (1<sup>st</sup> February) the MV HORNCLIFF arrived off the port Falmouth on Saturday afternoon for an initial inspection by Deputy Harbour Master Mark Killingback and surveyors from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and the vessel's insurers.

The inspection, which took place three miles offshore from Falmouth, revealed that there was a small hole in the plating above the waterline on the port side of the vessel and that a number of containers loaded with fruit had been lost or damaged. It was confirmed that there was no damage to the fuel tanks and there were no traces of oil or other pollutants coming from the vessel.

Once the decision had been made to admit the vessel, it was boarded by a Falmouth pilot, who with the assistance of tugs from Falmouth Towage Company and a workboat provided by the Falmouth Company Sub Marine Services Ltd, secured the vessel to the Crossroads Buoy.

Due to further expected bad weather, extra precautions were taken in mooring the 12,887-tonne, 153.5 metre vessel to the Crossroads Buoy.

At 14.45 today (Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February) the MV HORNCLIFF will be released from the mooring buoy and assisted by tugs will make the three quarter of a mile journey under its own power to A&P Falmouth's County Wharf where cranes will be used to re-stow the cargo dislodged during the storm and temporary repairs will be made in preparation for departure within the next few days.

Falmouth Harbour Commissioner Captain Mark Sansom commended the multi-agency response to the incident: *"Although every incident that we deal with is different, we have substantial experience in making the necessary assessments to allow a damaged vessel to enter the port."*

*"With further bad weather expected on Saturday evening it was extremely important that the MV Horncliff was brought to a sheltered position as quickly as possible. All of the parties involved in the operation worked together efficiently to secure a good outcome."*

**Ends  
4 February 2008**

## **Notes for Editors**

**Excellent filming and photographic opportunities will be possible from the vantage point at the rear of National Maritime Museum later this afternoon from approximately 14.45.**

**Interview opportunities are available with Falmouth's Deputy Harbour Master Mark Killingback – please contact Laura Tregonning on 01208 77900 to discuss your requirements.**

### **For Further details:**

Laura Tregonning  
Deborah Clark & Associates  
01208 77900  
laura@dca-pr.co.uk