



Australian Government

Joint Agency Coordination Centre

MH370 Operational Search Update

10 June 2015

This operational report has been developed to provide regular updates on the progress of the search effort for MH370. Our work will continue to be thorough and methodical, so sometimes weekly progress may seem slow. Please be assured that work is continuing and is aimed at finding MH370 as quickly as possible.

Key developments this week

- The supporting frame of *GO Phoenix*'s deep tow system was damaged whilst on deck in rough weather. A significant amount of welding is required to rectify the damaged frame and the initial plan was to undertake this work on-site. On 3 June, the vessel's supply of bottled oxygen and acetylene (both required for welding) was exhausted, requiring the ship to return to Fremantle for resupply. The vessel arrived in Fremantle on 8 June. When *GO Phoenix* departs, the vessel will return to the search area, conducting repairs en route.
- On 6 June, *Fugro Discovery* resumed search operations following a week of weather avoidance.
- On 6 June, *Fugro Equator* resumed search operations following a week of weather avoidance. On 7 June, however, the vessel once again ceased search operations due to severe unfavourable weather conditions. The vessel continues to use the hiatus to conduct bathymetric survey operations, mapping additional areas of the seafloor which may be incorporated into the search.

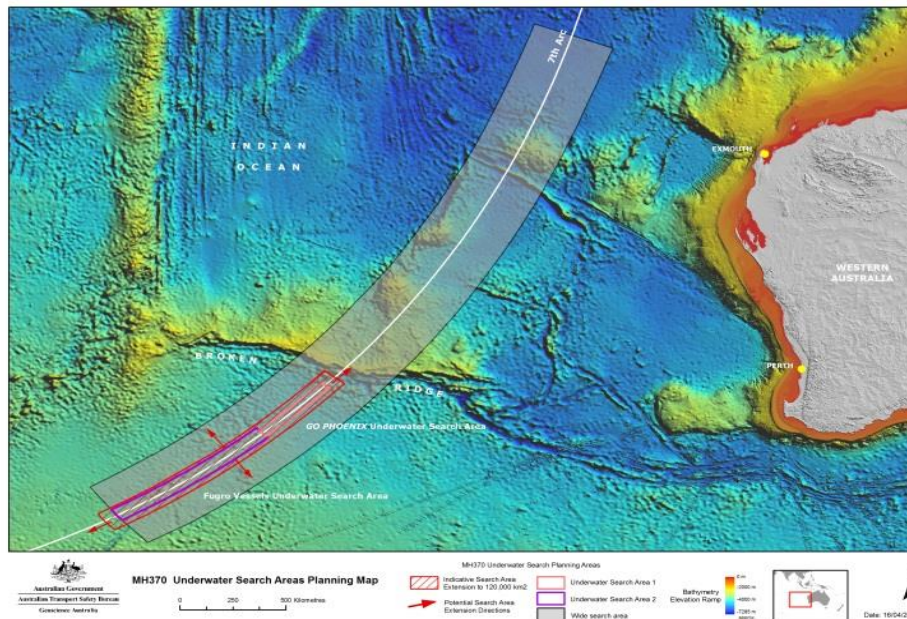
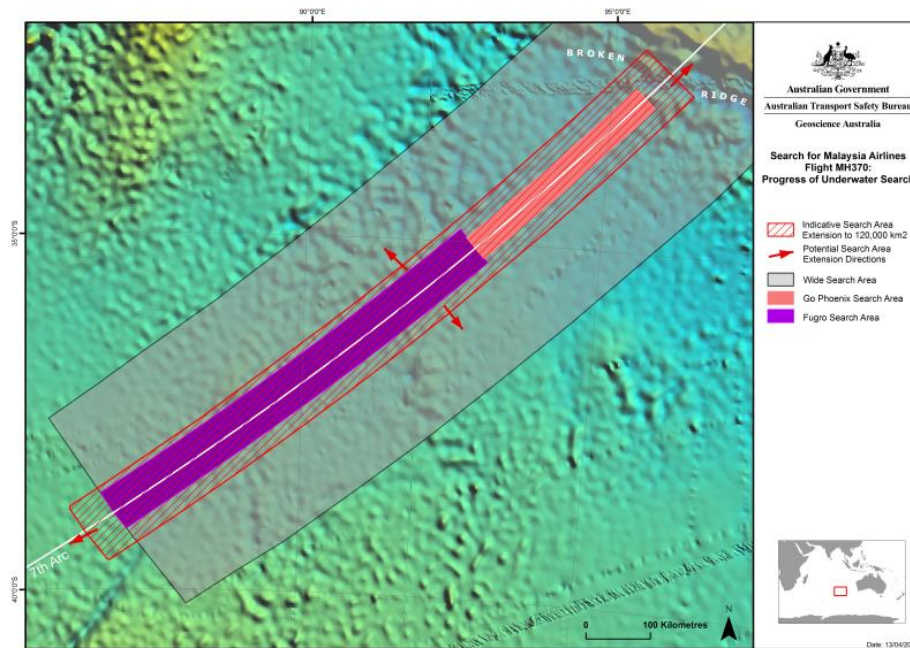
Underwater search

As announced in April, the search area has been expanded beyond an original 60,000 square kilometre search area to enable up to 120,000 square kilometres to be searched if required. In the absence of credible new information that leads to the identification of a specific location of the aircraft, Governments have agreed that there will be no further expansion of the search area beyond the 120,000 square kilometres.

Search operations have been modified and *Fugro* vessels have undergone winterisation to enable continuous search operations during winter, as well as to ensure that the required area is searched as quickly and effectively as possible. Over coming weeks, search operations will be focused in the south to take advantage of the last of the better weather in that area prior to the expected onset of continuous poor weather during winter. Safety of the search crews, as always, remains a priority and vessels and equipment utilised will vary to reflect operational needs, particularly during the winter months.

Upon completion of the current swing, the current contract with Phoenix International will expire and *GO Phoenix* will cease search operations and transit to Singapore.

More than 50,000 square kilometres of the seafloor have been searched so far.



The Search Strategy Working Group continues to review evidence associated with MH370 which may result in further refinement of, or prioritisation within, the search area.

In the event the aircraft is found and accessible, Australia, Malaysia and the People's Republic of China have agreed to plans for recovery activities including securing all the evidence necessary for the accident investigation.

Weather



Fugro Discovery encounters rough conditions in the Southern Indian Ocean as the search for MH370 continues through the winter months. Source: ATSB, photo by John Draves.



Fugro Discovery encounters rough conditions in the Southern Indian Ocean as the search for MH370 continues through the winter months. Source: ATSB, photo by James Hancock.

The weather is forecast to be moderate over the next few days, but will worsen on the weekend. Search operations will continue through the winter months, but pauses are anticipated.

This week, new videos have been released showing the weather conditions the vessels are encountering in the southern Indian Ocean: <http://jacc.gov.au/media/video/index.aspx>