**SWF/OW Risk Assessment Date:** June 2025



**Health & Safety**

**Activity:** Boat Surveys **Review due:** June 2026

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| **Hazards Identified** | **Who might be harmed and how?** | **What are you already doing?** | **What further action is necessary?** | **Action by who?** | **Action by when?** | **Done? Date & signature** |
| COVID-19 | Everyone on the ship | Volunteers Code of Conduct requires that they obey any COVID guidance in force, and wear a mask if requested by SWF, or the ferry team. | - | - | - | - |
| Slips, trips and falls | Volunteers may be injured if they trip the way to the ferry, or when walking around the ship in rough seas, or on slippery outside decks. | Volunteers Code of Conduct requires that they hold handrails when boarding / disembarking. | We urge caution when walking to the boat and when boarding.  We require volunteers to wear appropriate footwear, discourage sitting on the edge of the boat, and tell them to follow instructions from the crew. We stress the importance of the 3 point rule, having 3 points of contact with the boat at any point of moving around.  The ferry crew perform a safety briefing at start of trips. | RBOs and volunteers | Ongoing |  |
| Weather:  Sunburn and sunstroke /  Hypothermia /  Wind | Volunteers may be impacted by the weather: eg. being cold, blown over, or sunburnt. | Volunteers Code of Conduct requires that they wear suitable outdoor clothing.  Boat will not sail in extreme weather. | Additionally, we require volunteers check the weather before starting to survey and contact the coordinator if they have concerns.  We tell volunteers to stop the survey should they feel themselves to be at risk from weather conditions.  Sun related risks are low but we would issue guidance were this circumstance to arise. We require volunteers to wear appropriate warm and waterproof clothing depending on conditions. | RBOs and volunteers | Ongoing |  |
| Head injuries | Volunteers may hit head on the boat. | Volunteers Code of Conduct requires that they follow instructions from the crew. | Boat companies provides a first aid kit carried on board boat to take care of minor injuries. VHF radio and mobile phones on board to contact coastguard and other emergency services if necessary. | RBOs and volunteers | Ongoing |  |
| Drowning or hypothermia in water | Volunteers may fall into water.  Boat might sink. | Volunteers Code of Conduct requires that they follow instructions from the crew. | We require volunteers to wear appropriate footwear and discourage sitting on the edge of the boat. We stress the importance of the 3 point rule, having 3 points of contact with the boat at any point of moving around. | RBOs and volunteers | Ongoing |  |
| Fire on board | Volunteers may be burnt / risk of death. | The boat crew has procedures in place and is trained for this event. | - | - | - | - |
| Sea sickness | Volunteers may get seasick | - | We advise volunteers to bring seasickness medication as well as foods that lessen sickness. Surveys are only carried out in low sea states. Volunteers that are sick will be relieved of duties to avoid escalation. | RBOs and volunteers | Ongoing |  |
| Dehydration | Volunteers may not have access to water for prolonged periods of time. Volunteers may refuse to drink to avoid needing the toilet. | - | Volunteers are advised to bring at least 1.5l of liquids with them and drink at regular intervals. | RBOs and volunteers | Ongoing |  |
| Hunger and low blood sugar | Volunteers will be unable to buy food while on survey and may suffer hunger and low blood sugar if they bring insufficient supplies. | - | Volunteers are advised to bring adequate amounts of nourishment.. | RBOs and volunteers | Ongoing |  |
| Animal attack | Volunteers may be exposed to potentially hostile wildlife such as dolphins, seagulls and jellyfish. Dolphins may leap over bow of boat and hit volunteers. Dolphins might hit jellyfish at volunteers in boat resulting in jellyfish stings. Habituated seagulls may be aggressive around food. | - | Volunteers are advised to keep food out of reach of seagulls, to be aware of their surroundings at all times and always keep a watch on the animals in their vicinity. First aid kit is carried on the boat for minor injuries. VHF radio and mobile phones on board to contact coastguard and other emergency services if necessary. | RBOs and volunteers | Ongoing |  |