

## PLANNING RIB DIVES FROM LITTLEHAMPTON

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Here is a very rough guide to help you with organising RIB dives from Littlehampton.

Please note that it is not an exact science, but the information below is from an accumulated knowledge (mainly Jon and Harry).

**When organising a RIB dive you will need to do/consider the following:**

**Find out when High Water (HW) and Low Water (LW) times are for the day you want to dive and whether it is a spring, neap or in the middle.**

- We dive at slack water so you will need to find out when that is in relation to the HW/LW times.
- Approx times for slack are **1.5hrs** before HW and **0.5hrs** before LW but this varies according to the location of the wreck – Jon and Harry are very good sources of information.
- There will be a longer slack on a neap tide (generally around 1.5hrs) than a spring tide (generally 45mins to 1hr).
- Free tidal predictions for up to 6 days in advance can be obtained from the Admiralty EasyTide at <http://easytide.ukho.gov.uk/EasyTide/EasyTide/index.aspx>

**Once you have worked out when slack water will be you need to work out what time you need to leave the marina. Things you need to take into consideration:**

**Time required to shot the wreck.**

- When you get to the wreck site you need to find the wreck and then put in a shot line. The shot line (ie blob with correct length of line) should have been prepared before leaving the marina – the only thing left to do on station is to attach the line to the weight and it will then be ready to go. The nature of the wreck (how distinct a profile it has compared to the surrounding sea bed) and also the sea conditions (it is easier to shot in a calm sea) will influence how long it will take to find the wreck and put in the shot line.
- A rule of thumb is **at least half an hour** (ie you need to be on site before the anticipated slack time).
- Once the shot is in place you can then wait for slack water
- Allow time to kit up. If you are diving on a high water slack, time will be limited so kit up quickly. Recommendation is to have a non diving boat handler.

**Time to reach the wreck location.**

- This depends on how far out the wreck is from the shore and also the sea conditions but many are within 3/4hour to an hour from the marina.

Littlehampton has a sand bar at the mouth of the river so access is not possible at all states of the tide. The bar is around 0.9m above chart datum and the RIB has a draft of around 0.6m therefore to allow enough water over the bar for the RIB, you need to leave at least 1- 1.5hours either side of LW.

**Taking the above in consideration will provide you with a time when you need to leave the marina. You can then decide on a meeting time at the marina leaving enough time to load the boat and to get it launched if required.**

**You should also work out an approximate return time so that you can ensure that the boat can be recovered if needed.**