

## LOCAL AUTHORITIES INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANISATION

### PRESS RELEASE

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**Emergency Towing Vessel show's its worth but what happens next time?**



THE NORWEGIAN owned cargo vessel *Fenja*, was towed to Lerwick, on Sunday morning, after she lost engine power around 50 miles northeast of Unst at 3am.

The Emergency Towing Vessel (ETV), *Anglian Earl*, which had been anchored in Inganess Bay, in Orkney, was tasked and arrived at the scene on Sunday evening to take the 82 metre, Maltese registered vessel with 11 crew on board under tow.

But what will happen in less than six weeks time when the Westminster Government removes the emergency towing vessels from service? For the first time since 1994 the UK will not have an asset capable of assisting any vessel in distress, countering pollution or tackling fires at sea and instead we will have to rely on the CAST system, an untested method of sourcing help

from ships that cannot guarantee help and that is currently deemed not fit for purpose.

John Mouat, KIMO International Secretariat said: *“The disgraceful decision to remove the ETVs from around the UK coast, which was done with no consultation, will leave our coastal communities and mariners at risk from accidents and pollution. At a time when other countries around Europe are increasing their ETV cover the UK Government is going against the advice of its own cost benefit analysis studies and making a short sighted cut that could cost local communities and the country much more in the long term.”*

There is undoubtedly a more cost effective way to fund the ETV services than the existing arrangement and KIMO UK urges the Government to identify a solution that will not leave our maritime workers and coastlines vulnerable to disaster in just a few weeks time.

*ENDS*

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Notes to editors

1) KIMO (Local Authorities International Environmental Organisation) is an association of coastal local authorities whose goal is to eliminate pollution from the Northern Seas for more information see [www.kimointernational.org](http://www.kimointernational.org)