

Safety Management in Recreational Diving

Deric Ellerby

EUF General Secretary

BSAC International Executive Director

Question 3

- Should safety management be the same independent of the type of diving activity?
- What do we mean by safety management?

Goal is increased safety

- Need positive recommendation(s)
- Must respect individual freedom
- Must work with the recreational industry

The Diving Industry

- Led by Construction and Recreation but also Public Services, Scientists, Media and Aquaculture
- Crucial division between those at work and those at leisure
- Difficult to argue against regulation where commercial interest is present

The Recreational Diving Industry

- Recreation sector is now quite mature
- European Underwater Federation members represent over 3,000,000 divers, 10,000 clubs, 60,000 diving instructors and 2,500 diving schools
- 2,000,000,000€ pa direct turnover, plus a travel and tourism market value of around 1,000,000,000€.

The Recreational Diving Industry

- Estimates range between 10 and 40 million European dives p.a.
- BSAC statistics estimate 1.5 million member dives or 3 million UK dives p.a.
- Most of these dives are not 'at work' situations
- Recreational diving is not dangerous

Safety issues

- Recreational diver training systems have military roots
- Safety procedures have evolved with that ethos and reflect a strong 'duty of care'
- Diving is not a casual activity – considerable logistical demands make planning inevitable

Current developments

- CEN standard development – consumer protection driven for agency cooperation
- Joint standards organisation/EUF validation of training systems

Recommendation

- We need to be well informed about all diving incidents
- Joint working group between hyperbaric centres/Dan/EUF to obtain and analyse European diving incident data
- Report and publicise results annually