



ONTARIO UNDERWATER COUNCIL

1998

DIVING ACCIDENT REPORT

ONTARIO UNDERWATER COUNCIL
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The purpose in compiling this information is the hope that we might learn from these accidents. Some of these accidents still have ongoing investigations, as such the information presented here may not be complete at this time. As more information is permitted to be released these reports will be updated.

Ontario offers some of the best scuba diving in the world. Unfortunately, there was one diving fatality in 1998.

Please enjoy the diving in Ontario and learn from these unfortunate reports.

Mark Labelle
Director of Sport Safety
Ontario Underwater Council

CASE: 1998-01
FATALITY

03 Aug 1998
Tobermory, Ont

VICTIM:

The victim (a 26-year-old male) had only been certified as an open water diver for about two and a half months. The victim apparently had a total of eighteen logged dives.

THE DIVE SITE:

The Arabia is a three masted ship located at Tobermory, Ontario. The depth is about 33 meters. The bottom at this location is hard packed. On the date of the accident the water temperature at depth was about 7 degrees Celsius. There was a mild current and the visibility was about 5 meters.

DIVE PLAN:

The victim was diving with two other inexperienced divers that he had just met and had not dived with them previously.

THE INCIDENT:

Reports indicate the victim was wearing a wetsuit, 31 pounds of weight, and an 80 cubic foot tank with a pony bottle. Both of these tanks were empty when the body was recovered. The victim also had a bottle labeled as a 50/50 mix at the mooring block. One of the threesome apparently had a faulty regulator (free flow) and surfaced with a buddy leaving the victim at depth. The victim's body was recovered several days later.

COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS:

From this accident we should remember to avoid being over-weighted and diving in threesomes. The Arabia is not a sight for inexperienced divers. One should always dive within their level of training and experience. Seek qualified instruction.