**SNORKELLING ON-SITE RISK** **ASSESSMENT (1)**



The following checklist of hazards/risks and other items may be of assistance when planning snorkelling work and should be conducted by the Dive Coordinator in conjunction with the Pre-Snorkel Briefing at all new Snorkelling sites. Please circle the risk factors that apply. All **moderate** and **higher** risk factors **must** be communicated to the **Snorkelling team** to ensure they are aware of any potential hazards or risks prior to entering the water. Note, if there is no change in site or environmental conditions the Risk Assessment is valid for a **maximum of 3 days**. When site or environmental conditions change please reassess and complete a new Risk Assessment.

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| **RISK FACTOR** | **LOWER RISK** | **MODERATE RISK** | **HIGHER RISK** |
| Weather and sea | Calm, settled weather pattern | Calm, unsettled weather pattern | Rough |
| Site exposure | Sheltered low energy | Partially sheltered | Exposed high energy |
| Site location | Local metropolitan | Rural | Remote location |
| Time of day | Start and finish in full daylight | Early morning or late afternoon. | Dusk, dawn or snorkelling in heavy fog. |
| Water temperature | Warm > 18oC | Cool 12oC to 18oC | Cold <12oC |
| Current at site | Nil to weak | Moderate | Strong |
| Visibility | > 5m | 2m – 5m | < 2m |
| Depth at snorkelling site | < 2m | 2m to 5m | >5m |
| Number of personnel | Small group i.e. < 5 snorkellers. | Moderate group i.e. 5 to 10 snorkellers. | Large group >10 snorkellers. |
| Snorkelling experience  of personnel | > 50 hrs | 20 – 50 hrs | < 20 hrs |
| Time since last snorkel dive | < 3 months | 3 – 6 months | > 6 months |
| In-water fitness | Frequent in-water exercise i.e. swimming, snorkelling, surfing etc. | Some but no water specific exercise i.e. sports, gym, running etc. | Limited to no exercise with some participants of questionable fitness. |
| Buoyancy assistance | Use of PFD vests/ life jackets for all snorkellers. | Use of PFD vests/ lifejackets for participants with questionable fitness | No utilisation of PFD vests of lifejackets. |
| Snorkelling profile | Surface snorkel swim only | Surface snorkel swim with some breath hold duck diving to shallow depths <2m | Mostly Snorkel breath hold diving to depths 2m to 5m |
| Time in water - fatigue | <1 hour in water time | 1 to 2 hours in water time. | >2 hours in water time. |
| Local knowledge | Know site well | Some experience with or  knowledge of site | Little knowledge of site |
| Entrapment hazards | Unobstructed ascent | Around debris | Obstructed ascent |
| Entanglement | No risk of entanglement | Some risk (i.e. use of tethers or lifelines) | Higher risk (i.e. jetties or marine infrastructure) |
| Effect of boat traffic | Infrequent boat traffic | Some boat traffic | High boat traffic, shipping lane near boat ramp etc. |
| Task related risks | General observation | Use of slates, cameras and tapes | Use of hand tools i.e. pole driver |
| Marine life | General observation | Collection or handling of fauna or samples | Manipulation of dangerous or venomous animals |
| Dangerous marine animals  e.g. large predatory sharks or  venomous jellyfish etc. | No dangerous marine animals | Known range of dangerous marine animals | Common home range with history of attacks |
| Communications | Whistles used by Snorkel Leader, Surface Lookout, Dive Coordinator and Coxswain/ Skipper | Use of whistles by Snorkel Leader only | No whistles present |
| Medical assistance? | < 30 min. away | 0.5 – 2 hrs away | > 2hrs away |

Other Risks or Hazards list: **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**\_

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| **Dive Coordinator:** |  | **Signature:** |  | **Date/ time:** |  |

\*A signed copy of this form must be submitted to the Maritime Safety Dive Officer (Matt Lloyd) post trip.