

International Tug & OSV

INCORPORATING SALVAGE NEWS

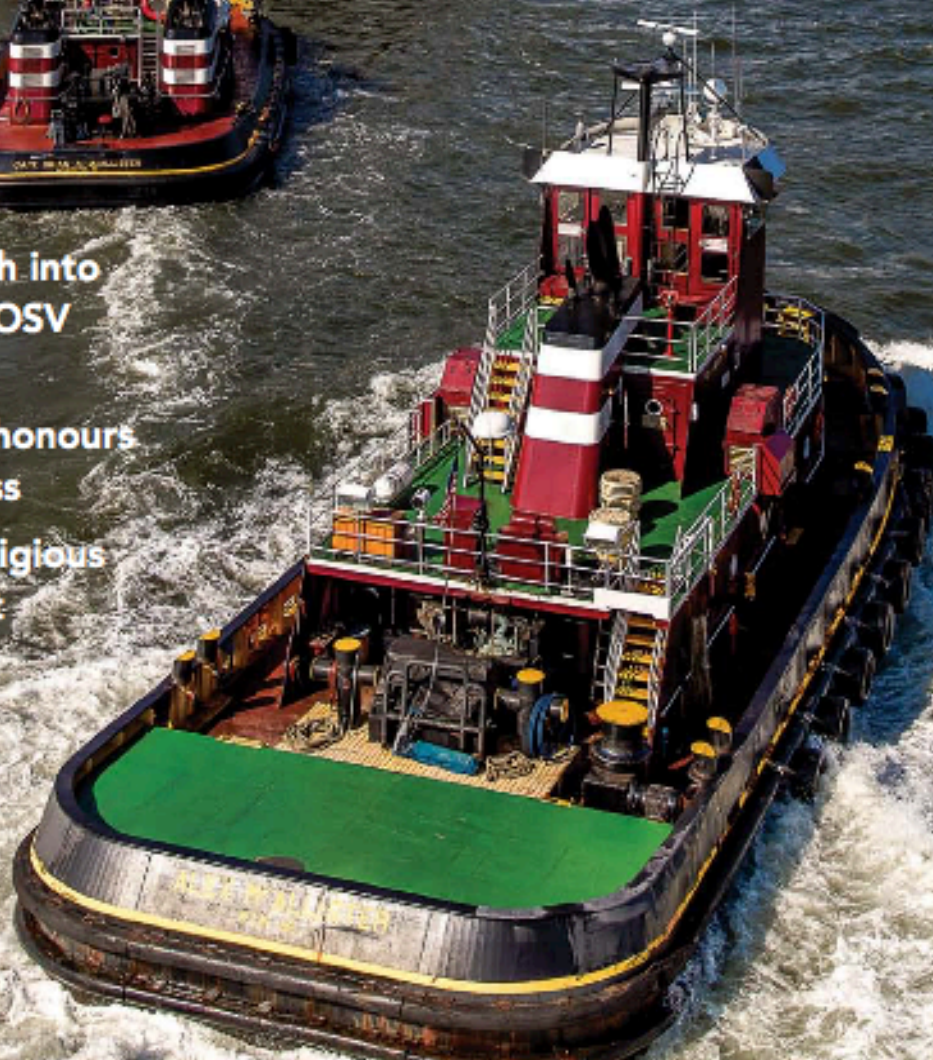
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Improving tug safety in world's largest bulk export port

Australian towage operator RivTow Marine has entered into a five-year agreement with SeaWays Consultants, Western Australia-based provider of marine live onboard and simulation tug master training. As part of this partnership, SeaWays will offer sophisticated, competency-based marine training and tugboat simulation in support of RivTow's ship escort, ship assist and towing services.

RivTow general manager Mark Dickson said: "This partnership demonstrates our long-term commitment to leadership and excellence in our safety and environmental performance, and we believe the programme will set a new industry benchmark."

Arie Nygh, managing director of SeaWays Consultants, said: "We are very proud to be partnering with RivTow to deliver our programme in the largest bulk export port in the world. RivTow's commitment to providing high-quality training is going to be key to the continuous safe and effective operation of modern high-performance tugs in the busy Port Hedland marine

environment, and I have no doubt it will provide a significant competitive advantage."

RivTow's investment commitment includes the utilisation of an advanced multi-console simulation facility in Fremantle. In addition, the programme will see the implementation of on-going simulator and live vessel training programmes, as well as annual competency assessments for its tug masters aimed at ensuring high standards are met. In addition, the partnership will provide on-going professional development as well as independent proof of competency and compliance for the company, its client and third-party stakeholders – such as pilots, harbour masters and insurers.

RivTow Marine manages the largest fleet of tugs in any port in Australia, with 19 tugs under management in Port Hedland on behalf of mining company BHP.

The company started operations in the Port of Port Hedland in January 2015, and today its fleet of 11 Rotor® tugs and eight ASD tugs provides a safe, flexible and efficient service to its customer in Port Hedland, allowing for the largest bulk export port in the world to

▲ One of RivTow Marine's RAstar 85-class escort tugs working at Port Hedland

operate seamlessly on a continual 24/7 basis.

SeaWays was contracted by BHP to provide its ClassNK-accredited ASD tug master training programme specifically for RivTow's six state-of-the-art RAstar85 ASD 35m, 85-tonne bollard pull escort tugs, designed by Canadian naval architects Robert Allan Ltd. A team of SeaWays trained and accredited training masters will train the fleet's tug masters and mates, and will then undertake the final competency assessment for the issuing of Certificates of Achievement.

The SeaWays training package includes three main tug-handling modules – ASD Tug Handling, Undertaking Harbour Towing, and Active Escort and Dynamic Assist – plus Markey winch training and two online eLearning lessons, covering Towing Theory, and Health, Safety, Environment and Quality (HSEQ) and Compliance. The training is compliant with all marine standards, including PMSC, ISM, ISO, STCW and UK Nuclear Warship Safety Case.



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