

ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS
WATER SPORTS GUIDELINES
2015

DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION
PORT BLAIR

1. Short title and commencement: These guidelines are called “Andaman & Nicobar Islands Water Sports Guidelines 2015”.
2. Definitions - In these guidelines, unless the context otherwise requires:-
 - (a) "Fair Season" means a season specified as such by the Port Management Board/Harbour Master/Competent Authority;
 - (b) "Administration" means the Andaman & Nicobar Administration;
 - (c) "Operator" means a person or entity either owning or operating/owning & operating boat rides, parasailing, scuba diving, sea walk, sea scooter, Jet Ski, water skiing and fun rides using powerboats, windsurfing, dinghy, kayaking, canoeing, sailing and other sports activities in sea, inland waters and includes any individual, firm or company operating such activities;
3. Directorate of Tourism shall function as Nodal Department for safe water sport activities. All other related departments like District Administration, Police, PMB, Department of Fisheries and Directorate of Shipping Services shall cooperate and assist the Directorate of Tourism in smooth discharge of its function for regulation of Water Sports activities.
4. Permission for operation of vessel related to boat rides/parasailing and other activities connected with water sports and requirements thereto:-
 - (i) Every operator desiring to operate a mechanized vessel for the purpose of parasailing, boat rides or other water sports activities in the sea shall obtain required registration under the provisions of I.V. Act 1917, & I.V. Rules from the registering authority. The operator shall maintain a register on annual maintenance/ repair record of all the equipments meant for the operations, and produce before concerned authorities, if so desired.

- (ii) The validity and renewal of the registration shall be as per the provisions of I.V. Act 1917 & I.V. Rules and as specified by the registering authority. All water crafts will be subject to annual safety audit.
- (iii) The *Directorate of Tourism* shall obtain **No Objection Certificate** from the Port Management Board, if any boat ride or water sport activity is proposed for operation in any location in port waters of A&N Islands. Further, No Objection Certificate/license shall also be obtained from the concerned local authority, if required, by law in force.
- (iv) The operator shall insure the passengers as per the carrying capacity of the boat/equipment, to the extent of at least Rs. 5.00 Lakhs per passenger.
- (v) The operator shall intimate the Directorate of Tourism, Andaman & Nicobar Administration, about registration under I.V. Act, 1917 & I.V. Rules and the Directorate in consultation with concerned agency, shall decide the area of operation of water sports activities.
- (vi) The Directorate may accord or refuse to permit an operator after considering its feasibility, safety aspects, carrying capacity, past safety history of the operator, reasonability of rates being charged etc. in order to ensure safety of tourists/users.
- (vii) The registration fee for water sports shall be fixed by the concerned department from time to time.
- (viii) The operator shall engage trained crew possessing valid certificate in handling the respective water craft type from the National Institute of Water sports or agencies authorized by A & N Admn. to the effect that the crew qualifies the manning requirement as per the provisions of I.V. Rules of A & N Islands.

- (ix) The Directorate of Tourism shall assign a specific identification number for every operator (in case of more than one boat/equipment, the identification number may be suitably suffixed with alphabets). The operator shall prominently affix the same on the boat/ equipment.
- (x) The operator shall make available all lifesaving equipments, firefighting appliances and communication equipments as specified by the authority viz. IRS/National Institute of Water Sports/registering authority/competent authority, as per the passenger capacity. These equipments/ appliances should be in serviceable condition/type approved.
- (xi) One rescue boat to be kept in full readiness when six boats are in operation; two rescue boats when 15 boats are in operation. Rescue boats must be available in full readiness during the entire period of water sports operation. The boat must be powered by OBM of minimum 40 HP. A lookout-cum-driver must be standby near the boat. The boat as well as lookout should not be involved with any other activity while on rescue duty. The rescue boat should be equipped with rescue tube, life buoys, life jackets, first aid box, stretcher etc. The rescue boat will be under the disposal of the TSET team. It shall be the responsibility of the Boat owners/operators to arrange for rescue boats and the contact no. of rescue boat crew should be available with TSET team and also displayed prominently.
- (xii) All operators shall deliver a “safety brief” before leaving the shore/jetty for
 - a. Correct wearing of buoyancy aids.
 - b. In case of a fire on board
 - c. In case of a capsize.
 - d. Or any health emergency.
 - e. Weather condition of the day.

- (xiii) The operator shall display the carrying capacity of the boat (as in the registration certificate), emergency contact details, validity of registration and the display will be of appropriate size at a prominent place inside the boat which is easily visible to the passengers.
- (xiv) The operator shall operate only in the designated/ demarcated area and the same shall be strictly followed for various water sports activity. Zones earmarked for bathing/swimming/snorkeling shall not be encroached upon. Timing for water sports activities shall be 8:00 AM to sunset. The water sports activities shall be suspended during poor visibility and inclement weather condition.
- (xv) The operator shall operate water sports activity in the specified/ earmarked area only and within visual range so as to be clearly visible from shore. However, these distances are further subject to local weather conditions and decision of the Harbour Master/Port Management Board, in this respect. Water sports activities should be carried out only in fair season, settled weather condition and in day light only.
- (xvi) The operator shall have the registration certificate or its copy on board at all times and shall produce it, on demand to the officials of the Directorate of Tourism/Police/TSET or to any law enforcement authority appointed by the Administration.
- (xvii) Every registered Operator and crew shall be provided with a Photo ID card (at the cost of the operator) by the Directorate of Tourism which shall be prominently displayed by the operator while carrying out water sports activities.

- (xviii) The operator shall observe all safety norms specified by the licensing/registering authority and also as specified in the booklet titled "Safety Norms for Water Sports/Parasailing" issued by National Institute of Water sports, Goa, Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India.
- (xix) The operator shall observe the period and hours of operation as specified in the permission/license granted by the concerned authorities and Harbour Master/Port Authorities.
- (xx) Jet skis and other water crafts provided with outboard motors shall have automatic engine cut out arrangement in case of craft capsizing. In this case, it is mandatory for all operators to put on the keel cord at all times when on board their craft. If the engine is running without proper attachment of the keel cord or if the mechanism is bypassed it will be viewed as a violation of safety norms.
- (xxi) Inflammable items in loose condition (like in jerry canes, stoves, gas cylinders, etc.) should not be carried or kept in the vessel.
- (xxii) Operators/crew shall ensure that pollution due to plastic wastes, oil spills etc. is not caused to marine environment. He shall also ensure that no damage is caused to underwater marine life.
- (xxiii) The operators, operating small vessels of less than 15 tones net carrying upto 12 passengers, operating at beaches/ locations falling outside inland water limits, shall comply with the requirements specified in the Circular No. SS/MISC (37)/2003 dated 28-9-2004 issued by the Directorate of General of Shipping, Ministry of Shipping, Government of India which is given in **Annexure - I**.

5. Risk Assessment - The Directorate of Tourism shall carry out the risk assessment of the area as well as safety audit of the operations in consultation with agencies like National Institute of Water Sports, Goa/Yachting Association of India/other authorized agencies to prescribe safety standards and operating norms. The Directorate of Tourism in association with other agencies shall implement the safety standards and operating norms prescribed in the risk assessment/safety audit report.

6. Tourist Safety Enforcement Team(TSET) consisting of officials from Police/Forest, Tourism Department and Port Management Board constituted for all important beaches/ jetties by the District Magistrate concerned, headed by Head Constable of Andaman & Nicobar Police shall ensure the following.
 - i. Adherence to standard safety norms.
 - ii. Check passenger capacity in each and every trip.
 - iii. Check the route in which the vessel is plying.
 - iv. To receive and redress the tourist grievances, if not forward to Tourist Dept.
 - v. To maintain a movement register of all inland vessels plying in the jetty.
 - vi. To monitor overall law and order scenario in the jetty/beach.
 - vii. To properly guide the tourist during embarkation and disembarkation in the tourist vessel.
 - viii. To conduct joint action in times of emergency.
 - ix. To conduct mock drill on weekly basis.

7. The beaches and various facilities for water sports activities are being managed by various Govt. Departments. The department concerned shall designate an officer/ official as Beach In-charge in respect of the beaches/ places of tourist interest and the officer so designated shall also be responsible for enforcement of these guidelines in association with TSET (wherever available).

8. Authorized water sports activities - The operator may be allowed to operate following water sports activities, namely:-

- (a) Boat rides/water scooters - From jetty or ramp or beaches where embarkation and disembarkation of passengers can be carried out safely, as certified by the concerned authority.
- (b) **Parasailing** - The parasailing activities shall be allowed subject to fulfillment of the conditions given in **Annexure - II** at areas designated for the purpose after compliance of the guidelines.
- (c) **Water skiing and fun rides using powerboat & Jet Ski** - This activity may be allowed in areas as earmarked by the Directorate of Tourism and shall be beyond normal bathing/ swimming and snorkeling zones and should be carried out after moving at least 100 meters straight into the sea.
- (d) **Windsurfing and Dinghy, and Canoeing, and sailing:** These activities may be allowed in areas beyond bathing/swimming zones and within the visual range of the rescue boats.
- (e) **Scuba Diving** - Scuba Diving shall be permitted after complying with the guidelines given in **Annexure - III**.
- (f) **Sea Walk** - Sea Walk shall be permitted after complying with the guidelines given in **Annexure - IV**.
- (g) **Kayaking** - Kayaking shall be permitted after complying with the guidelines given in **Annexure - V**.
- (h) Any other activity not specifically covered above may be permitted after due evaluation of its impact/safety aspect and after obtaining required license/registration from the authorities competent to grant such license/registration.

09. The operator shall notify the rates once in a year for water sports activities along with specific details of services offered under intimation to the Directorate of Tourism. The approved rates for water sports activities may vary depending upon the location of the beach and other factors which shall be prominently displayed along with relevant details. The Directorate of Tourism through an appropriate mechanism shall have the final authority to decide on the rates to be charged for various activities.
10. In order to have proper coordination and ensure transparency the water sports operators are at liberty to form their own associations and the representative of associations will be consulted for implementing safety standards etc. for various water sports activities. The association shall also perform their duties and responsibilities for safe conduct of water sports activities.
11. Locations where more than one operator is operating, queue system should be strictly followed.
12. For effective management of various water sports activity, a location specific water sports/ beach management committee may be constituted with members drawn from Govt. Departments, Boat Operators Associations, PRIs, and Police Authorities etc. with specific duties and responsibilities.
13. **Penalty**
- i. Any operator who causes harm/injury/death to a tourists/general public/third party on account of their actions/irresponsible behavior/negligence or the craft being operated in unfit condition etc. shall be punishable as per the relevant Penal Law for time being in force.
 - ii. During the pendency of trial, the license of the operator shall be suspended barring from operating any water sport activities.
14. The Andaman & Nicobar Administration shall constitute a Water Sports Authority to regulate/promote water sports activities in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

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No. SS/Misc(37)/2003

September 28, 2004

CIRCULAR

Sub: Operations of small vessels of less than 15 (tons) net carrying up to 12 passengers and various types of sports crafts at the beaches on the coast in the open sea conditions.

This Directorate is in receipt of several communications for grant of permission to small passenger launches/ sports crafts, both less than 15 (tons) net for short duration sailing and various types of water sports activities etc. at beaches on the coast / locations falling outside the declared inland water limits.

For such crafts there is no obligation to register under Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, since their net tonnage is less than 15 and they do not operate outside coastal waters. However, considering their area and nature of operation, it is essential that these craft are subjected to certain regulatory controls and they are equipped with sufficient lifesaving appliances, communication equipments etc. Further, it is essential that their activities are properly monitored and sufficient infrastructure (equipment, lifeguards etc.) is provided for timely assistance and rescue in case of the need.

It has therefore been decided to issue following guidelines for the concerned State Government authorities to regulate effectively the operation of such crafts. They are requested to monitor the operations of these crafts in accordance with the guidelines and ensure establishment of required infrastructure like, rescue boats, trained lifeguards, sufficient spare lifesaving firefighting equipment, communication equipment, first aid boxes etc. at all beaches / locations where such crafts are permitted to operate:

A. General (For all Crafts)

1. The operations should be restricted to fair season in calm and settled weather conditions and in day light hours only.
2. All the mechanized crafts should be registered under Inland Vessels Act. Other non-mechanized crafts such as wind surfing boats may be assigned an identity number only.
3. Crafts of less than 2 NT (Net Tonnage) should not be permitted to operate beyond 1 Nautical Mile (NM) from the shore and crafts between 2NT to 15NT may be allowed to operate upto 3 NM. However, these distances are further subject to local weather conditions and decision of the Port Officer, in this respect.
4. The number of passengers should not increase to more than 12 on any craft.
5. The crafts should be subjected to annual inspection by Indian Register of Shipping to ensure that they are structurally sound properly maintained and comply with all the requirements stipulated herein as relevant for the craft.
6. All the passengers onboard shall be provided with MMD approved life jackets, which they shall wear before boarding the craft.

B. For passenger launches, Para sailing boats and Jet Ski

7. All the crafts should be provided with sufficient buoyancy material so that they do not sink even if flooded with water with full complement of persons on board.
8. Comfortable seats should be provided for all the passengers intended to be carried on a passenger launch and comfortable seating arrangements should be provided for all other passengers in other crafts.
9. The passenger launches and Para sailing boats should be subjected to flooding test, crowding test, inclining experiment, etc. to ensure that they have required stability and will be afloat , if filled with water, with passengers on board and will not capsize in case the passengers crowd on one side. The crafts not complying with the stability requirements should not permitted to operate.
10. The crafts less than 2NT, shall be provided with one lifebuoy and the crafts between 2NT and 15NT shall be provided with two lifebuoys. The crafts should also be provided with some rescue quoits, fire buckets, fire extinguisher (4.5 Kg DCP fire extinguisher 1 No. for crafts less than 2NT and mechanical foam fire extinguisher plus 4.5 Kg DCP type fire extinguisher 1No. each for crafts between 2 to 15 NT). However these requirements do not apply to Jet Skis.
11. Jet Skis and other crafts provided without board motors shall have automatic engine cut out arrangement in case of crafts capsizing.

C. Para sailing boats

12. It would be preferable to have winch Para sailing boats for normal operations. Otherwise care should be taken for Beach Para sailing, that the operation area is clear of the crowd.

D. Infrastructure at the beaches where such crafts operate

13. In addition to the above, it is essential that some general facilities/equipment is provided at all the locations of such operations/ beaches so that the crafts and the persons in distress can be provided timely help. For this purpose, it is necessary that there should be minimum one MMD approved type rescue boat provided in the locations where such activities are limited in number (say not more than 6 crafts operate) and for the areas where there is a concentration of large number of crafts than the number of rescue boats should be raised to 2 to 3 (2 for number of crafts up to 15 and 3 above that). In addition, for the purpose of providing guidance, monitoring such activities and providing timely help when a craft is in distress, it is necessary that sufficient numbers of life guards are employed who are given necessary training and are provided with spare equipment such as life jackets, life buoys, buoyant apparatuses, rescue quoits etc.

E. Communication equipment

14. For communication the operators of the small crafts should carry mobile phone and the big crafts in addition should be provided with VHF. Similar facilities should be provided on shore for close monitoring of the crafts with an aim to provide timely help as and when necessary.

For big size crafts (above 2 NT) requiring to undertake operations beyond 3 NM, the additional safety requirements can be prescribed by the Directorate on a case to case basis on receipt of details of the craft and the reasons for going beyond 3 NM.

-sd-

(Sudhir Kumar)
Deputy Chief Ship Surveyor –cum-
Senior Dy. Director General (Tech)

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SS/MISC(37)/2003

04th February, 2010

A&N Tourist Boat Operators Association,
65, Moulana Azad Road, Phoenix Bay,
Port Blair, Andamans.

Sub: Circular No. SS/Misc(37)/2003 dated 28.09.2004 – request for
Clarification – reg.

Sirs,

Reference your letter No. TBO/08-09/309 dated 24.12.2009 on the above
subject. This is to inform you that the definition of fair weather season and foul
weather season, from MS(LSA)Rules, 1991 as amended which are applicable in
the case of Circular No. SS/Misc(37)/2003 dated 28.09.2004, is as follows:-

1. “Fair weather season” means:-

- i. in the Arabian Sea, the season beginning on and from the 1st June
and ending with the 31st May and
- ii. in the Bay of Bengal the season beginning on and from the 1st
December and ending with the 30th April.

2. “Foul weather season” means:-

- i. in the Arabian Sea, the season beginning on and from the 1st June
and ending with the 31st August, and
- ii. in the Bay of Bengal, the season beginning on and from the 1st May
and ending with the 30th November.

Yours faithfully

-sd-

(Suresh Kumar)

Dy. Chief Ship Surveyor-cum-Sr.DDG(Tech)

Standards for Parasailing Operations in Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Definition: The standards applicable conduct of Parasailing using commercial boat.

Meaning of parasailing: Towing of a multi-vented or sail-like parasail by a boat that may be launched from a boat platform.

I. Manpower for Operations:

The Master/Operator and Observer/Look-out must have obtained certification in Life Saving Techniques, covering Rescue, Recovery, First Aid & CPR from National Institute of Water Sports or Authorized Agency, proof of which must be submitted at the time of application. In addition;

A. Boat Master/Driver/Operator

- i. Qualification –Must have a remote control powerboat handling [PBH-4 (LEVEL 3)] certification from the National Institute of Water sports or Authorized Agency.
- ii. Must have a completed minimum 500 parasailing flights as a deck-hand and at least 100 parasailing launches in control of the vessel under supervision using different chutes and in different weather conditions. This must have been completed within a maximum time limit of six months from the date of first certification as Learner's certification, a Log of which must be produced for verification.
- iii. Must have adequate experience in carrying out parasailing operations independently.
- iv. Must prepare a risk assessment plan for all unforeseen events- especially high wind, rain, overcast (poor visibility), high swell and the like on daily basis.

B. Boat Master/Driver/Operator

- i. The operator must ensure that the Supervisor/Observer/ Look-out stationed on the Parasailing boat is adequately experienced in operations. It is also desirable for such person to have proficiency in handling of the boat so as to act in emergency situations.
- ii. The Supervisor/Observer/Look-out must be stationed at launching point-onboard/shore- who constantly watch out the movement of the chute, the sources of dangers at deck, sea and air during every flight and to apprise the Master as and when needed.
- iii. Under no circumstances shall the operator & crew utilize any equipment outside the parameters for which it was designed & must at all times adhere to manufacturers' specifications.
- iv. All operators shall wear the uniforms made of the sea-worthy cloths.

II. Equipments & Standards:

This shall include the boat and all those gears and gadgets as required for safe conduct of the parasailing operations.

A. Equipments required for operations:

Parasailing boat with Min. 300 HP capacity engine, parachute as required, harness, rope, wind meter, rectangular rescue tube, helmets, lifejackets, fire extinguisher and rescue-boat, Lifebuoys, rescue quoits, fire buckets with lanyards, communication equipment, medical kit, anchor with 30 mtrs. of rope and mobile phone.

B. Boat and Engine:

- i. The boat used for parasailing must have adequate power (minimum of 300 HP) with remote control, preferably with in-board engine.
- ii. The Boat must have a strong point specially built for attachment of parasail.
- iii. It has to come with Builder's certificate confirming that the boat has been built to undertake Parasailing operations before registration/permission.
- iv. The boat must have been built as per IRS / equivalent approved design. It can either be an approved design already available with the manufacturer or a fresh approval obtained for making the new one.
- v. The Builder must certify that the mandatory testing such as stability, buoyancy etc. has been carried out for the parasailing boat. Certificate thereof must be produced for the verification of the authorities before registration.

C. As per the Water Sports Policy of A&N, only such parasailing undertaken through a **winch mechanism shall be permitted.**

D. Parachute and the Webbing (Body Harness System):

The operator must have in possession of the parachutes of different sizes as prescribed for operations during different wind-speed conditions - low, moderate and high. The Harness must also be of high quality consisting of a lower back and seat strap, leg straps and adjustable waist strap with clips.

E. Equipment and accessories to be used for Parasailing operations shall be made of material suitable for use over water. The operator must have a windsock or a hand-held wind speed meter to determine the wind velocity.

F. Daily Equipment Inspection:

The operator must ensure that:

- i. It shall be the responsibility of the first mate in-charge to make certain that the vessel is maintained and is properly equipped with in a sea-worthy condition.

- ii. All equipments to be used for Parasailing operation must be inspected by him personally every day, before and after the operations. A logging system for the same may be maintained and shown to authorities as and when called for.
- iii. The inspection must be undertaken as per the manufacturers' specification for each equipment in use.
- iv. The winch must be tested through its full range of operations and a written record of the same maintained.

G. Annual Inspection:

The boat and equipments must be subjected to Annual Inspection by the Manufacturer/Its Agent/Appropriately experienced person for such inspection every year. A written report on the same must be submitted at the time of application for renewal of registration every year

H. The operator shall ensure that all parasailing equipments are fitted, inspected, maintained, replaced and used as stipulated by the manufacturer.

I. Winch Rope:

- i. It must fulfil the standards specified by the manufacturer both on account of load and number flights permissible.
- ii. Its length must be as stipulated by the manufacturer of the parasail harness.
- iii. The safe working load of the rope should be as specified by the manufacturer or a minimum breaking strain of 3000 kg. It must be replaced after 400 flights or four months after the first use or as specified by manufacturer, whichever is earlier.

J. Towline Inspection & Maintenance:

Towline in its entirety shall be inspected daily for damage and/ or wear and if necessary shall be immediately replaced. Towline shall be kept clean & maintained in accordance with manufacturers' specifications, requirements and/ or recommendations. A written log of inspections & maintenance shall be kept at all times.

K. The Operator shall ensure that only those equipments fulfilling the safety parameters are used in the operations.

L. The parasail boat and the equipment should be offered for inspection to the authorized agency / competent authority, before permission/registration is granted to the operator, by the authority competent to grant such permission/registration.

M. Group Personal Accident Policy:

All boats must have been insured under this scheme and should be valid during the entire period of its registration. The activity of Parasailing shall be covered by a public liability insurance of Rs. 20.00 lakhs per accident and maximum coverage for four times i.e. Rs. 80.00 lakhs per annum. Besides there should also be a minimum Personal Accident Insurance cover of Rs. 5.00 lakhs per person undergoing Parasailing activity at any point of time.

III. Standard Operating Procedure:**A. Pre-Flight Weather Evaluation:**

- i. It is Master's/Operators responsibility to evaluate and determine if weather conditions are favourable for parasailing. The person shall use all means available to make such a determination.
- ii. Before launch of operations and while operation is progressing, the Master shall diligently observe: wind-speed, wind direction, condition of the sea (swell/turbulence), rain, fog and visibility.
- iii. No operator shall knowingly parasail in rain, heavy fog or during a known lighting storm within 50 km from the parasailing area, in addition a daily weather log shall be maintained.
- iv. A wind meter must be kept on-board throughout operations to measure the wind-speed and direction.
- v. If the weather conditions are not within the stipulated safety limits and/or the sea-swell is assessed as unsafe for operations and/or as and when the warnings are issued by the concerned agencies, no activity should be carried out.

B. Pre-flight briefing:

All parasail participants shall be required to view a Parasail safety briefing video & /or read and understand a written parasailing safety briefing hand-out which shall include:

- i. Description of the activity itself.
- ii. Safety precautions while underway and in-flight
- iii. Safety and lifesaving equipment positioning on the boat.
- iv. Warnings and or Authorized Agency Procedures for unexpected events, such as water landings, equipment malfunctions, and towline separation.
- v. Procedure in the event of an emergency onboard the vessel.
- vi. Proper use of signals.
- vii. Question and answer session/Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).
- viii. Exclusion of any participant that may be afraid or intimidated prior participation.

C. Rider Profile

- a. The operator shall strictly ensure that passengers are free from health, medical problems such as blood pressure, heart problems, etc. and shall obtain necessary undertaking regarding risk & release of liability waiver from all passengers prior to starting the activity.
- b. The riders wearing loose cloths such as sari, dhoti, dhupatta etc. shall be discouraged totally from undertaking the rides.
- c. In no circumstance, **pregnant women and children below 16 years of age, be allowed to parasail.**
- d. No operator shall allow more than 2 passengers to take a ride on a single chute at a time.
- e. Multi-passenger flights shall only be conducted under the following conditions and only after the operator has made reasonable judgement prior to each and every flight. Extreme caution must be exercised:
 - i. At no time shall there more than 2 passengers in any canopy
 - ii. Wind conditions must be adequate, stable and consistent.
 - iii. Conditions must be conducive to such activities
 - iv. Commercial equipment specifically designed and professionally manufactured for multi-passenger flight operations must be utilised.
 - v. All equipment must adhere to manufacturers' specifications, requirements and/or recommendations.
 - vi. Vessel's winch system must be equipped with a functional level-winder during all multi-passenger flights.
 - vii. Rider must fill up indemnity bond before launch.

D. Designated area of operation:

The activity shall be carried out in specially demarcated areas by the Directorate of Tourism, Andaman & Nicobar Administration/an agency appointed for this purpose, in an area free from temporary shacks/deck beds/ beach umbrellas and electric poles, etc. to be operated in queue system.

E. Operations Protocol

- i. The Parasailing boat must be operated by a trained, qualified and experienced Master/Driver who is capable of carrying out operations in safe manner.
- ii. The boat must carry a person serving as a "Observer"/"Lookout".
- iii. The boat driver must keep a sharp lookout for swimmers in water to take quick evasive action.
- iv. Before the flight, the riders must be given briefing on the ride, risks associated and safety precautions.
- v. Life jacket and light helmets (ISI approved) should be made mandatory for the passengers. At all times participants shall wear a properly fitted type approved life jackets.

- vi. A rectangular rescue tube recommended by the National Institute of Water Sports / authorised agencies should be always available in the parasail and rescue boats.
- vii. Parasail log books (as per Annexure –I, enclosed herewith) with columns prescribed by National Institute of Water Sports shall be strictly maintained by the operator and shall be shown on demand to the official of the Directorate of Tourism or to any other authority.
- viii. A rescue boat must be made available by the operator in full readiness during the entire period of water sport operation. This boat must be powered by an OBM of minimum 40 HP. A certified lookout-cum-boat driver must be at standby and stationed on the boat. The boat as well as the lookout should not be involved with any other activity while on rescue duty.
- ix. Operations must follow the standard procedure as laid down from time to time.
- x. Towline Length Limitations;
 - a. The vessel's winch drum must be equipped with towline of around 400 feet (122 mts.) while conducting parasail flight operations. However, under no circumstance must the towline exceed 500 feet (150 mts.).
 - b. The height of an ascending Parasail must be restricted within a vertical height of 60 meters (200 ft.) above Water Level.

F. Navigation for Parasailing:

- i. Parasailing boat is navigated in opposite to the direction of wind and that could vary while the ride is in progress. Hence, the Boat Master must ensure that he steers the boat at an angle that is safe between the centre-line of the boat and the rope. Other aspects such as wind-speed, sea-swell, rain, visibility, fog and the like must also be factored into the navigation planning.
- ii. While navigating, it must be carried out at a safe distance from: another parasailing boat in operations (200 mts.), another plying or anchored boat, wharf/jetty/fixed structures or other hazardous objects.
- iii. For Parasailing in a leeward area, the Master must carry out proper risk assessment first, since the risk of injury in such areas compared to wind-ward area is observed to be higher. Further, the distance of the boat to be maintained from the shore in relation to the wind-speed is: a). Up to 9 kn.- equal to the length of the winch rope; b). Between 9-13 kn.- twice the length of the winch rope; c). Above 13 kn.- thrice the length of the winch rope.
- iv. The parasailing operations must be stopped whenever the wind speed exceeds **18 km/ hour (10 kn./hour) at sea level.**
- v. The operator shall at all times maintain a minimum operating distance from any surf Zone, shore line or fixed object of not less than 500 feet.

G. Payload Restrictions:

The Boat/engine, winch, rope, parachute etc. has stipulated payload limits as prescribed by the manufacturer, which must be strictly adhered. Hence, the

Master/Operator of the boat must ensure that the minimum and maximum payload limit as prescribed by the Manufacturer for each parasail flight is strictly complied with.

H. Controlled dipping:

If a parasailing rider makes a request for dipping, the Master may consider in doing so only when:

- i. She/He is confident of maintaining the stability of the boat and able to carry out dipping safely and without causing any injury to the Para-sailor;
- ii. There are no hindrances like anchored or plying boats in the area of operation/jetty/fixed structures/power-line and the like.
- iii. The Para-sailor does not come within 50 meters of the boat-stern.



अण्डमान तथा निकोबार प्रशासन
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION
पर्यटननिदेशालय
DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM
पोर्टब्लेयर
Port Blair

Report No.:..... Date: _____

INSPECTION REPORT FOR PARASAILING OPERATIONS

Date & Place of
Inspection : _____

A. Boat Owner's Profile

Name of the firm &
address : _____

Reg. No. of the firm : _____

Nature of ownership : _____

Owners' name &
address : _____

Year starting
operations : _____

Designated area of
Operation : _____

Parasailing boats held : _____

B. Has inspection been carried out last year :

C. Boat Registration Details

Regn. No.	Engine			Operating Type	Insurance till
	Type	Make	Year & Sr. No.		

D. NIWS certified boat operator(s) operators / owners

Sr. No	Name	Cert. No	Valid till
1			

E. Essential Equipments & Documentation

Condition of Parachutes (Size: 28"/30"/32"/34"/36")	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Condition of harness	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Condition of Rope for parasailing	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Condition of Winch unit	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Light Helmets (----- nos.)	Yes	No
Wind Meter (Make, Sl. No.).....	Yes	No
Log book (Entry to be maintained regularly)	Yes	No
Rectangular rescue tube or lifebuoys (..... nos.)	Yes	No
First aid Kit	Yes	No
Registered Lifejackets- for parasailing (.....nos.) (Name of the boat owner to be printed on its back as per stipulation)	Yes	No
Lifebuoys	Yes	No
Fire Extinguisher	Yes	No
Fire bucket with lanyard	Yes	No
Designated Mobile on-board	Yes	No
Anchor with 30 meters of rope	Yes	No
Rescue Boat	Yes	No

F. Any Other Watersports Equipment(s) Held by the boat owner

Item	Quantity	Item	Quantity
Speedboat		Banana tube	
Ring/Bumper		Magic Ski	
Jet-Ski (PWC)		Water ski	
Cruise boat		Any other item	

G. Whether the Firm issued uniform to Watersport operators? :

H. Whether No Objection Certificate has been obtained from Harbour Master, Port Management Board for Parasailing operations? :

The Boat has been inspected for its preparedness for Parasailing operations as per guidelines of Water Sports Activities, of Directorate of Tourism, Andaman & Nicobar Administration;

RECOMMENDED for operation of Parasailing subject to the following:

1. The firm shall agree to adhere to the instructions as annexed at Annexure – II herewith.
2. Operation of leisure-watersporting crafts in any form is strictly prohibited during South-West monsoon period, i.e. 01st, May to 30th, September or as stipulated by respective authorities every year.
3. The area (beach) of operations shall strictly be as designated by Harbour Master, Port Management Board for the said purpose.
4. The operation shall be carried out strictly in QUEUE System as directed by the Harbour Master, Port Management Board.
This report will be valid till i.e. expiry of the recommendation of the Harbour Master, Port Management Board.

Inspected by: _____

Date: _____ **(Issuing Authority)**

Parasail Boat Operators Log											
Name of the Water Sports Centre/firm:				Location of Operation						Page No.	
Name of the Proprietor:				Name of the Operators certified by NIWS / authorized agency							
Name of the Parasailing Boat& Reg. No.											
Date	Name of Operator	Engine OBM HP	Wind Speed	Time boat taken out	Time boat brought in	No. of Clients on Chute	Rate charged	Guest Names & Contact Nos.	Remarks & Signature	Boat Operators Sign	In-charge WSP Centre Sign

Instructions for the Parasailing Operations

1. Inspection and Certification for safety preparedness of the Boat owner for watersports operations is mandatory and to be undertaken before commencement of operations every year. In its absence, NO subsequent inspection shall be carried out unless necessary declarations and undertaking are furnished thereof to this effect.
2. A check list on operational requirement should be prepared and check should be carried out during pre-launch and at the time of securing the parasailing unit.
3. It is mandatory to record every flight in the Log book and the same is required to be produced to the authorities as and when called for.
4. Boat owner name shall be inscribed on the PFDs (life jacket) in print format used for operations.
5. Boat ownership & registration details like owner's name, Tel. no., Boat owner name, passenger capacity etc. should be written at prominent place inside the boats.
6. Operators should be fully made to refresh the procedure of Parasail operations regularly.
7. Parachute, harness and related gadgets shall be maintained properly.
8. It is advised to diligently follow the Safety Norms framed from time to time for watersports.
9. The boat owner must ensure that Parasailing operations is handled by a duly certified, adequately experienced and valid License Holder only. During the entire period of operations, a qualified person with adequate experience in Life Saving and boat handling should be posted in the boat as Look-out/Supervisor/Observer, near the winch/appropriate location, for monitoring the movement of the Parachute and timely appraisal to the Master operator.
10. Under no circumstances shall the operator & crew utilize any equipment outside the parameters for which it was designed & must at all times adhere to manufacturers' specifications.
11. Parachutes of different sizes as prescribed for operations during different wind-speed conditions- low, moderate and high- must be kept onboard all the time and to be used accordingly. The size of parachute should be appropriate for the prevailing wind condition. The Harness must also be of high quality consisting of a lower back and seat strap, leg straps and adjustable waist strap with clips.
12. All equipments, Parachute, gear, harness, winch and its motor must be in good condition and to be examined every day before and after operations.
13. The boat owner must maintain a daily logging of the equipments, containing inspection details, items to be taken onboard etc.
14. Annual Inspection the boat and equipments/gears must be carried out through the Manufacturer/Its Agent/Appropriately experienced person for such inspection every year. A written report on the same must be submitted at the time of application for renewal of registration.
15. The safe working load of the rope should be as specified by the manufacturer or a minimum breaking stain of 3000 kg. It must be replaced after 400 flights or four months after the first use or as specified by manufacturer, whichever is earlier.
16. The Boat owner shall assess the prevailing weather conditions- wind-speed, wind direction, condition of the sea (swell/turbulence), rain, fog and visibility- and carryout operations only if it is absolutely safe.
17. The Boat owner shall diligently follow the procedure of pre-flight briefing to all guests on probable risks, clothing, safety briefing and so on.
18. The Boat owner shall allow only such number of riders as permitted by the manufacturer on a single chute at a time.
19. The rides must be carried out only from the designated location as stated in the NOC from Harbour Master, Port Management Board.

20. Parasailing operations must be stopped whenever the wind speed exceeds 18 km/ hour (10 kn./hour) at sea level.
 21. The Boat owner shall note that the equipments as listed in this report are essential in nature, and all of these must be made available onboard during the entire period of operations.
 22. It shall be the responsibility of the Boat Owner/Operators/Master and look out to ensure that all safety norms are strictly adhered to and the parasailing operations carried as per these guidelines, failing which he/she shall be held solely responsible for any accident / incident.
-

Guidelines for Scuba Diving Centres in Andaman Nicobar Islands

***DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM
Andaman Nicobar Administration
October 2010***

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to one of the world's best kept secrets - the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Long shrouded in mystery and legend - the islands have now started to emerge on the independent traveler's list of must see places in the world. These Islands in the Bay of Bengal are a rare gift of nature. The group of Islands / islets, spread over an area of 8249 Sq. Kms., with tropical rainforest and beautiful unexplored beaches are graded excellent by many researchers. Besides creeks, rich flora and fauna, marine life and under water corals, provide a dream destination for the tourists, especially Scuba divers.

The crystal clear waters and the abundant marine life has attracted divers from all over the world and has made "Andamans" as one of the best emerging dive destinations in the world. Diving in Andamans is a unique lifetime experience. The coastal water surrounding these islands is the abode of one of the richest coral reef ecosystems in the world. The undamaged/unexplored coral-reefs and underwater marine life have encouraged National as well as International divers to include Andamans in their itinerary.

The Andaman and Nicobar Administration has identified various Dive Sites in these Islands. To promote and regulate the activities of Scuba Diving Centres in these Islands, an effort has been made to formulate consolidated guidelines for regulation of SCUBA (Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus) Diving activities by the Directorate of Tourism, A & N Administration. The procedure for Registration of Scuba Diving Centres has been explained in this booklet which also contains guidelines issued by different departments of Andaman & Nicobar Administration and Ministries of Govt. of India. These guidelines are based on guidelines of National Institute of Water Sports, Goa and Maldives Recreational Diving Regulation, 2003 and their contribution is gratefully acknowledged.

1. **OBJECTIVE**

- ◆ To promote A&N Islands as a diving destination in the National & International market.
- ◆ To establish an open, transparent and safe framework for development of Scuba Diving activities in A&N Islands.
- ◆ To establish a simple system for registration of scuba diving centres/operators in these Islands and provide them consolidated information on guidelines issued by various Departments of Andaman and Nicobar Administration and Ministries of Govt. of India.
- ◆ To ensure that diving is done only in permissible areas in order to protect the marine eco systems and prevent damage to corals.
- ◆ To encourage self regulation through an Association of Dive Centres.
- ◆ To facilitate development of standards for Scuba Diving in India by establishing a Recreational Scuba Training Council under the aegis of Bureau of Indian Standards.

2. Procedure for Registration of Scuba Diving Centre

To facilitate Scuba Diving Centres, Andaman Nicobar Administration will grant Registration to Scuba Diving Centres to undertake diving activities in these islands in accordance with the following procedure:

- i. The firm/operator, desiring to operate a Scuba diving centre in the islands shall submit three sets of filled up application forms in the prescribed format (Annexure-III), along with the prescribed application fee of Rs.5,000/- in the form of demand draft/pay order in favor of Sr. Accounts officer (IPT), to the Director (Tourism), Andaman and Nicobar Administration, Port Blair, Pin code-744101, (Andaman Island) India, Tele-fax No. 03192-230933, before the commencement of the Dive Centre.
- ii. The firm/ operator shall give details of their office , and currently employed certified dive instructor, in the prescribed application form. Changes in staff members are allowable without intimation to the registering authority as long as at least one pre-named certified dive instructor remains on the rolls. The firm/operator shall also submit the rates to be charged for diving activities, and any substantial increase in prices, above 20% overall, should be informed to the authorities in writing and alongwith submission of a new rate card. Discounts on printed rates are at the discretion of the dive centre.
- iii. Foreign Divers/operators shall obtain Restricted Area Permit (RAP) from the Foreigner's Registration Office, Port Blair or from Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India and shall enclose a copy of the application for the permit made to FRRO/MHA, or copy of permit so granted (if available) together with copy of the employment visa/ business visa along with the application form. The details of the areas open for foreigners are at Annexure-VII.
- iv. The Sea worthiness certificate and/or other survey report/certificates in respect of Dive boat, issued by MMD /Deputy Commissioner/ Director Fisheries, (as the case may be) shall be enclosed with the application form.
- v. The Certificate of Registration of Scuba Diving Centre will be issued by Director (Tourism) normally within 30 days. The Director Tourism, shall enter the name and particulars of the scuba diving centre/operator in the register maintained for the purpose and shall issue a certificate to the Scuba Diving Centre/operator, unless the registration is refused. Reasons for rejection shall be indicated as applicable.

- vi. The Registration granted to Scuba Diving Centres owned by the foreigners, will be valid for the period they have been granted Restricted Area Permit, while the Registration granted to Scuba Diving centres in case of the Indian nationals and Indian Registered companies that are substantially owned by Indian Nationals, will be valid for three years. Registration fee of Rs. 5000/- shall be payable annually.
- vii. The Scuba diving centre/operator may apply for renewal with the prescribed registration fee, by giving a simple application on plain paper, enclosing a copy of the Certificate of Registration issued by the Directorate of Tourism, and enclosing details furnished with the original application, duly updated. The application for renewal must be made 60 days prior to expiry of the registration. Branches of those dive shops who have already established their base in the Island will be allowed to be set up under intimation to the Directorate of Tourism.

3. Requirements for firms operators, desiring to open Scuba Diving Centres

3.1 General

- i. All Scuba Diving centres desiring to undertake their Scuba Diving activities must be registered with the Directorate of Tourism, Andaman Nicobar Administration before commencement of their activities. The Dive Centres operating prior to issue of these guidelines shall get registered within three months of issue of these guidelines subject to filing of application as prescribed in this guidelines.
- ii. All the scuba diving centres and its branches must have these guidelines properly displayed for the information and compliance by the all concerned.
- iii. All Dive Centres / operators registered with the Director, Tourism should give proper receipts to all the dive tourist/guests. They should maintain proper records of the tourist /guests approaching them and receipt for the fees charged from them.
- iv. Scuba diving is permitted only in the specified areas as mentioned at Annexure -VII. The dive centre/operators are advised to take tourists only to the specified dive sites.
- v. The Dive Centres must remain aware of local weather conditions and inform divers of any special conditions at each dive site prior to dive.
- vi. Dive centres should put buoys preferably red in colour in the diving area. Dive Centres must be aware of any changes to the dive plan of the dive boat and divers.
- vii. Dive Centre owners will be required to ensure that the Dive Centre has a third party insurance policy for a minimum amount of Rs.10 Lakhs per person, and also that its Dive**

Instructors have a specific dive insurance policy for scuba diving industry professionals through an accredited Insurance Agency.

- viii. The Dive centre/operator will be required to bear any cost to be incurred in case of any rescue or medication during emergency if such rescue work is necessitated as a result of negligence on the part of the Dive Centre/ operator.
- viii. The Dive centre may be inspected by any authorized officer(s) from the Directorate of Tourism or any other official authorized by Law.

3.2 Dive Centre Requirements

- i. All Dive Centres must be equipped with pure Oxygen and an Emergency Action Plan in case of diving related accidents. The Emergency Action Plan must include mechanisms for :-
 - a. Searching methods in case of missing divers.
 - b. Providing first aid care.
 - c. Transport to the next appropriate medical facility.
 - d. Reporting to appropriate authorities (Police, Coast Guard, Health Department and Directorate of Tourism).
- ii. Dive Centre staff must be familiar with the Emergency Action Plan, and should be able to act appropriately.
- iii. Dive Centre must have a base leader, and safety staff member, who is responsible for the Dive centre and is available all the time.
- iv. Dive Centre must have adequate equipment spare parts etc.
- v. Dive centre must have medical first aid, and specified wireless communication (walkie-talkie) / or any other effective communication system to facilitate communication between base station (Dive Centre) and identified sites for diving.
- vi. The Dive Centre must have on its staff at least one “Dive Instructor”, who is certified by any of the following agencies :-
 - a) Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI)
 - b) Confederation Mondiale Des Activités Subaquatiques (CMAS)
 - c) National Association of Under Water Instructors (NAUI)
 - d) British Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC)
 - e) Scuba Schools International (SSI)

- vii Dive Centers must have a list of all dive services and courses conducted by them with the rate list, prominently displayed at all dive centre premises.

3.3 Dive Centre Equipment

- i. Dive centre must provide well -maintained dive equipment, with pure oxygen and must have an emergency action plan.
- ii. Dive Centre should have a minimum of Six diving sets which includes tank, regulator with pressure gauge, depth meter and dive watch or deco- computer, mask, snorkel, fins, buoyancy compensating jacket, quick release weight belt and alternate air source.
- iii. Buoyancy Compensator Devices (BCD) must be approved for recreational diving by the manufacturer and must have a low pressure inflator. The BCD must be maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- iv. Regulators must be approved for recreational diving by the manufacturer and must be maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- v. Dive Centre must provide Alternate Air Source, depth & air gauge or air timing devices as standard rental equipment.
- vi. Dive centre must possess a certificate of pressure testing from an authorized testing centre every three years, or as per rules of the Govt. of India, regarding high pressure cylinders. This inspection must be entered in a maintenance log book along with the cylinder number. Tanks are not allowed to be used twelve years after the date of manufacturing.
- vii. The Dive Centre must use only specified compressor oil. Air purifying filter must be changed as per guidelines of the compressor manufacturer and filter changes enter in the compressor log book along with the number of cylinders filled during this period. The centre must also obtain a certificate from an authorized agency like the National Institute of Water Sports stating the quality of output of Air Compressors, every 6 months.

3.4 Recognized Diver Training agencies : Minimum Certification requirement

- i. The minimum certification level for divers wishing to participate in diving is an entry level certification from a recognized agency.
- ii. Other diver training agency's entry level certificates must have as performance requirements for open water training dives encompassing the knowledge and skills as outlined in the entry level performance requirement.

- iii. A diver is required to submit proof of his/her training by means of a diving certificate and to submit proof of his/her diving experience by means of a log book.
- iv. A diver who cannot submit an entry level or higher certification must be considered a trainee and may only participate in training dives according to the standards of the training programs as sponsored by the recognized diver training agencies, until certified as an entry level diver.
- v. A diver who cannot submit proof of his/her dive experience by means of a log book must demonstrate to the dive instructor that he/she has mastered the skill as specified in para 3.11.

3.5 Supervision of diving activities

- i. All diving activities must be supervised by Dive Centre staff either directly or indirectly. If a Dive Centre staff is found to be negligent in supervision, the dive centre staff and dive centre, will be subject to appropriate action as deemed fit by the government authorities.
- ii. In order to function as dive centre staff a person must meet all the prerequisites as mentioned at para 3.12, recognized qualification for dive centre staff.
- iii. Prior to a dive, a dive briefing has to be given to the divers by the dive centre staff.
- iv. For all diving activities a dive roster must be kept stating the divers dive time, maximum depth and remaining tank pressure after dive.
- v. For independent land based diving activities a dive centre staff member is required to note the time the divers enter and exit the water.
- vi. Dive rosters are to be kept by the dive centre staff for reference for the authorized officers of the Directorate of Tourism, or any other person authorized by the Law, for a period not less than one year.
- vii. Certified divers may dive with another certified diver without the immediate supervision of a dive master when environmental conditions are similar to the conditions in which the diver has been trained, or proof of experience of diving in more demanding conditions can be demonstrated by entries in their log books.
- viii. Certified divers, who do not have the skill or experience necessary to safely and comfortably dive in given environmental conditions, must dive under the immediate supervision of dive centre staff.

3.6 Maximum Depth limitations

- i. Maximum depth for all recreational diving is 30 meters. This applies to the divers training in Deep Diving Techniques, who participate in recreational diving activities in Andaman Nicobar Islands, tourists, dive centre staff, instructors, on or off duty and all instructors and students involved in Advanced and Deep Diving Training.
This maximum depth limitation also applies without exception to diving activities on live –aboard and safari boats.
- ii. Any person repeatedly and deliberately violating this guidelines may be excluded from further diving. Furthermore, any dive centre staff repeatedly and deliberately violating this regulation will be subjected to disciplinary measure as deemed fit by the Director Tourism or any other official authorized by the Law.
- iii. Entry level divers may dive to a depth of 20 meters or within the limits as set forth by standards of their certification agency, but not exceeding 20 meters.
- iv. Not until entry level divers have received training in Deep Diving Techniques, may they go deeper than 20 meters.
- v. Instructions in deep diving techniques must be provided in compliance with the standards of the program the instructor is qualified to teach according to the Diver Training Agencies as mentioned at para 3.2 (vi).
- vi. The fact that the entry level diver is diving under the supervision of an instructor shall not be the grounds to dive deeper than 20 meters unless the diver is trained or is receiving training in Deep Diving Techniques as per standards.

3.7 Decompression Dive Limitations

- i. Only no stage decompression diving is allowed in the Andaman Nicobar Islands. This applies to everybody who participates in diving activities within the Islands, tourists, and dive centre staff, instructors on and off duty also instructors and students involved in Advanced and Deep Diving Training. This no stage decompression limitation also applies to live aboard or safari boats. No exception whatsoever is allowed.
- ii. Any person repeatedly and deliberately violating this guidelines may be excluded from further diving. Furthermore, any dive centre staff repeatedly and deliberately violating this regulation will be subjected to disciplinary measure as deemed fit by the Director Tourism or any other official authorized by the Law.

3.8 Equipments for divers and instructors

During all recreational diving activities, diver must be equipped with:-

- i. Mask, snorkel, fins
- ii. Regulator with submersible pressure gauge, and Alternative Air Source, or surplus air supply.
- iii. Adequate Buoyancy Compensator Device (BCD) according to customers' weight, with oral and low pressure Inflator.
- iv. Air Gauge or Air Time and Depth Measuring device.
- v. The use of dive computers is highly recommended for all divers.
- vi. Emergency signaling device comprising inflatable surface balloon and whistle.

During all night diving activities divers must be equipped with:-

- vii. A backup light. Underwater torch and night signaling device, with every diver in possession of a marker light. Coloured blinking lights (preferably red in colour), shall be placed, in the diving area for attention of other boats.
- viii. Reflective Surface Marker Buoy (SMB), and
- ix. A small vessel to follow and assist divers.

In addition, all dive instructors supervising diving activities must be equipped with;

- x. Emergency cutting shears/ cutting tools and emergency signaling device.

3.9 Dive Boat

- i. The dive boat drivers must hold a appropriate boat handling certification as per the IV Act, MS Act, or Marine Fishing Regulation as the case may be. The dive boat must carry a person who holds a valid Life Saving Techniques (LST) certificate from NIWS (validity two years) or hold a valid Medic First Aid Certification. Power Boat Handling Certificate issued by recognized agencies such as National Institute of Water Sports, Goa would be acceptable.
- ii. The Dive Boat must carry the following:-
 - a. Dive Flag (as illustrated in Annexure-XI).
 - b. Oars, wherever such boat is capable of independent propulsion by oars.
 - c. Flares
 - d. First Aid Kit
 - e. Walkie-Talkie or alternate communication device.
 - f. Medical Oxygen set.
 - g. Life jackets, and buoys.

- iii. The Boat should anchor at designated points only, marked by floating buoys in Marine National Park wherever they are installed. Where such buoys are not yet installed, the boat crew should take all precautions to avoid any damage to coral reefs by faulty anchorage.
- iv. Boats, surveyed by MMD/ Engineer and Ship surveyor and registered under M.S./I.V. Act (as the case may be) or registered by Fisheries Department, for Game Fishing shall only be allowed for scuba diving. The Vessel has to be Registered as follows:-
 - (a) Vessels which ply in inland waters have to be registered under IV Act with Deputy Commissioner being the registering authority.
 - (b) For all sea going vessels beyond IV waters the vessels have to be registered with MMD under various clauses as per MS Act and/or as per Guidelines issued by Director General, Shipping, Govt of India, or with Fisheries Department for Game Fishing.
- v) For operation in Protected Areas, these boats should have the permission of Chief Wild Life Warden.
- vi) Dive Boats are the responsibility of the Dive Centre and the crew. The Dive Boats must have at least a crew of three including Dive Instructor and must be dedicated to the safety of the divers and support the divers at all times.
- vii) The dive Boats should have sufficient fuel to make prearranged dive trips and any changes there to.
- ix) In case weather condition deteriorates while divers are under water, the crew must be proficient in recalling methods.
- x) The Dive Centre staff is responsible for the provision of a spare tank, spare diving equipment, first aid, oxygen kit, dive flag and a boat ladder that allows for a comfortable exit from the water.
- xi) An Operational Search Light must be onboard, in all night dives involving dive boats.
- xii) The dive boat must have inscribed the, name of the boat, diving centre and registration number.

3.10 Safety Considerations

- i. Dive Centre must have Emergency Action Plan, specifying action to be initiated by the members of the dive team and the support staff in the event of emergencies.
- ii. The Dive Centre staff must brief the divers prior to every dive. The brief must include information about safety regulations, depth limits, dive site characteristics, currents, entry and exit techniques, environmental considerations and potential hazards.

- iii. The use of Buoyancy Control Device (BCD), is mandatory for all diving activities.
- iv. Except for short and shallow dives, after all dives a safety stop must be made for at least 3 minutes at 5 meters. Divers must commence their safety stop with a tank pressure not less than 50 bars. A safety stop at 5 meters for 5 minutes is recommended for all dives deeper than 9 meters.
- v. Solitary Diving is not allowed under any circumstances.
- vi. For practical reasons the term diving is used to describe recreational diving only. Commercial or navy divers and other occupational divers must adhere to these guidelines when participating in recreational diving activities.
- vii. Familiarization sessions with the oxygen equipment must be provided at the dive centre for all dive staff and this training session must be held annually.
- viii. The dive centre/operator must abide by the guidelines for safe operations mentioned in these guidelines.
- ix. Only registered Scuba dive operators will be permitted to dive/take tourists for diving in the areas permitted on the fulfillment of the guidelines/terms and conditions as specified herein.
- x. Model Emergency Action Plan is at Annexure-I.

3.11 Orientation dive

- i. If a diver is certified as an entry level diver or above , but cannot show proof of at least 30 dives, and /or has not been diving in the last 3 months , the diver is required to make an orientation dive.
- ii. An orientation dive is not a Test, but is a dive in shallow water under quiet controlled circumstances, where the diver is given the opportunity to regain confidence in his/her skills, including but not limited to : mask clearing, regulator recovery, neutral buoyancy, ascents, descents, and alternate air source breathing.

3.12 Requirements in respect to Income tax, Customs and Service tax etc.

- i. Income Tax clearance certificate together with PAN details should be submitted to the Administration for registration/renewal of registration.
- ii. All imported equipment should be under the cover of customs duty paid- receipt.
- iii. In case of any T.B.R.E(Tourist Baggage Re-export Rule) item, the Scuba Divers must have necessary endorsement on their passport of the list of equipment.
- iv. Foreign Scuba divers cannot sell their equipment in India which are under T.B.R.E.

- v. In case of any defaults in respect of T.B.R.E(re-exports) they are liable to pay duty at applicable rates with fine at the time of departure to their destinations.
- vi. All customs checks will be conducted at the time of entry and exit.
- vii. Dive centres must comply with Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Service Tax laws and proof of compliance/registration under EPF and Service Tax should be submitted to the Director (Tourism) for initial registration/renewal of registration.

3.13 Recognized qualification for Dive Centre staff

- i. At least one dive centre staff should be dive instructor certified by any of the following internationally recognized agency
 - A) PADI
 - B) CMAS
 - C) NAUI
 - D) BSAC
 - E) SSI
- ii. All training and certification of divers is to be done exclusively by instructors who may be assisted by Assistant Instructors and or Dive Master and he should strictly adhere to all the standards that apply to the Dive training programme.
- iii. In order to function as a Base Leader or Assistant Base Leader, an individual must have undergone an emergency first responder course
- iv. The Dive Centre staffs who are engaged in leading dives must be familiar with and also properly trained in extending First Aid treatment.

3.14 Environment Protection

- i. Proper care should be taken to protect the marine environment, its associated living organisms and their habitat. Divers should be briefed by the dive instructors on responsible behavior, and avoid damage to the corals and physical contact with marine life/animals. Scuba divers shall not cause any damage to marine flora and fauna.
- ii. Collection of corals, marine flora, fauna and other sea wealth is strictly prohibited and any violation of this will attract penal action under Section 29 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972.
- iii. There should not be any disposal of sewage or garbage in the reef areas. Divers should also not use chemicals, explosives, or any other substance, which may cause injury to marine life/wild life or destroy its habitat.

- iv. The provisions, rules and regulations covering National parks and Sanctuaries under Wildlife Protection Act 1972 and as prevailing in the islands should be adhered to. Provisions regarding grant of entry permit and activities prohibited under Wildlife (Protection) Act is at Annexure-V.
- v. Anchoring of dive boats will not be permitted within 50 mts from the shore of the islands coming under Marine National Park/ Wildlife Sanctuary except with prior permission from the concerned DFO. No landing will be permitted on North Cinque Island and other islands coming under the Marine National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary. The fees for entry in Wildlife Sanctuary/National Park shall be paid as per existing fee structure(placed on Annexure-IV).

3.15 Refusal / Cancellation of Registration

- i. If any deficiency is found in the application and documents submitted together with the application, a Deficiency Memo will be issued, for fulfilling the required conditions.
- ii. The registration will be cancelled if the Scuba Dive Centre/operator ceases to operate, or violates any of the guidelines stated above.

4. Diving Guidelines

4.1 Planning the Dive

It is essential to “PLAN YOUR DIVE AND DIVE YOUR PLAN”. Dive Centre must be aware of any changes to the dive plan of the dive boats and divers.

4.2 Weather Checks

It is recommended that the dive centres keep aware of local weather conditions and inform divers of any special conditions at each dive site prior to the dive.

4.3 Low risk conditions

- a. Maximum depth of dive sites does not exceed 20 meters.
- b. Swell and /or wave height does not exceed 0.5 meters.
- c. Current is nil to slight (diver can swim against it with minimum exertion)
- d. Underwater visibility is greater than 4 meters.
- e. Dive starts and ends in full day light.

4.4 Prohibited dives

1. Decompression Dives.
2. Dives deeper than 30 meters
3. Dives less than 24 hours before flying (a pressurized aircraft)
4. Dives in restricted / no dive areas Refer Annexure-VIII.

4.5 Diver Qualification

- a. A diver must present following documents to the dive centre:-
 - i. Dive certification Card from a recognized agency that allows the person to dive without supervision.
 - ii. Logbook validating open water diving experience of at least 900 minutes , excluding training dives.
 - iii. Medical Certificate dated within 12 months of diving or self declaration stating that the person is fit to scuba dive.
 - iv. Completed Diver registration Form at the dive Centre.
 - v. An orientation dive may be required for persons who have not dived with in the last 3 months. The dive centre may impose restrictions on a divers' activities on the basis of his/her logged experience.

4.6 Dive Tables and Computers

- i. Use of dive tables and dive computers are highly recommended for all divers.
- ii. Dive Tables must be available at the dive base for divers to work out their Dives manually.

4.7 Diving from Boats

For all dives away from the dive centre, it is recommended that a person with the following qualifications and experience remains on surface during diving operations :-

- i. A boat driving /captains license from the concerned authority, with significant experience.
- ii. Dive Centre staff with adequate knowledge of the dive location or other person approved by base leader.
- iii. First Aid certificate.

- iv. Oxygen resuscitation and therapy certificate of PADI/ recognized, oxygen provider course.

4.8 Damage due to Anchoring

Dive boats are not allowed to anchor on dive sites. Boat anchors destroy fish habitats especially corals and even sea grass beds. If anchoring is required for any reason, prevent reef damage by anchoring in sandy areas or using mooring buoys.

4.9 Diving for commercial fishing and Marine Research

Diving for marine resources and marine research are not covered under these guidelines. Permission should be obtained from the concerned Government authorities before engaging in such activities.

4.10 Diving Wrecks and Underwater Artefacts

- 1) It is important for diving that whenever wreck is discovered it should be only observed but should not be touched so that no damage is done to the underwater wreckage. This rule also applies to any separate object discovered underwater.
- 2) Whenever any underwater object is discovered, the correct procedure is to mark the spot and report to the Director(Tourism) or Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wild Life), Andaman & Nicobar Administration.

Model Emergency Action Plan (EAP) prepared by NIWS

The dive operator must have a “safety crew” to be present at their office manning the wireless communication set throughout the time the dive boat is at sea. Actions to be initiated by personnel in case of dive emergency at or around the island are given below.

1) **Dive instructor** : The dive instructor in-charge of the dive operations is to assess the emergency and contact his dive centre giving the following information :

- Nature of emergency : Mechanical failure of boat or engine, injury to personnel etc.
- Approximate location of boat
- Type of assistance required : Ambulance, oxygen, doctor, rescue boat etc.

2) **Safety crew of Dive Centre** : After receiving the distress message, the safety crew should initiate following actions :

- Repeat the information received from the dive instructor to confirm that he has understood the emergency situation.
 - a) For boat / engine failure :
Organize to send the rescue boat with appropriate towing equipment.
- Inform the dive boat of the action taken by him.
- Maintain contact.
 - b) For medical help :
- Confirm that the dive instructor wants to shift patient to hospital.
- Contact staff on duty at Primary Health Centre on **Tel. No.** specifying requirement of ambulance/ stretcher/ oxygen/ nurse etc.
- If telephone contact with PHC is not established, inform police outpost staff on **Tel. No.** to help in contacting the medical staff.
- Send messenger to PHC as added precaution.
- Continue to man the wireless set and report progress to dive boat.

3) **Medical officer at PHC** :

- Ensure that the ambulance is dispatched to jetty immediately.
- Assess the medical emergency by examining the patient and initiate follow-up.
- If air evacuation to Port Blair is considered necessary, contact the Director of Health Services on Tel. No..... for further action.
- Accompany the patient till he/ she is handed over to qualified recompression staff.

Details of the Concerned Departments and officers for emergency or any related information

Sl. No	Name of the Department	Name & Designation of the concerned officers	Telephone / Fax No. (03192)/ E-mail
1.	Police Department	i) Superintendent of Police (HQ), Port Blair.	Telephone No: 232244(O) Mobile : 9434287533 Fax No. : 232244
		ii) SP(D) South Andaman, Port Blair.	Telephone No: 233077(O) Mobile : 9434289897 Fax No. : 233077
		iii) SP (North & Middle Andaman), Mayabunder.	Telephone No: 273344(O) Mobile : 9434287533 Fax No. : 273344
		iv) Control Room, Port Blair.	Telephone No:100
2.	Environment & Forest	The Chief Wildlife Warden, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Van Sadan, Haddo, Port Blair – 744 102	Ph.No. 03192-233270(O) Fax No. 03192-233549 E-Mail: pccfwl@and.nic.in
3.	Directorate of Shipping Services, A&N Administration, P/Blair	The Assistant Director(Commercial Wing), Directorate of Shipping Services, Port Blair.	234299
		The Assistant Director(Shipping Services), A&N Administration, No.17, Rajaji Salai, Opp. Customs House, Chennai – 600 001	044 – 25226873 044 - 25220841 (Fax)
4.	Deputy Commissioner, Office North & Middle Andaman A&N Administration Mayabunder	Assistant Commissioner, HQ & Mayabunder	273208 273620(Fax)
5.	Deputy Commissioner (South Andaman) A&N Administration, P/Blair	i)Assistant Commissioner (HQ)	237825(O) 245444(Fax)
		ii)Control Room	238881 1077

6	Deputy Commissioner (Nicobar)	Deputy Commissioner (Nicobar), Car Nicobar	265220 E-Mail : ndc@and.nic.in
	<u>Sub Division</u>		
	Car Nicobar	Asst.Commissioner(HQ), Car Nicobar	265566 E-Mail : ndc@and.nic.in
	Nancowrie	Asst.Commissioner, Nancowrie, Kamorta	263222
	Campbell Bay	Asst.Commissioner, Campbell Bay	264264
7.	Mercantile Marine Department (DG Shipping, Bombay), Port Blair.	Dy. Chief Surveyor-cum-Sr. Dy. Director General (Technical)	232530
8.	Directorate of Health Services, Port Blair.	(i) Director (Health Services)	233331
		(ii) Dy. Director (Health)	232797
		iii) G.B. Pant Hospital (Control room)	233473
9.	INS Dhanvantri, Port Blair.	Control room	225062 226092
10.	Port Management Board, Port Blair.	Harbor Master	237804
11.	Andaman Nicobar Command, Port Blair.	Commanding Officer (INS Jarawa)	232646
12.	Coast Guard, Port Blair.	Adhikari (RO)	232424
13.	Primary Health Centre, Havelock.	Medical Officer (in-charge)	282382
14.	Havelock Police Station.	Deputy Superintendent of Police	282405
15.	Forest Office, Havelock.	Divisional Forest Officer	282366

Andaman & Nicobar Administration
Directorate of Tourism
Port Blair

APPLICATION FORM FOR SEEKING REGISTRATION
FOR SCUBA DIVE CENTRE

1. Name & address of the Dive Centre :

2. Name of the Owner(s) with permanent address and Telephone No./Mobile Number/Fax Number, e.mail id. and **PAN Number** (in case of Indian) :

Following details about Nationality and **Passport No** (in case of foreigners).

- a. Nationality of the owner(s) of the Scuba diving Centre
- b. Particulars of Passport (Number and Validity)
- c. Details of Visa (Type, Number & Validity)
- d. Profession (Specific role in the operating of Scuba diving centre)
- e. Period of visit

3. Name and address and contact details of the Local Agent or Local representative in Andamans :
4. Address of the office in mainland – India and abroad with Telephone / Fax Mo. / e.mail :
- 5 Website if any :
- 6 Details about dive operation undertaken by the firm / person in Andamans in the past with duration of operation etc. :

7. Details of Scuba Diving staff (attach photocopies of qualification)

Designation	Name	Nationality	Passport No.	Qualification	Ref. No
Dive Instructor					
Dive Master					
Others					

8. Details of support staff (attach photocopies of qualification)

Designation	Name	Nationality	Passport No.	Qualification	Ref. No

9. Details of dive equipments and accessories

Description	Make	Quantity	Registration. No./Manufacturing details	Date of expiry
1. Dive Boat*				
2. Dive Sets				
3. BCDs				
4. Compressor				
5. First Aid Kit				
6. Oxygen Kit				
7. Life Jackets				
8. Buoys				

*enclose the copy of the Registration Certificate and Survey Report issued by MMD/DC (as the case may be)

10 Emergency Action Plan (EAP) :
(Attach copy)

11. Date, Amount and No of the Demand :
Draft enclosed in favor of Accounts
Officer, (IP&T), Payable at Port Blair.

12 Details of Insurance :

13 Rates for the Scuba diving activities :
(enclosed rate/tariff card) and details of
the services offered with tariff.

14 Details/type and make of the :
Communication equipments, with
details/reference No. etc. of the
permission obtained.

15 Details of Permit/clearance from :
Ministry of Home Affairs (for foreign
nationals) attach photocopies.

- 16 Location of Dive base :
- 17 Dive sites/area proposed for diving activities :
- 18 Details of the registration of the boat to be used for taking dive tourists :
- 19 Any other relevant information (attach separate sheet if necessary) :

Signature of Owner/operator of the dive centre
Name and address, & contact Tel.
number

Date.....

Andaman & Nicobar Wildlife (Protection) Rules, 2008 (Relevant extract of the Rules)

Every person desiring to enter into a Sanctuary or National Park for Scuba Diving should obtain permission from the Chief Wildlife Warden, Andaman & Nicobar Islands

1. Grant of permit to enter in Sanctuary/National Park
 - (i) Any person who intends to enter in a Sanctuary/National Park for tourism including Scuba Diving shall submit application in Form No.4 (A) to Chief Wildlife Warden/Authorized Officer. The application may be submitted to the concerned Deputy Conservator of Forests/ Divisional Forest Officer/Assistant Conservator of Forests/ Range Officer, in the areas of their respective jurisdiction.
 - (ii) On receipt of an application, Chief Wildlife Warden/ Authorized Officer may after such enquiry as he may deem fit grant or reject the application.
 - (iii) A permit in Form 4 (B) shall be issued by an officer authorized by the Wildlife Warden on payment of prescribed fee specified as under:
2.
 - (i) Entry Fee in Marine National Parks and other Island Sanctuaries/National Park
 - (a) Adults (Indians) : Rs.50/- Per Person Per Day
 - (b) Children (Age Group 5-12years) : Rs.25/- Per Person Per Day
 - (c) Foreigners : Rs.500/- Per Person Per Day
 - (d) Foreign Yacht/Ship/Boat : Rs.1000/- Per vessel Per Day
 - (e) Indian Boat/Ship : Rs. 500/- Per vessel Per Day
 - (ii) For other Sanctuary & National Park
 - (a) Adults (Indians) : Rs.25/- Per Person Per Day
 - (b) Children (Age Group 5 – 12 Years) : Rs.10/- Per Person Per Day
 - (c) Foreigners : Rs.250/- Per Person Per Day
 - (iii) For Scuba Diving
 - (a) Indians : Rs 500/- per person per day
 - (b) Foreigners : Rs 1000/- per person per day

- (iv) In case of Students
 - (a) Indians : Rs.5/- (Rupees Five Only Per Head Per Day)
 - (b) Foreigners : Rs.10/-(Rupees Ten Only Per Head Per Day)
- (v) A child below five years shall be exempted from payment of the fee.
- (vi) In respect of a vehicle which is :
 - (a) A Light Motor Vehicle such as a Car or Jeep or a Motor Cycle including Motor Scooter and Cycle with attachment for propelling the same by mechanical power – Rs.20/-(Rupees Twenty Only) Per Day.
 - (b) A Heavy Motor Vehicle such as a Bus or Truck – Rs.50/-(Rupees Fifty Only) Per Day.
 - (c) A Cycle and other vehicle manually operated – Rs.5/-(Rupees Five Only) Per vehicle.
 - (d) A boat permitted for plying for tourism purpose shall pay the following rate :
 - A boat carrying less than 10 persons – Rs.10,000/-(Rupees Ten Thousand Only) Per Annum.
 - A boat carrying between 11-50 persons – Rs.50,000/-(Rupees Fifty Thousand Only) Per Annum.
 - A boat carrying between 51 and above – Rs.1,00,000/-(Rupees One Lakh Only) Per Annum.
 - (e) The fees in respect of above is inclusive of the entrance fee of one driver/rider of the vehicle and crew (not exceeding 5 persons) in case of boats.
 - (f) A permit referred above shall be valid for the period specified there in.

3. General Conditions Governing the issue of permits :

- (i) The permit shall not entitle any person to free accommodation in any Government building situated within the limits of the Sanctuary or National Park.
- (ii) Any officer or servant of the Forest Department on duty or an officer appointed under sub-section(i) of Section 4 of the Wild Life (P) Act, 1972 may require any person to stop within the limits of the Sanctuary or National Park, as the case may be or at the entrance gate, for the purpose of checking and may demand for inspection, the permit granted under this chapter. Every person so required to stop, shall stop when called upon to do so and shall produce the permit for inspection.

- (iii) No person shall be allowed to enter a Sanctuary or a National Park with any weapon or ammunition, except with the previous permission in writing, of the Chief Wildlife Warden or any other officer authorized in this behalf.
- (iv) No person shall be allowed to hunt/trap any wild animal/bird in the Sanctuary or National Park remove there from any wild bird, whether alive or dead or any trophy or meat derived from such animal/bird without a valid special purpose permit.
- (v) No person shall be allowed to set fire to the sanctuary, or kindle any fire or leave any fire burning in the sanctuary.
- (vi) No person shall be allowed to use in the sanctuary chemicals, explosives or any other substance which may cause injury to, or endanger, any wildlife in the sanctuary.

4. Cancellation of Permit:

Where a holder of permit commits a breach of any of the provision of the Act or the rules there under or of any of the conditions specified in a permit, the Chief Wildlife Warden or the Officer-In-Charge of a Sanctuary or National Park may, after recording his reasons in writing, cancel the permit.

Provisions regarding grant of entry permit and activities prohibited under Wildlife (Protection) Act

Any person entering into sanctuaries /National Parks for Tourism purpose (Scuba Diving) with valid permit issued by Chief Wildlife Warden /Authorised officer shall strictly follow the general conditions governing the issues mentioned in Annexure IV.

Further, no person shall destroy, exploit or remove any wildlife including forest produce, destroy or damage or divert the habitats of any wild animal by any act what so ever or divert, stop or enhance the flow of water into or outside the sanctuary.

Penalty for violation Wildlife (Protection) Act:

Any violation of Act shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with fine which may extend to twenty five thousand rupees or with both.

In case of offence in respect of Wildlife (includes Marine life) listed in Schedule I or part II of Schedule II, the penalty is imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than three years but may extend to seven years and also with fine which shall not be less than ten thousand rupees.

(Corals are listed in Schedule I)

Form No.4(A)
(See Rule No.17 (i))
(Application Form for Grant of Permit under Section 28/35(8) of the Act)*

To

.....

.....

.....

Sir,

I, Son of, Resident of
....., District, State
..... apply for following purpose.

1. Investigation or Study of Wild Life and Purposes ancillary or Incidental thereto.
2. Photography.
3. Scientific Research.
4. Tourism.
5. Transaction of lawful business with person(s) residing in the sanctuary.

Signature of Applicant :

Date :

Place :

Acknowledgement Slip

Receipt of the application filled by Shri/Smti presently residing at
..... (Full Address and Telephone No.) in the Office of the
..... is hereby acknowledged.

Signature of the Recipient

Name :

Date :

Place :



➤ Strike Out whichever is not applicable.

* To be filled up by applicant and attached with the application form, at Annexure-I or II as the case may be .

FORM No.4(B)

[Rule 17(iii)]

SANCTUARY/NATIONAL PARK ENTRANCE PERMIT

(Not transferable)

Permit No..... Date.....

Subject to the provisions of the Wildlife(Protection)Act,1972 and the rules made thereunder, and subject to the conditions hereinafter mentioned, permission is hereby granted..... And party consisting of:
(Full name and address)

Serial No.	Name	Age
(1)	(2)	(3)

Etc. for the period of days from..... to.....(both days inclusive) to enter and reside in the sanctuary/national park in the Forest Division, for the purpose of-

(i). *Transaction of lawful business

(ii). *Tourism

(2). Free paid: Amount Rs.

(i). For individuals ...

(ii). For vehicles ...

(iii). For camera ...

Total

Conditions

- (1.) This permit shall not entitle the holder, to hunt and trap any animals/birds without a valid special purpose permit.
- (2). The permit holder shall abide by the relevant provisions of the Wildlife (P) Act, and the Rules made thereunder.

Acknowledgement Slip

Receipt of the application filed by Shri/ Smt /.....presently residing at (Full Address and Telephone Number) in the Office of the is hereby acknowledged.

Office
Seal

Signature of the recipient

Name:

Date:

Place:

➤ Strike out whichever is not applicable.

Areas Open for Scuba Diving in Andaman Islands

Following areas have been identified and kept open for Scuba Diving activities :-

- a. Neil Island
 - b. Henry Lawrence Island *(Marine National Park)
 - c. John Lawrence Island *(Marine National Park)
 - d. Inglis Island (Sanctuary)
 - e. Outram Island *(Marine National Park)
 - f. Campbell Shoal
 - g. East Coast of South Andaman Island between North Point and Chidiyatapu with the exception of Ross Island, main channel to the harbour, Phoenix Bay, Chatham, Haddo/I.N. Jetty, FDN-I and Brichgunj.
 - h. East and South coasts of Rutland Island outside the Marine National Park.
 - i. Cinque Island Sanctuary*(Marine National Park)
 - j. North of North Wandoor and North of Tarmugli Island excluding the Marine National Park and Lohabarack Sanctuary and shallow open sea areas such as Allen Patches. *(Marine National Park)
 - k. Havelock Island and shallow sites and barren rocks in open sea such as Pilot Reef and Minerva Ledge excluding Havelock Jetty and Radhanagar Beach
 - l. Long Island
 - m. Avis Island
 - n. North Brother (Wildlife Sanctuary)
 - o. South Brother (Wildlife Sanctuary)
 - p. Sister Island
 - q. Jolly Buoy and Red Skin Island (Marine National Park)
 - r. Narcondum Island and Barren Island (no landing ashore).
- (i) Scuba Diving is allowed in Marine National Park subject to payment of prescribed fee which is Rs.500/- per person per day in respect of Indian citizens and Rs.1000/-per person per day in respect of foreigners. Details of the fees prescribed for the entry are indicated at Annexure-IV.
- (ii) The entry to Marine National Park/Wild Life Sanctuary is subject to prior permission from the Chief Wildlife Warden, Department of Environment and Forest, Andaman Nicobar Administration (whose address and contact numbers are at Annexure-II) on payment of prescribed fee (see Annexure IV).
- (iii) The list of areas open for Scuba diving will be updated from time to time and negative list will also be notified by the Administration periodically.

Restricted Area Guidelines For Foreigners

1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands being the restricted area under the Foreigners (Restricted Areas) order, 1963, no foreigners can enter or stay in the Islands without obtaining permit from the competent authority. At present foreigners can visit the following places for thirty days after obtaining Restricted Areas Permit from the competent authority.
 - i) Municipal Area, Port Blair
 - ii) Havelock Island,
 - iii) Long Island,
 - iv) Neil Island, allowed
 - v) Mayabunder,
 - vi) Diglipur,
 - vii) Rangat,

} Day & Night visit

 - viii) Jolly Buoy,
 - ix) South Cinque,
 - x) Red Skin, allowed
 - xi) Mount Harriet, and
 - xii) Madhuban

} Only Day visit
2. Following additional places for foreign tourists in Andaman & Nicobar Islands are also open :-
 - A
 - i) Entire Island of Middle Andaman, excluding tribal reserve.
 - ii) All Islands in Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park except Boat, Hobday, Twin Islands, Tarmugli, Malay And Pluto (Night halt in these Islands subject to special permission of the UT Admn.
 - iii) Entire Island of South Andaman, excluding tribal reserve.
 - iv) Baratang Islands.
 - v) North Passage Island.
 - vi) Little Andamans Island excluding tribal reserve

} Places Opened for day and night visits
 - B
 - i) Ross Island
 - ii) Narcondum Island
 - iii) Interview Island
 - iv) Brother Island
 - v) Sister Island
 - vi) Barren Island-restricted to visit on board vessels only with no landing ashore

} Places opened for day visit only
3. The foreign tourists will be allowed to visit the open areas in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands subject to the guidelines issued vide this Ministry's circular No.15011/14/91-F.I dated 30.06.92 which are reproduced:-

- i) The visiting parties would invariably be accompanied by a guide nominated by the Chief Wild Life warden of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and should follow the code of conduct in the Park area.
- ii) Visitors should pay an entry fee. In case of violation of National Marine Park Code, suitable fine may be imposed on the offender by the A&N Islands Administration.
- iii) No jetties or permanent structures are to be allowed to be built upon or off the Islands. No Bar-be-que or other cooking is to be allowed. Only thatched enclosures to serve as toilets made of local materials are to be permitted. No brick and mortar shelters for shade should be allowed to be made. Lean to shelters for shade may be allowed to be made.
- iv) Visit to the Marine Park areas/ to be restricted to small boats or glass bottom boats. No oil leakage is to be allowed in the area.
- v) Scuba diving and underwater photography is to be permitted in identified areas, but no removal of coral fish or any other item from Marine Park is to be permitted.
- vi) Restricted Area Permit issued in this regard by any agency would incorporate the words “subject to restrictions imposed by the Chief Wild Life Warden. Andaman & Nicobar Islands.”
- vii) Foreigners visit to the Islands of Mount Harriet and Madhuban would be regulated by the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Administration in consultation with the Wild Life representatives in A&N Islands.
- viii) As regards the two Volcanic Islands, Barren Island and Narcondum Island, foreign tourists may be allowed to visit Barren Island on board vessels but no landing ashore. UT Administration would provide escort to the tourists visiting the Island. For Narcondum Islands it has been decided that it may be opened to foreign tourists for diving and unescorted day visits.
- ix) No Burmese national will be allowed to visit Mayabunder and Diglipur without prior permission of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

DELEGATION OF POWER

4. The authorities competent to issue Restricted Area Permit could continue to be the same as are at present, namely:-

i) All Indian Missions and Posts abroad.

ii) F.R.R.O.S.

(a) F.R.R.O. : Shri Ajay Chaudhry

Tel. No. : (011) 26711348 (Telefax)

E-Mail Address : boihq@mha.nic.in

frodelhi@hotmail.com

frrodli@nic.in

Office Address : East Block-VIII, Level-II,
Sector-I, R.K.Puram,
New Delhi – 110 066.

(b) F.R.R.O. : Shri B.K.Talukdar

Tel. No. : (033) 22470549 (Office)

(033) 22470549 (Fax)

E-Mail Address : frrokol@nic.in

Office Address : 237, Acharya Jagdish
Chandra Bose Road,
Kolkata – 700 020

(c) F.R.R.O. : Shri Avi Prakash

Tel. No. : (044) 2345490 (Office)

(044) 2345491 (Fax)

E-Mail Address : frrochn@nic.in

chiochn@nic.in

Office Address : Shastri BHawan, 26,
Haddows Road,
Chennai – 600 006

(d) F.R.R.O. : Shri Rajvardhan

Tel. No. : (022) 22620446 (Office)

(022) 22620721 (Fax)

E-Mail Address : fromum@nic.in

dcpsb2.fro@indiatimes.com

Office Address : 3rd Floor, Special Branch Bldg.,
Badruddin Tayabji Lane,
Behind St. Xaviers College,
Mumbai – 400 001

iii) Chief Immigration Officer, Madras.

iv) Immigration Officer, Port Blair.

Duration of Stay

5. It has further been decided that the foreign tourists may be permitted to visit the above places in accordance with the conditions imposed. The total period of stay in Andaman & Nicobar Island shall be for a maximum period of 30 days extendable by 15 days.

Do's and Don't

DO's

- To ensure that the required permit from immigration authorities has been obtained and Restricted Area Permit (RAP) stipulations/Guidelines as mentioned at Annexure- VII are followed.
- To ensure that all the details/ information required for registration of Scuba Diving Centre is submitted.
- To ensure to carry valid travel documents like passport and appropriate visa.
- To visit the permitted areas in the Islands only
- To ensure that necessary fees/charges as prescribed by different departments/ authorities, are deposited with them.
- To ensure that the requisite permit from the Ministry of Home Affairs , Govt. of India, (in case of foreigners) and registration from the Director Tourism, Andaman Nicobar Administration, has been obtained for opening and operating the Scuba Diving Centre.
- To Dive only in the areas permitted
- To adhere to the guidelines issued by concerned authorities
- To keep the beach and environment clean.
- To dispose off the garbage at proper places/dustbins.
- To protect the marine flora and fauna

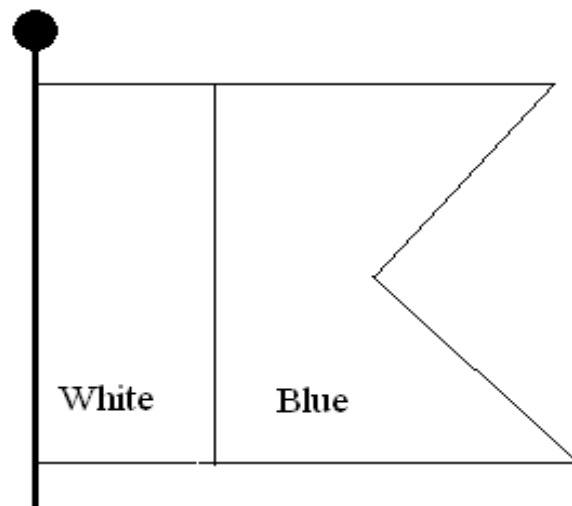
Don'ts

- Do not enter the island without required permit.
- Do not enter restricted/tribal areas
- Do not enter National Park/Forest Area without permission
- Do not dive in the areas other than the permitted
- Do not collect/dead coral or touch/break live coral
- Do not litter garbage.
- Do not cook or light fire in the forest area.

Areas declared as IV limit in A&N Islands

- A) Port Blair :- All waters westward of all lines from the North point to the Northern tip of Ross Island and then along the eastern shores of Ross Island and then to the South point in Lat $11^{\circ} 30' 50''$ N. Long $92^{\circ} 00'$ E.
- B) Elphinstone Harbour: All waters enclosed on the North by a parallel of latitude of $12^{\circ} 25'$ n between long $92^{\circ} 56' 36''$ e by a line from duft point to colebroke and then along this southern shores of colebroke and then to capmart.
- C) Mayabunder : All waters enclosed on the east by a line from Cadel point to Dimpson point and on the south by a line from Aves Island to Nichellpoint on the south islands.
- D) Kamorta :
- (i) Expedition Harbour : All waters Eastward of a line from the vace point to the satellite point.
 - (ii) Nancowry Harbour : All waters enclosed on the East by a line from the Naval point and on the west by a line .
From thereof point to a point in Lat $7^{\circ} 8' 30''$ and Longitude $93^{\circ} 29' 42''$ E.

Dive Flag



Length of Flag: 750 mm

Width of Flag: 600 mm

Check list / Documents to be enclosed with the Application Form

- Foreign Scuba Dive operators shall enclose copy of the Restricted Area Permit granted by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India.
- Foreign Scuba Dive operators shall enclose copy of the passport indicating address, date of issue , expiry, visa details etc
- Indian Scuba dive centre /operator shall enclose a copy of the Income Tax Clearance Certificate and PAN Card.
- A demand draft/pay order of Rs.5,000/- in favor of Sr. Accounts Officer (IPT), payable at Port Blair.
- Copy of the Certificate issued to the Certified Dive Instructor, by the internationally recognized agencies as indicated in Section 4.8 of these Guidelines.
- Copy of the qualifications, in respect of Dive Master, and other Scuba Diving Staff.
- Copy of the qualification in respect of support staff.
- Copy of the Registration Certificate and Survey Report in respect of the Dive Boat.
- Copy of the Emergency Action Plan drawn.
- Copy of the customs duty paid receipt in case of imported equipments.
- In case of TBRE, copy of endorsement on passport.

ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION DIRECTORATE OF
TOURISM

Port Blair

F.No. 19-5/M&T/TSM/2013

Dated: 12th April, 2014

NOTIFICATION

Guidelines for

Under Sea-Walk/Helmet Diving in

Andaman Nicobar Islands

F.No.19 -5/ M&T/ TSM/ 2013
Andaman and Nicobar Administration
Directorate of Tourism
Port Blair

Dt.12/ 04/ 2014

Sub: Guidelines for operation of undersea walk/ helmet diving in A&N Islands. Reg.

The Directorate of Tourism has framed guidelines for operation of helmet diving/ under sea walk in A&N Islands in consultation with departments concerned, stakeholders and others and the same is appended herewith.

Sea walk operators in the islands are required to comply with the provisions of these guidelines in the interest of safety and security of users and to ensure accident-free operation of the activity. They shall register with the Directorate of Tourism by following the prescribed procedures & formalities. Only registered operators who comply with the guidelines will be allowed to operate. The tourism department will publicize these guidelines and details of registered Sea walk operators of the island for information of tourists and general public so that people are aware of the safety precautions & risk factors of the activity and whether the service provider is complying with the norms set out before availing their services. They are advised to alert the operator/ administration, if they find that the provisions of the guidelines are not followed by the operator risking life and security of people.

The Sea-Walk operators have to apply for registration for each location. The sea-walk operator undertaking the activity in more than one location would have to apply separately for each location irrespective of whether one or more of their locations have already been registered.

In case of any complaint about the operator or against authorities concerned, it is advised that anyone of the following may be immediately alerted:

1. Deputy Commissioner (South Andaman), Port Blair Ph:03192 -233089 (94342 80018)
2. Superintendent of Police(South Andaman)Port Blair:03192 -236641 (94342 89897)
3. Dy. Commissioner (North and Middle Andaman) Mayabunder Ph:03192- 262999 (94342 86261)
4. Superintendent of Police(North &Middle Andaman) Mayabunder Ph:03192 - 273344(94342 87533)
5. Harbor Master ,Port Management Board, Port Blair, Ph: 03192 -237804 (WLL 200 630)
6. Director(Tourism),A&N Administration, Port Blair Telefax:03192 -230933 (95318 56933) e -mail:thedirectortourism@gmail.com

Director (Tourism)

Copy to:

All concerned alongwith copy of the approved guidelines dt.... for information and necessary action

**Directorate of Tourism
Andaman & Nicobar Administration**

Port Blair dt. 12. 04.2014

**GUIDELINES FOR OPERATION OF HELMET DIVING/ UNDERSEA WALK IN A&N
ISLANDS**

1.0 Purpose of Guidelines

The guideline for the Helmet Diving/ Undersea walk is to ensure that the activity is performed with due regard to safety of all & conservation of environment . The standards for equipment and operating procedures defined herein are intended to establish the minimum acceptable norms for safe and responsible operation of the activity in the islands.

Definitions

Helmet Diving/Undersea walk means a recreational activity wherein:

-a person walks on the sea floor at a maximum depth of **7 meter** on high tide with the assistance of an overhead helmet and a hose connected to a free flow supply of fresh compressed air provided from the air compressor or cylinder found on a pleasure craft or platform and engage in a guided tour on the seabed to view the marine life in its natural habitat.

Site Manager means the person who shall be present on site at all times to supervise the operations and equipment. He shall also ensure the safety of users , cleanliness of the operation area and crafts.

Helmet Diver means the person going underwater for sea walk .

Underwater helmet means a breathing device worn over the head to ensure that the diver has sufficient volume of air at all times to breathe normally.

Underwater monitor means an experienced underwater guide who accompanies the helmet diver under the sea with scuba dive equipment and secondary air source for emergency.

Surface swimming monitor means an experienced surface swimmer using masks, snorkels and fins who shall follow the helmet divers whilst swimming on the surface and watch the overall safety of participants and render assistance as necessary.

Air Supply monitor means an experienced person who shall be responsible for ensuring that the required air supply is maintained at all times and that a reserve air supply is always readily available.

Operator means the firm/ company / individual/ organization who runs/ manages the undersea walk/ helmet dive activity with a valid permit/ license/ registration certificate issued by the Directorate of Tourism.

General Rules

Waiver and Release of Liability

The operator shall require ALL HELMET DIVERS of legal age or if a minor, a parent or legal guardian to read and sign an assumption of risk and release of liability waiver prior to participating in the activity as per *Standard Form* (ANNEXED)

Conditions attached to the Activity

Location

- (i) The Activity shall be carried out only along approved trails, be of a minimum distance of 1 to 5 meters from any corals and be determined according to the site and the region;
- (ii) The site of operation shall be selected at a convenient distance and safe sea conditions and its natural beauty displaying a variety of marine life, coral colony in a safe marine environment of **not more than 7 m depth** as measured at high tide and in calm water;
- (iii) The site shall not be at a distance more than **500 mts** from the nearest land.
- (iv) The place where the walk is conducted on the surface should be even land and there should not be elevation difference of more than **2 meters**.
- (v) A minimum distance of **one meter** should be maintained from the coral reef.
- (vi) No guest/ guide / diver should be allowed to touch any form of marine life.
- (vii) The site for the Activity shall not be moved at any point in time without prior *written* approval of the Administration(Directorate of Tourism);
- (viii) The proposed site shall remain a public domain.
- (ix) The operator shall place sign boards on **do's and don'ts** for the undersea walk activity / helmet diving at prominent places for prior knowledge of helmet divers

Other requirements

- (i) The operator shall show proof of having minimum equipment as listed at Para. 3.3 for the activity; and
- (ii) The operator shall have the minimum personnel requirements as listed at Para 3.4 for the activity with proof of qualifications.

The details mentioned on (i) & (ii) above to be submitted to the Directorate of Tourism, A&N Administration while seeking license/ permit/ registration of the activity .

Clearances/Permits/ Registration

- (i) The operator shall hold a valid permit/clearance/registration for the activity issued by the Directorate of Tourism; and for this purpose would require to
 - a) Submit an application for registration in the prescribed form (attached) to the Director (Tourism) A&N Administration, Port Blair. It should, inter alia, mention whether the firm operating the activity is a partnership firm or proprietorship (if it is a partnership firm, copy of partnership deed to be submitted); and
 - b) Submit Registration Certificate of the firm, under Shops and Establishment Act with the application form; and
 - c) Submit Pollution Control Clearance issued by the competent authority ; and

- d) Provide details on number of staff and their swimming certificates/ Emergency First Responder training certificate, first -aid certificate etc. ;and
 - e) Indicate the no. of helmets and manifolds to be used for the activity .
- (ii) The operator would be required to submit the site plan and the trails with a detailed description of the site including coral patch; etc. and
 - (iii) Copy of the proposed GPS coordinates submitted to PMB(if the water area for sea –walk falls within Port/ IV limit), Pollution Control Committee; and
 - (iv) The clearance letter of PMB, Pollution Control Board together with the plan of activity; and
 - (v) Non-refundable Registration fee/ annual renewal fee as applicable of Rs.10,000/ - (ten thousand) drawn in favour of Sr. Accounts officer, Directorate of Tourism, A&N Administration.
 - (vi) The **validity** of the permit/ license/ registration issued for the activity shall be for a period of **one year** or the date by which the statutory registration of pleasure craft/ pontoon/ boat expires, whichever is earlier. For renewal of registration/ permit/ license operator would have to apply three months in advance of the date of expiry of registration repeating all procedure/ formalities required for registration.

- (vii) The operator shall hold or use a pleasure craft/pantoon/boat having a valid registration wherever required from the statutory authority concerned. All OBM vessels carrying tourists should also be registered and insured. The OBM vessel carrying tourists should have a third party insurance cover. The firm should enclose copy of registration of pleasure craft/pantoon/ OBM vessel along with its sea worthiness certificate while submitting the application form for registration.
- (viii) The sea-walk activity should have a public liability insurance of **Rs.20.00 lakh (Twenty Lakhs) per accident** and a maximum coverage for four times i.e Rs.80.00 lakhs per annum. Besides, there should also be a minimum **Personal Accident Insurance** cover of **Rs.1.00 lakh** per person undergoing sea - walk activity at any point of time. Necessary documents establishing insurance cover as indicated above should be submitted along with the application form .

Hours of business

The operating hours for the Activity shall be between **6.00hrs and 16.30 hrs** .

Minimum requirements of equipment for operation

(i) Dive Helmet

- (a) Material: A breathing device worn over the head and made of Inox or Stainless Steel(SS) or fiber glass or unbreakable polycarbonate plastic.

Each helmet should be of same size and shape .

- (b) Design: The design shall be based on efficiency, comfort and safety.

- (c) Air Supply Control: The air supply monitor shall operate a pressure regulator that controls the pressure of air flowing into the helmet.
- (d) View Ports & Visual Field: the material used shall be of laminated glass or heat tempered glass or clear polycarbonate plastic. Diving helmet viewports shall:
 - (i) avoid underwater view distortion;
 - (ii) be at least 7 mm thick for tempered or laminated glass, and 3 -5 mm thick for polycarbonates; and
 - (iii) Provide good visibility in front, both sides and above.
- (e) Helmet Fittings: Material used shall be of stainless steel as far as practicable. Helmet hose connectors shall have a snap lock fitting and be self -sealing.
- (f) Helmet Weight: The helmet shall have negative buoyancy of between 5 and 10 kgs .when submerged and full of air . Each helmet should not weigh more than 36 kgs., and a negative buoyancy of at least 5 kgs. when submerged in water

(ii) Air delivery System

Solar or Electric or fuel motor driven air compressors or compressed air cylinder shall be available as the compressed air source. The operator shall keep record of maintenance and testing of air compressors and cylinders to be made available to relevant authorities on request.

(a) Air Compressor

- (i) There shall be regular maintenance of air compressor;
- (ii) The air filter shall be changed as and when required or according to manufacturer's specification; and
- (iii) Air purity shall be tested and recorded on an annual basis.
- (iv) A minimum 2 compressor s should be used (1 being a backup in case of emergency).
- (v) Each compressor should have an independent storage tank of minimum 300lts each with at least 7.5hp engine to be able to fill the tank in a max of 8 minutes .
- (vi) The filter cartridge normally contains activated charcoal and slice gel. The second filter is vacuumiser to remove all humidity from air. Thus the helmet diver should get pure and clean air to breathe. The filter cartridge and the second filter should be of the type fitted in high pressure breathing air compressors .

(b) Cylinder

There shall be regular maintenance and servicing along with visual inspection and pressure testing.

(c) Air bottle/ storage tank

There should be a storage tank of minimum 500 lts. acting as a backup supply of air in case of power failure in the vessel/ pontoon. The storage tank mould should at least be able to

With stand higher pressure up to 300 bars. There should be regulator which would reduce the pressure to 5 -6 bars as required by the diver which means the operator requires to have high pressure compressor. The storage will ensure adequate air throughout the day without running the compressor. The compressor should use only branded oil and not other engine oil .

(iii) Reserve Air Supply

A reserve air supply of 10 minutes for 9 divers shall be made available.

(iv) Control Panel

A Control Panel shall have an adjustable pressure regulator and pressure gauge showing the pressure of air being delivered to divers.

- (a) A heavy duty Stainless Steel (SS) or Inox control panel with inlets and outlets or SS valves for up to 8 divers(+ one Underwater Monitor) shall be provided;
- (b) The Air supply monitor shall control the air supplied to the helmet divers; and
- (c) Each diver shall have a separate air supply.

(v) Manifold :

A manifold having minimum number of air outlets equal to the number of helmets used for diving .Each helmet should be provided with a n independent pipe coming out of manifold.

(vi) Scuba equipment

- (a) Diving cylinders used by guides/ monitors should be well tested.
- (b) Regular maintenance of Air compressor used for filling diving cylinders, also annual check on the air quality
- (c) The place of filling of cylinders should be away from any other compressor/ generator as toxic air will then be inhaled by divers causing serious hazard .

(vii) Generator

- A)** Generator of minimum KVA to be able to run two air compressors, scuba compressors, computers and other electrical equipment
- B)** The generator should have clearance from local pollution control board as any other standard generator

(viii) Pressure gauge

Pressure gauge on each compressor before and after the air bottle to regulate the pressure to be delivered to each helmet.

(ix) Hose and fittings

Type: breathing yellow air hose in accordance with AS 2299 and AS/ NZS 1716 or any equivalent standards.

Reinforcing: Terylene braid with longitudinal supports along the entire length of the hose.

Outer material: U.V. & kink resistant and UV resistant for long life

Length of Hose : It shall be a maximum of 30 meters.

(x) Hose reel and stand

To eliminate hose entanglement, a Stainless Steel/galvanized/aluminum hose stand is recommended.

Personnel Requirements

All Helmet Diving operation bases shall be operated with trained staff all of whom shall be proficient in swimming, snorkeling, and hold valid, recognized and approved certification qualifying them in life saving and first aid techniques. Such first aid qualification shall include resuscitation techniques. These staff shall operate in the following capacity, regardless of whether 1 or 8 helmet divers make up the guided tour:

- (i) All persons who are monitoring/ supervising under sea walkers/ helmet divers should be qualified rescue divers having undergone training in EFR (Emergency First Responder) through a recognized dive association like PADI, NAUI, CMAS, BSAC etc.
- (ii) **One underwater monitor** shall guide the Helmet Divers around the site; minimum one monitor diver for every 4 persons; and

The guides should go in scuba dive equipment .

The guides must be qualified rescue divers having undergone training in Emergency First Responder through a recognized dive associations, like PADI, NAUI, CMAS, BSAC etc.

Each guide should carry an alternate air source for emergency; and

- (iii) **Two surface swimming monitors** (certified in EFR) using masks, snorkels and fins shall follow the group of divers whilst swimming on the surface and watch the overall safety and well being of participants and be able to render rapid assistance , as necessary. The surface swimming monitor should be a qualified rescue diver in scuba gear on the surface who can descend and stay down to give assistance;
- (iv) **One air supply monitor** (certified in EFR) on board (i.e. pleasure craft or platform) shall be responsible for ensuring that the required air supply is maintained at all times and that a reserve air supply of 10 minutes is always readily available;
- (v) **A Site Manager** (certified in EFR) shall be present on operation site at all times to supervise the overall operations and equipment. They shall also ensure the safety of clients, cleanliness of the operation area and crafts. The site manager should preferably a qualified dive instructor and overall in charge of helmet divers and other divers and of the complete platform.

Pleasure Craft transfer

- a) The operator shall ensure that the pleasure craft used for transfer of clients to the operating base is in possession of valid certificate and has been authorized to ferry clients from the designated embarkation point. The boat deployed for transportation of passenger to and from the site should be sea worthy with necessary certificates from appropriate authorities. The boat should contain adequate Life Saving Appliances as per rules. *The boat should also display prominently the approved maximum passenger capacity*

allowed on board for information of travelers.

- b) The pontoon and the platform at the site should be periodically inspected for its seaworthiness. Thickness determination of the plates in the underwater sea should be done at least once in a year. An appropriate paint scheme should be applied to the underwater as well as surface structure to safeguard against corrosion. Periodic maintenance of structures to be carried out.
- c) Minimum number of life jackets and life buoys should always be available in the boat.
- d) One fire extinguisher should be available in the vessel/ pontoon for emergency.
- e) First Aid kit be available
- f) The operator shall prominently display a notice board on board indicating maximum number of passenger allowed on board, registration, validity of registration of the pleasure craft and availability of items/ compliance of requirements from c to e above.

Pre-Dive verbal and physical briefing

- (a) The Monitor or Manager in charge shall give a pre -dive verbal and physical briefing before any underwater activities commence.
- (b) It shall be the responsibility of the monitor in charge to ensure that pre -dive briefing is clearly understood by all participants and shall contain, inter alia the following information:
 - (i) A description of the activity;
 - (ii) Description of local marine life and

conservation;

- (iii) Safety precautions to be taken while proceeding to the site and along the walk trail;
- (iv) Safety and life saving equipment locations;
- (v) Warnings and procedures for unexpected events and in case of emergency;
- (vi) Signals for basic underwater communication which must include "OK" and "I want to go back to the dive platform" (use of illustrated cards for these signals is recommended);
- (vii) How to equalize pressure in the ears
- (viii) No participant may enter or be in the water at a Helmet Diving site at any time unless having been instructed to do so;
- (ix) Question and answer period; and
- (x) Exclusion of any passenger or participant who may be intoxicated. Persons suffering from asthma, heart problem, and pregnant women should not be allowed to go for undersea walk.
- (xi) The operator shall put up a notice board in compliance of instructions as per **3.6 a to b (x)** above at a prominent place.

Minimum age requirements

- a) No person of less than 7 years shall be allowed to undertake the activity . A child between 7 years and 15 years shall be accompanied by an adult during the underwater trail.
- b) The operator shall put up a notice board in compliance of instructions as per **3.7 (a)** above at a prominent place at site.

Underwater Trail

- (i) The Underwater monitor shall stand by at the foot of the ladder to receive and steady helmet divers as they descend from the platform to the sea floor by means of a secure ladder;
- (ii) The total number of helmet divers (including the Underwater Monitor) shall not exceed 9 persons;
- (iii) The activity shall be carried out in a maximum of 7 mts depth as measured at high tide and in calm waters;
- (iv) The maximum duration for the underwater part of the activity shall be 15/ 20 minutes; and
- (v) The tour shall take place within the allotted trail/space.

Daily equipment inspections and maintenance

Prior to operating, it shall be the responsibility of the Manager to have the underwater monitor inspect the helmet dive walking circuit to ensure it is clear and clean. They will carry out daily inspections of all helmet diving equipment to check for any damage and/ or wear and if necessary, the items shall be immediately replaced or taken out of service. Other related equipment shall also be properly maintained and in safe operating condition.

Boat traffic/ right of way

At all times the “**divers down**” **Alpha flag** (with dimension 20x24 inches including a stiffener to keep the flag unfurled) or rigid replica and visible *from* at least **30** meters away and from any direction shall be fixed on the platform while the activity is being carried out. Boat traffic shall not be allowed within a distance of **30** meters from the approved trail except for transfer of clients to the operating boat/ platform and security craft. The zone shall be demarcated by the operator with floats

during the operation .

Weather Conditions

Pre-Dive Weather Evaluation

It shall be the responsibility of the operator to evaluate and determine if both weather and sea conditions are favorable for the safe operation of the activity.

Weather Warnings

The activity shall not be carried out once a cyclone warning is in force or any adverse conditions exist.

Sea Condition

- a) The operator shall assess the sea conditions throughout the day, both on the surface and underwater, to determine if conditions are safe for diving. A dive shall not be operated in seas where current or wave action affect the ability of participants to walk or maintain their balance under water or if underwater visibility is less than 4 meters .
- b) The operator shall display provisions of this clause (point 4.0) prominently as a notice board at the site for information of users .

Environmental Conditions

All operators shall comply with the environmental guidelines issued by the Env't. & Forest Department from time to time. The proposed site shall have prior approval of PCCF, PMB, Directorate of Tourism and Fisheries Department and shall remain a public domain;

- (i) The platform or boat used for the activity shall be anchored at the space allotted by PMB on a sandy bottom devoid of corals, sea grass bed and seaweed. The anchored platform shall not be displaced;
- (ii) No coral shall be removed or broken;

- (iii) No marine organism shall be removed from the site;
- (iv) No marine organism, dead or alive shall be imported to the site;
- (v) Feeding of bread etc. to the reef fishes is not allowed;
- (vi) All measures shall be taken by the operator to ensure that the marine ecosystem is not disturbed or damaged; and
- (vii) The hose used for supply of breathing air shall not damage corals and other marine organisms.
- (viii) The operator shall display provisions of the clause 5.0 above at a prominent place on site for public information .

Other conditions

- (i) The operator shall monitor the site and submit a report (including photos) every 6 months and a yearly report (including a video), on the state of the marine environment, to the Env't. & Forest Department, Tourism, Fisheries; and
- (ii) The operator / promoter shall ensure that participants stay clear of organisms and do not block or attempt to alter their natural path.
- (iii) *The operator shall maintain and make available a complaint/suggestion book on site and availability of complaint book should be prominently displayed in the notice board.*
- (iv) *The operator shall display tariff/ fee applicable for the activity prominently in the premises by notice board. The applicable charges/ tariff/ fee structure and also changes taking place in tariff should also be intimated to the Tourism department .*

- (v) *The name and contact numbers of officers of the Administration who can be contacted in the event of emergency should be displayed on site for information of all users. The contact details are as under:*

In South Andaman District

District Control Room: 1070 Police

Control Room: 100

Harbor Master, Port Management Board, Port Blair, Ph: 03192-237804 (WLL 200 630)

Deputy Commissioner (South Andaman), Port Blair Ph : 03192 -233089 (94342 80018)

Superintend of Police (South Andaman) Port Blair : 03192 -236641 (9434289897)

Director (Tourism), A&N Administration, Port Blair Telefax: 03192-230933 (95318 56933) e -mail:thedirectortourism@gmail.com

In North and Middle Andaman District

District Control Room: 201205, 273137 Police

Control Room: 100

Dy. Commissioner (North and Middle Andaman) Mayabunder Ph: 03192 -262999 (94342 86261)

Superintend of Police (North & Middle Andaman) Mayabunder Ph : 03192 - 273344(94342 87533)

Harbor Master, Port Management Board, Port Blair, Ph: 03192-237804 (WLL 200 630)

Director (Tourism), A&N Administration, Port Blair Telefax: 03192-230933 (95318 56933) e -mail:thedirectortourism@gmail.com

- (vi) *The operator should submit list of persons responsible for operation of Sea walk activity along with their photographs to the respective Deputy Commissioner and Tourism department for information*

Safety Requirements/ Drills

- (i) The operator shall be held responsible for any negligence or incident or accident during the activity;
- (ii) The operator shall establish and practice an emergency drill every month involving all staff during which staff will demonstrate their ability to support on the surface and swim with a person a distance of 30 meters to the ladder and remove this person from the water without any assistance from the person involved ;
- (iii) All staff shall be familiar with the procedures to be followed in case of emergency. (i.e. emergency phone numbers shall be displayed on the platform such as medical, Police, Coast Guard and other relevant authorities); and
- (iv) Under no circumstances may alcohol be brought onto the operation area/ base or consumed by any staff or participants engaged in the activity.
- (v) Safety distance requirement from one sea walk area to another be maintained (**10 meter**).
- (vi) Given co-ordinates and depth of the sea are subject to certification by competent authority
- (vii) Area of sea walk to be secured/ netted by the operator

7.0 Safety Equipment

Safety Equipment

- (i) Operator shall use only approved items of equipment in good condition; and
- (ii) All pleasure crafts/platforms shall be fitted or provided with the items of equipment as prescribed under relevant statute.

Additional equipment for Pleasure Craft/ Platform.

At all times the pleasure craft or recreational platform when operational must be equipped with:

- a) At least one reliable ship to shore two way communication onboard
- b) 2 First Aid Kits (1 for emergency and 1 for day to day use);
- c) A back up form of communication, such as a cellular phone;
- d) At least 2 large dry towels ;
- e) At least 2 blankets.
- f) The ladder leading down from the platform has to be all the way down to the bottom. There should be one ladder for helmet divers to go up. The second helmet diver should start descending only after the first one has reached the bottom .

Log Book

A log book shall be kept at all times on board craft/ platform and shall, inter alia, contain the following:

- Number of helmet divers ;
- Duration of the running hours of the air compressor;
- Daily equipment inspections;
- Record of all Emergency drills held including date and names of participants;
- Weather and sea condition readings before every operation session;
- Maintenance report;
- Record of safety drills held with date and names of participants

Documents for Inspection

Documents such as the following shall be made available for inspection whenever asked for:

- Log Book
- Registration certificate of Pleasure Craft and the vessel from where the activity is taking place or copies of same
- First aid qualifications
- Record of maintenance and testing of air compressor and cylinder
- Pollution Control Certificate from D O E
- Documentary proof for space allotted by PMB.

10.0 Insurance

The activity of helmet diving/ undersea walk shall be covered by a public liability insurance of **Rs.20.00 lakh per accident** and maximum coverage for four times i.e Rs.80.00 lakhs per annum.

Besides there should also be a minimum **Personal Accident Insurance** cover of **Rs.1.00 lakh** per person under going sea -walk activity at any point of time

Conduct of Operator

The Operator shall adhere to the following minimum guidelines:

- a) He shall observe a zero tolerance policy for deviation from these guidelines which shall be considered as a minimum standard and must at all times place user 's safety first;
- b) He must file an incident report to the Authority concerned , immediately upon any incident involving injury or rescue which requires medical attention,
- c) A copy of the emergency procedures manual and incident report must be kept on board the vessel at all times while in operation;
- d) Any breach of the above conditions would entail action as per law.

12. Penalty clause

In the event of any breach of terms and conditions herein contained by the operator or receipt of any complaint against the operator which upon due enquiry if found to be valid, besides action as per law, the department may impose fines as follow :

- a) *fine of Rs. 1000/ - on first violation of complaint received and found correct .*
- b) *fine of Rs. 10000/ - on second complaint /violation of terms and condition laid down in the guidelines .*
- c) *Suspension of operation for 7 or 14 days in view of serious complaint / third complaint.*

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION FOR SEA WALK/ HELMET DIVE OPERATIONS IN A&N ISLANDS

1.	Name & Address of the seal walk operator/helmet dive centre with website address			
2.	Name of the owner(s) with permanent address and telephone No./ Mobile No./ Fax No., email id and PAN card No. Nationality of the applicant:			
	a) Whether the firm is a partnership firm or proprietorship.			
	b) If proprietorship, whether it is registered.			
	c) If partnership firm, copy of partnership deed be submitted.			
3.	Details about the proposed Sea-walk/ Helmet Dive operation. Site information including coordinates, location, area etc. be given			
4.	Details of seal walk/ helmet diving staff			
	Designation	Name	Experience	Qualification (copy to be enclosed)
	A. Site Manager. Whether certified under emergency first respondent course through a recognized dive association like PADI, NAUI, CMAS, BSAC etc. (EFR) (copy to be enclosed)			
	B. Under Water Monitor(s). Whether certified under emergency first respondent course through a recognized dive association like PADI, NAUI, CMAS, BSAC etc. (EFR) (copy to be enclosed)			
	C. Surface Swimming Monitor(s). Whether certified under through a recognized dive association like PADI, NAUI, CMAS, BSAC etc. EFR (copy to be enclosed) .			
	D. Air Supply Monitor. Whether certified under through a recognized dive association like PADI, NAUI, CMAS, BSAC etc. (EFR) (copy to be enclosed)			
5.	No. of helmets and manifolds proposed for operation. Details:			

6.	Details of equipments and accessories			
	Description	Make & Model	Quantity/ capacity	Weight
	Dive helmet s			
	Helmet fittings			
	Helmet weight			
	Air supply control			
	View pats & visual field			
	Air compressor			
	Storage tank/ Air bottle			
	Description	Make & Material	Quantity/ capacity	
	Filter cartridge			
	Cylinder			
	Manifold			
	Control panel			
	Manifold			
	Scuba equipments of Monitors/ Dive sets			
	Generator (KVA) . Whether Pollution Control Clearance Certificate obtained , details and validity may be given.			
	Pressure gauge			
	Hose & fittings			
	Hose reel and stand			
	First aid kit			
	Oxygen kit			
	Life jacket s			
	Buoy			
7.	Details of pantoon/ pleasure craft with registration No. , validity & Insurance			
8.	Details of boat registration			
	i. Whether insurance cover for tourists boat available			
	ii. Whether helmet diving activity is insured .			
9.	Registration certificate of the firm under shops and establishment Act			
10.	Registration under EPF(copy to be enclosed)			
11.	Registration under Service Tax(copy to be enclosed)			
12.	Income Tax clearance certificate(copy to be enclosed)			
13.	Details of support staff (attached copies of swimming certificate first -aid certificates for the staff engaged)			
	Name & Designation		Experience	

14.	Details of additional equipment for pleasure craft/ platform.	
	a) Reliable ship to shore two way communications on board (at least one communication).	
	b) No. of ladders leading down from the platform to the bottom.	
15.	Whether following documents for inspection are available ?	
	a) written log book	
	b) Registration of pleasure craft .	
	c) First aid qualification certificate.	
	d) Record of maintenance of testing of air compressor and cylinder	
16.	Emergency action plan (EAP) (copy to be attached)	
17.	Date, Amount (Rs.10,000/-) for registration for one year. Demand draft may enclose in favour of Sr. Accounts officer (IP&T) payable at Port Blair.	
18.	For renewal of registration , attach DD for Rs. 10,000/- for one year. Demand draft may enclose in favour of Sr. Accounts officer (IP&T) payable at Port Blair.	
19.	Tariff/rate of seal walk/Helmet Dive and details of other services offered for the period proposed for registration (printed copy to be enclosed)	
20	<u>Clearances/ permits :</u>	
	a) Copy of clearance letter from Port Management Board.	
	b) Pollution control clearance certificate .	
21.	Any other relevant information (attached separate sheet if necessary)	

I declare that the above information are true to my knowledge and I hereby abide by the terms conditions of guidelines noticed by the Directorate of Tourism for safe operation of seal walk activity from time to time.

Signature of Owner/ Operator of Sea walk/ Helmet Dive centre

Name, Address

Tel.No.
Mob.No.

Form for liability Release and assumption of risk agreement with person undertaking under Sea-Walk

- ❖ I am voluntarily engaging in the recreational activity which includes sea walking, a unique under sea activity carried out at the depth of 6-7 mtrs.
- ❖ I certify that I am fully aware of the risks involved in the activity and I have been briefed about the safety procedures, do's and don'ts, medical restrictions & local govt. regulations.
- ❖ I state that I am physically fit to undertake the activity and not suffering from any **Heart problem. Blood pressure, Sinus, Asthma or any other serious medical problem.**
- ❖ I further state that I am of lawful age and legally competent to sign this liability release agreement or that I have obtained the written consent of my parent or guardian.
- ❖ I understand and agree that neither M/ s.....(name of the firm) or its affiliates or subsidiary corporations, nor the owners, employees, agents contractors may be held liable or responsible in any way for any injury, death or other damages to me.
- ❖ I understand the terms herein are contractual and not a mere recital and that I have signed this agreement of my own free act with the knowledge that I hereby agree to waive my legal rights.

Guest Name.....

Guardians Name.....

Cell No.....

Present Address:.....

Guest Signature:.....

Guardian signature.....

Date:.....

By order and in the name of the Hon'ble Lt.Governor, A&N Islands

Sd/-

Director (Tourism)



No. 2-23/ M-TSM/KAYAK/2014

अण्डमान तथा निकोबार प्रशासन / ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION

पर्यटन निदेशालय / DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM

Guidelines for Operation and Registration of Kayaks

The following regulations are applicable for operation of any class of Kayaks for tourists in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

(I) - Infrastructure:

The Kayak operator / owner should have the following Infrastructure:

- Should have administrative center and telephone facilities etc.
- Shelter for customers with facilities for imparting familiarization training.
- Storage space for water sports equipment to protect it from deterioration by exposure to direct sunlight etc.
- Area for defect rectification and preventive maintenance.

(II) - Equipment and Accessories:

- i) The kayaks must be manufactured under appropriate class certification for design and manufacture. The existing kayaks should be certified by a marine architect for strength, buoyancy and ease of entry and exit from cockpit.
- ii) The buoyancy aids (type approved standards) must be available in sufficient numbers to cater for the deployment of all the equipment and must be available in different sizes so that it fits customers of all sizes and age groups.

(III) - Operator Qualifications:

The Kayak Operator should be an Instructor recognized by the Indian kayaking and Canoeing Association or holding a certification from National Institute of Water Sports (NIWS) or from a National Governing Body of Kayaking or in possession of proof of participation in National/ Navy regattas or holding a certification issued by an equivalent body of another country.

- (1) They should be certified in First Aid & CPR and have completed Kayak Rescue course and be proficient in self rescue and assist rescue techniques. The Instructor should also be proficient in in-water rescue techniques and know swimming and should have knowledge of the area of operation.
- (2) Any guides employed by the operator must also be certified in First Aid and be proficient with self rescue and assist rescue techniques. He should also know swimming and basics of in-water rescue techniques.

(IV) - General norms for operation:

- (1) The kayak owner/operator is solely responsible for safety and adequate training and thorough safety briefing to customers before each trip.
- (2) All kayakers including guides must strictly wear lifejackets at all time while in water. Persons suffering from any serious ailments, weak heart etc. should not be allowed.
- (3) It is mandatory for all kayak owners to maintain a log book with details of each trip separately for each day indicating details of guests, sea geography etc. Before proceeding on any expedition, details of kayakers should be entered in the log book.

(V) - Area of Operation:

The kayak operation must be carried out from the specially designated area on the beach to avoid injury or disturbance to other beach users. Area of operation should be away from the area of mechanized craft as far as possible.

The Registering Authority in consultation with other Govt. Departments like Port Management Board, Directorate of Shipping Services, Coast Guard etc. shall notify the area of operation of Kayaks.

(VI) - Registration:

- (1) The registration of the operation will be carried out by registration authority which shall be renewed annually after survey by a qualified marine architect/surveyor.
- (2) Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousands Only) will be charged as registration fee and Rs. 1,000/- (Rupees One Thousands Only) will be annual renewal fees.
- (3) Each kayak will be given a Specific Registration Number to be prominently displayed on the kayak at all times. The ensign will depend on the 'zone of navigation' the kayak is permitted to operate in.

For Registration, the operator/ owner will furnish the following details alongwith documentary proof to the Registering Authority:

1. Name of the operator, contact details and address,
 2. Address of the centre for operation.
 3. Zone of Navigation : Basic/ coastal.
 4. Type of Kayaks, hull material, dimensions and other specifications including:
 - i. Passenger capacity
 - ii. Details of Manufacturer
 - iii. Year of manufacture
 - iv. Whether class/ type approved, if so details.
 5. Proposed area of operation (Map with relevant details)
 6. Documents for operator qualifications
 7. Rescue boat details (Based on Zone of Navigation)
 8. Brief SOP and contingency plans
 9. Personal Insurance coverage details with documents
 10. List of equipments depending on the Zone of Navigation
- In case of old Kayaks, a certificate from Marine Architect for its strength buoyancy and stability is to be enclosed.
 - For annual renewal a certificate from Marine Architect indicating strength buoyancy and stability to be furnished along with proof of personal insurance.

If a foreign / tourist owned kayak is temporarily / brought in, be it folding, inflatable or rigid, the owner will have to register their kayak with registration authority if they wish to paddle it in the waters. A nominal fee of Rs. 500/- will be charged for registration of such kayak and validity will be for three months.

(VII) - Zones of Navigation:

The permitted Zone of navigation for a kayak is determined during the registration process itself. Here 'safe shoreline' is defined by any shoreline where the kayak can, without damage to the kayak and kayaker, be beached or docked. All kayak tours will be conducted only under sea states of 1, 2 & 3; and up to force 4 winds.

- a) Basic Up to 2 nautical miles from any safe shoreline.
- b) Coastal Up to 6 nautical miles from any safe shoreline.

a) **Basic:** In this zone of navigation, Sit-On-Top kayaks, Fishing kayaks, and sea-kayaks will be registered. The material of the kayaks that are permitted to be registered under this Zone of navigation are inflatable, foldable, wooden, plastic, carbon-fibre, diolen or fiberglass.

Before setting out on a tour under this category, the kayak operator/ owner must inform the full details to the Port Control through VHF or telephone, including no. of guides, no. of tourists, no. of Kayaks, expedition route, expected duration etc.

The following minimum equipment needs to be carried by each person during the tours.

- i.) Personal Floatation Device (PFD) of appropriate size and approved quality.
- ii.) A waterproof / water resistant torch.
- iii.) First Aid kit.
- iv.) Tow lines of strength proportionate to weight and capacity of each kayak.
- v.) Safety lightsticks preferably green and red.
- vi.) One safety kayak (with an experienced guide / instructor trained in rescue, first Aid & CPR) for ten tourists (maximum) must be present with the group from start to finish of the tour.
- vii.) At least one VHF handset for communicating with Port Control.

b) **Coastal:**

- (1) Under this category of Navigational Zone, only sea kayaks and Surfski kayaks will be registered. To register under this, all Sea kayaks and Surfskis must have well maintained & operational rudder mechanisms.
- (2) Before setting out on a tour under this category, Port Control must be informed of tour plans in writing. Identification documents along with signed liability release forms of each guest must be submitted before embarking on such tour.
- (3) Updated weather information must be obtained from the PMB officials by the guide/ instructor 24 & 12 hours prior to tour.
- (4) The material of the kayaks that will be registered under this Zone of Navigation are diolen, plastic, fiberglass and Carbon-fibre.
- (5) The regulations in this category include all those in the basic navigational zone as well as the following additional minimum requirements for operation.
 - (i) Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) with CE mark.
 - (ii) A distress flare.
 - (iii) A whistle / air horn.
 - (iv) Magnetic compass.
 - (v) Identification documents of each kayaker.
 - (vi) The guide / Instructor / Safety kayaker must carry with them at least one navigational chart / GPS.
 - (vii) A safety boat of minimum 4+1 pax capacity and 25 hp engine.
 - (viii) Sufficient water and ration for the tour.

Note : The registering Authority will carry out registration and renewal based on the documents submitted by the Kayak operator/ owner and it shall be responsibility of Kayak operator/owner to follow the above guidelines and adhere to all safety norms.

