SNORKELLING SAFE WORK PROCEDURE

Operational conditions:
- No snorkelling activity will be conducted without prior approval from the Marine Fieldwork Manager.

Personnel:
- All snorkelers must have completed the Macquarie Snorkel Induction. Anyone marked NC (Not Competent) will not be allowed to snorkel. Anyone marked as RT (Requires Training) will be closely monitored during snorkel activities and given snorkelling vests.
- All Snorkel Coordinators must be approved by the Marine Fieldwork Manager or the University Dive Officer.
- All snorkelers will stay within their personal capabilities.
- Although no ‘formal’ qualifications are required of snorkel divers, at least one member of University staff involved in supervising such activities must hold current First Aid, CPR and O2 delivery certifications.
- All snorkelers must advise the Snorkel Coordinator of the Medical Conditions that may be aggravated by snorkelling activities (participant form).

Weather conditions:
- Conditions must be assessed on site prior to commencing fieldwork and monitored throughout activity. Be aware of the environment and pay particular attention to entry and exit points.
- Abort dive if visibility <4m
- Plan trips to reduce exposure to strong wind and swell.
- Observe direction of wind swell, currents rips and waves and assess exposure to proposed site be prepared to change days or locations according to BOM Marine and Ocean forecast.
- Low risk conditions are defined as: wind < 15 knots, swell or wave height < 0.5m, no significant surface current, water visibility > 4m and water temperature > 15C.

Physiological considerations:
- Wear appropriate PPE and thermal protection (i.e. full or short wetsuit, boots, gloves, hoods etc) Consider marine abrasion risk, as well as sun, dehydration and wind.
- No hyperventilation before apnoea/breath hold diving. Two normal deep breaths are the maximum advisable preparation for any breath hold diving.
- Do not exceed 7m depth for breath hold diving activities.
- Strictly no snorkelling after compressed air diving. Wait until all Repetitive Factors are back to 1.0 before conducting any breath-hold diving.

Support considerations:
- Consider having shore or surface support (someone with First Aid certificate, a First Aid kit and a working means of communication).
- Always snorkel in pairs, following the “one up, one down” rule, never having two buddies conducting breath hold diving simultaneously.
Shark-related considerations:
- Use shark shields where appropriate (recommended for activities in low visibility, warm waters, at dusk or dawn or in areas where dangerous sharks are often encountered.
- If a large, dangerous shark (2 to 3m) is spotted all divers to exit the water in a calm and controlled manner
- Avoid snorkelling after heavy rain and at dusk or dawn

Size of snorkel teams:
- The minimum size of a snorkel team performing low risk tasks in low risk conditions is two, which may comprise either a snorkeler and a Snorkel Coordinator, or two buddy snorkelers. In this case, both snorkelers must remain in visual contact with each other at all times during the snorkel.
- Where snorkelling is conducted by large groups, there must be at least one Snorkel Coordinator on watch at the surface for every ten snorkelers in low risk conditions.
- The Snorkel Coordinator/s must perform a regular head count, and must be capable of initiating assistance for any person in difficulties and have valid certificates in First Aid and CPR. If the head count is incorrect, all snorkelers should be recalled. If everyone is still not accounted for, lost diver procedures must be started. Coordinator/s must be equipped with a recall device, and the group must be informed that if the recall device is operated, all snorkelers must return to the beach/boat.

Snorkel Briefing:
- Before commencement of snorkelling, a briefing must be given by the Snorkel Coordinator, to ensure that all those involved are familiar with important information such as the objectives, area of operation, environmental conditions, problems that may be encountered, etc. The briefing should cover all relevant points of the Risk Assessment as well as this SWP.

Required equipment:
- Buoyancy devices (snorkelling vests, life jackets etc) should be used by inexperienced snorkelers or any students assessed as RT.
- During snorkel diving operations, an appropriate first aid kit must be readily available, with at least one person who is adequately trained in first aid. As well, oxygen resuscitation equipment must be readily available, along with a person certified in the use of such equipment and an adequate supply of medical oxygen
- In areas of potentially strong currents a support boat may be required.

Boating:
- If the trip involves a boat ride, consider the risk of sea-sickness and take appropriate precautions (medication etc).
- Be seated on boat and take care climbing on
- See boating Safe Work Procedure for additional information.