

		<b>OPERATION PROCEDURES</b>
<b>30</b>		<b>BALLASTING</b>

- The Helm should be aware of the effect to stability of crew working and moving about the lifeboat and deploy his crew to maintain optimal stability particularly when working in surf or whilst underway.
- The crew should also be aware of this and move themselves to gain optimal stability. (i.e. if 2 crew are on one side of the boat the third should move to the other side)
- When extra persons are on board they should be positioned to balance the weight load appropriately. The same applies when carrying any extra load.

Using the Ballast tank.

- The helmsman can use the ballast tank to weigh down the bow. This gives a cutting effect through waves and is less bumpy for crew and passengers.
- All helms should practice ballasting in all sea conditions and become familiar with the effects and make its usage second nature.

Operation

- When heading into sea the ballast tank can be filled by moving the tank lever to open.
- The tank is filled when excess water passes through the fore deck outlet. Move the lever to close.
- The tank should be emptied before recovery. Move the lever to empty for several minutes while making way, and then close.

As the ballast tank does not always empty completely the lever should be moved to open immediately upon recovery