

		<b>OPERATION PROCEDURES</b>
<b>35</b>	Local procedure	CREW CHANGE

- The helm should decide if, where, when and how a ‘crew change’ should take place.
- Consider:
  - The nature and duration of the operation in hand.
  - The endurance and comfort of the crew onboard.
  - The effect of a crew change on the operation.
- The crew should not get too cold, too tired or too fatigued to adequately carry out the duties required. If a prolonged search is required on a winter’s night a crew change (or crew changes) should take place to maintain the level of performance required.
- If 3 hours has elapsed (in any conditions) and the operation is not going to be resolved within a reasonable time a crew change should be considered, provided it will not affect the outcome of an operation.
- The helm should request the LA to prepare a replacement crew, and agree how, where and when a crew change will take place.
- Refuelling should be considered if necessary, and at the same time, replacing kit (i.e. Illuminant flares used)
- If crew change by net recovery the shore crew should be organised to perform a swift and efficient turn-around.
- If by placing ‘bow on the beach’ the new helm should be first aboard and after taking the helm the remaining crew changed. Crew (or shore crew) may be required to hold the boat.
- If the crew change is to be performed in surf with crew swimming to and from the boat only one should be changed at a time. No more than one crew member swimming each way should be in the water at one time. The helm must be given clear verbal information regarding the position of crew in the water. At night torches should be used from both shore and boat.