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SEALINK ASSISTS WITH RENA SALVAGE

SeaLink's contracting vessel fondly known as "the BK" has been repositioned to Tauranga to assist in the salvage efforts of the stricken vessel Rena which ran aground on the Astrolabe Reef last month.

The BK has been fitted with equipment including a 100 tonne crane, large winches and other support equipment in readiness for the exercise. Divers and dive gear are also based onboard the vessel and a great deal of equipment testing has been undertaken during the set up process. Whilst the BK is unlikely to be directly involved in removing the containers from the vessel, she will be used to recover and transport any containers and debris that ends up in the ocean during the salvage process.

Transponders have been fitted to 118 of the most precarious containers so that if they fall into the sea they can be tracked. Initially 88 containers were dislodged and to date only 19 have been located.

It is estimated that the salvage job will take several months to complete as the painstaking process requires operators to be lowered in cages to unhook each container prior to its removal.

For further information please contact:

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