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DIVER COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

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The Head Diver can signal to the skipper to tell him to change speed of the vessel, change course etc. by the number of beeps he sends. "Buoy means that there a lot of oysters around and is a request to mark the spot with a buoy, but nowadays with the accuracy of GPS, it is just marked on the chart. To increase speed generally means that the divers are going over a pretty bare patch; whereas, to slow means either the vessel is going too fast or that they are onto good grounds as well. The speed is adjusted by pulling in or letting out the drogue. Adjust weights means that the weights have to be lifted off the sea bed. The divers like to have the weights about a metre off the ground. Each lead weight is 50 kg. Diver up means it is the end of the drift. The bottom time is kept by the Head Diver, when he sends the signal those on board usually just bang on the side of the vessel three times on each side, the sound can be heard by all the divers. The head diver is usually on the inside of the starboard side of the drift line.

The illustration shows the signals used on board the ODIN II.



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