

Gordons Bay Scuba Club

11/01/11

SOPS for Tender

Standard operating procedure for very small tender “Call of the Chain” in conjunction with divers in and around the tender whilst dropping chain and retrieving gear.

- 1) Chain preparation- Chain to be provided in lengths of minimum length of 5 metres by using shackles.
- 2) Amount of chain – To avoid injury to the “Master and Commander” of the tender it is recommended that the amount of chain in standard buckets less than 20cm as the lift from stern seat to top of transom is performed whilst sitting on the midship seat. The awkward angle decreases the Herculean strength of the skipper to that of a 12 year old and increases the risk of injury.
- 3) Chain in tender- Buckets of chain to be laid on their side so as not to impede the rowing action whilst underway.
- 4) Dive Plan – Divers and skipper agree on direction of dive as well as likely drum numbers and amount of chain needed for said drum.
- 5) Diver direct tender – When **tender** needed diver to surface (slowly and safely) and attract attention of skipper by **holding one arm high with closed fist (diving signal for boat to attend to diver) in conjunction with shouting or blowing a diving whistle**. Tender to move to diver position whilst diver maintaining position over drum.
- 6) Diver/Tender positioning- When tender arrives diver to hold onto centre of transom as any weight on the side of the tender could result in capsize.
- 7) Chain drop- Diver to direct skipper over drop point. Once tender positioned over drop point diver to move away from tender and check no divers below before giving the “okay” signal to skipper. Skipper to lift a bucket of chain onto stern seat. Bucket tipped against transom and bottom of bucket pulled up and chain tipped out. At all times during the chain drop diver to remain on surface and monitor for any divers entering the drop zone.
- 8) Chain retrieval- Diver to attract tender as steps 5 & 6. Diver to retrieve small amounts of chain in buckets with use of buoyancy vest. (Air bag for heavier load) End of chain to be handed to skipper and pulled slowly and safely aboard.
- 9) Gear retrieval- Diver to attract tender as steps 5 & 6.
Airbag- Diver to hand top of airbag to skipper so water drains out as bag retrieved. Tanks- Diver leans tank half submerged onto mid transom with valve end toward skipper to grab and pull aboard.
- 10) When skipper needs to get a diver to surface for any reason 3 blasts of the compressed air horn to be sounded if tender is above or near said diver.

And finally but most importantly Safety first always.