

## Dive Report – M2

Saturday Sept 5<sup>th</sup> 2020

Derek, George and Andrew visited Portland to take on a unique submersible aircraft carrier. We were diving with Skindeep (specifically Skin Deeper). Departure from the Marina was at a leisurely 11.30 with a view to dropping onto the wreck at 1pm for slack. M2 is in about 32m of water. Weather was perfect for a drysuit..19°C with some cloud and sun. We decided to dive as a three with George leading the way. All on 32% mix.



Dodging some Polish divers who were gathering and faffing around the shot line we descended without ceremony. The shot led us down to the starboard side of the open hanger. A current was in evidence and initially we drifted off the wreck before finding our bearings. We had a quick look in the hangar before moving forward to the bow to inspect the torpedo tubes. We then worked our way aft along the port side of the boat. George took a few pictures on the stern before a gentle bumble forward. There was lots of wildlife around...including probably the largest congers I have ever witnessed and shoals of pollock and pouting. We had plenty of time to examine the catapult mechanism and peer into the holes that have appeared in the outer hull. On arrival back at the conning

tower we had managed 34mins on the boat. We ascended to the top of the Conning Tower and Andrew deployed a bag. Ascent was straightforward with only a 4 minute stop needed.



We had good visibility throughout, between 5-8metres (8m shapes clearly visible, 5m able to distinguish between divers) and water temp 17°C. Total dive time: 46mins. Despite slack we did have a current throughout the dive running across the deck from port to starboard which nearly caught us out on arrival on the starboard side. The conning tower deck still seems to have plenty of monofilament in it. Derek dived on a single 15l with a stage which provided ample gas and redundancy for half an hour on the M2..we

were first in and nearly last out.

Second Dive was the James Fennell + two other nearby unnamed wrecks @ 16-18m. Derek's suit leaked significantly and we started ascent at 37mins due to various parts of him turning blue. Sea state had worsened a little on surfacing so there was some palaver getting back on the boat. The viz had worsened progressively through the dive.

All up, a fantastic day, skipper was great and good facilities locally for fills/hire/repairs/food/toilets along with free parking and trolleys. Cost of the day's diving was £70 allowing for the 'covid premium' but in this case money well spent.

For more photos see the website.

