



British Sub-Aqua Club

Risk Assessment

For BSAC One Day

Expeditions

'4-40m' off the

NE Coast

Andrew Hunt

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Introduction

This Risk Assessment is based on the BSAC's generic risk assessment for diving in open water and has been modified to include specific risks identified for the One Day 4-40m Expeditions organised off the North East coast.

Participants in the expedition are also expected to have read and understood the information given in the BSAC publication 'Safe Diving Practices'.

The risk assessment will form the basis of briefings given by the Expedition Leader that aims to remind divers of the main safety points.

The risk assessment will be monitored by the Expedition Leader to ensure that the risks identified are still valid. All divers however have interests in safety and so should highlight any hazards to the Expedition Leader that come to their attention.

Any changes should be noted, signed and dated to show the changing situation has been assessed, that no further risks have arisen and that the appropriate controls are in place.

Generic and Specific Risks Considered for the Expedition Sites

| Hazard | Who | Frequency * | Severity * | Risk evaluation | Controls | Immediate measures to deal with consequences if risk does occur |
|----------------------------------|------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|---|---|
| Heart attack | All | Rare | Fatal | Medium | Medical self-declarations complete | CPR. Skipper to contact Coastguard and arrange for medivac. |
| Injury from falling cylinders | Trainees | Rare | Moderate injury | Low | Dive marshal and skipper to ensure kit is secured and safely stowed | First Aid by Skipper / Buddy. |
| Running out of air | All divers | Rare | Fatal | Medium | Divers to record their air details and plans on the logsheet. Buddy pairs should ensure they have enough gas for the dive. | All divers carry AAS. |

| Hazard | Who | Frequency * | Severity * | Risk evaluation | Controls | Immediate measures to deal with consequences if risk does occur |
|---|------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------|--|--|
| Rapid ascent | All divers | Rare | Fatal | High | Expedition Leader and core expedition divers to observe weighting of new expedition divers to help ensure correct weighting. | Diving monitored by boat skipper Oxygen Administration equipment is available onboard |
| Entanglement in nets/lines/under-water obstructions | All divers | Rare | Fatal | Medium | All divers carry appropriate cutting implement, such as filament line cutter, wire snips, diving knife, etc. | Assistance from buddy |
| Diver Separation | All Divers | Occasional | Fatal | High | Divers to dive in buddy pairs at all times. Contact to be maintained throughout the dive. Surface detection aids (DSMD, Flag, Whistle) to be carried by all divers | Divers to surface immediately. Re-establish contact. Contact the coastguard immediately if diver overdue |
| Reduced underwater visibility | All Divers | Frequent | Major Injury | High | Take bottom line for reeling off. Ensure buddies are confident in line laying techniques. | Dive to be abandoned in the event of adverse reduced visibility. Divers to surface and exit. Dive Marshall to abort diving. |
| Trips/Slips & Tumbles | All | Occasional | Minor Injury | Low | Dive Marshall to ensure boat is kept tidy by the divers. Skipper to advise on use of diver lift and entry at rear of boat. Properly organise loading / offloading at quayside. | Remove casualty from danger and provide appropriate first aid. Contact coastguard and hospitalise, as required. First Aid kit carried onboard. |

| Hazard | Who | Frequency * | Severity * | Risk evaluation | Controls | Immediate measures to deal with consequences if risk does occur |
|---|------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--|---|
| Decompression illness | All divers | Occasional | Major injury | Medium | 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. | Oxygen to be administered by trained divers. Contact the Coastguard to arrangement medivac. |
| Nitrogen Narcosis | All divers | Frequent | Fatal | High | Expedition Leader to ensure divers have shown evidence of building up to depth immediately prior to expedition. | Assistance from buddy. |
| Separation from boat while drift diving | All divers | Occasional | Fatal | High | Skipper to monitor diver positions All dive pairs marked by Surface Marker Buoy. | Each diver carries aids to visual detection – e.g. flags, sausage buoys, strobes, flares, whistles etc. |
| Contact with dive boat / propeller | All divers | Rare | Fatal | Medium | Skipper is experienced. Boat has a jet drive and no propeller. | Recover injured diver First Aid kit on boat. |
| Injury from other boats | All divers | Rare | Fatal | Low | Flag 'Alpha' flown while divers are underwater. Monitoring of other surface traffic by Skipper and crew. Divers ascending under DSMBs. | First Aid kit on boat. Boat crew trained in First Aid. |

| Hazard | Who | Frequency * | Severity * | Risk evaluation | Controls | Immediate measures to deal with consequences if risk does occur |
|-------------------------|------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------|---|---|
| Deteriorating weather | All divers | Frequent | Fatal | High | Diving planned using latest weather information. Weather conditions constantly monitored by Expedition Leader / Skipper. | Diving cancelled or changed to back-up site by Expedition Leader Diving in progress terminated using diver recall mechanism if possible. |
| Jelly fish stings | All Divers | Occasional | Minor Injury | Low | Look out for tentacles in the water and streaming from the shot line and avoid. Most divers stung across lips. Wear gloves | First aid on boat (ensure vinegar and tweezers are carried) Notify Coastguard and hospitalise in cases of severe reaction |
| Food or other allergies | All Divers | Rare | Fatal | Medium | Equipment leader to review application forms to check for reports of allergies Advise divers to bring own food if required | First aid on boat Notify Coastguard and hospitalise in cases of severe reaction |

Additional Risks noted on the day of diving

| Hazard | Who | Risk evaluation | Controls | Immediate measures to deal with consequences if risk does occur |
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Expedition Leader

Date