

# Experienced Dive Site Policy

## Aim

The aims of this policy are to mitigate risk for those dive sites that require additional certification and experience to visit and enjoy.

## Table of contents

<b>Aim</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Table of contents</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>1 Background</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>2 Revision</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>3 Application</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>4 Definition</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>5 Experienced Dive Site diver requirements</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>6 Activity Organiser / Boat Handler requirements</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>7 Document control</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Appendix A SA Dive Site Classifications</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Appendix B Diver certifications</b> .....	<b>6</b>

## 1 Background

While the AUSC does not wish to exclude anyone, for the safety and enjoyment of all club members, some restrictions must be made for certain dive sites.

The club is not a training provider and none of its members assume that role while on club dives. As a consequence, divers should dive within their training and experience.

## 2 Revision

This policy is to be maintained and reviewed by the AUSC Committee.

## 3 Application

This policy applies to all scuba diving participants of AUSC.

## 4 Definition

The club defines an experienced dive site as one in which a diver cannot be reasonably expected to stay within their training and certification limits. Criteria that is used to assess a sites' suitability includes depth, overhead environments, complexity, and heritage status.

The dive sites within South Australia listed in Appendix A, specifically Table A-1, are deemed to be "Experienced Dive Sites" primarily due to depth requirements and complexity.

Note that even a shallow dive site can be difficult for beginner divers should there be bad environment conditions, such as bad visibility, rain, swell/rough seas, etc. Ultimately a diver must only dive to their level of comfort and experience.

## 5 Experienced Dive Site diver requirements

The following requirements must be met for a diver to dive an Experienced Dive Site (as defined in Section 4, but may not be limited to those sites listed in Table A-1):

- Divers must be qualified to Advanced Open Water (AOW) certification:
  - It is recommended that divers do not exceed their certification depth rating where possible – these are discussed in Appendix B.
  - For any dive site deeper than 30 m, additional dive certification is required, such as PADI/SSI Deep specialty, in line with certification depth rating recommendations.
- A minimum of 20 logged dives, taking into account the dives already completed on OW and AOW courses;
- Have previously dived with the club;
- Have previously dived in temperate waters; and
- Have successfully completed two (2) dives in the past six (6) months.

Should an exception be required, then appropriate reasoning / rationale must be provided to both the AUSC President and AUSC Vice-President via e-mail. Approval must be obtained from both these individuals, as well as final endorsement by the Activity Organiser / Boat Handler, who must be comfortable with taking the individual also.

## 6 Activity Organiser / Boat Handler requirements

Additional Activity Organiser / Boat Handler responsibilities for conducting dive trips to experienced dive sites include:

- Verification of diver qualifications / experience; and
- Consideration to a hang tank on anchor line / ascent line.

## 7 Document control

Revision (Date)	Person	Comments
0 (10/11/2015)	<b>Author:</b> Daniel Kinasz / David Warren <b>Reviewed:</b> Committee (via Meeting 10/11/2015) <b>Approved:</b> David Warren, President	Document released to club membership.
1 (15/09/2016)	<b>Author:</b> David Warren / Daniel Kinasz <b>Reviewed:</b> Committee (via Meeting 15/09/2016) <b>Approved:</b> David Warren, President	Updated following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moved experienced dive site list to Appendix A. Added non-experienced dive sites to make clear where possible;</li> <li>• Section 4 definition deleted “generally defined” to remove ambiguity;</li> <li>• Section 5 and 6 – Added <i>experienced dive site</i> to headings.</li> <li>• Section 5 <i>Experienced dive site diver requirements</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Moved mandatory certification depth rating, to requirement of Advanced Open Water, and where required, Deep speciality.</li> <li>○ Moved depth ratings based on certification to Appendix B. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Claris depth changed to 23-25 m</li> <li>▪ HMAS <i>Hobart</i> added permit</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Some wording changes within reasoning/notes.</li> <li>○ Approval wording changed from sought to obtained.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Deleted Section 6 <i>Experienced dive site diver recommendations</i>.</li> <li>• Section 7 <i>Activity Organiser / Boat Handler requirements</i> – Added check for diver qualifications, and hang tank to be on mooring line for those sites that an anchor cannot be dropped.</li> </ul>

## Appendix A SA Dive Site Classifications

The dive sites listed in Table A-1 are those that the Experienced Dive Site criteria should be applied to for the requirement to dive with AUSC.

Table A-1 Experienced Dive Site List

Dive Site	Depth (m)	Comment / Rationale	Certification Required
AV <i>Ulonga</i> (wreck)	39	Depth	Deep Specialty
<i>Claris</i> (wreck)	23-25	Depth	Advanced Open Water
Ex-HMAS <i>Hobart</i> (wreck)	28-30	Depth, complex wreck, permit	Advanced Open Water
Little Blue	41	Council by law	CDAA Deep Cavern
<i>Leeton</i> (wreck)	22	Depth	Advanced Open Water
Port Stanvac Barges (wreck)	28	Depth	Advanced Open Water
Port Stanvac Mooring Blocks	25	Depth	Advanced Open Water
<i>Zanoni</i> (wreck)	18	Permit required under heritage	Advanced Open Water

There are some dive sites that are deeper than the open water certification depth limit of 18 m. For example, the Glenelg Dredge lies in 21 m of water and contains an overhead environment, however majority of the wreck lies above 18 m, and open water divers should be able to stay within their limits by keeping to the wreck’s deck. Consequently, it is acceptable for these dive sites listed in Table A-2 to be dived by non-experienced divers.

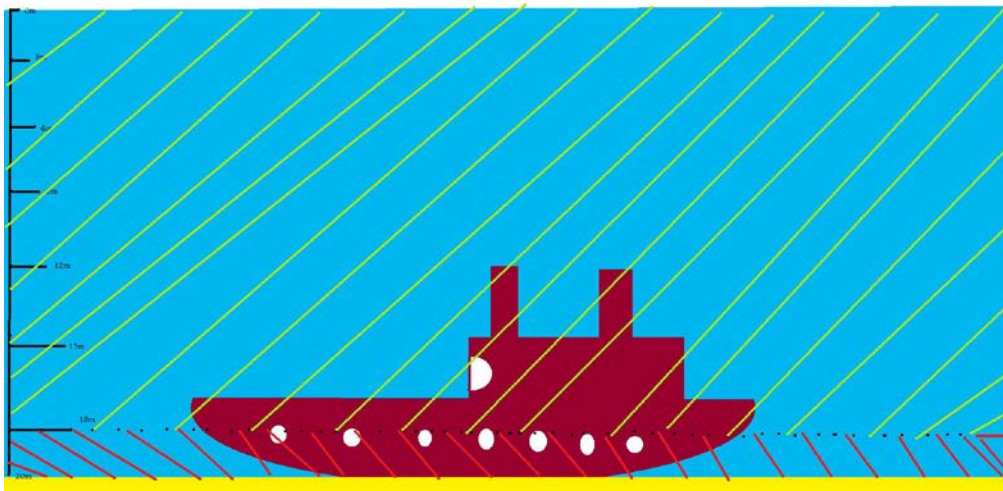


Figure A-1 Glenelg Dredge depth schematic, outlining majority of the wreck shallower than open water diver limit of 18 m.

Table A-2 Non-Experienced Dive Site List

<b>Dive Site</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>
Aldinga Drop Off	5-21
Althorpe Island	20+
Ardrossan Barge (wreck)	20
Glenelg Barge (wreck)	20
Glenelg Dredge (wreck)	20
Glenelg Tyre Reef	18
Grange Tyre Reef	20
HA Lumb (wreck)	20
Haystack Island	10-22
<i>John Robb</i> (wreck)	18
<i>MV Seawolf</i> (wreck)	22
Point Lowly Tyre Reef	20
<i>S.S. Clan Ranald</i> (wreck)	20
West Island, Victor Harbor	20-22

## Appendix B Diver certifications

Divers should not exceed their depth certification, as per Table B-1.

It is noted that there are many Adelaide metropolitan dive sites only slightly deeper than the Open Water recommended depth rating of 18 m, consequently for those non-experienced dive sites deeper than 18 m, the diver should exercise judgement and stay within their comfort of their limits.

*Table B-1 Certification Depth Rating*

<b>Certification</b>	<b>Depth Rating (m)</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Scuba Diver (SSI)	12	Same as open water, while under supervision of a certified professional
Scuba Diver (PADI)	18	Same as open water, while under supervision of a certified professional
Open Water	18	
Advanced Open Water	30	
Deep Specialty	39	

Junior certifications exist, but they tend to be depth limited versions of their adult counterparts and vary depending on age.