

Diving Recommendations

(Applying to ALL dives made by members of this Branch)

- 1) **Insurance:** Without a current membership receipt and medical your BASC insurance may not operate fully.
- 2) **Safe Diving Practices:** All diving will be carried out in accordance with the recommendations of the BSAC and the BSAC Safe Diving Practices.
- 3) **Diving Guidelines:** All divers may only dive within the guidelines laid down by the BSAC.
- 4) **Decompression Tables & Computers:** All Branch diving will be conducted in accordance with the BSAC '88 Decompression Tables or Computers which are at least as conservative on a rectangular profile dive as the BSAC 88 Tables. (Refer to relevant section on dive computers).

Diving Limits:

- 5) **Ocean divers** may not dive in excess of 20 metres.
- 6) **Sports divers** may not dive to depths in excess of 35 metres, except with prior approval of the Diving Officer or Expedition Leader.
- 7) All divers shall limit their diving depth to 50 metres unless within the guidelines laid down by the BSAC on dives where the appropriate gas mix is used and the appropriate qualifications have been gained.
- 8) **Any member planning a dive** must notify the Branch Diving Officer prior to the dive taking place and any member planning a dive to depths in excess of 40 mtrs must notify the Branch diving Officer at least 3 days before the dive is due to take place.
- 9) A **Buoyancy Compensator Device (BCD)** must be worn by all divers during all dives.
- 10) **All divers** must carry an alternative air source. Preferably with an independent gas / air supply, ie a pony cylinder.
- 11) **Appropriate training** in the use of a dry suit and rescue of a dry suited diver is to be undertaken by all diving members, and in the case of Novices, prior to any open water diving.
- 12) **Pool Training:** Trainees are not permitted in the pool unsupervised.
- 13) **Qualification Record Book (QRB):** Bring your logbook on all dives and allow the Expedition Leader to inspect it. All dives should be recorded in the divers red logbook and those dives being used for qualifications should be supervised in each case by a qualified Instructor of this Branch. Foreign dives are not acceptable unless signed by an appropriately qualified instructor giving their name, instructor number and BSAC diver training centre name. Training dives should be written up in the Qualification Record Book on the same day as the training undertaken and signed by the instructor supervising the training. Please surrender your log books to the Branch D. O. when required to do so. Ensure that you have a recognisable photograph of yourself in your Qualification Record Book and current membership card (or copies). Self Certification or Referee medicals are required each year, which should be submitted to the membership secretary on joining and renewal of membership and a copy kept in your QRB.

- 14) **Expedition Leaders:** Expedition Leaders are in absolute charge of dives and because they are responsible for what happens on the dive site, their decisions are binding on all members taking part. They must ensure that dives are run according to the club Safe Diving Practices Code of Conduct and in accordance with these regulations and recommendations and for proper care of Branch equipment used on their dives. Experienced Divers and Branch Officers are asked, please do not interfere with the running of dives by appointed Expedition Leaders, unless failure to do so would result in an incident. Dive Marshals and Assistant Dive Marshals who are not themselves the Expedition Leader are immediately responsible to the Expedition Leader alone.
- 15) **Dive Logs:** A dive log must be presented to the Diving Officer for all dives that any member may wish to be considered as a qualifying dive. It may be that the dive will be considered not to have taken place if the essential information regarding it is not recorded other than in the member's logbook. For Branch dives, it is expected that a full Dive Report should be presented to the D.O. together with the Dive Log. Expedition Leaders who are unsure of the information required should consult the D.O. All logs and reports should be in the D.O.'s hand before the first Monday of the month following the dive. The Dive Log must be completed on site.

Incidents & Accidents

- 16) **All incidents and accidents** involving injury to a member or non-member, whatever the cause, or any form of diving ailment must be reported immediately to the Branch D.O. and within seven days to the BSAC Diving Incidents Advisor via the BSAC.
- 17) **Incidents involving loss or damage** to Branch equipment must be reported as soon as possible, and no later than the end of the diving expedition concerned, to the Branch Equipment Officer. It is a condition of the Club insurance policy that damage or injury to property or persons which might result in a claim being made against the Club must be reported at once. Incidents involving harassment of divers by any other persons must be reported immediately to the local police and the Branch DO.
- 18) **Alcohol, Smoking and Medication:** Expedition Leaders are advised not to allow anyone who has taken alcohol within a period of four hours prior to any dive, to take part in that dive or if their condition is deemed to compromise the safety of the dive. Anyone with a noticeable hangover is strongly recommended not to dive. The after effects of alcohol or medication can cause severe problems particularly increasing susceptibility to decompression illness (DCI). Smoking before diving increases the level of carbon monoxide in the blood, reducing its oxygen carrying capacity and again increasing susceptibility to DCI.
- 19) **Surface Marker Buoys:** The use of suitable surface marker buoys is to be recommended on all dives and members should regard them as an essential item of personal equipment. Where a line to the surface is not appropriate due to the diving conditions, the buoy reel should be employed as a distance line from a shot line or other fixed datum to ensure the safe return of the diver to the shotline.
- 20) **All items of a 'wreck'** removed from the seabed should be reported to H.M. Receiver of Wrecks in the proper manner. Branch diving will not take place on listed historical wrecks without prior permission from the appropriate authority. Members are advised that injuries received from artefacts recovered illegally from any wreck for which permission to dive has been denied will be outside the responsibility of the Branch or Club. The removal of ordnance from any wreck is forbidden and deemed dangerous.
- 21) **Nitrox or Trimix:** These gasses may only be used by members who have been trained in its use by a recognised agency (BSAC, IANTD, TDI etc) and in accordance with current BSAC recommendations. All Nitrox cylinders that are filled on the club's compressors must be supervised by their owners.

- 22) **Separation:** If you become separated from your companion underwater, you must surface at the recommended rates of ascent, commencing your ascent within 30 seconds of separation. If both divers of a pair do not surface within one minute of each other, remaining divers will be recalled and a search started for the missing diver. Divers who disregard this recommendation will be asked to explain their actions to the Branch DO and Committee.
- 23) **Conservation:** A responsible attitude to conservation should be maintained by all Branch members. Please do not remove crabs, lobsters or crayfish that are too small and do not remove 'berried' crustaceans under any circumstances. Members are requested to acquaint themselves with and observe the minimum size of fish that may be removed and to observe closed seasons and conservation areas for all marine creatures. The wholesale removal of sea urchins and scallops is actively discouraged. Spearfishing is forbidden by the BSAC and all Branch members are expected to comply.
- 24) **Dive Managing:** Branch dives must have a minimum of one advanced Diver with at least a Dive Leader on the surface at all times, unless the site provides adequate surface cover. i.e. Capernwray, Eccleston Delph and other developed dive centres. Club boats must be under the supervision of an Advanced Diver (old scheme) or a holder of a Diver Coxswain Certificate at all times. Members who have attended a Boat Handling Course are entitled to drive the boats under supervision.

Any member found in breach of the regulations may be liable to suspension of membership for such a period as the Branch Committee may determine.

Branch Definitions

A Branch Dive is one of the dives on the calendar, or with prior approval of the D.O., on which all Branch members are welcome to attend, although in some cases, numbers or grades will be restricted. Other Branch Dives may take place from time to time. To qualify as a Branch Dive an Advanced Diver must be present on the dive.

A Training Dive is one whose prime purpose is training at any level. These are usually organised as part of the Branch training scheme, but may be organised at a more advanced level. It is hoped that those divers who have already been trained by the Branch will make themselves available to assist in the training of new members. Boat levy will be waived for those giving instruction on Bona fide Training Dives.

A Qualifying Dive will normally be either of the above but may also be any dive for which the D.O. receives a properly completed Dive Log. The D.O. must have prior knowledge of all Branch Training and Qualifying dives. Branch dives must be well advertised before the event.

A Private Dive: There is no such thing as a "Private Dive" Any group or individual may organise a dive with fellow members of the Branch but as members of the BSAC the dive would have to be considered to be run under the recommendations and safe diving practices of that organisation.

Those organising non-training or non-qualifying dives must still inform the DO and submit a report or log. The Diving Officer is responsible for all diving conducted by Branch members.