

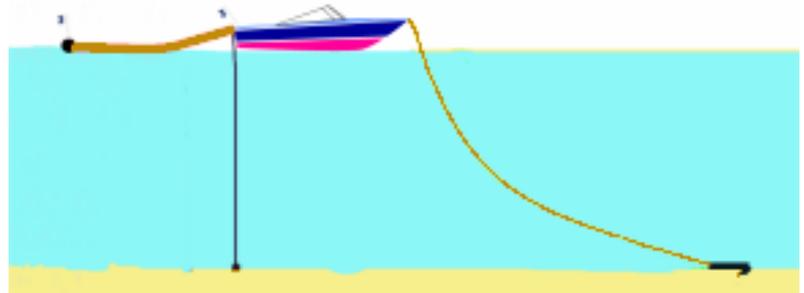


SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION of SA (Inc)

ROUTINES and PROCEDURES for SAFE DIVING

BOATING

- The boat owner should conduct a Boat Orientation before leaving the marina.
- Ensure a responsible person who holds a Boat Licence and who knows how to start and manoeuvre the boat remains on board. (See **APPENDIX A**)
- Deploy a Shot Line from the stern of the boat to the bottom.
Divers should consider the effects of tidal movements and wind direction when deploying the shot line to ensure that divers can surface safely.
Its location relative to the Anchor line also needs to be considered
The Shot should be clearly marked at 10m, 5m and 3m marks.



FITNESS / TRAINING / EQUIPMENT

- Maintain your general fitness.
- Have regular diving medicals, at least each five (5) years.
- Maintain your skills training and consider periodically doing refresher diving courses.
- Maintain your equipment and have it serviced regularly (annually) by a qualified technician.
- Dive within your capabilities and qualifications.
- Ensure there is a First Aid kit on-board. Kits suitable for this purpose can be obtained from St John Ambulance at <http://www.ambulance.net.au/>. The contents of this kit should be sufficient to cater for the injuries that may occur. Consideration also should be given to the number of divers, distance from emergency services and the nature and type of underwater diving which is being undertaken

DIVING

- Leave information re where you are going to dive, when you are expected back, the identity and description of your boat, the number of divers and other personnel on your boat. This information can also be radioed to the your local 'Marine Safety Organisation'. Report your safe return.
- Follow your dive training and follow normal safe diving practice.
- A dive briefing should be conducted prior to each dive where a **dive plan (APPENDIX E)** should be discussed and agreed to. Divers should follow the dive plan.
- Familiarise yourself with and check your buddies gear before each dive.
- Dive within your capabilities and qualifications.
- Weather forecasts, tide data and relevant local information should guide your dive.

LOST or MISSING DIVER(S)

IF DIVER(S) HAVE NOT RETURNED WHEN EXPECTED OR A DIVER IS REPORTED MISSING, THE PROCEDURES DESCRIBED IN **APPENDIX B (BOAT)** AND **APPENDIX C (SHORE)** SHOULD BE FOLLOWED

RECOVERY OF INJURED or UNRESPONSIVE DIVER

IF DIVER(S) ARE INJURED or UNRESPONSIVE, THE PROCEDURES DESCRIBED IN **APPENDIX D** SHOULD BE FOLLOWED

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE re SHARKS and other emergencies

Research has shown that the risk of being attacked by a shark when Scuba diving (on the sea bottom or on a dive wreck) is a very low probability event. Shark attacks have occurred on surface swimmers, board riders and sail boarders with very, few attacks have been reported on Scuba divers.

The Aims of the SDF are to promote Safe Diving and Conservation.

The main point is to minimise and manage any possible risk and make sound risk assessments that consider the prevailing conditions before and during a planned dive.

Reported Sightings

- Abandon the dive if a shark has been reported or sighted in the vicinity of the proposed dive site.
- Choose another dive site.
Remember that a Great White Shark can cruise at a rate of 3 km/h and up to a speed of 16kph.

Encountering a Shark during a Boat Dive

- Settle on the bottom or against a reef, wait and watch.
- Stay Calm and try not to panic.
- Navigate back to the boat and ascend up the shot line to the stern of the boat as quickly as is it safe to do so.
- Face your buddy so you can communicate with divers covering a full 360 degrees of view.
- Jettison weight belt and gear if necessary.
- Exit quickly with minimal splash. If an electronic Shark deterrent is available, attach it to the rear of the boat where the remaining divers are exiting and leave it turned on until all divers are safely back on board.

Encountering a Shark during a Shore or Jetty Dive

- Settle on the bottom or against a reef, wait and watch.
- Make your way along the bottom to shallow water or exit.
- Exit quickly with minimal splash.

Do

- **Use an electronic shark deterrent device.**
- Check newspaper fishing reports for Snapper catches and Shark sightings.
- Check with Police Communications on 8207 4487 for possible shark sightings.
- Avoid diving alone.
- Dive in buddy pairs.
- Attach catch bags with contents to submersible buoys and retrieve when back in the boat.
- If diving near a seal colony, before entering the water ensure there are seals in the water.

Do – Not

- Dive in dirty water particularly after stormwater runoff has dirtied the water.
- Dive at dusk.
- Dive where seals are pupping.
- Dive in spring Snapper runs or near fish farms.
- Dive where fishermen have placed berley in the water.
- Dive with an open or bleeding wound
- Dive in a river mouth or drop-offs.
- Return to the surface with fish or scallops. Tie them off on the anchor or shot line. Retrieve them once all divers are back on-board.

Diver Recall / Alert Signals in the event of any Topside or Underwater emergency

1- **Diver Recall**:- 3 cycles of 2 second engine rev or other warning sound (Sea Hornet Air Horn) with 2 second of silence, repeating this warning at least 3 times with a discernable time gap (10 seconds) between cycles. Timing may need to be adjusted to suit the device being used.



- On a boat dive, return to the boat and surface using the Shot or Anchor line as quickly as possible.
- On a shore dive, return to shore or dive entry point and exit quickly.

2- **Extreme Danger**: - Continuous cycling of 2 second engine rev with 2 second silence. Continue signal while extreme danger is present. Diver Recall should then be used once extreme danger has passed.



- Proceed with extreme caution!
- On a boat dive, settle on the bottom or against a reef, wait and watch. You may consider making your way along the bottom to shallow water or return to the dive entry point or boat at your discretion and wait at the shot or anchor line, facing the danger at all times.
- When you hear Diver Recall signal, exit quickly with minimal splash.
- If a diver has a shark deterrent device, attach it to the rear of the boat until all divers are safely on board.

Divers should modify their behaviour as appropriate and as circumstances dictate.

Divers are reminded to learn and use the National Standard Diving Hand signals as shown below.

NATIONAL STANDARD HAND SIGNALS

			
1 Stop, hold it, stay there	2. Something is wrong	3. OK? OK.	4. OK? OK. (glove on)
			
5 Distress, help	6. OK? OK. (on surface at distance)	7. OK? OK. (one hand occupied)	
			
8 Danger	9. Go up, going up	10. Go down, going down	
			
11 Low on air	12. Out of air	13. Buddy breathe or share air.	