

The Villages Scuba Club



Boat Diving

WARREN GROSS, 02 JUNE 2021

Boat Diving

- Advantages of boat diving
 - Easy access to great dives sites off-shore
 - No walking around with dive kit on your back
 - No wading through surf
- Types of Diving Boats
 - Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB)
 - Day Boats or Hard Boats
 - Live-Aboards
- Types of Diving off Boats
 - Moored
 - Drift Diving



Preparation

- Get your gear ready
 - Have you tested your new gear in a benign dive environment?
 - Use your checklist to ensure all your gear is packed.
 - Is your gear marked?
 - Don't forget:
 - Cert card and Nitrox card, if renting tanks
 - Cash for tips - \$10 per dive suggested
 - Sunglasses, hat, reef-safe sunscreen
 - Jacket for boat for the ride out and back
 - Batteries charged and installed?
 - Save-a-dive kit for your specific gear.
 - A DSMB should be carried by all divers in open water.
 - Pack your dive gear in a collapsible boat bag, roll-boards and hard cases take up lots of room.
 - A small dry bag is great for keeping your non-waterproof valuables safe while diving.
- Get yourself ready
 - Hydrate - limit your alcohol
 - Good night's sleep
 - Seasickness medication?



Don't be that diver!

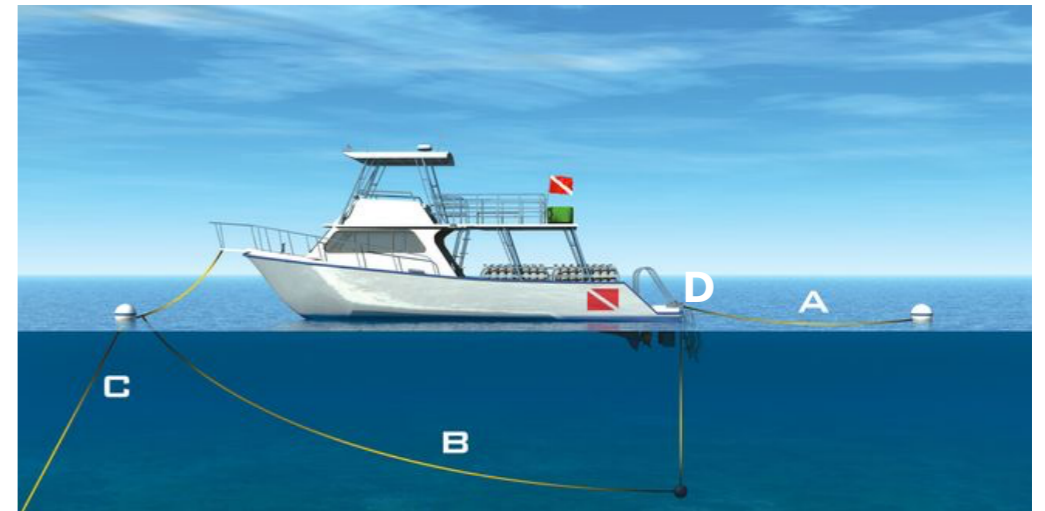
Boarding and Pre-Dive

- Many crews are very particular about boat boarding. It is best to get permission prior to boarding. Also, some boats may require you to remove shoes or flip-flops.
 - Once on-board, locate your assigned position and set up your gear.
 - Once gear is set up, verify operation of regulators and inflate BCD. Do this before the boat is ready to leave the dock!
 - Request weights from deck hands.
 - Stow your loose gear (fins, mask, snorkel, etc) out of the way of traffic.
- Pay attention to briefings
 - Boat familiarization and safety briefing typically by captain before leaving the dock.
 - Amenities (Head, Water, Snacks)
 - Location of safety gear
 - Water entry procedures
 - Emergency recall procedures
 - Water exit procedures
 - Dive site briefing by the Dive Master
 - Bottom depth(s) and type, current, expected visibility
 - Maximum bottom time, safety stop requirements
 - Potential sightings
 - Potential hazards.



Water Entry/Exit - Moored

- Water Entry
 - Usually via giant stride.
 - Depending on boat and dive site, this can be stern, side or bow entry.
 - Follow trail/swim lines to mooring Line and descend.
 - Careful!
 - A diver can easily dislodge the anchor line of a small boat
 - Watch for hooks and shells on mooring line. Gloves are a good idea.
- Water Exit - typically via ladders
 - Ascend mooring line to safety stop.
 - Follow trail/swim lines to ladder.
 - Keep regulator and mask on until at top of ladder.
 - Keep fins on until you have a hold of the boat.
 - Stay clear of ladder when another diver is on ladder.
 - Many ladders float and tend to push diver around. Step onto ladder and empty your BCD.
 - Christmas tree ladder - keep fins on with gear on or off.
 - Standard ladder - remove fins before climbing ladder.



- A - Trail or Current Line**
- B - Tagline, Swim or Granny Line**
- C - Mooring Line**
- D - Descent Line**

Water Entry/Exit - Drift Dive

- Water Entry
 - Work way to entry point, holding onto boat with at least one hand. Don't hold onto tanks.
 - Usually via giant stride.
 - For most dives, put air in BCD before entering
 - Upon entry flash OK sign and find your buddy.
 - Descend with dive group, when everyone is ready.
- Water Exit via ladders
 - Ensure surface marker (DMSB, Float Flag) is deployed at Safety Stop.
 - After Safety Stop, ascend and bunch up. When all are on surface, give boat OK to approach.
 - Wait for deck hand to wave in divers.
 - Keep regulator and mask on until at top of ladder.
 - Stay clear of ladder when another diver is on ladder.
 - Many ladders float and tend to push diver around. Step onto ladder and empty your BCD.
 - Christmas tree ladder - keep fins on with gear on or off.
 - Standard ladder - remove fins before climbing ladder.



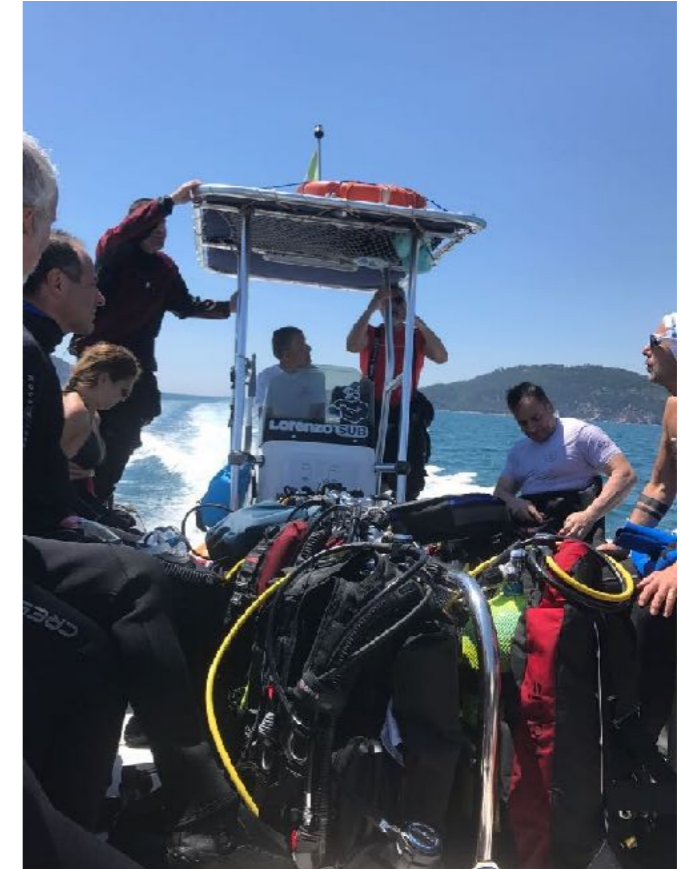
Post Dive Procedures

- Take care of your gear right away
 - Secure tank so it won't fly around
 - Find fins and DSMB
 - Return weights
 - Break down kit
 - Pack up and stow bag
- Hydrate



Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats (RHIB)

- Very common in Europe, Asia, and some live-aboard use as a tender.
- Provides access to sites that may be difficult to reach via hard boat or shore diving.
- Limited range, limited stowage, limited amenities.
 - Typically dive kit is pre-set up before loading on RHIB - one dive per trip.
 - Stow mask (in case), fins, and gloves in small mesh bag.
 - Stow hat, sunglasses in mesh bag when in water.
- Water Entry typically via Back Roll. Alternatively, drop in water and don gear.
- Water Exit
 - Ladder equipped - remove weights, fins and hand up to deck hand before climbing ladder.
 - Tube flop - remove weights and hand up to deck hand. Remove BCD/tank and secure to gear line. Grab hold of safety rope, extend arms and kick hard and pull up. You will be judged on your style and grace.



Tips for a good day on the boat - for you, other divers, and the crew

- Arrive on Time
 - Assemble and check your gear before leaving the dock.
 - Be neat from the beginning of the trip to the end. Stow your gear. Watch out for other diver's gear.
 - Don't interfere with the crew.
 - Pay attention to briefings.
 - Don't use camera tank for mask rinsing.
 - Familiarize yourself with your computer before diving. RTFM.
 - Don't be a tank blaster.
 - If feeling seasick - move out to fresh air, out of exhaust and watch the horizon. There is ocean everywhere, no need to spew into boat - do it downwind.
 - Do your business before boarding the boat. The holding tanks are typically vented aft of boat. No one wants to smell your business.
 - Hydrate!
 - Don't forget to tip the crew!
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