

BOAT DIVING SAFETY



NONE of us are immune to the possibility of things going wrong on a dive. If you examine your diving history I'm sure there are very few of you, if any, who have never had a mishap – be it minor or major. (Minor problems have the potential of becoming major problems.) Every now and then we need reminding of the safety aspects of our diving practices. So here goes...

BEFORE THE DIVE:

- Ensure you are sufficiently hydrated – drink plenty of WATER
- Is all safety equipment on the boat
- Everyone must check their equipment before the boat leaves the boat ramp (if you do not have a dive computer, ensure you have dive tables and a bottom timer with you)

ON SITE:

- Are the conditions safe?
- Is everyone doing the dive well enough to do so?
- Allocate buddies – *never buddy two inexperienced divers together unless conditions are ideal*. Allocate buddies of similar interests.
- Ensure everyone does buddy checks
- Is everyone doing the dive experienced enough to do so?
- What is the expected depth – check your dive tables/computer and plan a safe no deco time limit. (*Take the tables in the water with you in case the actual depth exceeds the planned depth*).
- Discuss the dive plan:
 - Time
 - Depth
 - Turn around point
 - Possible problems/hazards
 - Lost buddy procedures
 - What to do if you cannot find the anchor rope on ascent and come up a long way from the boat
- Communicate with the other boats on the dive
- Ensure there is *at least* one person left in one of the boats – who can operate that boat in the event of a problem occurring
- It is *strongly recommended* that every boat has someone left on it (stagger the dives e.g. one buddy pair in the water, one buddy pair on the boat)
- Every diver should do a safety stop for 5 mins at 5 Metres on every dive

**The attitude
“THERE’S NOT GOING TO BE A PROBLEM”
is a recipe for disaster!**

AFTER THE DIVE:

- Rehydrate well – drink WATER. (*If you have suffered from seasickness, vomiting can dehydrate you drastically*).
- Is everyone OK? Are they OK to do a second dive (e.g. anyone suffering from hypothermia?)
- Check your dive tables/dive computer – is the next dive a safe dive?

Remember: if one diver from a buddy pair has a dive computer and the other one does not – USE DIVE TABLES – the only person who can utilize the information from the dive computer is the person wearing/using it

- DO NOT over exercise after the dive
(*After every dive we have silent micro bubbles in our blood and tissues – by exercising they could coalesce and become problem bubbles*).
- Going to altitude too soon after a dive can be a problem.
- Log the dive.

IF YOU ARE NOT COMFORTABLE ON A DIVE (and that includes being cold), ABORT THE DIVE.

BE THE BUDDY YOU WISH TO DIVE WITH!!

COMPLACENCY IS A DIVER'S ENEMY.

