



Australian Government

## Joint Agency Coordination Centre

### MH370 Operational Search Update

6 July 2016

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

- *Fugro Equator* continues to conduct underwater search operations as weather and sea conditions allow.
- *Fugro Discovery* resupplied in Fremantle and was en route to the search area, however an engineering issue has required the vessel to return to port for maintenance.
- *Dong Hai Jiu 101* is en route to the search area, after returning an injured crew member to Fremantle. The vessel is expected to arrive in the search area early on 6 July.

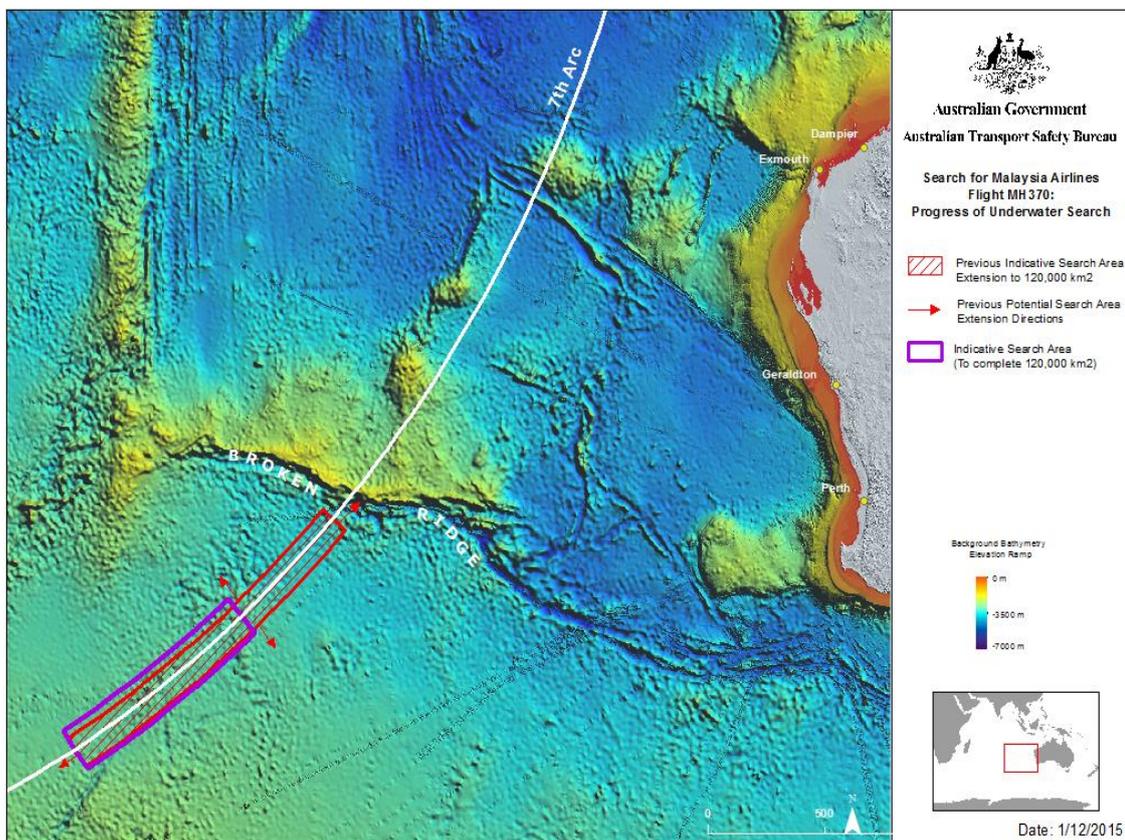
#### Underwater search operations

Ongoing poor weather conditions have severely impacted search operations and resulted in delays to search operations of around 6-8 weeks. Since the onset of poor conditions associated with winter weather, progress has slowed with only a minimal area searched during this time. Marginal weather conditions still allow the use of deep tow equipment provided conditions are such that the equipment can be safely deployed and recovered, however, the autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) which is used to survey some of the most difficult portions of the search area such as the underwater canyon areas that cannot be searched effectively using the deep tow sonar, can only be launched in the calmer conditions of spring and summer.

In the event of further poor weather, or delays as a result of unforeseeable problems such as equipment failure or crew incapacity, searching the entire 120,000 square kilometre search area may continue well beyond the winter months.

More than 110,000 square kilometres of the seafloor have been searched so far. 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.

Consistent with the undertaking given by the Governments of Australia, Malaysia and the People's Republic of China in April last year, 120,000 square kilometres will be thoroughly searched. 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.



## Weather

Weather conditions are forecast to be variable over the coming week and search operations may again be disrupted.