



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - 23 December 2019

Christmas dinner assured for Craigleith tug crew

The crew manning the tug, the Craigleith, on the River Forth on Christmas Day have been assured a traditional festive dinner after the marine team at Forth Ports made a special delivery of their turkey – by pilot boat ([see pics](#)).

A three-strong crew of the Craigleith will be onboard the tug over the festive period moored close to the Braefoot Gas terminal, east of the Forth Bridge on the River Forth, to ensure the safety and smooth transit of ships using this busy waterway. Tugs are also used in situations which need firefighting and marine pollution control capabilities; however these situations are a very rare occurrence.

Each year, Forth Ports gives each of its employees across the group a fresh turkey for Christmas. In Scotland, over 500 turkeys are distributed around the ports of Dundee, Rosyth, Grangemouth, Burntisland, Methil and Leith and the teams working on the Forth and Tay Estuaries.

Commenting on the festive delivery to the Craigleith, **Stuart Wallace, Chief Operating Officer at Forth Ports**, said: *“It’s a long-standing tradition in the ports industry that employees get a turkey for Christmas to enjoy with their families. The Craigleith’s crew will be out on the river and away from their friends and families this Christmas but we weren’t going to let them miss out on this important custom. Our thanks and appreciation go to them and all our teams around the business who are working over the festive period.”*

The Craigleith is the pride of Forth Ports fleet of tugs. Launched last year, the tug was named the Craigleith in keeping with the tradition of the tugs on the Forth being named after islands in the estuary. The Fidra, Seal Carr and Oxcar tugs are the other tugs in service.

[check this!] Picture: Captain Ben Greenshields from the Craigleith receiving the Christmas turkey from Forth Ports Theo Currie, Towage Operations Supervisor.

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Further information:

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Notes to editors:

- Forth Ports Limited owns and operates eight commercial ports in the UK – Tilbury on the Thames, Dundee on the Firth of Tay and six on the Firth of Forth – Leith, Grangemouth, Rosyth, Methil, Burntisland and Kirkcaldy.
- Within and around the Firths of Forth and Tay, Forth Ports manages and operates an area of 280 square miles of navigable waters, including two specialised marine terminals for oil and gas export and provides other marine services, such as towage and conservancy.
- www.forthports.co.uk @forthports

About the Craigleith: The tugs on the Forth are used on a daily basis to assist vessels by pushing or towing them. The tug Master and crew are experts in ship assist. They are capable of manoeuvring the tug as directed by the Pilot or Master safely whilst working in close proximity to the vessel they are assisting or quay structures. The type of vessels that will use a tug are generally larger ships, or those required to be manoeuvred into confined areas such as locks or berthing between other ships. Tugs will also assist vessels that have no means of propulsion eg: barges. In addition to towage duties, the tugs are also used in emergency situations and have firefighting and marine pollution control capability however these situations are a very rare occurrence.

The Craigleith has been constructed according to ABS with FiFi1 notation and is fitted with a forward DMT winch and a 90 tonne SWL Data Hidrolic towing hook aft. A Palfinger deck crane is also fitted. The accommodation includes two single and three double cabins, all with en suite facilities and finished to a high standard. The model selected is a Sanmar Terminal Class, named Craigleith. It is a Robert Allan Ltd RAstar 2800 design measuring 28.2m x 12.6m. This is fitted with a pair of MTU main engines each developing 2000kW and driving Schottel Rudderpropellers to give a forward bollard pull of 70 tonnes and a free-running speed of 12.5 knots.