

Mercian Divers SAA 39 Risk Assessment	Assessment Title: Boat Diving		
	Assessment no: MDRA 4		
	Prepared by	W Guy Pitt	Date June 2003
	DO Approval		date

This risk assessment is in addition to Baseline Diving Assessment MDRA 1.

The boat (either hard boat or club rib) should at all times be in the command of an appropriately Qualified person – for the club rib this is someone with the SAA boat handler qualification.

Hazard	Risk of	Groups at Risk.	How you can reduce the risk
1. On Boat			
Falling overboard	Drowning Injury	Anyone on boat	Wear suit or other buoyancy aid at all times. Keep dry suits zipped up. Sit where requested by Coxswain. Hold on!
Seasickness	Seasickness Dehydration=> increased risk of DCI, Nausea=>vomiting in water causing blockage of air supply	Anyone on boat	If susceptible take suitable medication. Stay out of engine fumes Consider abandoning the planned dive. Look at the horizon, face into the main direction of movement.
Loose equipment, hatches	Injury	Anyone on boat	Ensure all equipment is stowed safely whilst boat is in motion.

Hazard	Risk of	Groups at Risk.	How you can reduce the risk
			Hatches should be securely fastened, open or closed Make the coxswain aware of any problems so that they can slow down or stop before attempting to do anything
2. Entry to Water			
Landing on other divers (e.g. as the boat moves forward a slight delay by one buddy in entering the water can land him directly on top of the other diver)	Injury, Drowning	Divers	Enter only when instructed by coxswain Buddies should enter water simultaneously or on opposite sides of boat
Contact with propeller	Injury	Divers	Enter water only when instructed – engine should be in neutral.
3. In Water			
Impact with boat	Injury	Divers	Use SMB or delayed SMB or ascend shotline/close to shore. Surface carefully, one arm raised.
Surfacing away from boat/site – hazard magnified in rougher water	Getting Lost	Divers	Use SMB or delayed SMB. Use flag/whistle/torch to attract attention.
4. Exit from water			
Contact with propeller	Injury	Divers	Do not approach boat unless coxswain is aware of your presence - engine should be in neutral
Rough Sea	Injury	Divers	Take extra care boarding boat in swell. Particularly if ladder of hard boat is moving up & down significantly.
Hard boats: falling back into water/onto other divers when ascending ladder	Injury, drowning	Divers	Keep DV in mouth until safely on board. Keep clear of ladder while in use by

Hazard	Risk of	Groups at Risk.	How you can reduce the risk
			another diver
RIB: Loss of heavy equipment as de-kit prior to entry	Injury	Divers	Only remove kit when assistant in boat is ready to receive it.
RIB: collision with other divers/equipment as enter boat	Injury	Divers	Only re-enter boat when instructed by assistant in boat