

<b>Mercian Divers SAA 39</b>  Risk Assessment	Assessment Title: <b>Drift Diving/Strong Currents</b>		
	Assessment No: <b>MDRA 5</b>		
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	DO Approval:		

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

*Drift diving or diving in strong currents increases the chances of some normal diving hazards occurring; therefore you should consider taking additional precautions.*

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Risk of</b>	<b>Groups at Risk.</b>	<b>How you can reduce the risk</b>
<b>1. Separation from boat</b>			
Separation from boat	Exhaustion, hypothermia, dehydration, drowning	Divers	Assess likely current direction as part of dive plan and discuss with boat coxswain Deploy SMB during drift dives Each diver to have own SMB/delayed SMB in case of separation Carry search & rescue aids - e.g. whistle, flag, EPIRB
<b>2. Separation from buddy</b>			
Separation from buddy. No assistance is then possible in the event of another hazard occurring (e.g. entanglement, equipment	Injury, Drowning	Divers	Don't stop or start to drift, unless buddy is aware of your intention & able to do so as well ! Use a buddy line.

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Risk of</b>	<b>Groups at Risk.</b>	<b>How you can reduce the risk</b>
failure)			If swept away from top of wreck/reef - consider rapid descent to get into lee of current, and/or hold onto bottom Surface immediately on loss of contact
<b>3. Down currents</b>			
Uncontrolled descent exceeding planned maximum depth	Narcosis, DCI	Divers	Assess likelihood of down currents as part of dive plan Assess depth profile of surrounding area as part of dive plan Attempt to swim out of down current by horizontal movement
<b>4. Up currents</b>			
Rapid ascent	Burst Lung, DCI	Divers	Assess likelihood of up currents as part of dive plan. Breathe out on ascent. Dump air to reduce buoyancy Attempt to swim out of up current by horizontal movement
<b>5. Entanglement</b>			
Entanglement of diver or SMB	Drowning Separation from buddy	Divers	Check area of dive is free of obstructions - e.g. buoys/pot lines, rock pinnacles/gullies Ensure knife/net cutter is easily accessible Carry spare knife/net cutter Abort dive if cannot free SMB