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Your reference

Our reference

Date 6 April 1976

SUB AQUA ADVENTUROUS TRAINING - DECOMPRESSION TABLES

1. At the meeting of the MOD Joint Service Adventurous Training Sub Aqua Diving Sub Committee on 12 Mar 76, the representatives of the Services Sub Aqua Diving Associations expressed concern about problems that are arising from the introduction by the BSAC of the RNPL/BSAC Decompression Tables.
2. The Chairman of the RN & RM Sub Aqua Club undertook to seek the views of the Army and RAF associations and forward a statement of the problems to DNPTS : this is enclosed.

*RSC Lowick*

R S C LOWICK  
Commander  
Chairman, RN & RM SAC

Copy to:

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SUB AQUA ADVENTUROUS TRAINING - DECOMPRESSION TABLES

1. At the Joint Service Adventurous Training Sub Aqua Diving Sub Committee meeting on 10 March the RN & RMSAC undertook to co-ordinate the views of the services sport diving associations on the introduction by the British Sub Aqua Club of the RNPL/BSAC decompression tables in lieu of the RN tables at present used for service diving, adventurous training diving and civilian diving alike. These views are as follows.

2. In all three services adventurous training diving is required to follow BSAC rules, with additional rules in some cases, but with no exception to BSAC rules hitherto. Exceptions will tend to confuse the novice, and proliferates the regulations to be referred to.

3. The requirement for an individual to use different tables on different occasions could lead to dangerous errors, but

- a. Many sub aqua divers also dive as service divers (Army and RN).
- b. Some sub aqua divers will be constrained to using the NPL/BSAC tables when seeking qualifications controlled by the BSAC (eg Club Instructor, Advanced Instructor, National Instructor, 1st class diver).
- c. Some sub aqua divers also dive with civilian clubs.
- d. Some BSAC trained civilians take part in adventurous training expeditions.

The occasions of a above are more numerous than b, c, d.

4. Adventurous training practices must continue to be standardised in the services to permit Joint Service Expeditions, and cross-membership at unit level.

5. It is understood that the RN service diving authority has reservations about the degree of safety offered by the RNPL/BSAC tables.

6. The sub aqua associations are in no position to offer an authoritative view of the safety of the RNPL/BSAC table, but would like to take advantage of operational features (notably greater bottom time in the combined dive situation) provided that:

- a. the tables are as safe (but not necessarily safer) than the present RN tables.
- b. standardisation (as in paras 2 - 4) can be achieved.

7. The ideal situation is seen as that in which service, adventurous training, and civilian diving all advance together to any tables which offer operational advantages while retaining the probability of decompression problems at an acceptably low level.

8. Pending the ideal it is concluded that it is better for adventurous training diving to conform to service diving decompression tables and rules.

9. It is recommended that:

- a. Single service diving regulations are amended in accordance with para 8 above.
- b. Any reservations about the safety of the RNPL/BSAC tables on the part of the service diving authority should be communicated to the British Sub Aqua Club.

R S C LOWICK  
Commander Royal Navy  
CHAIRMAN, RN & RM SUB AQUA CLUB