

PROCEDURE

Issued by: Capt AK Ullah, Harbour Master Date 13/10/2014

Subject: **Diving operations**

1.0 Information

1.1 This procedure relates to diving operations undertaken within the jurisdiction of the Port of Sunderland. This area includes the River Wear between the outer pier ends and Biddick Ford, the Docks and the seaward area between Ryhope Dene and Souter Point (as indicated in the Sunderland Corporation Act, 1972).

2.0 Commercial diving operations - Procedure

2.1 All commercial diving operations, whether from on shore or from a vessel, will be conducted in accordance with the Diving at Work Regulation, 1997.

2.2 Prior to commencing any such operation, the Diving Contractor will email the following documentation to portmarineoperations@sunderland.gov.uk:

2.2.1 (a) Letter of appointment – Dive Supervisor

(b) Dive Plan including:

- Risk assessment
- Method statement
- Dive rules
- Dive emergency medical contacts and CASEVAC plan
- Dive record sheet

(c) The Approved Code of Practice (ACOP), under which the operation is being undertaken should also be stated.

2.3 Only when the above documentation has been viewed by the Harbour Master or Deputy Harbour Master will authority be given to commence diving operations and then only in compliance with any additional conditions which may be requested for safety reasons.

2.4 Once such authority has been given, Local Port Services (LPS), Port Control (call-sign - "Sunderland Harbour Radio") will be notified before diving commences. LPS will advise of any vessel traffic movements and any additional information that may impact upon the diving operation. LPS will verify that all safety checks and procedures are in place and record the same.

2.5 During the operation, the dive site will maintain a listening watch on Marine VHF

radio channel 14 at all times.

- 2.6 LPS will be notified of any subsequent suspension, recommencement or termination of a diving operation.

3.0 Police diving operations - Procedure

- 3.1 All police diving operations, whether from on shore or from a vessel for training or operational purposes, will be conducted in accordance with the Diving at Work Regulation, 1997 and "Approved Code of Practice for Police Diving Projects."
- 3.2 Due to the nature of police work, it will not be necessary to forward documentation (as in the case of Commercial Diving Operations, above) to the Port of Sunderland. However, a communication will be made to LPS notifying the Port of Sunderland of the type, location and expected duration of the diving operation.
- 3.3 Once such notification has been received, Local Port Services (LPS), Port Control (call-sign – "Sunderland Harbour Radio") will be informed before diving commences. LPS will advise of any vessel traffic movements and any additional information that may impact upon the diving operation. LPS will verify that all safety checks and procedures are in place.
- 3.4 During the operation, the dive site will maintain a listening watch on Marine VHF radio channel 14 at all times.
- 3.5 LPS will be notified of any subsequent suspension, recommencement or termination of a diving operation.

4.0 Recreational Diving - Procedure

- 4.1 Recreational or sports diving will not normally be sanctioned within the Harbour (ie the tidal reaches of the River Wear or Docks).
- 4.2 Any such request must be directed to the Harbour Master or Deputy Harbour Master in the first instance.
- 4.3 In the event of permission being granted, diving will be in strict compliance with any conditions imposed by the Harbour Master, his deputies or assistants.
- 4.4 LPS should be notified of any recreational diving activities within the seaward area of the port's jurisdiction before a diver enters the water, whether from on shore or from a vessel. Divers must comply with any instructions issued on the grounds of safety and provide additional information that may be reasonably requested.

5.0 Local Port Services

- 5.1 Diving operations of all types are to be fully recorded within the Diving Operations application of the Port Operations Database, with additional comments (as necessary) being entered on the LPS Log.
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