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# Guidance for Recreational Diving in Falmouth Harbour

Version No.	Date	Document Author	Description of changes made
V 1.0	09-02-26	Harbour Master	New version control

This document is reviewed as part of the internal audit process.

Review triggers are set within SharePoint and are author, date, and time stamped by the system.

Recreational Divers are welcome to share Falmouth Harbour area with other harbour users. Falmouth Harbour has many commercial shipping movements throughout the full calendar year, which can take place at short notice anywhere in Falmouth Bay, Carrick Roads, the approaches to Falmouth Docks and Penryn River. This guidance requires that, diving activities should be planned and carried out in such a way that divers keep well clear of these shipping movements, and not to obstruct or impede any commercial activity in the Harbour Area.

This guidance has been developed after consultation with local harbour users. It is considered to reflect best practice and whilst, not in itself mandatory (although some requirements such as exhibiting an A flag are covered by legislation), it is strongly recommended to all those undertaking recreational diving within the Harbour Area.

**NB. No recreational diving is permitted in the vicinity of Falmouth Docks, Wharves or Jetties or within the Docks Basin.**

## Dive Planning

When planning diving activities, and preparing a risk assessment, this guidance requires that divers should have:

- A copy of the “Guidance for Recreational Diving in Falmouth Harbour” and a copy of the bye-laws, and speed limits, which will apply to diving activities
- Checked the Falmouth Harbour’s website for known commercial shipping movements (in particular Cruise Ships) at: <https://www.falmouthharbour.co.uk/shipping-and-harbour-operations/shipping-movements/>
- evidence of current insurance against third party risks
- been trained in the use of delayed surface marker buoys
- noted that when diving in the East Narrow (Carrick Roads) divers should surface on the east bank, and not in the main shipping channel
- planned their dive in such a way that no diving requiring decompression stops takes inside Black Rock Beacon, under any circumstances

## Equipment

This guidance requires divers to have a minimum level of equipment:

- Each dive boat should carry a large “A” flag capable of being seen by surface traffic in all wind conditions during diving activities
- Each diver should carry a delayed surface marker buoy (and be trained in its use)
- Each dive boat should have diver recall signals (which the divers should recognise)
- Each dive boat shall carry a First Aid kit and Diver Oxygen equipment

## Diving Risk Assessment

Before finalising the Risk Assessment for a planned diving activity divers should carry out the following steps under this guidance:

- Contact local yacht clubs to see if they have planned a yacht race for the area in which they intend to dive, as well as making them aware of your plans
- Contact Falmouth Pilots (Channel 9) to check for any known shipping movements in Falmouth Bay requiring a pilot (be alert because not all shipping movement requires the use of a pilot) and inform the pilots of where you intend to dive
- Contact the Dock Master on Channel 11 (for the inner harbour) to check for any known shipping movements that will be taking place in the inner harbour area (once again not all shipping movements are reported to the Dock Master)
- Notify Falmouth Coastguard (Channel 16) before and after the dive

## During the Dive

The Dive Marshal should be aware of all commercial shipping movements and therefore this guidance requires that during the dive:

- a listening watch is maintained on Channels 16, 9 and 11 as not all vessels entering Falmouth Bay require a pilot. Dive Marshals should be alert and prepared to recall all the divers in good time
- a large "A" flag is displayed on the dive boat in a prominent position and in such a way as to ensure all round visibility in all wind conditions during diving activities
- each diver (or buddy pair) should consider using a DSMB before surfacing
- If night diving: consider using a surface marker buoy with a strobe light, towed by the use of a reel

## Pendennis Point

- If diving from the steps on the western side of Pendennis Point this guidance advises the use of a surface marker buoy. This area is adjacent to a water sports area, and therefore there is a risk of collision.

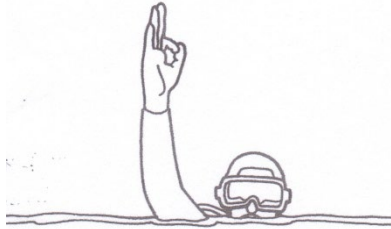
## Emergencies and First Aid

- Any diving related incident should be reported immediately to Falmouth Coastguard on Channel 16.
- Dive Boats are advised to have at least one person on board qualified in Diver First Aid and Oxygen administration.

## Diver Signals

- Diver signals understood by surface traffic in Falmouth Harbour, are as follows:

Okay



Diver in Distress

