

		OPERATION PROCEDURES
7		LAUNCHING

- The tractor driver and lifeboat helm should maintain communication on channel '31' for the duration of the launching procedure.
- The tractor driver should turn on the water for engines warm-up at the bottom of the slipway or as directed by the helm.
- The helm should clearly identify to the tractor driver the position and direction for launch.
- The launch vehicle should again stop and await the command from the helm to enter the sea.
- The helm should also correct the tractor drivers maneuvering if the lifeboat is not entering the sea directly into the waves.
- The helm should await a suitable moment to begin the launch and keep a watch on approaching waves.
- The rear crew should take hold of the springs and hold the lifeboat in the trailer until the helmsman gives command for the springs to be released, or has clearly applied throttle to exit the trailer.
- Once the lifeboat is safely clear of the trailer the crew should inform the helmsman with an 'All clear' call.
- Once the lifeboat is clear of surf, radio communication should continue on channel '16' and contact made with the coastguard.