

LIFT BAGS

Lift bags are the most commonly used tool for recovering submerged objects and are available in a wide variety of sizes and shapes. A lift bag is recommended when recovering an object weighing more than 10lbs. If practical, divers new to lift bag operations should practice underwater tasks in shallow water before attempting them in deep water or work with a buddy that has prior experience with the task. When planning a dive involving the use of a lift bag, divers should consider the following:

- Bowline and Two Half-Hitches noted below are the most commonly used knots for securing an object to a lift bag.
- If possible and practical, an air source other than that being used for breathing by the diver should be utilized to fill lift bags. If this is not possible, considerations should be made to allow for completion of the task with a safe ascent and **MONITOR YOUR AIR SUPPLY GAUGE OFTEN.**
- If using a diver's air source, be sure to fill in a manner that will minimize the likelihood of an air source being caught inside the bag or tangled on attached lines.
- Lift bags should be filled until the object reaches neutral buoyancy. Do this by adding small amounts of air and have the purge valve accessible in the event the bag should over inflate. Divers should then slowly guide the lift bag up to the surface being sure to continuously vent expanding air.
- Horizontal movement should occur along the bottom if possible.
- Divers should make sure the surface is clear over the object prior to lift and stay clear of the water column above and below the object.
- If the lift goes out of control, let it go and get out from under it.
- Be prepared for the full weight of the object once the lift bag is removed from the water.
- All divers should be away from the object as it is being loaded into the boat in case of unforeseen complications.

