

## **BUSAC Diving Hints from the Diving Officer! (October 2007)**

### **When Diving....**

- All diving within a BSAC Branch must comply with BSAC's Safe Diving Practices. If you don't know what they are, ask! Don't just plead ignorance.
- The DO needs to know all trip details and for matters of safety would appreciate all diving to occur in the Branch Diving Programme
- When organising a trip
  1. Decide when/where to go
  2. Get group of people together and plan trip
  3. Show plans to DO at least one week in advance
  4. Make sure you have all necessary kit
  5. Check weather forecast on Thursday night before the weekend you go and then make go/no go decision
- If you do not want to arrange a trip within the Branch, please still get the advice of an Advanced Diver
- Divers must have BSAC third party insurance (i.e. be current members) and/or own personal insurance (e.g. Divemaster Insurance) if you are not a BSAC diver. All divers should be in BUSAC, or pay the daily non-member fee (TBA).
- Divers who have not trained with the club must show their BSAC qualification books to the Diving Officer and have a check-out dive with an experienced diver.
- Please obey the Dive Marshall's instructions.
- Try to have one Advanced Diver per trip. If this is not possible, discuss plans with DO: Dive Leaders, divers who have been on a PRM, O2, DPM courses, etc. will be useful.
- Ocean Divers can organise a trip, but they will not be able to marshal one.
- Ocean Divers cannot dive without the consent of the DO.
- The depth limit for Ocean Divers is 20 metres, and 35 metres for Sport Divers.
- If you are taking the boat always take at least two RYA level 2 boat handlers, having one on the boat at all times
- Each trip should have two O2 administrators, having one on the shore or the boat at all times
- A VHF licence holder should be on each boat trip, and must brief other boat handlers on distress messages, unless they also hold the licence.
- Decompression diving can be done by Sport Divers, but you are recommended to practise stops beforehand.
- Six divers in the boat maximum, unless trip is less than half a mile offshore, e.g. shuttling to Portland breakwater from Ferrybridge or Balaclava Bay, etc.
- Delayed SMBs should be used at the end of the dive if possible, most important over popular wrecks, unless divers are capable of returning to and ascending the shotline.
- SMBs to be used on drift dives and where there is low sea vis. (fog)
- When entering the water from the boat, swim directly to the shot buoy or your buddy. Try to swim away from the boat as soon as possible; do not descend directly beneath the boat. This will avoid people being run over!

## **When boat handling....**

- When using the boat try to let someone ashore know where you are and what time you plan to return. Or make sure you have a VHF that works! Don't rely on mobile phones.
- When launching the boat, please try not to dunk the trailer wheels in the water. Use all available hands and lift it to the water's edge.
- Try to leave 2 people on the boat at any one time.
- Please try to keep a thorough look-out when driving the boat over crowded dive sites.
- Please be prepared to get out of the way, steer off course, reverse or stop to avoid collisions.
- Not all divers carry DSMBs, so to avoid running them over please watch for their bubbles over dive sites
- Don't drive over or near SMBs or divers' bubbles.
- Don't drop your shot onto a site at which divers are already diving.
- Always ask divers how long they will be so that you know when to expect them to surface. If they become overdue you could start to organise their recovery or a search.
- Never face into the sun when being boat cover: you won't be able to see anything; always look down sun.
- When driving from a boat, always think of the comfort of others—i.e don't go so fast that people are falling out from the bow.
- Never let the boat fill up with water. If you are in a big sea keep going, don't stop. By letting the elephant's trunk down and motoring, you can get rid of some of the water.
- Always switch your engine off when approaching divers.
- Keep engine in neutral if picking divers up from site when boat is about to be blown on to rocks, then reverse out, telling divers to keep hold until boat is out of danger, then turn off engine.
- Don't come along broadside...always point the boat into the wind or tide (usually wind) and slowly approach the divers. You will never get it right if you approach broadside on as the wind will blow the boat away and you poor old divers will have to struggle to reach it (overexertion not being a good thing after a dive).