



## **NORTH SUNDERLAND (SEAHOUSES) LIFEBOAT STATION.**

Seahouses, Northumberland.

Tel: 01665 720370

From Station Press Officer :

Tel :

### **PRESS RELEASE No 1/99**

At 3.13am on the morning of Monday 18 January, 1999, Tyne Tees Coastguard requested immediate launch of the Seahouses Lifeboat, to go to the aid of a sinking fishing boat, approximately 21 miles south east of Seahouses.

An RAF Helicopter with pumps on board was also scrambled from RAF Boulmer. The sea conditions were moderate, becoming rough. The Lifeboat reached the casualty at about 4.35am, by which time the pumps had been deployed from the helicopter, and a number of other ships had responded to the "MAYDAY" distress call. The casualty, the fishing vessel "*NOVA SPERO*", from Eyemouth, with five persons on board, was now out of immediate danger. The source of the flooding had been dealt with by the crew, although she had lost all power due to her gearbox and some electrics being flooded. She was taken in tow by the Eyemouth Fishing vessel "*Margaret*", and the lifeboat stood by, and escorted the vessel until the coxswain was satisfied that the situation was under control.

The lifeboat then returned to her station at 7.15am. The "*Nova Spero*" was unable to enter Eyemouth Harbour until after midday due to the state of the tide. None of the crew of the casualty were injured or required an medical assistance, and HM Coastguards were arranging for the pumps to be returned to RAF Boulmer.

The incident could have been more serious, but for the action of the crew of the "*Nova Spero*", and the vessels and rescue services who went to her immediate assistance. A frightening experience for her crew on a dark, cold and stormy night, which fortunately ended well.

Ends.

North Sunderland  
(Seahouses) Lifeboat Crew.

