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| **Ullapool Coastal Rowing Club**  **Beach Launch & Recovery Guidance** |
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Most skiffs are kept ashore and launched when needed, but some are afloat in harbours all the time (getting heavier).

Skiffs can be carried by about 10 people but are more usually launched from a trailer or trolley. They weigh about 200kg with gear. Trolleys allow launches without spoiling trailer bearings by putting them in the sea.

You can have big dinghy launch trolleys or use steerable keel bogeys.

You aim for a sheltered launch and recovery but sometimes are forced to use a beach with waves hitting it.

**Beach launch into waves**:

**Stern first**: don't mount the rudder, get the cox in, then the stroke and so on, get the oars out while the bow rower holds the boat stern out, then row out backwards when the bow rower pushes off. Once the boat is in deeper water the cox puts on the rudder.

**Bow first**: In bigger waves the bow is higher. Get the boat facing bow out and get it off the trolley on to the beach. Rudder not yet on. Get the oars as organised as possible, then launch into the sea with the bow rower getting in first. By the time the cox is scrambling in the first strokes should be happening. The rowers steer by keeping the boat head to waves until the cox can get the rudder on.

**Landing in small waves**: Bow rower stows oar so as to be ready to leap out when the boat touches the beach, and hauls her up as much as (s)he can, joined by the next rower. All the crew need to get quickly out and haul her beyond the reach of the waves before she fills up. A swamped skiff weighs about 2 tonnes and can't be moved until she is mostly emptied.

**Landing in big waves**: Try to avoid this but if there are no sheltered landing places, turn the boat to face outwards with the stern towards the beach. Cox takes off the rudder. Rowers back the boat towards the beach, steering by more or less effort on each side. If a big wave appears the cox can tell everyone to pull forwards and let it pass. As soon as the boat touches the cox leaps out and so do the rest of the crew. No trying to straighten her up with the oars, which will be impossible with the stern aground. Get out and get her up the beach within 10 seconds.

On a really rough day the drogue sea anchor may be useful for letting a boat in slowly and keeping her head to windward.