



Operator Guide – Manual Winch

 **Winch operation can be dangerous!**

 **Do not operate the winch unless you are authorised and trained to do so. Only to be used by those on the Approved Operators list.**

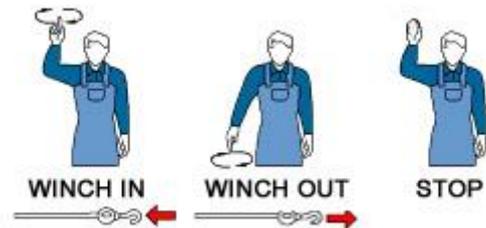
 **Familiarise yourself with the risk assessment before using the winch**

Start

The Winch Operator controls the total winch operation and must ensure they have a clear view of the slipway and its surrounds. Maintain a clear view throughout the operation, if your view becomes blocked – stop!

Anyone on the slipway must wear a buoyancy aid and follow guidance from the winch operator.

Ensure launchers understand the clear hand signals and use them.



Launch

Ensure boat is secure. Ensure the winch is secured to the trolley and that there is no slack in the cable.

Apply brake, disconnect ratchet. Slide handle from drive gear (lift locking collar). Control descent

Recovery

Ensure the boat is secured to the launch trolley.

Make clear contact with the sailors who are launching the boat and ensure they stay above the boat.

Ensure no one is below the boat during winch operations and that the apron spanned by the cable is kept clear.

Apply brake and connect ratchet. Slide handle to connect with drive gear (lifting locking collar). Release brake carefully to ensure boat does not roll back. Wind handle to recover boat.

Low water recovery

For first few feet of recovery put winch cable on hook to ensure correct line of pull.

Chock wheels of boat to prevent run back. Unhook winch cable to realign pull. Continue as above.

Fast recovery of unloaded cable

Leave main handles unconnected (as for launch). Wind small handle to recover unloaded cable.

General

Never allow the main handle to rotate in an uncontrolled manner

End of Session

Ensure cable is in a good state and loaded properly on the drum.

report any issues encountered during its use.