



Guidance for RHIB trips

The following guidelines must be observed on all club trips using the RHIB

Before the trip

Notify the Diving Officer

All intended trips should be notified to the Diving Officer in good time.

During the trip

Two qualified coxes

To adhere to our Insurance requirements, at least 2 qualified coxes must be on the boat and at least one on the boat while divers are in the water. Qualified coxes are those who hold either an RYA Level 2 or a BSAC Boat Handling qualification, or have “grandfather rights”. Those with grandfather rights must hold a current annual First Aid certificate. To qualify for grandfather rights a cox must be able to show at least 50 hours of coxing boats. All coxes need to be familiar with and competent in using the chart plotter (GPS).

Cox must wear a buoyancy aid

[Current BSAC guidance](#) is that the cox should wear a lifejacket or buoyancy aid at all times, even if wearing a zipped up drysuit. This advice should be followed.

Handheld radio must be attached to the cox

The handheld radio must be turned on and securely attached to the cox at all times while at sea. This maximises the chance of it being available in the case of a catastrophic event such as a capsized. Keeping the radio turned on will minimise any delay in acquiring a GPS lock, enabling a precise position to be broadcast quickly.

**SEEDS brief must include
how to call for help**

The Dive Manager should ensure that everyone on the trip is familiar with how to make a DSC distress call on the VHF radio, where safety equipment is stowed, and how to use flares safely and effectively.

**Use GPS and shot lines to
mark all dive entry points**

A waypoint point **must** be added on the GPS and a shot line should be deployed at the entry point of each dive as a reference for where any possible subsequent search needs to start. This applies to **all** dives, including drift dives.

Use DSMBs when drifting

DSMBs should be deployed by all buddy pairs as soon as they start drifting.

Record diver entry times

A Dive Management Slate is kept in the front locker of the boat and should be used to record when each buddy pair went in.

Insurance certificates

Insurance certificates for the boat are laminated and stored in the lid of the boat box behind the padding.

After the trip

**Boats must be stored
securely**

Boats should be returned either to Lyme Regis or to an alternative secure site agreed **in advance** with the DO.

Fuel tanks to be filled

Fuel tanks and reserve tanks must be left full after each trip.

Report to the DO promptly

A report should be phoned or texted to the DO at the end of the trip confirming that after trip tasks have been completed.

Any problems or incidents and any damage to either the boat or trailer **must** be notified to the DO immediately.

Dive logs should be fully completed at the time and submitted to the DO promptly.

Further information

More information is available on the club's website

For further information and help on organising RHIB trips, please refer to *Organising Diving at Coastal Sites*, which is a very comprehensive guide to all aspects of organising a trip.

For guidance on calling for help from the RHIB, please see *Calling for help from the RHIB*.

Both can be found at

<http://www.stratforddivers.co.uk/resources/>

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