

		OPERATIONS
46B	Updated 13 th May 21	Winch tractor operation

Health & Safety: the risk of injury as a result of the winch cable breaking is managed by:

- Winch cable is of a design that will dissipate energy quickly however there is still a risk of spring back.
- Members of public to be kept out of range of winch operations
- Shore crew managing public to stay out of range of winch operations
- One crew member supervising winch operations to wear hard hat & visor and has radio comms with both tractors
- Both tractor drivers to wear helmet & visor
- Tractor has window guard.

Launch vehicle refers to our tractor & trailer ('Rig') with or without the lifeboat.

The most senior tractor driver present should co-ordinate the operation and maintain communication with all involved.

- The driver should **reverse towards the launch vehicle**, as near as safely possible.
- Put tractor out of gear and apply handbrake. Driver to remain in the cab **AT ALL TIMES**.
- Driver **Take up slack on anchor/blade lifting cables** (lever inside cab just behind driver's right hip).
- Crew **Remove** large thick upper securing **pin and lower blade**.
- Crew **Release drum**. (Mechanism on right side centre. Pull out the 'stop' then pull short lever away from drum.)
- Crew pull free and **attach rope to Rig**.
If entering the water appropriate PPE must be worn, dry suit and lifejacket. Buddy line can be attached to tow line. Return to shore.
- **Driver drive winch tractor forward** to suitable position. Align tow at distance for rig to clear shoreline. **At least 6 turns of line must remain on drum**.
- **Re-engage drive to winch**. Inform shore crew winching is ready to begin.
- ONE person on the beach to clearly identify themselves to the winch driver and communicate when to start / stop winching.
- On idle, make sure tractor is out of gear, **begin tow**. Ensure blade anchors soundly.
- As tow begins **increase revs** to about 1200rpm. Complete tow to recovery position.
- Reduce revs and **stop winch**.
- Crew ensure stability of rig and **disconnect tow**.

- To disconnect -
 - Reverse winch drum.
 - Remove line from rig.
 - Rewind towline, avoiding slack.
 - Drive forward to release blade.
 - Raise blade and re-secure, replace Pin

If recovering any other casualty vessel or vehicle the procedure is the same. A suitable hitch for securing the towline must be established.