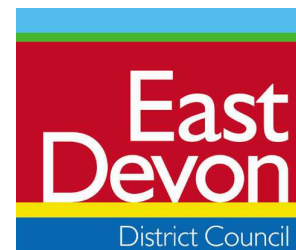




INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



News Service

12 July 2007

Crippled Napoli to be beached on evening tide

THE Secretary of State's Representative for Maritime Salvage and Intervention, Robin Middleton today (Thursday) decided to re-beach the 'MSC Napoli' on the evening high tide.

Mr Middleton said, "The wreck is in a worse state of deterioration than previously thought, with the crack of the hull being some 3 metres wide in places and is therefore incapable of being towed."

Commenting on news that the Napoli is to be re-grounded, a spokesman for East Devon District Council said: "We are naturally disappointed that the ship cannot be towed away in one piece and soon.

"However, we appreciate that the Secretary of State's Representative had no choice but to bring the ship back closer to shore, given the fragile condition of the hull.

"We will be renewing our close working partnership with all of the agencies that have been involved in this incident since the very early days to ensure that the salvage process goes as smoothly as possible and with minimal disruption to the economy and everyday life of the district.

"Our major concerns as we enter this new phase of the operation are that the shoreline and wildlife are protected and that any impact on the livelihoods of fishermen and the tourist industry is minimised. We will of course be monitoring the situation closely, but we would add that we have every faith in the expertise and professionalism of the MCA and their excellent salvage team to ensure that any possible threat of pollution is tackled promptly and effectively.

"We must accept that the Napoli is not yet ready to leave East Devon's shores and that she may now be here for some time to come. The upside of this news is that she will continue to be a source of interest for locals and visitors alike as they look out to sea from our beaches during the coming summer holiday and possibly beyond".

Ends

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