

## Search status update at 21<sup>st</sup> Nov 2015 16.30UT

The two Fugro boats returned to the search area in the last week, after visits to Fremantle.

As reported by the ATSB, Fugro Equator performed a small amount of bathymetry work, working south outside the 7<sup>th</sup> Arc, before resuming detailed scanning: Equator back-tracked 70km before starting that detailed scan. Equator then continued to the SW end of the current search area and turned north of a SW extension to the area where it had carried out bathymetric work some months ago. Its speed suggests it has retracted the towfish from the water and is performing more bathymetric investigation. Possibly it will complete that task across the full depth of the search area, working north, as indicated on the map below.

After reviewing the tracks of Equator over the last few months, outside the large area (around 100000sq.km) it originally scanned bathymetrically last year, I conjecture that the area to 80km outside the 7th arc has now been adequately characterised to allow detailed towfish work (the situation east of longitude 92E is less clear). This increase in the bathymetric area is shown on the map.

Fugro Discovery had been carrying out detailed scanning along the outside edge of the previously covered area. On November 20<sup>th</sup> she turned north, then south again on the 21<sup>st</sup> for a short 10 hour leg, and then turned again at 1400UT on the 21<sup>st</sup> on a course towards Fremantle at transit speed (10kt). The S-AIS status data does not yet indicate Fremantle as the destination. This would be an early port-call, even on the schedule before the medical emergency. Weather does not appear to be poor.

See <http://tinyurl.com/p6k93cb> for last detailed report from 15<sup>th</sup> November.

