

A6. Code of Practice for recreational diving on wrecks and artificial reefs

Guiding Principle

Diving activities on shipwrecks, wrecks and artificial reefs are conducted in a safe manner which reflects the nature of the dive site.

Preamble

In Victoria, there are a large number of sunken vessels, some of which are historic shipwrecks, and many have become popular dive sites. The depth and condition of the wrecks are diverse. SDFV clubs have a long history of safe diving and conduct diving activities on wrecks in a safe manner which reflects the nature and state of the dive site.

Individuals and organisations conducting dive activities under the SDFV Code of Practice for recreational diving on wrecks and artificial reefs:-

- follow the guidelines in the SDFV Code of Practice for recreational diving (general).
- satisfy any regulatory requirements for site access.
- satisfy any licence or permit condition issued in relation to site access.
- approach the site at reduced speed (less than 5 knots) if there are other vessels already at the site.
- maintain a constant vigilance for divers in the water and the potential for divers ascending from the site while underway.
- reduce motoring over the site to a minimum, as conditions dictate; and at all times, only motor at very low speeds in the vicinity over and near the dive site.
- do not deploy anchors or shot-lines on or around the immediate vicinity of the site if there are divers on the site.
- use any permanent entry (descent) lines and exit (ascent) lines.
- do not attempt to access areas of a wreck which have been purposely closed-off for access.
- do not drag or retrieve anchors or shot-lines under power if there are divers in the water.
- do not move, or remove, wreck artefacts, or otherwise interfere with the wreck structure and marine habitat.
- report interference and disturbance of protected wrecks to the appropriate authority.

A6(i). Code of Practice for recreational diving on the *ex*-HMAS Canberra

Preamble

The *ex*-HMAS Canberra was a FFG-7 Class guided missile frigate commissioned into the Royal Australian Navy between 1981 and decommissioned in 2005. It was gifted to Victoria by the Commonwealth government and scuttled as an artificial reef and dive site in 2009.

Individuals and organisations conducting dive activities under the SDFV Code of Practice for recreational diving on the *ex*-HMAS Canberra:-

- follow the guidelines in the SDFV Code of Practice for recreational diving on wrecks and artificial reefs.
- satisfy any prescribed management requirements for site access.
- consider diving elsewhere at time of peak access.
- do not anchor or drop shot-lines at the dive site.
- use moorings, as appropriate.
- use the floating marker buoys attached to various parts of the wreck as entry and exit lines.
- do not leave boats unattended.
- observe advisory information in relation to site access provided by Parks Victoria.
- observe advisory information in relation to diving the wreck provided by Parks Victoria.
- report significant changes to the wreck which may lead to dive-safety hazards to the managing authority and the SDFV.