

		OPERATIONS
46		Boat recovery

Boat recovery

Lifeboat calls tractor and helm agrees positioning of tractor giving consideration to wind and wave size and direction. Springs are readied.

Tractor moves into sea with lights on. Amber Lights go off as signal as ready. Net lights are used at night.

Amber Lights on signal abort recovery if safe to do so.

Lifeboat enters trailer and springs are tied. Trailer is raised and manoeuvres out of sea.

Care is given to public both on beach and in water. Surfers often use launch area when sea is running.

Crew remain seated until rig stops.

Radio communication is maintained when necessary.

Shore crew should be used in public areas when available, particularly at slipway. A crewman can get off the boat to marshal the public.

If conditions prevent local recovery Helm, DLA and Coastguard should agree alternative. Exmouth usually provides the nearest safe haven.

Only in the most severe conditions and urgency should the boat be beached, but this is an option.

Slipway to beach

The Helm re-assumes command of the recovery operation until the rig returns to station.

Radio communication between helm and tractor driver should be maintained.

The ‘Rules of the Road’ must be observed, but other road users can be encouraged to give the launch vehicle priority.

Again particular care should be taken at the Zebra Crossing.

The tractor driver should only use the sirens if casualties are being taken to the boathouse in a matter of urgency.

Blue lights can also be used.

Road closure. Shore crew may cone off the road in front of the boathouse. This will limit the traffic using the road between the boathouse and turning circle. Non local traffic should be diverted away from the area.

Turning circle. This should be manned by shore crew not only to move vehicles out of the way, but to ensure the safety of the public when the rig needs to drive over the pavement by the seating area.

Turnaround procedure

Following a net recovery the first task is to turn the boat around before re-fuelling and making ready for service.

The area should be coned off and members of the public guided away from the immediate vicinity.

A member of shore crew should don the orange vest and take charge of the operation. Other shore crew should be wearing yellow vests. Dry suits are suitable safety clothing, therefore boat crew can assist without delay for changing.

The turntable should have been positioned ready in the road and coned. This is now moved to its 'turnaround' position behind the rig.

The net is removed and trailer parked ready for the turntable to be inserted beneath.

The 'orange vest' ensures at each stage or movement that crew are ready on all sides of the rig. The 'orange vest' alone gives the commands for the tractor to move or the trailer to be raised or lowered.

The turntable is raised to support the boat. Crew should not go under the boat for any reason. If the turntable needs adjusting this be done by long tool or the rig moved. The rig moves forward and the boat is held on all sides, and then turned slowly ensuring no public or traffic is going to impede the turnaround. The trailer is then reversed under the boat and raised, moved forward again and lowered clear of the turntable. The boat is fastened and turntable put away.

No action is taken without the command of the 'orange vest'. Use radio communication as well as hand signal to ensure the tractor driver receives clear instruction.

Putting rig away

gain no action is taken without the command of the 'orange vest'. Maintain radio communication as well as hand signal with the tractor driver.

The two red lines are secured to the boathouse each side of the garage door. As the rig moves forward to prepare for reversing into the boathouse they are taken by shore crew into the road in restrain pedestrians from walking into the path of the rig.

Shore crew should keep a continuous watch on the public on all sides of the rig particularly behind the rig which is out of sight of the driver and between the rig on the esplanade wall when reversing.

The traffic should be held back until the rig is correctly positioned in the boathouse. Then road can then be re-opened.