

Dive Trip Risk Assessment Form

Bath University Sub-Aqua Club BSAC 0482

Dive marshals, complete and give form to Diving Officer at least 5 days before trip commences

Activity being assessed:	Shore/Boat diving at		
Date of Assessment:	Assessor's Name:		
Diver Grade:	Date Gained:	Instructor Grade:	Date Gained:
Number of divers and people on trip:	Signature:	Plan and assessment approved by DO?	Date of trip:

Example of risk/Hazard	Risk Anything you think might affect the safe completion of the activity above	Mitigation action What should be done to reduce or remove the risk?	Is Risk level acceptable?
Access to water	Entry/exit might be dangerous or difficult, may cause injury.	Check that entry and exit are possible at all times or states of tide during diving day. Only enter if easy in full equipment and exit is possible.	Yes
Alcohol	Will impair judgement on dive	All divers to be sober and not have hangover	Yes
Cliff/wall diving	Divers do not have good buoyancy skills. Divers may go deeper than planned are capable/qualified to	All divers to have adequate buoyancy control for dive.	Yes
Cold	divers develop hypothermia	ensure divers wear suitable underwater suits and surface protection	Yes
Computer failure	Divers will have no method of determining deco requirements	Ensure battery life; check computer constantly to know of most recent data. Ascend immediately and stop for 3 mins at 6 metres. Carry back up tables.	Yes
Contact with boat/propeller	Divers may be injured by boat's propeller	Only trained cox'ns allowed to operate boats. Trainees receive specific instruction in boat exit / entry techniques. All exit from and entry to boats controlled by cox'n.	Yes
Currents	Fast current flood or ebb tide	Check current on arrival at site, and just prior to entry	Yes
Decompression illness	Divers develop DCI, mild or severe	Dives planned and conducted in accordance with BSAC '88 Decompression Tables or decompression computer. All divers equipped with depth gauges and watches and/or decompression computers.	Yes
Depth	Divers diving deeper than their qualification level and experience.	divers to be reminded what their limits are and dive plans agreed with dive marshal	Yes
Deteriorating weather	Weather may deteriorate and become unsafe for diving.	Marshal to obtain weather forecast before and during trip. Alternative site planned. Weather conditions constantly monitored by Dive Marshal/cox'n during diving. Diver recall mechanism available (e.g. signals via SMB line, Thunderflashes)	Yes
Diver separation	Divers could get separated from each other.	Divers to stay in visual contact. Wear buddy lines or hold SMB line where appropriate.	Yes
Drift diving	Dive marshal will lose sight of	Divers to have SMBs on surface before	Yes

	divers and will not be able to track dive	entering water. All dive pairs to carry second SMB. Divers to surface immediately if SMB lost.	
Dry suit divers overheating	Hyperthermia, dehydration	Mitigation: keep hydrated, stay in shade, don't rush, wear hat	Yes
Ear damage	Damage to ears	Trainees receive specific instruction in 'ear clearing'. Divers or snorkellers do not dive when suffering from a cold.	Yes
Engine failure	Boat stranded at sea	Service annually; take VHF radio on boat. Carry oars.	Yes
Entanglement in nets/lines	Divers are caught in nets/lines and cannot ascend from dive	All divers to carry diving knives. Instructor control.	Yes
Environmental damage	Boat or diver damages environment. Too much noise	Buoyancy control, consideration for others	Yes
Equipment failure	Lack of air supply, buoyancy adjustment	Check equipment before dive and often during diving	Yes
Explosives and munitions	Injury caused by explosives	Don't dive near underwater explosive work and do not touch or raise ammunition found dives	Yes
Fast ascent	Serious injury to diver	Mitigation: divers taught ascent and descents, adequate buoyancy control	Yes
Fatigue	Divers may be incapable of performing a rescue or continuing with dive.	Divers should not exert themselves.	Yes
Fishing lines	Divers to keep clear of fishing lines from jetties or boats.	Do not dive where fishing is known to take place.	Yes
High visibility	Risk:	Mitigation:	Yes
Horseplay	Divers may cause injury to themselves or others.	Divers to behave reasonably and safely.	Yes
Illness	Divers may fall ill.	Divers to inform Dive Marshal if feeling unwell. Dive Marshal to act on information.	Yes
Injury from falling cylinders	Divers may cause injury to themselves or others.	Trainees taught to always lay heavy equipment down. Monitoring by Instructor. Stay away from edges, drops.	Yes
Injury from other boats	May cause injury to divers in water.	Flag 'Alpha' flown while divers are underwater. Monitoring of other surface traffic by boat cover. Divers marked by SMBs or ascending under DSMBs. Don't dive in shipping lanes	Yes
Insect bites or sting	Distraction by insects	Use insect repellent	Yes
Isolation from outside world	Difficult to contact emergency services.	When shore diving ensure that a public phone is nearby or a mobile phone with a signal is available. When boat diving, ensure radio is working.	Yes
Lack of food/water	Lack of food could cause lack of energy. Lack of water could cause dehydration.	Divers to ensure they have eaten adequately before diving. Fluids aboard boat/on shore	Yes
Lack of sleep	Divers' judgement could be impaired.	Divers to have adequate sleep and rest.	Yes
Lobster pots	Divers and/or SMB line could get caught in pot lines.	Divers to be observant and divers to carry knives.	Yes
Low daylight level	Divers may surface and may not be seen by boat or shore cover.	If entering water in low light levels, divers to carry torches for signalling to cover parties.	Yes
Low/No visibility	Divers could get separated, or bump into objects or enter spaces with a ceiling.	Divers to stay in visual contact. Wear buddy lines or hold SMB line where appropriate. If diving on wrecks, do not enter overhead environment.	Yes
Mask Squeeze	Divers may fail to equalise mask on descent and may	Only mask which encloses both eyes and nose in the same airspace used. Trainees	Yes

	result in red mark on face.	receive specific instruction in mask equalisation.	
Medication	Divers may use medication that is contraindicate to diving	Divers to tell marshal of any medication they are taking. Divers to be aware of which medications can cause problems.	Yes
Missed stops	Divers may miss stops and this may result in DCI.	Divers to be put on oxygen and taken to nearest recompression chamber	Yes
New location	A risk may be missed.	Marshal to plan diving at site with knowledge from charts, dive guides and local knowledge.	Yes
Night dive	Divers may lose contact with each other and boat/shore cover	All divers to carry at least one torch, preferably 2 torches each. Divers to signal to cover every 5 mins (shine light at surface)	Yes
Nitrogen Narcosis	Divers may experience symptoms of nitrogen narcosis and this will impair judgement	Progressive build up of depth experience for trainees. Progressive work-up dives for all divers who are going beyond their recent diving experience. Experience gained in company of Instructor / diver of greater experience at that depth. Clear dive plans.	Yes
No working O2 kit available	In the event of an incident there will be no oxygen to administer to divers.	Always carry at least 1 O2 set on every trip. Check kit is working before leaving for dive site.	Yes
Not being dive-fit	Divers may not be capable of planned dive and an incident may occur	All divers to be dive fit. Deep dives require work up dives.	Yes
Odd number of divers	Diving in a 3-some may mean that 3 rd diver is not monitored effectively	Do not dive in 3s unless necessary. Agree who monitors who before entering water.	Yes
Other boats in dive site location	Divers may get hit by shot weight from other boat or by boat when surfacing	Approach other boats on dive site and suggest they use our shot line in water. All divers to carry DSMBs for surfacing.	Yes
Other water users in dive site location	Collision with other boats/people	Diver cox'n to be vigilant of other water users and take due care.	Yes
Over familiarity with location	Marshal or diver party may not monitor divers effectively.	Safety must not slip although site is well known to divers.	Yes
Panicking Student	Diver may panic and make a uncontrolled ascent or drown.	Instructor control.	Yes
Passing road traffic	Divers may be run over.	Look left, look right, look left again. Keep away from road edges.	Yes
Public interference	May interfere with a rescue or normal diving operation.	Keep public away from any rescue, normal diving operation.	Yes
Radio failure	Rescue serves cannot be alerted if divers are injured or boat has failed.	Carry back up radio. Boats travel if pairs. Carry mobile phone. Carry flares.	Yes
Rapid ascent	Diver may injure themselves.	Progressive training. Correct weighting of all divers. Monitoring by Instructor. Instructor/trainee ratios in accordance with BSAC recommendations. Visual datum used for ascent exercises where appropriate.	Yes
Running out of air	Running out of air as consumption still excessive	Constant checks throughout dive. All SCUBA sets fitted with cylinder pressure gauges. Monitoring by Instructor.	Yes
Sea conditions	Rough sea conditions may mean that entry and exit from shore or boat is dangerous	Ensure entry and exit is safe and sea state is not too rough for while.	Yes
Separation from boat while drift diving	Divers may surface and be too far from boat. Dive marshal may lose sight of divers and	Divers to have SMBs on surface before entering water. All dive pairs to carry second SMB. Divers to surface	Yes

	not be able to track dive	immediately if SMB lost.	
Separation from boat	Divers may be separated from boat and spend time in water	Mitigation: all divers to carry surface detection aids (flag, SMB, fins)	Yes
Separation from shore cover while shore diving	Divers could be out of reach/site of shore party in event of emergency	Dive plan agreed with marshal, divers to stay within dive site. All dive pairs marked by Surface Marker Buoy or other surface detection aids	Yes
Shore based dive site	Dive marshal may lose sight of divers and not be able to track dive. May not be able to reach divers in distress if no boat available.	Dive plan agreed with marshal, divers to stay within dive site. Dive pairs to be marked by Surface Marker Buoy or other surface detection aids if possible. Marshal to check tides to ensure divers won't drift away from dive site.	Yes
Shipping in dive area	Divers/boat being hit by shipping. Causing nuisance to shipping	Boat handlers to be trained and understand Rule of the Road. Keep clear of major shipping channels if possible	Yes
Slipping over	Slipping or falling on entry or exit	Check site condition on arrival. Include in pre-dive brief and assist each other in / out.	Yes
Stings	Sting by jellyfish other marine creature	Keep clear of jellyfish, get medical attention if stung, wear protective clothes if known that jellyfish are present	Yes
Sunlight	Divers may get sunstroke	Divers to stay in shade if possible. Divers to wear hats.	Yes
Taking people beyond their experience level.	Divers may panic leading to a number of scenarios.	Stick to depth limits to which divers are qualified. Only increase divers' limits by 5 metres increments at any one time. See BSAC Instructor Manual for guidance.	Yes
Training exercise	Trainee diver may not remember drill from pool	Ensure trainee has had recent practice in pool. Start off skill in standing depth.	Yes
Transport of equipment	Road transport may become illegally overloaded and kit unstable in vehicle. Diver may injure themselves.	Ensure vehicles are not overloaded and equipment is packed sensibly. Ensure divers carry equipment correctly and safely.	Yes
Unavailability of changing facilities	Divers may abuse locals by changing in front of houses and shops, etc. Divers might get cold changing outdoors.	Divers to be discrete when changing outdoors. Attempt to find changing place out of wind/rain.	Yes
Unavailability of toilets	Divers may have to relieve themselves on boat. Divers may not drink enough. Divers may have to use bushes.	Divers should be discrete when relieving themselves on boat or land. Divers should keep themselves hydrated throughout diving day.	Yes
Uncontrolled ascent	Uncontrolled ascent by diver may lead to DCI or burst lung, etc.	Ensure diver understands their buoyancy controls, confirm throughout dive 'constant volume' valve is appropriately set.	Yes
Wreck diving	Divers might get injured by sharp metal	Divers to wear gloves, and be observant of sharp edges.	Yes
Wreck Penetration	Divers might get trapped inside wreck.	Only enter wrecks if outside can be seen. Divers should have good buoyancy control to stop stirring up silt. Divers to use distance line.	Yes