

# Risk Management Form

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## Document Details

Enter the details of the document. The [Risk Management Procedure \(HS329\)](#) should be consulted to assist in the completion of this form.

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Approval Status Approved Approval Date 17/12/2018

Title \* Free diving and snorkelling

Faculty \* [Science](#)

School \* [School of Biological, Earth and Environment](#)

Approver \* Suzy Evans

Period of time before next review  6 months  1 year  2 years  3 years  N/A

### OR

Next Review Date 30/07/2022

Review Date Reminder  1 day  5 days  10 days  15 days  30 days  45 days  60 days  90 days

## Risk Management Details

Risk Management Form Description **Free diving and snorkelling**

Locations [BEES Off campus Australia](#); [BEES Off campus Sydney metro](#)

Persons at Risk \*  Workers  Students  Visitors  Contractors  Members of the public

Consultation Process \* Persons must read this form  
Supervisor induction or safety briefing

Related Legislation, Standards, Codes of Practice etc. \* WHS Act 2011; WHS Regulations 2017; AS/NZS 2299.3:2003; UNSW Snorkelling and free diving operations manual (latest version)

Related Safety Documents [SCI-BEES-RMF-111-Diving Activities - SCUBA](#)  
[SCI-BEES-SWP-30-Shark Shield Safe Working Procedure/Instructions](#)  
[SCI-BEES-SWP-633-Using Dive Cylinders and Emergency Oxygen](#)

Related Equipment

Related Activities -

### Hazards and Risks

Use this section to list each task/scenario and its associated hazard and risk. You can choose multiple tasks by clicking on 'Add new hazard' at the end of this box

Hazard Task/Scenario \* Driving to and from Site

Hazard Category \* [Transport - Interaction with other vehicle](#)

Associated Harm \* Injury or death

Existing Controls \* Careful driving and observed speed limit and rules of the road. Wear seatbelts. Ensure driver well rested, take breaks when necessary – recommend rest or change drivers every two hours. Experienced drivers. BEES Car induction.

Additional Controls

Risk Consequence 4. Major Risk Likelihood E. Rare Risk Rating **Medium**

Cost of Controls

Is this reasonably practicable?  Yes  No

Hazard Task/Scenario \* Entering or exiting the water

Hazard Category \* [Slip, trip, fall - Fall on same level](#)

Associated Harm \* Strains, sprains. Cuts, grazes

Existing Controls \* Wear appropriate footwear (booties). Move cautiously. Chose the most appropriate entry/exit location. Identify and discuss exit and alternate exit before diving. Ensure ladders/platforms are secured properly. Wait for the ideal swell. Try to pick the last wave in a set. Remove fins if appropriate, give and accept buddy assistance. Have first aid kit and mobile phone on site.

Additional Controls

Risk Consequence 2. Minor Risk Likelihood D. Unlikely Risk Rating **Low**

Cost of Controls

Is this reasonably practicable?  Yes  No

Hazard Task/Scenario \* Working from a boat: Falling or being struck by boat or prop

Hazard Category \* [Transport - Interaction with other vehicle](#)

Associated Harm \* Injury or death

Existing Controls \* Only enter or exit boat with skipper's permission. Engine should be off when entering or exiting the boat. Snorkelers must swim towards boat for exiting the water rather than the boat going to snorkellers. Use a safety line (mermaid line) if necessary. Display a dive flag. Keep a look out for boating traffic. Raise an arm to signal your position in the water to other boats. Use buoys, markers and lights to separate snorkelling activity from vessels if necessary. Follow all other controls for working from a boat.

Additional Controls

Risk Consequence 3. Moderate Risk Likelihood E. Rare Risk Rating **Medium**

Cost of Controls

Is this reasonably practicable?  Yes  No

Hazard Task/Scenario \* Boat and shipping traffic

Hazard Category \* [Transport - Interaction with other vehicle](#)

Associated Harm \* Injury or death

Existing Controls \* Display dive flag alpha. Use a shore lookout where appropriate. Avoid areas of heavy boating. Use buoys, markers and lights to separate snorkelling activity from vessels if necessary.

Additional Controls

Risk Consequence 3. Moderate Risk Likelihood E. Rare Risk Rating **Medium**

Cost of Controls

Is this reasonably practicable?  Yes  No

Hazard Task/Scenario \* Environmental exposure

Hazard Category \* [Environmental hazard](#)

Associated Harm \* Sunburn Hypothermia Hyperthermia Death

Existing Controls \* Wear appropriate PPE (wetsuit, hood and gloves, booties) for the environment and the work to be done. Use sunscreen. Other PPEs (sunhat, glasses, long sleeves when out of the water). Dry clothing for afterwards. Drink plenty of water and carry adequate food. Check appropriate websites to check current pollution/contamination levels.

Additional Controls

Risk Consequence 2. Minor Risk Likelihood D. Unlikely Risk Rating **Low**

Cost of Controls

Is this reasonably practicable?  Yes  No

Hazard Task/Scenario \* Free diving and snorkelling: Lost diver / Unaccounted person

Hazard Category \* [Water - Open/closed body of water](#)

Associated Harm \* Drowning / Injury

Existing Controls \* Always swim in buddy pairs or trios. If diving as a single, ensure there is a person constantly observing from the shore/boat. Do not swim during rough seas or in strong currents. Ensure everyone is accounted for prior and post snorkelling activities. Use an active count such as roll call or signature sheets. An active count must be used when there are more than six people in the water. A surface watch should be present when there are more than six people in the water.

Additional Controls

Risk Consequence 4. Major Risk Likelihood E. Rare Risk Rating **Medium**

Cost of Controls

Is this reasonably practicable?  Yes  No

Hazard Task/Scenario \* Adverse sea conditions

Hazard Category \* [Water - Tides, currents, floods, swell, surf, tsunami](#)

Associated Harm \* Drowning / Injury

Existing Controls \* Check weather marine forecasts and tide charts. Cancel fieldwork under dangerous conditions. Do onsite risk assessment for each dive and conduct dive brief to discuss. Dive on slack tide in areas of current. Consider diving from a boat where conditions may prove higher risk. Use mermaid lines on boats.

Additional Controls

Risk Consequence 4. Major Risk Likelihood E. Rare Risk Rating **Medium**

Cost of Controls

Is this reasonably practicable?  Yes  No

Hazard Task/Scenario \* Free diving and snorkelling: Entanglement and overhead environments

Hazard Category \* [Diving - Entanglement/Obstruction](#)

Associated Harm *	Drowning / Injury			
Existing Controls *	Snorkel with a buddy. Stay clear of overhead environments, nets and fishing lines. Always carry a dive knife, and minimal equipment that may cause entanglement. Maintain an awareness of your surrounds. Consider whether SCUBA would be more appropriate to conduct the work.			
Additional Controls				
Risk Consequence	2. Minor	Risk Likelihood	D. Unlikely	Risk Rating <b>Low</b>
Cost of Controls				
Is this reasonably practicable?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			

Hazard Task/Scenario *	Free diving and snorkelling: Dangerous marine organisms			
Hazard Category *	<a href="#">Animal &amp; insect - Bite/scratch/kick</a>			
Associated Harm *	Injury/Death			
Existing Controls *	Know what dangerous organisms you could potentially encounter. Know how to avoid them, and how to recognise and treat those injuries if they happen. Carry an appropriate first aid kit and oxygen kit if necessary. Wear appropriate PPE. Use shark shield if higher risk of attack.			
Additional Controls				
Risk Consequence	3. Moderate	Risk Likelihood	E. Rare	Risk Rating <b>Medium</b>
Cost of Controls				
Is this reasonably practicable?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			

Hazard Task/Scenario *	Free diving and snorkelling: Shallow water blackout			
Hazard Category *	<a href="#">Diving - Shallow water blackout</a>			
Associated Harm *	Drowning			
Existing Controls *	Never hyperventilate before diving. Don't push your depth or time limits. Know your personal fitness and ability and never push yourself. Snorkel with a buddy and use the "one up, one down" method of diving. Maintain direct supervision for at least 30 seconds after each diver has surfaced. Rest at the surface twice as long as your dive time. Surface before you have the urge to breathe. Always be weighted appropriately. In deeper water, weight yourself for neutral buoyancy at 10 meters. Remember to ditch your weight belt if you feel at risk of a blackout or in an emergency.			
Additional Controls				
Risk Consequence	4. Major	Risk Likelihood	E. Rare	Risk Rating <b>Medium</b>

Cost of Controls

Is this reasonably practicable?

Yes  No

Hazard Task/Scenario \* Free diving and snorkelling: Leg cramp

Hazard Category \* [Water - Open/closed body of water](#)

Associated Harm \* Drowning

Existing Controls \* Stretch leg out and hold tip of fin, ask buddy for assistance if needed.

Additional Controls

Risk Consequence 2. Minor Risk Likelihood E. Rare Risk Rating **Low**

Cost of Controls

Is this reasonably practicable?

Yes  No

Hazard Task/Scenario \* Free diving and snorkelling: Heart or breathing difficulties, fits

Hazard Category \* [Health - Poor health/fitness for task](#)

Associated Harm \* Death from drowning and/or other cause

Existing Controls \* Know your limits, work within your limits. Get a dive medical and/or seek specific medical advice from an appropriately trained doctor. Maintain fitness levels.

Additional Controls

Risk Consequence 3. Moderate Risk Likelihood E. Rare Risk Rating **Medium**

Cost of Controls

Is this reasonably practicable?

Yes  No

Hazard Task/Scenario \* Free diving and snorkelling: Difficulty equalising

Hazard Category \* [Health - Poor health/fitness for task](#)

Associated Harm \* Injury to ear, damage to sinuses, pain

Existing Controls \* If you cannot equalise, discontinue the dive or stay at the surface to prevent injury. Do not attempt to free dive if you have colds, sinus infections, allergies or other conditions that cause congestion.

Do not dive while using medications to treat the symptoms of colds and flu. Equalise regularly during the descent, from the time you leave the surface. Never forcefully equalise.

Additional Controls

Risk Consequence 2. Minor Risk Likelihood D. Unlikely Risk Rating **Low**

Cost of Controls

Is this reasonably practicable?  Yes  No

Hazard Task/Scenario \* Free diving and snorkelling: Fatigue

Hazard Category \* [Fatigue - inadequate rest](#)

Associated Harm \* Drowning

Existing Controls \* Rest frequently. Only attempt easily achievable workloads. Ensure appropriate food/water is consumed. Know and test the water and tide conditions, have an alternative exit/s planned. Snorkel within your capabilities and take into account that conditions can deteriorate quickly. Use boat support when appropriate. Have the right equipment for the type of activity and conditions.

Additional Controls

Risk Consequence 2. Minor Risk Likelihood E. Rare Risk Rating **Low**

Cost of Controls

Is this reasonably practicable?  Yes  No

Hazard Task/Scenario \* Free diving and snorkelling: Inexperience or inadequate training

Hazard Category \* [Housekeeping - No/poor training](#)

Associated Harm \* Injury/Death

Existing Controls \* All snorkellers must be on the UNSW snorkel register and be inducted in procedures. Ensure the dive team has the appropriate experience and training (including first aid) for the work to be done and to manage an emergency situation if it arises. Those with less experience may use floatation devices and have close supervision.

Additional Controls

Risk Consequence 3. Moderate Risk Likelihood E. Rare Risk Rating **Medium**

Cost of Controls

Is this reasonably practicable?  Yes  No

Hazard Task/Scenario \* Loading and unloading dive gear and samples

Hazard Category \* [Manual handling - Poor technique](#)

Associated Harm \* Back or crushing injury

Existing Controls \* Use appropriate manual handling techniques, i.e. bending at the knee. Don't carry excessive weight, Make sure that when the weight is being transferred to another person they have a good grip on the gear.

Additional Controls

Risk Consequence 2. Minor Risk Likelihood D. Unlikely Risk Rating **Low**

Cost of Controls

Is this reasonably practicable?  Yes  No

Hazard Task/Scenario \* Free diving and snorkelling: Sharp edges and surfaces

Hazard Category \* [Manual handling](#)

Associated Harm \* Cuts/abrasions

Existing Controls \* Avoid areas with sharp edges or rough substrate. Wear wetsuits or other protective clothing when underwater. Use gloves when handling gear that has fouling/growth on them.

Additional Controls

Risk Consequence 2. Minor Risk Likelihood E. Rare Risk Rating **Low**

Cost of Controls

Is this reasonably practicable?  Yes  No

Hazard Task/Scenario \* Washing Dive gear -slippery surface

Hazard Category \* [Slip, trip, fall - Fall on same level](#)

Associated Harm \* Sprains, breaks, cuts and bruises;

Existing Controls \* Move cautiously, mop floors when wet, use proper manual handling techniques.

Additional Controls



Risk Consequence	2. Minor	Risk Likelihood	E. Rare	Risk Rating	Low
Cost of Controls					
Is this reasonably practicable?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No			

Hazard Task/Scenario *	Free diving after SCUBA diving				
Hazard Category *	Diving - DCI				
Associated Harm *	Injury or death				
Existing Controls *	Do not perform breath hold diving (free diving) until a Repetitive factor of 1.0 is reached.				
Additional Controls					

Risk Consequence	4. Major	Risk Likelihood	E. Rare	Risk Rating	Medium
Cost of Controls					
Is this reasonably practicable?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No			

**Other Risk Management Details**

Date All Controls Implemented	17/12/2018
Emergency Procedures *	Injured diver to be removed from the water immediately and emergency services contacted (marine rescue or 000). First aid administered as necessary.
Competency and Training Required	Must be registered as a snorkeller/freediver/diver at UNSW. An in-water assessment is required.
Competency Levels *	1. <a href="#">Read Document</a> ; 2. <a href="#">Training Required</a>
Only add descriptions below for competency levels chosen above	
Training Description	Registration and induction with supervisor, diving officer or boating officer or other delegate.
Knowledge Test Description	
License/Cert Description	
Other Competency Description	

Additional Documents

Declare As Read

Close