



# MERITORIUS SERVICE AWARD

presented to

## Station 20 – Shelly Beach

for the prompt and effective action taken by Station 20 Shelly Beach when rescuing 2 injured crew members of a passing bulk carrier after an onboard accident.

At 12h26, Sunday, 16 October 2022, NSRI Shelly Beach duty crew were activated by MRCC (Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre) reporting injuries to 2 sailors onboard a bulk carrier motor vessel 19 nautical miles off-shore East of Port Shepstone.

It appears that while working on the life boat onboard the motor vessel the life boat deployed unexpectedly, plunging into the sea, injuring the mechanic who was in the life boat and crew still onboard the ship were unable to reach the life boat in the water.

NSRI Rocky Bay and NSRI Port Edward were placed on alert and the NSRI rescue craft Spirit of Dawn from Shelly Beach was launched accompanied by a Med-Evac rescue paramedic, who is a crew member of NSRI Shelly Beach. On launching at Shelly Beach sea conditions were 2 to 2.5 meter swells.

On arrival on the scene in now 5 to 6 meter swells, NSRI rescue swimmers were deployed into the water and they boarded the life boat. A critically injured Indian seaman with trauma injuries, believed to be aged in his 50's, was safely extricated from the life boat and brought onboard the rescue craft, where he was taken into the care of the Med-Evac paramedic who initiated immediate medical treatment onboard the rescue craft.

A second adult seaman, whose cause of injuries remains unknown, was secured into a Stokes Basket stretcher, and was hoisted aboard the rescue craft by the ship's crew using their ships crane. He too was found to be in a critical condition with trauma injuries. All this achieved in 5 to 6m swells. The technical difficulty in completing this rescue is indicative by the fact that it commenced at 12:26 and only completed at 18:00.

In the care of the paramedic they were both brought to NSRI Shelly Beach rescue base and transported to hospital in serious but stable conditions by the Medi-Evac ambulance.

Hospital staff, on the Monday morning, confirmed that both sailors are recovering in hospital.

This medical rescue operation in extremely challenging sea conditions is highly commended.

NSRI recognises that the training, professionalism and ethos of the crew at Station 20, Shelly Beach resulted in the successful execution of this remarkable rescue operation, and must be congratulated for their meritorious service in the best traditions of NSRI.

We salute you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dave Macready'.

Dave Macready  
Chairman of the Board of Directors



21 July 2023

Date