

		OPERATIONS
42		OPERATION IN SHALLOW WATER / GROUNDING

- All helms and crew should, as part of their coastal recognition training, be familiar with the inshore waters, their depths and features.
- If moving into shallow waters the helm should call a crew member forward to monitor the passage of the lifeboat, keeping an eye on rocks and other hazards. The helmsman should constantly assess the conditions, particularly for manoeuvring. Consider trimming one or both engines to avoid damage to props.
- Hands and call signals should be agreed.
- Depth can be measured using the boathook and/or paddles. The depth can also be taken from the electronic reading.
- Every caution should be taken to avoid accidental grounding. Operating in shallow water and surf should be avoided if possible, particularly on a falling tide.

BEACHING

- Beaching should only be performed for urgent medical attention to a casualty when taking the time to travel to a safe haven would endanger the life of the casualty, or in an emergency to maintain the safety of the boat and those aboard.
- A casualty should be positioned and held aboard appropriately. All should hold fast until the boat has rested on the beach and the props have stopped rotating.
- All should disembark carefully, giving the casualty priority and carrying to further medical assistance.
- The co-ordinating authority and base station should be informed. Shore crew can be prepared to assist with the casualty and later recovery the lifeboat to trailer.
- The damage to the lifeboat should be assessed and repairs or maintenance put in hand.