

TORM HERON AGROUND

Friday morning just past 11.00 a.m. Humber Coastguard was informed by Vessel Traffic Services at Humber Control that the 2900 ton tug **`Torm Heron`** was stranded on a mud bank and listing at up to



30 degrees on the falling tide with 14 people on board including a pilot, just off Immingham.

She was carrying 440 tonnes of bunker fuel. But there was no apparent sign of any pollution in the water, or damage to the vessel, however the vessel later settled back to a 15 degree list.

Humber Coastguard

immediately requested the launch of the **Humber lifeboat** and the **Cleethorpes** in shore **lifeboat**

whilst VTS maintained a watch on the vessel via their remote camera. The pilot vessel also proceeded to the scene as did the tug **`Tradesman`** who stood by and offered to take any non essential crew off the **`Torm Heron`**. Eight non essential crew were taken off by the **`Tradesman`** and landed onto a nearby jack up rig. A rescue helicopter was also scrambled; however this was stood down when no one was required to be immediately lifted off the vessel.

The vessel was refloated at 1500 hrs on the same afternoon by 3 chartered tugs, the crew was put back on and then stood by with the **Serviceman**, whilst big sister the **Moira**, pulled her off. She went to anchor, and went into Alex dock, probably MMS drydock.



Info / photo's : Peter Elsom ©