

Risk Assessment for Boat Dive

Branch..... Location..... Date.....

Hazard	Who	Risk Evaluation	Controls	Immediate measures to deal with consequences if risk does occur
Ear damage	All divers	Medium	Trainees receive specific instruction in 'ear clearing'. Divers or snorkellers do not dive when suffering from a cold.	Assistance from instructor or buddy to bring casualty to the surface. Apply appropriate first aid.
Mask squeeze	All divers	Low	Only mask which encloses both eyes and nose in the same airspace used. Trainees receive specific instruction in 'mask equalisation'.	Assistance from instructor or buddy.
Injury from falling cylinders	All	Low	Lay heavy equipment down (shore side). Secure equipment to prevent movement when loaded on boat. Monitoring by buddy or instructor.	First aid by instructor or buddy.
Running out of air	All divers	High	All SCUBA sets fitted with cylinder pressure gauges. Air requirements calculated prior to dive. Monitoring by instructor or buddy. Instructor to trainee ratios in accordance with BSAC recommendations.	Buddy to provide AAS and bring casualty to surface.
Rapid ascent	All divers	High	Progressive training. Correct weighting of all divers. Monitoring by instructor or buddy. Instructor to trainee ratios in accordance with BSAC recommendations. Visual datum used for ascent exercises where appropriate.	Diving monitored by boat cover able to provide/direct assistance. Oxygen Administration equipment and trained administrators on site

DCI	All Divers	Medium	All dives planned using either BSAC '88 tables or dive computer. All divers to carry a watch and depth gauge and/or dive computer. Recommend use of appropriate nitrox mix to safely extend bottom times. Dive Boat to carry fresh drinking water.	Oxygen administration equipment and trained administrators on site. Seek further assistance from Coast Guard.
Nitrogen Narcosis	All Divers	High	Progressive build up of depth experience by all divers. Trainee divers to be accompanied by experienced Dive Leader/Instructor while gaining depth experience.	Dive buddy to render assistance, encourage diver to reduce depth.
Water temperature	All divers	Medium	All divers to wear appropriate thermal protective clothing, e.g. drysuit, gloves and hood.	Provide first aid treatment for hypothermia. Hospitalise.
Regulator free flow (cold water)	All divers	Low	Minimise out of water use of regulator. Instruct trainees on how to breathe from a free flowing regulator. Divers to carry AAS.	Buddy to render assistance. Abort dive and surface.
Entanglement with nets/lines/ underwater obstacles	All divers	Medium	Dive marshal to brief divers of danger areas. All divers carry appropriate cutting implement, such as filament line cutter, wire snips, diving knife etc.	Assistance from buddy. Buddy to raise alarm to shore party. Diver to be removed from danger and exit the water. Apply first aid as appropriate. Hospitalise, if required.
Diver separation	All divers	High	Divers to dive in buddy pairs at all times. Contact to be maintained throughout dive. Divers recommended to carry strobes or buddy lines.	Divers to surface immediately and re-establish contact. Render assistance as required.
Separation From Boat During Drift Dives	All Divers	High	Agree dive plan with cox'n. All divers to follow same plan. Deploy shot line at entry point as reference marker. All dive pairs to use SMB and carry surface location device, e.g. flag, strobe, whistle.	Use surface location device to re-establish contact with boat.

Diving equipment malfunction	All divers	Low	Divers to carry AAS to cover loss of primary second stage, to be checked in brief. Buddy check to be conducted before every dive. All diving equipment checked as being fit for purpose. Use of independent air source recommended if diving beyond 20M.	Dive to be aborted. Buddy to render assistance to casualty. Casualty to be removed from water. Appropriate first aid to be applied. Hospitalise, if required.
Loss of buoyancy at surface	All divers	Medium	All buoyancy devices to be checked for functionality prior to dive in brief. Dive to be aborted if any indication of BC malfunction is detected. Boat Cox'n / crew members to wear life jacket.	Buddy to render immediate assistance to casualty. Divers to raise alarm to shore party. Shore party to provide additional assistance.
Reduced underwater visibility	All divers	High	Diver numbers in water to be controlled and monitored. Divers recommended to carry strobes or buddy lines.	Strobes or buddy lines recommended to be used in the event of reduced visibility. Dive to be abandoned in the event of adverse reduced visibility. Divers to surface and exit. Dive marshal to abort diving.
Slips, trips and falls	All	Low	Dive marshal to advise all divers of no running on site. Make party aware of any potential dangers.	Remove casualty from danger and apply appropriate first aid. Hospitalise, as required.
Contact with other water users	All	Low	Dive boat to fly "A" flag when divers in the water. Boat crew to maintain surface watch for other surface water users. Position boat between divers and any surface traffic. All divers to surface using shot line or DSMB. Contact Authorities if diving in Harbours. Use SMB in areas with surface traffic.	Remove casualty from the danger and water. Apply appropriate first aid. Seek medical advice. Hospitalise.

Boat / Engine failure	All Divers	Medium	Ensure engine serviced/checked prior to launch. Check fluid levels etc. Ensure enough fuel for planned voyage with reserve. Ensure two crew members on board at all time. Carry simple tool kit/basic spares on boat. Carry "in date" flares suitable for distance offshore.	Deploy anchor in event of engine failure. Contact Coast Guard immediately if divers in the water.
Man Overboard	All Divers	Medium	Cox'n not to engage drive until all divers seated/holding on. Boat must have min 2 crew at all times. Cox'n must be qualified (LUEC approved) or under direct instruction of qualified handler.	Mark MOB position on GPS (one touch button). Start search/recover diver into boat. Inform Coast Guard if diver not visible.
Deteriorating surface conditions	All divers	Medium	Weather forecasts to be taken prior to diving and recorded in dive plan. Diving to be aborted by Dive Marshal in the event of adverse weather conditions. Establish diver recall signal.	Switch to alternative dive site if primary site too rough. Contact Coast Guard prior to departure to give intentions report with dive site location and ETA back at launch point. Update CG if plans change.

Assessed by:

Name..... **Position**..... **Date**.....