

UNIVERSITY UNDERWATER CLUB
SKIPPERS CHECKLIST
VERY IMPORTANT INFO

BUNG

1. Check that the bung is in place before you launch the boat.
2. Ask someone else to check it
3. Check it again
4. And once again for good luck

FUEL TANKS

There are effectively two tanks, one on each side dedicated to a motor. Each holds roughly 160l of fuel.

FUEL CONSUMPTION

- Very variable depending on weather, load and speed. Figure on about 30l per hour each motor and leave a generous reserve.
- To keep track of fuel consumption and save the next skipper from the hassle of a morning fill, please ensure you refill both tanks at the end of every day.

BATTERIES

- The battery is located in the bottom hatch on the starboard side at the stern of the boat.
- Three switches for battery.
 - Battery 1
 - Battery 2
 - Battery 1 & 2
- If you can access the battery between dives, switch it from one battery to the other to charge it.
- The only time the centre switch is to be in 1+2 is if one of the batteries is too low to start its motor, in which case:
 1. Start the motor on the good battery.
 2. Switch centre to 1+2
 3. Start the motor on the tired battery, give it a minute to start charging.
 4. switch centre to 1 or 2 before taking off.

DO NOT leave the centre switch on 1+2 or you risk flattening both batteries and not being able to start either motor.

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DAY BEFORE THE DIVE

BOAT

- › Text Boat Storage Australia with the following information (0409 298 665)
 - Name of the boat (also known as Bumble Bee)
 - Time of pick up
 - Time of return
 - Your name

DIVERS

- › Confirm the list of divers with the Dive Coordinator (you should get a text or email from them)
- › Print the list of divers and dive manifest (check website)
- › Check weather report
- › Check divers experience
- › Plan suitable dive sites based on weather and diver experience (have a couple of back up options)

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BOAT PREPARATION

Towing Preparation

- ▶ The boat will be in the car park at the back of Boat Storage Australia at Woodman Point.
- ▶ Please be respectful and drive slowly.
- ▶ **Put the bung in. Get someone else to check it and check it again for good luck.**
- ▶ Turn the batteries on raise the engines
- ▶ Raise the aerials
- ▶ Turn the GPS/sounder and radio on
- ▶ Check the fuel. Right hand fuel tank will only register $\frac{3}{4}$ on the gauge when full.
- ▶ Fill in the boat logbook with diver names and fuel.
- ▶ Shackle trailer to vehicle (don't even think about skipping this step!!). Make sure the pin is engaged.
- ▶ Raise jockey wheel
- ▶ Connect brakes (square connector)

Car Park

- ▶ Park at the eastern side of the car park towards the rear (ie far away from the ramp so that we don't get people's way)
- ▶ Ask divers to park in a line in one bay rather than taking up multiple bays
- ▶ Ensure everyone has a buddy pair.
- ▶ Determine dive order (ensure that the pair nominated to get in first are competent to handle boat when skipper is diving)
- ▶ Load all dive gear and dry gear on to the boat (ask people to minimise what they are taking on the boat).
- ▶ Load spare tanks inbetween wooden seats and skipper/passenger's seat
- ▶ *Option - one buddy pair to share a tub under one of the seats.*
- ▶ *Option – load dive gear for first buddy pair where divers will roll off. Once they take their gear, the space is free for other divers to roll off.*
- ▶ *Option – tie tanks for buddy pairs together. That way, they don't untie their tank and forget to tie any other tanks back up again.*
- ▶ Ask someone to refill the boat water

- ▶ Weight belts to be loaded on the floor of the boat at the end of the seats. Not to be put in tubs or bags. They are too heavy to lift.
- ▶ *Option - load the door to the dry hold (ie riot door) into someone's car and the covers for the radio and GPS/Sounder*

Launch Boat

- ▶ Note that some ramps are dedicated to retrieval only and other ramps are dedicated to launch and retrieval.
- ▶ Coordinate launching assistance (select people who have done it before or are familiar with boats)
- ▶ Release the shackle while the boat is still on a flat surface (you won't be able to release it when the boat is on the ramp)
- ▶ Release winch
- ▶ Launch
- ▶ Engine down
- ▶ Ensure both engines are in the start position before starting either engine (they won't start otherwise)
- ▶ Idle the engines for a while to allow them to warm up and also for any "fresh" water pulled in from rain or the last wash-down or condensation to get pulled into the separators.

Before Departing Boat Ramp

- ▶ Get someone to fill in names in the diver manifest in the order that people are diving
 - ▶ Make decision on first dive site based on:
 - Depth (deepest dive first)
 - Wind and waves (and what it is forecast to be by the time you finish the dive)
 - Diver experience
 - Weather for second dive
- NB – *you may change your mind as you get closer to the site and see the actual conditions*
- ▶ Plan your trip – determine the route, and consult the chart so that you are aware of any hazards, obstacles etc that may be encountered on the way

- Conduct Boat safety briefing (see Briefing Procedure)

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DEPARTING WOODMAN POINT AND FIRST DIVE SITE

Leaving Woodman Point & Getting to the Dive Site	At the Dive Site
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Log in to Freo Sea Rescue (see radio guide)▶ As you leave Woodman Point and before you increase speed, make sure that all the equipment is secure and that everyone is holding on.▶ Travelling along - adjust the speed slowly, avoid rapid changes of speed and direction. If the boat is “banging” on waves, then slow down.▶ Keep the trip comfortable, reduce speed to suit people and conditions▶ Keep an adequate lookout in all directions – other boats, dive flags, cray pot floats/ropes etc▶ Obey direction markers and speed signs▶ Give other boats a wide berth – it’s a big ocean, don’t be afraid to use it!	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ On approach, nominate deck hands and give instructions:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– When to drop the anchor– Length of rope to deploy– How to tie it off▶ Choose anchor site and anchor securely using the boat cleat in the well – make sure the anchor rope that is let out is adequate (3 x depth), and that it is tied off securely. Check it before you dive.▶ Be prepared to reset anchor if required - delegate first diver group to check anchor on bottom▶ Check that mermaid line is out, dive flag is up and ladder is down▶ Log in with Freo Sea Rescue (see Radio Guide)

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FIRST DIVE

First Dive	Leaving the Site:
<p>Before the Dive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Give dive site briefing (see briefing notes)▶ Delegate someone to log divers in▶ Help or delegate someone to help divers get in and out of the water safely▶ Ensure person on boat keeps an eye out for drifting divers or divers having difficulty making it back to the boat.▶ Ensure person on boat knows how to use the radio.▶ Ask everyone to stow their gear when they return from the dive. <p>After the Dive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Ensure tanks are changed over (if doing a second dive) with dust covers off empty tanks▶ Check sizes of catch, remember boat and bag limits▶ Retrieve anchor carefully – if required, send divers down to retrieve anchor, don't use brute force▶ Call Freo Sea Rescue with details of next leg of journey	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Plan next dive site based on:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Depth– Wind and waves (and what it is forecast to be by the time you finish the dive)– What people want to do

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APRES DIVING

On Return to Woodman Point

- Log off with Freo Sea Rescue (thank them)
- Complete boat log book:
 - Engine hours (est of how long engines were running and accumulated time)
 - Fuel (left and right), start and end of trip

At Ramp and Carpark

- Note launch and retrieval lanes
- **RAISE ENGINES !!!!!**
- Retrieve vehicle
- Load boat onto trailer – it is OK to drive the boat onto the trailer.
- Stow winch handle on dash of boat
- Drain boat (it is good to open bung while you are still at an angle on the boat ramp). Put the cap in the engine bay.
- Unload all gear
- Lower the aerials
- Refuel the boat (make a note in the log book)

Washdown

- Lower engines to flush them
- Washdown engines
- Flush engine cooling system
- Wash trailer and boat
- Lower curtains to wash them