



RNLI PRESS RELEASE

REPORT No: 12/99

Divers reported missing off Beadnell.

At 5.43pm on Saturday 24th July, 1999, the dive boat "Bad Debt" called Tyne Tees Coastguard, to report that four divers were overdue, after diving on the wreck of the 'Somali' off Beadnell. Seahouses All Weather and Inshore Lifeboats were launched immediately to search the area, together with local boats and the RAF Search and Rescue Helicopter from RAF Boulmer. Two of the missing divers were found very quickly by the dive boat, and a third was rescued by the Inshore lifeboat, almost a mile from the dive site, having been carried by the strong tide. The fourth was located by a local boat, the "Wave Dancer", crewed by Colin and David Rutter of Seahouses at 6.05pm. The divers rescued by the Inshore Lifeboat and the Wave Dancer were transferred to the All Weather Lifeboat, under the command of 2nd Coxswain Michael Douglas, and landed safely at Seahouses. None of the divers required medical attention. It is believed that at this stage the divers had become separated from their dive boat, by the strong currents, choppy seas and gusty winds.

The divers involved in this incident, Gary Hudson and Bill Dawson, were from the Duck and Dive Scuba Centre in Bradford, and were aged approximately 40yr and 25yr.

Ends.

Seahouses Lifeboat Crew.