Dive management best practice

- BSAC promotes the benefits of diving activity being conducted under the supervision of the DM.
- The DM is appointed by and derives their authority from the DO of a branch who in turn derives their authority from the National Diving Officer (NDO).
- A DM should be trained and practiced in the role, as is a qualified BSAC Dive Leader or above. A DM can delegate some tasks or responsibilities to assistants. A central part of being DM is assessing the risks involved and mitigating them as necessary. You should do this after considering all relevant factors, including the qualifications and experience of the divers, the weather and tides, and the available dive sites. You should produce a dive plan that manages risk to those involved.
- To provide evidence of having considered and mitigated the risks it is advisable to have a documented risk assessment covering the major factors that you have thought about and to use this as the basis for a dive briefing at the start of the day.
- A DM should monitor the progress of diving activities until they are completed. This is so that you can take appropriate action if things don't go to plan. For example the weather might change, or the boat might break down.
- A DM or DM assistant, should complete a dive log to help monitor of diving activities. BSAC recommends that you record who is diving with whom, when they began their dive; and if appropriate, their expected maximum dive time. This information is important for checking that all divers have left the water safely, and for planning if a search may be necessary if they become overdue.
- Sometimes the DM may need to specify a maximum dive time. This may be for safety reasons, such as increasing currents, or for logistical reasons, for example if you plan diving in two waves.
- A DM should also consider recording planned maximum depth, gas mixes, gas pressures, cylinder sizes, remaining scrubber duration for rebreather divers, and any planned decompression stops.
- After the dive a DM should make sure that everyone has left the water safely and is feeling fit and well. A DM or an assistant should record divers' actual time and depth, decompression details, and whether there were any problems during the dive. You should consider recording divers' final cylinder pressures, as this can be a way of identifying whether the divers encountered difficulties underwater.

https://www.bsac.com/safety/safe-diving-guide/dive-management/#article-211