

		OPERATION PROCEDURES
15	RBC Ref No. 57.5.5	RESCUE

- The helm should decide his approach and task the crew in preparation for the rescue of survivors in the water, from shore or from a casualty vessel.
- The helms should also be prepared for the changes in handling characteristics of the rescue boat during and after survivor recovery.
- The crew should determine the best means of recovery if safe to do so, whether by manual handling or use of the Jason's cradle or stretcher.
- The crew should be prepared to enter the water to assist in survivor recovery. The helm should decide if a swimming line should be used and brief crew on the operation.
- Crew boarding a casualty vessel or going ashore should take a handheld radio and update the lifeboat regularly.
- The crew are to ensure that survivors wear PPE as appropriate.
- Survivors are to be seated or laid in the bow section or on the port side as is appropriate and briefed on how and where to hold on/brace themselves while the lifeboat is under way and prior to the boat being recovered/beached.
- Handling of the rescue boat is to be moderated to reflect the carrying of survivors, particularly if injury has been sustained.
- The rescue boat's capacity as stated on the capacity plate is to be adhered to in normal operation. If exceptional rescue circumstances require that any of the capacity figures specified on the plate be exceeded, this act is at the discretion of the helm. This must be stated explicitly in all associated boat documentation.
- The well-being of survivors should be regularly monitored until they are handed over to the appropriate authorities ashore.
- The crew should follow the survivor-handling plan. Crew and shore crew are trained to fulfil the plan.

See also procedure 33 'Recovering casualty to lifeboat'