



# MERITORIUS SERVICE AWARD

presented to

## Umfondini

It gives me great pleasure to present this award on behalf of all of us at NSRI for what you did on Friday, the 14th April 2023 when you diverted your fishing vessel to assist 26 fellow seamen adrift in a life raft, having abandoned ship on fire, south of Cape Point.

At 12:40a.m. NSRI Simon's Town was activated by the NSRI Emergency Operations Centre following reports of a 35m Hout Bay-based support vessel on fire, south of Cape Point. All shipping traffic in the area was alerted by means of an all-ships alert on marine VHF radio, as part of a coordinated response initiated by MRCC (Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre) and Telkom Maritime Radio Services.

The skipper of the fishing vessel Umfondini, immediately diverted to assist, along with a cargo vessel in the area. Upon reaching the life raft, the crew of the Umfondini assisted all 26 of the casualty crew safely onto the fishing boat. All seamen were accounted for and uninjured. The casualty crew had been forced to abandon their vessel which was well ablaze.

The skipper of the Umfondini transported the casualty crew to the calmer waters within Buffels Bay where they were met by the responding NSRI crew. They were safely transferred across to NSRI rescue vessel Donna Nicholas and taken back to the NSRI rescue base in Simon's Town.

NSRI commends the swift response of the skipper of Umfondini and the manner in which a potential tragedy was averted.

We salute you.

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

Dave Macready  
Chairman: Board of Directors



21 July 2023

Date