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MARITIME INDUSTRY SKILLS TRAINING BOOST FOR TORRES STRAIT AND NPA

A new Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area project will develop the work skills of people to operate commercial vessels and set them up for careers in the fishing, tourism and offshore exploration and production industries.

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Chairman, Mr Joseph Elu, said the focus of the Torres Strait Marine Pathways Project is to provide nationally recognised qualifications for commercial vessels.

“The project will also include business management skills, maritime industry safety management systems and a range of other skills based learning activities.

“This is a joint project which is part of the highly successful Torres Strait Marine Safety Program, a partnership between the TSRA, Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) and Queensland Police Service.

“The TSRA will provide management experience and oversight as well as funding to support the costs associated with a dedicated training vessel which is a key element in delivery of the courses.

“The Torres Strait Marine Safety Program will coordinate delivery of the project and also provide staff to assist in coordination and delivery of the training to be provided mainly by the Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE and International Maritime College trainers.”

Mr Elu said qualifications for successful participants will include the recently introduced Traditional Inhabitant Boat Licence, Open Coxswains Licence Certificate III in Seafood Industry and Occupational Diving Training.

“The Certificate III level courses have been customised for the Torres Strait Maritime Pathways Project to include four business units which are tailored to small fishing businesses.”

He said the program will result in an increase in the number of Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal people who will be safer, more skilled and confident in running sustainable maritime businesses and in particular fisheries related businesses.

The Torres Strait Maritime Pathways Project started training in September.

People interested in attending training are encouraged to contact Uel Bani at the AMSA office on Thursday Island on (07)40903079 or uel.bani@amsa.gov.au for more information.



Caption: The Torres Strait Marine Pathways Project will provide nationally recognised qualifications for commercial vessel operations.

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TSRA Media Contact – Ken Orr (07) 4069 0700 or 0448005207