EUSAC Risk Assessment

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	Do you need to do anything else to manage this risk?	Action by whom?	Action by when?
Manual handling	Musculoskeletal injuries due to inexperience in handling heavy dive equipment.	Provide a demonstration of how to handle heavy dive equipment during training. Encourage the use of the buddy system in donning and doffing equipment. Ensure diving equipment is placed as near to the water entry point, prior to assembly and donning.	No further action necessary at this stage.	Committee Instructors Divemasters	Ongoing for all training and dive trips.
Slips and trips	Injuries sustained by tripping/falling on paths, car parks, walls, rocks and entry/exit points to the water.	Warn all persons arriving at the site that the area can be slippery when wet or icy. Encourage rubber soled dive boots for safety. No running.	No further action necessary at this stage.	Committee Instructors Divemasters	Ongoing for all training and dive trips.
Pre-existing medical conditions	Certain medical conditions and level of fitness may affect the persons ability to safely participate in this sport. For example, conditions such as asthma can be exacerbated while scuba diving.	All participants undergoing training are required to complete a medical questionnaire and exclusion of liability form, which requires a signature. In the event of any medical concerns raised, participants are referred to their doctor/GP for a medical evaluation. A written fitness certificate obtained from a medical practitioner is required before being allowed to dive.	No further action necessary at this stage.	Instructors	Ongoing for all training and dive trips.

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Environmental conditions of dive site. - Weather - Sun and heat - Air temperature - Water temperature - Depth - Topography - Altitude - Visibility - Overhead environments - Wrecks - Drifts and currents	Low temperatures can cause regulator free flow, hypothermia and frost bite. High temperatures and sun exposure can cause hyperthermia, heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Low visibility can cause increased anxiety, disorientation and buddy separation. No direct access to the surface when entering overhead environments. Risk of entrapment when entering wrecks. Risk of being swept away from water entry/ exit points in strong currents.	Conditions must be assessed and appropriate to dive operation and experience of the group. All dives are briefed before water entry. In low temperatures, all regulators must be certified EN250 for use in cold water diving. All participants undergoing training are taught how to handle free flow situations. Appropriate exposure protection must be worn by all divers. Wetsuits or drysuits with hoods and gloves if required. Dives are planned within limits of training and certification level. Max depth for Open Water divers is 18 metres. Max depth for Advanced Open Water divers is 30 metres. Max depth for Deep Specialty divers is 40 metres. Appropriate considerations are made for low visibility environments: Reduced ratios of instructors to students. Use of torches/strobes. Buddy lines. Wreck dives with penetration are only allowed with Wreck Specialty training and certification. 40 metre linear distance rules apply when entering an overhead environment. All dive sites are assessed for strong currents before water entry. Use of a certified dive guide familiar with local conditions when on organised club trips abroad. All divers must dive with a buddy and the group must have an appropriate audio or visual signalling device.	No further action necessary at this stage.	Committee Instructors Divemasters	Ongoing for all training and dive trips.

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Equipment malfunction	Participants may be at risk if their scuba equipment malfunctions underwater. Free flowing regulators. Leaks. Worn straps/clips/ buckles. Missing/degraded o-rings.	All club scuba equipment is regularly inspected, serviced and kept in full working order. The equipment provided has redundancy built in: Each diver has two breathing regulators, providing a spare if one fails. Regulators are designed to fail in a state of free-flow, meaning they will still provide a constant flow of oxygen and not block the diver from taking a breath. All divers must dive with a buddy. Equipment can be shared in case of emergency (buddy breathing etc.) and training is provided for this situation.	No further action necessary at this stage.	Committee Instructors Divemasters	Ongoing for all training and dive trips.
Contaminated air	Contaminated air may occur from faulty or unmaintained air compressors during cylinder filling. Can cause headaches, nausea and unconsciousness.	All cylinders are refilled at reputable and certified service centres only. All participants undergoing training are taught how to detect contaminated air and if identified, stop using the affected cylinder immediately. Mark affected cylinders to be examined, cleaned and refilled before future use.	No further action necessary at this stage.	Committee Instructors Divemasters	Ongoing for all training and dive trips.

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Compressed gas complications - Nitrogen narcosis - Oxygen toxicity	Hazardous affects caused by breathing compressed gasses at depth. Nitrogen narcosis can cause “drunken” symptoms: Perceptual narrowing. Euphoria. Loss of critical thinking. Oxygen toxicity can cause convulsions followed by unconciousness.	All participants undergoing training are taught how to recognise nitrogen narcosis and the steps to correct it. All participants undergoing training are taught how to plan dives within safe limits of oxygen exposure. Increased risk of oxygen toxicity when breathing NITROX enriched air. Special training and certification is required before allowing use of such gases. All divers must dive with a buddy. All training groups must be accompanied by an instructor and safety diver (PADI Divemaster certified or above) for all in-water sessions.	No further action necessary at this stage.	Instructors Divemasters	Ongoing for all training and dive trips.

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Diving related injuries - Barotrauma - Decompression sickness - Lung over expansion	Diving injuries can be sustained when going beyond appropriate safety limits. Ascending or descending too fast. Not equalising ear spaces. Holding breath during a dive.	All participants undergoing training are taught appropriate diving safety information in accordance with local protocol and standards. Emphasis on slow ascent and descent rates when diving. Emphasis on the importance of ear space equalisation. Emphasis on the importance of never holding your breath when diving. Mandatory safety stops at 5 metres for 3 minutes on all dives. All training groups must be accompanied by an instructor and safety diver (PADI Divemaster certified or above) for all in-water sessions. All training groups must have appropriate ratios of instructors to students, in accordance with local regulations and standards. All divers must dive with a buddy and the group must have an appropriate audio or visual signalling device. All divers must use a dive computer for all dives. Shore side support must be provided for all dives and log who is in the water at all times. All club instructors and divemasters must be certified Emergency First Responders and can provide primary/ secondary first-aid. All dive sites and trips must have an Emergency Action Plan, detailing procedures for evacuation and contact information for local medical services and hyperbaric chambers.	No further action necessary at this stage.	Instructors Divemasters	Ongoing for all training and dive trips.

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Drowning	Where any large body of water is present, there is an inherent risk of drowning.	All participants must be able to swim before commencement of training and in-water sessions. All training groups must be accompanied by an instructor and safety diver (PADI Divemaster certified or above) for all in-water sessions. All training groups must have appropriate ratios of instructors to students, in accordance with local regulations and standards. All divers must dive with a buddy and the group must have an appropriate audio or visual signalling device. Shore side support must be provided for all dives and log who is in the water at all times. All club instructors and divemasters must be certified Emergency First Responders and can provide primary/ secondary first-aid. All dive sites and trips must have an Emergency Action Plan, detailing procedures for evacuation and contact information for local medical services and hyperbaric chambers.	No further action necessary at this stage.	Instructors Divemasters	Ongoing for all training and dive trips.