

		OPERATION PROCEDURES
2		PRE-LAUNCH REQUIREMENTS

- Authorisation to assemble is not to be treated as an order to launch the rescue boat.
- The decision to launch the rescue boat lies with the Launching Authority and must be made with due consideration of the following points.
 1. The minimum number of adequately trained, fit crew to safely operate the rescue boat in the conditions to be encountered has been assembled. Once authorised to launch by the Launching Authority, the helm shall have the final decision whether to launch or not, provided agreement from the LA and Tractor Driver has been given.
 2. The minimum number of adequately trained, fit shore crew to safely launch and recover the rescue boat in the conditions to be encountered has been assembled.
 3. The Clifton Beach launch site is accessible and suitable.
 4. The prevailing and forecast weather/sea conditions are within the operational limits of the Rescue Boat, both at the launch site and area of passage to and from the tasking.
- **Exceptional circumstances.**

Operating the boat above its stated operating limit should only be considered in such exceptional circumstances, and should be a joint decision by the Co-ordinating Authority, the LA, tractor driver and the helm who should all be in agreement.

- The LA may also be the Duty Helm or Tractor Driver, although this is not ideal and should be avoided if practicable.