

Risk Assessment

Risk Assessment for Club Diving – 2019

The risk assessment must be reviewed on each dive day and throughout the day in case of changes.

Hazard	Who	Risk	Controls	Immediate measures to deal with consequence
Injuries caused during boat launch	All divers and others nearby	Medium	No one to travel on boat when it is being towed to launch site. Divers to stand clear as boat reversed into sea and never stand behind boat. New divers to be briefed on club boat procedures prior to launch. Others to be asked to stand clear of launch area	Reinforce message to stand clear of danger area Immediate first aid to injured person(s) and seek assistance from land based emergency services in the event of serious injury.
Decompression Illness	All divers	Medium	Dives planned using divers' personal dive computers, BSAC 88 Tables or other decompression software supported by divers' personal dive computer. All divers equipped with depth gauges and additional dive computers or timers. Ensure kit is appropriately maintained, gas supply regularly checked, weights appropriately secured. Safely ascend from every dive, completing	Oxygen administration equipment and trained administrators. Emergency oxygen equipment on Boat. Contact coastguard via VHF for further assistance.

			<p>all decompression stops and safety stops. Slowly ascend from 6m to the surface. Divers to remain appropriately hydrated but to avoid excessive hydration due to risk of Immersion Pulmonary Oedema.</p>	
Immersion Pulmonary Oedema	All divers	Medium	<p>Divers to avoid very strenuous exercise when diving e.g. fighting a current. Divers to ensure they do not dive with an untreated underlying medical condition e.g. high blood pressure. Divers to remain appropriately hydrated but to avoid excessive hydration.</p>	<p>Immediately terminate the dive if breathing difficulties experienced, safely ascend and exit water. Sit casualty up (if conscious) provide emergency oxygen, keep warm, DO NOT provide fluids. Get medical assistance, contact Coastguard for evacuation to hospital.</p>
Hypothermia	All divers	Medium	<p>Water temperature expected to be between 7 & 18°C. All divers to wear appropriate thermal protection plus hood and gloves. Dives to be aborted should diver begin to shake uncontrollably. Extra warm dry, wind proof clothing and hat available for after the dive and warm drinks.</p>	<p>Get Diver dry and warm. If symptoms persist or deteriorate then consider evacuation to hospital with assistance of Coastguard.</p>
Heat Exhaustion	All Divers	Low	<p>All divers to drink plenty of fluids to remain hydrated, but not over hydrated. Wearing protective headgear. Try to keep cool, minimise the layers worn on the surface and minimise the time fully kitted up before diving. Wet the wetsuit or drysuit to assist cooling.</p>	<p>Get diver in the shade, remove excess layers to assist cooling off and provide with water to drink. If symptoms persist or deteriorate then consider evacuation to hospital with assistance of Coastguard.</p>

Nitrogen narcosis	All divers	Medium	Progressive build-up of depth experience. Follow clear dive plans appropriate to the diver's recent experience. Dive buddies to stay close to and monitor their buddies.	Immediate assistance from Buddy, ascend to shallower depth so symptoms subside
Running out of air/equipment malfunction	All divers	High	All divers' equipment must be properly serviced and maintained. Buddy check to be conducted prior to dive. Dive planning to include gas requirements based on SAC rates. Regular monitoring of remaining gas supply.	It is strongly recommended all divers should carry a redundant gas supply (e.g. Pony Bottle or twin cylinders) plus an AAS within their equipment set up. **
Rapid ascent	All divers	High	Ensure all divers are properly weighted and equipment buddy checked prior to dive. Safely ascend using the anchor line maintaining light contact with the line. Divers to breathe out on rapid ascent and spread out arms and legs to reduce the ascent rate	Monitor diver for symptoms of DCI. Emergency oxygen to be administered. Re-hydrating fluids to be provided. Lay diver down, do not raise legs. Call coastguard for further assistance should DCI symptoms appear.
Ear Damage	All Divers	Medium	Divers not to dive when suffering from a cold	Assistance from buddy.
Entanglement in nets, lines or underwater obstructions	All Divers	Medium	All divers carry appropriate cutting implements. Briefing from Dive Manager/Coxswain on wreck hazards plus agreed safety/emergency signals and use of DSMBs	Assistance from buddy. Other divers consider descend DSMB line with additional gas cylinders to assist if safe to do so. Call coastguard for further assistance.
Reduced visibility	All divers	Medium	Divers to dive in buddy pairs at all times	Buddies to stay close and keep contact in poor

			and contact to be maintained throughout dive. Use distance line to assist in navigation.	visibility. Dive to be aborted in event of adverse visibility. See Diver separation below. Dive Manager to abort diving if needed.
Diver separation	All divers	Medium	Divers to dive in buddy pairs at all times and contact to be maintained throughout dive. It is strongly recommended all divers should carry a redundant gas supply (e.g. Pony Bottle or twin cylinders) Strobes and buddy lines as appropriate.	Divers to surface after searching for one minute and re-establish contact at the surface. If contact not made report to Dive Manager/Coxswain to commence search procedures. Call coastguard for further assistance.
Separation from the boat	All divers	Medium	All divers briefed by Dive Manager/Coxswain prior to dive. Divers to return to the surface either via the shot line or by delayed SMB deployed at start of ascent as agreed by Dive Manager/Coxn	Each diver to carry visual or audible surface detection aids. Call coastguard for further assistance.
Injury from contact with the boat	All divers	Medium	Only trained Coxns or equivalent to operate boat, or trainees under the direct supervision of a Coxn. All exits from and entry to boats controlled by Coxn. Divers briefed on pick up procedures by Dive Manager/Coxswain prior to the dive. Boat fitted with a "Kill Cord" Boat engine to be in neutral when divers near the boat Boat to move off slowly to avoid divers falling over	Emergency first aid equipment on the boat. Consider assistance from coast guard if serious injury.
Injury from contact from other boats	All divers	Medium	All divers briefed by Dive Manager / Coxn prior to dive.	First aid on the boat.

			<p>Boat cover to monitor surface traffic. Divers to return to the surface either via the shot line or by delayed SMB deployed at start of ascent Divers to look up to ensure no moving boat in their way and not to surface until safe to do so. A Flag to be flown while divers under water.</p>	<p>Consider assistance from coast guard in the event of serious injury</p>
Trips slips and falls	All	Low	<p>Divers to take additional care when moving around wet diving areas or when making shore entries from pebble beaches or slippery, or sloping ground. Use the support of a buddy or other diving assistant. Do not attempt shore entries when waves could cause divers to loose balance and fall. Remember to hold onto grab handles when moving around boat in heavy seas Keep all items secured to avoid loss or damage and keep out of access routes to avoid trip hazards Clean up spills of fluids that could be slippery.</p>	<p>Remove casualty from danger and provide appropriate first aid. Contact Coastguard and Hospitalise as required</p>
Injury from falling cylinders	All	Low	<p>Dive Manager/Coxswain to brief all cylinders to be secured to bottle rack with bungee provided when not in use. On land all cylinders to be laid down</p>	<p>First aid provided as required. Contact Coastguard and Hospitalise as required</p>

Sea sickness	All	Low	Divers to remember to take appropriate sea sickness tablets if they are a sufferer.	Advise diver to take sea sickness medication, look out at horizon or lay down. Consider returning to port in acute cases
Heart attack	All	Medium	Divers Should ensure they are dive fit and have completed Medical Self-declaration or referral to Medical Referee	BLS by other divers who have first aid training. Emergency oxygen equipment on Boat. Contact coastguard via VHF for assistance
Boat adrift through engine malfunction	All	Medium	Club boat has regular annual service; is fitted with VHF radio and has offshore emergency flare pack. Dive Manager/Coxswain to supervise pre-launch safety checks and run engine when close to shore prior to heading out to sea.	Consider deploying anchor to prevent drift. Contact coastguard for assistance. Use emergency flares in event of radio malfunction.
Deteriorating weather	All	Medium	Plan dive using latest weather information. Plan alternative site. Constantly monitor conditions by Dive Manager / Coxn. Diver recall if required.	Cancel diving if necessary or go to back up site. Terminate diving using diver recall if needed. Keep Coastguard updated.

**Ocean divers are limited to 20m maximum depth and no stop diving which ensures they remain well clear of decompression limits.

On North Sea Dives deeper than 20m with planned decompression or the risk of unplanned decompression it is strongly recommended all divers carry a redundant gas supply (E.g. Pony Bottle or twin cylinders) to ensure they have a sufficient contingency gas supply for extended dive times.