



Abandoned Divers, What to do, How to Prevent

The Boat

- Check out the boat and boat captain before diving
 - Ask questions about rescue action plans
 - Ask about the history of the motor
 - Ask about the credentials of the crew
 - Ask about the system for counting heads (Names!)
- Find out if the boat has a functioning radio
 - Request to see and hear it function
 - Ask who they call for assistance
- Be alert to location of the nearest land

The Dive

- If a drift dive, listen carefully for instructions, stay with the group
- Check for current, tide and wind conditions; imagine yourself out of sight of the boat
- Always start your dive by swimming upcurrent after orienting yourself
- Develop navigational skills. See <http://www.scubadiving.com/training/instruction/navigation/>

Equipment possibly helpful

- Inflatable Sausage
- Reflector

- Whistle or other noise maker
- Slate
- Line

Hazards of being left behind

- Dehydration and thirst
- Hypothermia
- Severe sunburn and immersion injury
- Marine animal injury
- Drowning

Things to do

- Inflate BC
- Drop weights, preserving belt
- Inflate sausage
- Flash reflector (Someone might see it, even though you can't see them)
- Blow whistle
- Write time, approximate location and speed of current on your slate
- If you swim, swim diagonally with the current toward any known dry land.
- Stay with others involved. Use a tie up method using empty weight belt or other straps. This gives a larger target for searchers.
- Remember that there will be rescue attempts and searchers.

'Seven Steps to Survival'

Survival at sea depends on the recognition that you are in danger of losing your life. There are commonly described "seven steps" to survival that may make a difference in the outcome of some rather terrible situations. Even an accident fairly close inshore in cold water can quickly lead to hypothermia and drowning. The seven steps to survival are: recognition, inventory, shelter, water, food, signals and play. Of course, flotation is a prerequisite for any survival after only a short time in the water. Other factors come into play, the most important of which is unmeasurable, "the will to live".

The seven steps to survival include recognizing that you are in peril and realizing that what you are wearing constitutes a form of shelter. Use signals in the form of mirrors, flares, colored objects or waving arms, suits or objects about to attract attention. Finally, "play" comes into action as you have memories, fantasies, prayer, tell jokes and get rid of your anger.

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