



## **SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.**

ABN68 760 819 404

PO Box 360, Goodwood, South Australia 5034

Email: [info@sdfsau.net](mailto:info@sdfsau.net)

### **Ex-HMAS Hobart Buoy Access & Recommended Practices (Effective December 2013)**

**These procedures are recommended by the SDF of SA to ensure safe practices are used when diving the ex-HMAS Hobart dive site**

The SATC has recently reviewed the management arrangements for the ex-HMAS Hobart dive site, the current status of mooring infrastructure and the associated risk management plan. Several changes to management operations have been implemented as a result:

#### **Mooring Buoys**

SATC will be reinstating six mooring buoys at the dive site which will be available for both commercial operators and recreational divers. This will be at SATC's expense and SATC will be responsible for their ongoing management.

#### **Recreational Divers**

Recreational divers will be able to access the exHMAS Dive site either by using a commercial dive operator or by using their own boat. Use by all divers (commercial or recreational) will be on a first come, first served basis.

#### **Diver Permits**

All divers are still required to obtain a dive permit. Permits are valid for up to 12 months and anyone entering the zone will still be required to abide by specific conditions outlined in the Code of Conduct.

The permit application process remains unchanged:

- Divers can obtain a permit online at [www.exhmashobart.com.au](http://www.exhmashobart.com.au)
- Divers will receive email notification and a copy of their permit along with a copy of the 'Code of Conduct' for diving the site. (This is also available from the SDF upon request.)
- The permit must be on hand when diving the Hobart.

All activities undertaken in the vicinity of the ex-HMAS Hobart are still controlled by the following legislation:

- The Historic Shipwrecks Act 1981
- Harbors and Navigation Act 1993
- Fisheries Act 1982

The permit and 'Code of Conduct' remain unchanged and are available online at [www.exhmashobart.com.au](http://www.exhmashobart.com.au)

The SDF recommends the following protocols are observed:

- i) that recognised safe scuba wreck diving protocols will be observed,
- ii) that the group will have an observer capable of operating the boat remaining topside during the dive as specified in the 'Code of Practice'.
- iii) 2 vessels can raft up on the one buoy, providing the combined maximum length of the 2 vessels does not exceed 10 metres.

- iv) If a vessel is already occupying available buoys, enquire as to when they plan to vacate the buoy so that you are able to use the site.
- v) If you observe unsafe or illegal practices take a photograph if you can, make a note of their boat registration, a description of their boat, number of occupants and their name if known. This should be reported to DEWNR (Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, the SATC and, if considered serious, SAPOL.  
The SDF will undertake to follow such matters through if notified.
- vi) You are to vacate the buoy within a reasonable time interval.

**Contacts:**

SDF of SA:

email: [sdfsa@adam.com.au](mailto:sdfsa@adam.com.au)

Police: Ph: 131 444

SATC: Ph: (08) 8463 4500  
[Leah.Clark@tourism.sa.com](mailto:Leah.Clark@tourism.sa.com)

DEWNR: [DEWNR.CustomerServiceCentre@sa.gov.au](mailto:DEWNR.CustomerServiceCentre@sa.gov.au).

Attached is a section of the original 'Code of Practice' relevant to Recreational Divers;

## **Fleurieu Artificial Reef ExHMAS Hobart**

### **Code of Practice**

#### **SITE CONTROLS (extract)**

The following procedures are recommended practices to be observed by vessels, their operators and divers:

- Vessels must be in good order, with the prescribed safety equipment, including spare air cylinders for decompression or safety stops, oxygen therapy equipment and a first aid kit.
- A person must not operate a vessel in the specified area without a lookout in place.
- A vessel must take the most direct route to its intended mooring but are not to manoeuvre through the inside of the buoyed area.
- Vessels are not permitted to drift through or tie off other moored vessels in the specified area.
- Vessels waiting for a mooring to become available must remain at least 50 metres distant on the perimeter side of the intended mooring or anchored outside the specified area.
- A person with a certificate of competency appropriate to the particular class of vessel must remain on the vessel as a lookout at any time that divers and/or snorkellers are in the water.
- It is not permissible to drop divers and/or snorkellers near a mooring and then move the vessel away from the mooring or outside the Protected Zone. The vessel must remain attached to the mooring whenever divers and/or snorkellers are in the water.
- Vessels must have a blue-and-white 'alpha flag' hoisted at all times that divers and/or snorkellers are in the water. The flag must be taken down when all divers and/or snorkellers have reboarded.
- A detailed manifest must be maintained of divers and/or snorkellers operating from the vessel including the names of persons on the vessel and persons diving together with details of the time of entering and exiting the water.
- Check and record tank pressures upon entering and exiting water.
- Check equipment before entering water to verify that the diver has all necessary equipment and that it is operational.
- A vessel should only stay on a mooring for a reasonable period to complete their dive(s) and then allow other divers to access the site.
- Any damage or unsafe wear to the moorings or wreck should be reported to the SATC.
- Check weather forecasts and only enter Reef/dive if safe.
- General duty of care.

Adherence to these procedures and practices will be policed by SA Police, Transport SA, Fisheries personnel and other persons appointed as Inspectors under the Historic Shipwrecks Act 1981.

Failure to comply may result in a permit being revoked. Repeat offenders may be banned, either temporarily or permanently, from obtaining further permits.