

# GAR QUICK REFERENCE

RCMSAR **Green** - **Amber** - **Red** Risk Assessment Process 2025

This Quick Reference may only be used after members have been trained on the full version of the 2025 GAR process. This Quick Reference is only for use as a process aide-memoire onboard vessels. Only minimal information is provided. Whenever possible, the full-size version should be used.

<b>Mission or Activity</b>		<b>Any Risk Factor with a score of 3 must be acknowledged &amp; accepted by the Coxn</b>  <b>Any Risk Factor score of 4 must have specific mitigating action taken before proceeding</b>  <b>Any Risk Factor score of 5 Automatically makes the GAR RED</b>
<b>Environment &amp; Hazards</b>		
<b>Vessel &amp; Equipment</b>		
<b>Planning</b>		
<b>Crew Selection</b>		
<b>Crew Fitness</b>		
<b>Supervision</b>		
<b>Total GAR Score</b>		

**GREEN: 7-17**      **Proceed with the Mission**

**AMBER: 18-26**      **Mitigate identified risks. Proceed with Mission**

The mission will proceed once the Coxn has added specific mitigation to the mission plan, changed crew, added/repared equipment or instructed the crew to take sufficient precautions to monitor the risk and prevent impact on crew or craft.

**RED: 27-35**      **Stop. Plan Again & Re-Assess Risks. Re-GAR**

The mission may not proceed. The team will take time to do more planning, get more information and/or advice from an experienced Coxn. You must change your plan by adding specific mitigations before a mandatory Re-GAR. Consider terminating the mission.

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**Mission or Activity** - Identify and assess the risks associated with this mission including length, difficulty and complexity of all expected tasks

**Environment & Hazards** - Identify and assess the risks related to the weather conditions / forecast, area of operations or mission related hazards

**Vessel & Equipment** - Identify risks arising from vessel/equipment deficiencies

**Planning** – Risks from insufficient planning time/information and/or from departing from RCMSAR procedures

**Crew Selection** - Crew qualified with sufficient hours. Identify risks from inexperience related to mission, environment or vessel/equipment. Crew assigned tasks within their skill and experience

**Crew Fitness** – Risk that crew member are not physically and mentally fit to complete the mission

**Supervision** – Risk that this particular mission and circumstances could overload the Coxn

**1 – Lowest Risk Possible:** Very good conditions

**2 – Low Risk:** Conditions are favourable but not ideal

**3 – Medium Risk:** A score of 3 is given to minor risks that can easily be (but have not yet been) mitigated.

**4 – Increased Risk:** Specific changes to plan, personnel and/or material are needed to mitigate risks before proceeding. There is a specific risk that the plan doesn't address or doesn't mitigate sufficiently.

**5 – High Risk:** One critical/safety or multiple smaller risks are combined. Whenever you're worried about a specific risk to life or limb, a score of 5 is appropriate. Re-GAR required.

**Risk Mitigation Notes:** There are many ways to mitigate and reduce risks to acceptable levels. By acceptable, we mean that the mission can be safely completed and the benefits outweigh the risks to Crew, Craft, & Mission. We assess risks by the likelihood of it happening compared to the severity of the outcome if it does happen. Therefore, we mitigate risks by reducing the likelihood and/or the severity. There are three main methods that RCMSAR crews use to mitigate risks: People, Planning and Vessel/Equipment.

**The ultimate mitigation is refusing to expose the crew and craft to those risks. If the team cannot sufficiently mitigate risks to proceed, the mission should be terminated**

**The entire crew participates in GAR and their assessment can allow a mission to proceed. However, the Coxn makes the final decision to proceed**

**Regardless of the GAR, the Coxn shall only proceed with the mission if the Coxn is convinced that it is safe to proceed**