

ALPHA

Owner's Manual

Boxfish ALPHA Underwater
Remotely Operated Vehicle



BOXFISH®
R E S E A R C H



Table of Contents

1	Welcome to Boxfish	5
2	Notices	6
3	About this document	7
3.1	Other ROV documents	7
3.2	IMPORTANT and WARNING messages	7
4	Important safety information	9
4.1	Battery safety, maintenance, storage and disposal	9
4.2	Lifting the ROV components	9
4.3	Hazards	9
4.4	Safe ROV operation	10
5	Boxfish Alpha ROV system	11
5.1	Charge battery after receiving your ROV	11
5.2	Storage and Shipping Cases	11
5.3	ROV	12
5.4	Control Station	13
5.5	Tether reel	17
5.6	Accessory Box contents	18
6	Charging the ROV battery pack	24
6.1	Receiving your ROV	24
6.2	How to charge your ROV battery pack	24
7	Putting together the Boxfish Alpha system	25
7.1	Charge the ROV battery	25
7.2	Connecting cables - connection diagram	25
7.3	Connect Control Station to power	26
7.4	Assemble tether reel	26
7.5	Connect fibre patch cable to tether reel	27
7.6	Connect tether cable to ROV	28
7.7	Store fibre port caps and fibre cable caps safely	29
7.8	Attach Ninja V monitor/recorder to Control Station	30
7.9	Familiarity with your ROV	30
8	Powering on the ROV system	32
8.1	Power on ROV with magnetic key	32
8.2	Power on Control Station	32
8.3	View feeds on telemetry screen	32



9	Pre-deployment checks.....	35
9.1	Apply and test vacuum on ROV pressure vessel.....	35
9.2	Test LED illumination lights	36
9.3	Test thrusters.....	37
9.4	Test scaling lasers (if present)	38
9.5	Test Ninja V.....	38
9.6	Add ballast washers	38
9.7	Lubricate tether penetrator O-rings and collar O-ring.....	39
10	Boxfish ROV pack up sequence (from out-of-water testing).....	40
10.1	Power off Ninja V Recorder	40
10.2	Power off ROV	40
10.3	Unplug tether from ROV.....	40
10.4	Disconnect fibre patch cable	41
10.5	Power off Control Station	41
10.6	Pack away Boxfish ROV	41
11	Planning your dive.....	42
11.1	Charge ROV Battery	42
11.2	Safety.....	42
11.3	Research your launch vessel/site	42
11.4	Hazards.....	43
11.5	Keeping the ROV cool	43
12	Deploying your ROV in the water	44
12.1	Overview	44
12.2	Assembling ROV for a dive	44
12.3	Power on ROV and Control Station	44
12.4	Pre-deployment checks.....	44
12.5	(If installed) Turn on Sensor Power for external devices	44
12.6	Put ROV in the water	45
12.7	Balance ROV and make neutrally buoyant	45
12.8	Check depth sensor	46
12.9	Check compass	46
12.10	Begin launch sequence	47
13	Piloting your ROV.....	48
13.1	Useful telemetry screen info for piloting	48
13.2	ROV navigation	49
13.3	Piloting modes	50



13.4	Speed	53
13.5	Depth Hold	53
13.6	Heading Hold.....	54
13.7	Altitude Hold.....	54
13.8	Using the Level button.....	54
13.9	Adjusting the ROV LED illumination lights (underwater)	54
13.10	More about Sea Mode and ROV Mode	55
13.11	Enable RTS (Return to Surface).....	55
13.12	Battery monitoring during your dive.....	55
13.13	Battery limits	56
13.14	Notes.....	56
14	Managing tether cable during a dive	57
14.1	Safety	57
14.2	Fibre cable handling	57
14.3	Tips for tether management.....	57
14.4	Tips for winding in the tether cable	57
15	Bringing the ROV back to surface.....	59
15.1	Safe ascent practices	59
15.2	How to bring ROV back to surface	59
15.3	Power down ROV	59
16	After-dive procedures.....	60
16.1	Disconnect ROV components and cables	60
16.2	Rinse ROV, tether and accessories.....	60
16.3	Leave ROV components to dry	60
16.4	Attend to ROV battery	61
17	Storing your ROV	62
17.1	Prepare for storage	62
17.2	Storage conditions	62
17.3	Adjust battery to storage voltage	62
17.4	Monthly maintenance during storage	62
18	Updating your ROV system	64
18.1	Items required	64
18.2	Relevant buttons and labels	64
18.3	How to update Control Station	64
18.4	How to update ROV	65



19	Troubleshooting	66
19.1	Potential issues and solutions	66
19.2	How to recalibrate ROV compass	69
19.3	How to retrieve log files from Control Station	70
19.4	Troubleshooting thrusters during a dive	70
20	Regular maintenance procedures.....	72
20.1	Monthly: Power on ROV for six hours every month to maintain camera internal battery	72
20.2	Dome care and maintenance	72
20.3	Tether care	73
20.4	As required: cleaning the fibre optic connections	73
20.5	O-rings maintenance	75
21	Authorised repairs	77
21.1	How to release vacuum from inside the ROV	77
21.2	How to replace a thruster	77
21.3	How to replace a propeller.....	79
21.4	How to put a thruster back on the ROV	82
21.5	Changing time zone on Control Station	83
22	Shipping or travelling with the ROV.....	86
22.1	Returning your ROV to us for service or repair.....	86
22.2	General preparation	86
22.3	Preparing ROV battery.....	86
22.4	Packing the ROV components.....	87
22.5	Meeting weight limits for air travel.....	87
23	Appendix I: Control Station – more information	89
24	Appendix II: Telemetry screen – more information.....	93
25	Appendix III: ROV	96
25.1	Status indicator LEDs	97
26	Document history.....	99



1 Welcome to Boxfish

Congratulations on receiving your Boxfish Alpha ROV. Please read these instructions carefully before use.

If you need further support, please contact us at support@boxfish.nz.

We hope you enjoy your Boxfish Alpha!



2 Notices

This manual is part of the documentation for your Boxfish product as mentioned in our Terms of Sale (available on our website at <https://www.boxfish.nz/support/terms-conditions/>).

Please ensure all ROV operators have read and understood this manual and accompanying **Boxfish Battery Charging Manual** before using your ROV.

We make every effort to ensure that the information in this manual is an accurate and complete description of this Boxfish product at the time of release of this manual.

The latest version of this manual will be available to all customers on our website at <https://www.boxfish.nz/downloads/>. The most recent version on our website will supersede any previous versions, whether printed or electronic.

We will not be held responsible for any errors or omissions from this manual, and we reserve the right to change the specifications of the hardware and software described in this manual at any time and without prior notice.

We will not be held liable for any damages resulting from the use of this product.



3 About this document

When first using your Boxfish ROV, we recommend reading this document from beginning to end. Once you are familiar with your ROV, you can use it as a reference or to refresh your memory.

This document covers:

- General safety information
- Components of the ROV system
- How-to guides for ROV operations, including testing and field use
- Tips and tricks to get the best out of your ROV
- Storage instructions
- Approved maintenance instructions
- Guidelines for packing and travelling with the ROV/sending the ROV by third party freight
- Troubleshooting tips
- Appendices with more detailed specifications of ROV components.

3.1 Other ROV documents

3.1.1 Battery safety information and instructions

This document does NOT cover any instructions or safety information relating to the Lithium Polymer (LiPo) batteries used in your ROV battery pack. For this information you must read our **Boxfish Battery Charging Manual**. (latest version available on our website: <https://www.boxfish.nz/downloads/>).

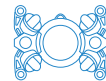
References to our Battery Charging Manual are provided in this manual where appropriate.

3.2 IMPORTANT and WARNING messages

Throughout this document you will see the following messages:

IMPORTANT!

Important notices draw your attention to things you must do (or must not do) so that you don't BREAK OR DAMAGE the ROV or its accessories.



WARNING!

Warnings are for your **SAFETY** so that you don't **CAUSE INJURY** to yourself, any other operators of the ROV, or people nearby.



LiPo BATTERY WARNING!

Warnings for **SAFETY** so that **INJURY** or **DAMAGE** does not occur when dealing with the **Lithium Polymer (LiPo)** batteries in Boxfish ROV battery packs.

If not treated according to our instructions, LiPo batteries could leak corrosive substances, emit toxic gases, catch fire or explode.



4 Important safety information

Please follow the information in this section closely to prevent injury, damage, or violation of your warranty conditions (available in our Terms of Sale at <https://www.boxfish.nz/support/terms-conditions/>).

4.1 Battery safety, maintenance, storage and disposal

The ROV uses Lithium Polymer (LiPo) batteries in its battery pack.

Please refer to our **Boxfish Battery Charging Manual**. (latest version available on our website: <https://www.boxfish.nz/downloads/>).



LiPo BATTERY WARNING!

You must read the Boxfish Battery Charging Manual and follow the instructions carefully. Misuse of the Boxfish ROV lithium battery pack may cause a battery fire and/or explosion.

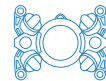
4.2 Lifting the ROV components

- The ROV, Accessories Box (with Control Station inside) and larger tether reels (>1.2km version) are a two (2) person lift. Take care when lifting.
- The ROV can only be safely lifted by the stainless-steel bumper/protection bars, carbon fibre frame tubes, or the lifting eye on top.



4.3 Hazards

- Take extreme care around deep water and potential slip hazards when piloting and retrieving the ROV.
- Plan your operations to minimize trip hazards from the ROV system, especially the tether and cables.



- Never operate the ROV in the presence of unaware swimmers or other vessels.
- Supervise children and keep them well away when ROV is operating.
- While ROV is running pay close attention to the thrusters. Do not touch the thrusters any time the ROV is powered on, or serious injury may occur. Keep fingers, long hair and loose clothing or anything that may become entangled well clear of the thrusters when operating.
- The ROV should not be operated close to any object which may get caught in the thrusters.
- DO NOT look directly into the ROV LED illumination lights when they are turned on.
- DO NOT look directly into the ROV scaling lasers (if supplied). The scaling lasers emit Class 3R laser light. Laser protective eye wear is normally not necessary. A Class 3R laser is not a skin or materials burn hazard.



- DO NOT look directly into fibre optic cables, or fibre optic ports on the ROV, tether reel or Control Station while the ROV or Control Station is operating. The lasers used to transmit the signal is invisible but can cause damage to the retina of the eye. The below stickers are present on these ports to remind you.



4.4 Safe ROV operation

- The Boxfish Luna takes **at least two** people to operate: one person to pilot the ROV and one person to manage the tether cable.
- DO NOT use the ROV below its depth rating: check the rating specified in your order or contact us if you are unsure.
- DO NOT operate in currents where control is impeded.
- DO NOT operate outside the water temperature range of -10°C to +45°C.
- DO NOT store the ROV outside the range of -20°C to +70°C.



5 **Boxfish Alpha ROV system**

5.1 Charge battery after receiving your ROV

IMPORTANT!

As soon as possible after receiving your ROV, you **MUST** charge its battery to 15.6V. This will prevent the battery from draining completely and will prolong the life of the battery and protect the components inside the ROV. See our **Boxfish Battery Charging Manual** for instructions.

5.2 Storage and Shipping Cases

Each component of your Boxfish ROV system will be stored in a black waterproof Pelican case. A typical system is shown below.



ROV case (left)	Contains the Boxfish Alpha ROV.
Tether case (middle)	Contains tether reel and cable. Winder handle and thumbscrew to attach the handle are also in this case.
Accessory Box (right)	Contains: ■ The surface Control Station in its own case. ■ All necessary cables, tools and spare parts for your ROV.

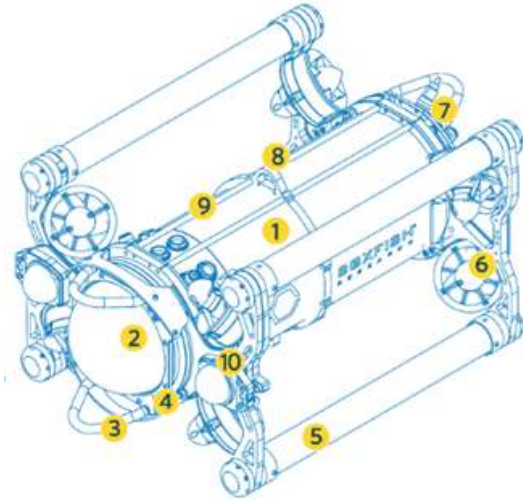
There may be additional cases if you have ordered extra sensors, domes or other accessories.

IMPORTANT! The Control Station must be stored inside the Accessory Box case for protection.

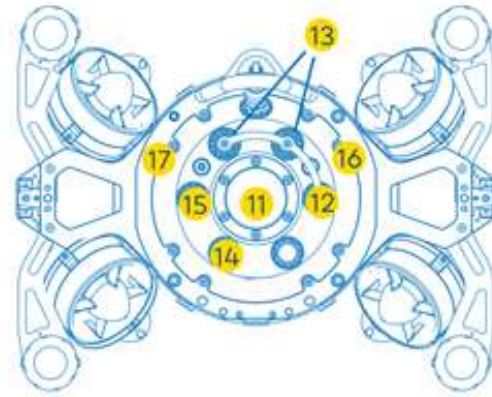


5.3 ROV

The Boxfish Alpha ROV is shown below.



Front and left side view



Rear view

1.	Pressure vessel	Pressure-rated ROV body
2.	Front dome	Contains Sony RX100 front camera and wide-angle navigation camera
3.	Bumpers / lifting bars	Stainless steel lifting bars and bump protection for sensitive domes and tether areas
4.	Laser scalars (optional)	Two Class 3R Lasers used for size estimation of objects
5.	Frame tubes / balancing chambers	Carbon-fibre shock-absorbing buoyancy tubes with ballast chambers at each end
6.	Thrusters	Eight 3D vectored thrusters
7.	Tether port	Connection for fibre optic tether cable to surface
8.	Lifting eye	To attach a rope/cable for lifting/lowering the ROV
9.	Mounting rails	For mounting external sensors or buoyancy
10.	Lighting arms and LED lights	Adjustable arms with LED illumination lights
11.	Rear dome	Contains Status LEDs and rear navigation camera
12.	Battery balance port	For connecting cell balancing cable to charge each battery cell to the same voltage
13.	Battery charge ports	Positive and negative ports (terminals) for battery charging



14.	Depth sensor	Port containing ROV depth sensor
15.	Vacuum port	Port for apply vacuum inside ROV
16.	Off pad (red)	For powering off ROV using magnetic key
17.	On pad (green)	For powering on ROV using magnetic key

Note: Dome protectors are present on ROVs from mid-2022 onwards. They are intended for protecting the dome from scratches when inside the ROV case and while testing the ROV in controlled environments. They may not be secured to the ROV well enough to stay on in all dive environments.

5.4 Control Station

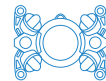
The Control Station is a multifunctional surface unit. It is used to:

- Receive and display video and telemetry data from the ROV
- Pilot the ROV
- Remotely control zoom and focus of the front camera
- Record the HDMI video feed from the front camera (via the Ninja V recording accessory)
- Plug in optional accessories or connect a computer
- Update software and firmware for the ROV and Control Station
- Retrieve logs from the ROV (if needed for troubleshooting purposes).

The Control Station attaches to the tether reel via a fibre patch cable. The tether reel in turn is attached to the ROV via the tether cable.

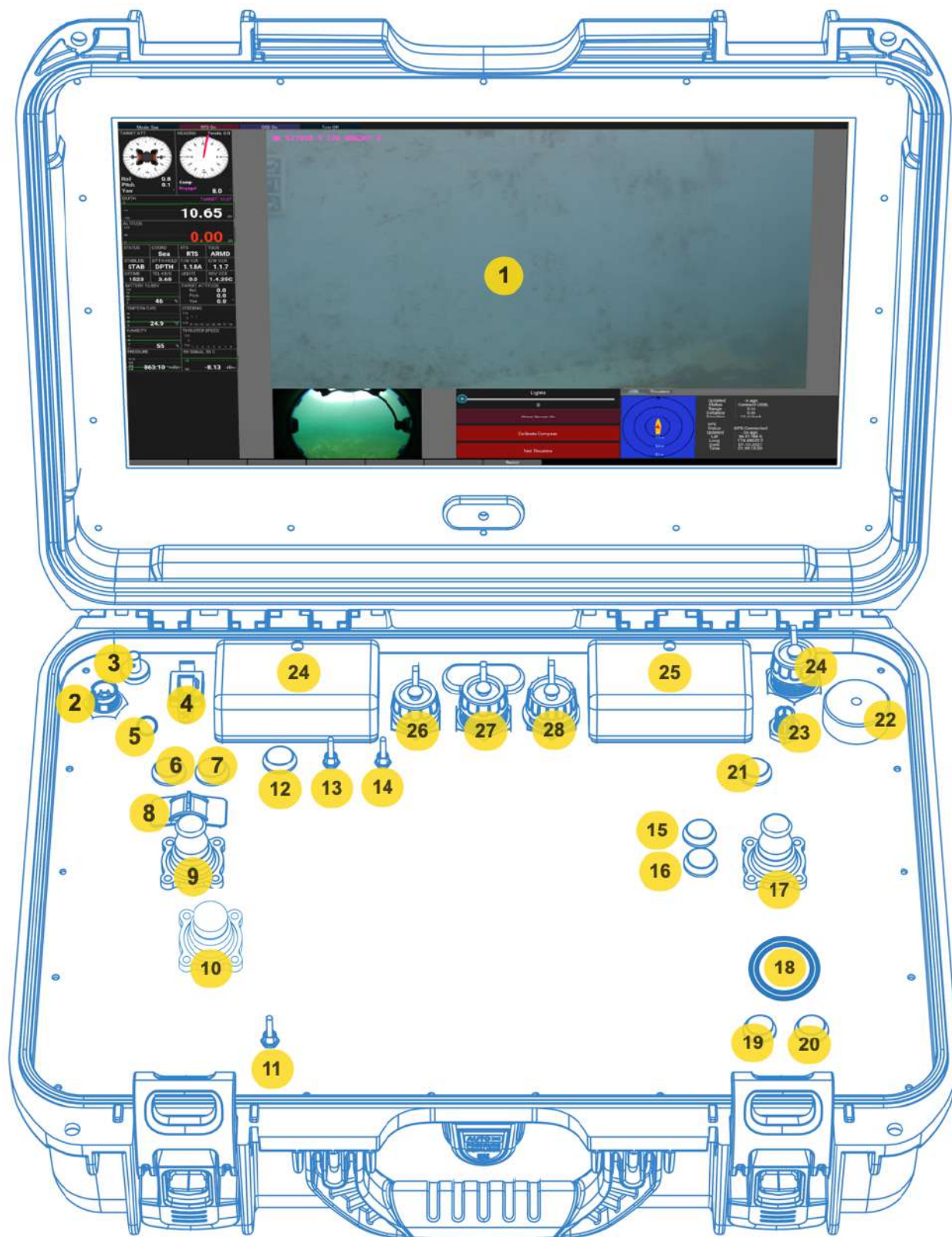
IMPORTANT!

The Control Station is designed to be splash-proof, but it is not waterproof. Ensure all ports are covered when not in use. Do not block the air vents otherwise the Control Station could overheat.



5.4.1 Control Station layout

Note: individual Boxfish Alpha Control Stations may vary slightly from pictures and descriptions below, but most components will remain the same.





1.	17" monitor displaying video, telemetry and other data from the ROV. Also provides a Graphical User Interface (GUI) for several control features.
2.	Power in port. Provides power to the Control Station.
3.	FIBRE communication port: used to send/receive telemetry, control signals and video between the Control Station and the ROV. Communication is provided by connecting a fibre optic patch cable between the fibre communication port and the tether reel fibre connector and the tether cable to the ROV.
4.	ETHERNET: RJ45 network port. Can be used to connect a laptop/computer to the Control Station. Used to connect a laptop and access data from sensors (eg USBL, sonar).
5.	Blue LED. Indicates Control Station is powered on.
6.	LEVEL button. Can be used to zero the controls and restore the ROV to zero roll and pitch.
7.	ENABLE button (green). Used to power on Control Station and also to enable the ROV thrusters.
8.	THRUST control thumb wheel. Used to adjust speed of the ROV through the water
9.	LEFT joystick. In Sea Modes, used to control the ROV Depth and Lateral movements. In ROV Modes, used to control the ROV Depth and Yaw movements.
10.	AUX joystick. Controls ROV pitch and roll movements.
11.	Lighting Switch. Turns on and off LED illumination lights.
12.	MODE button. For selecting ROV piloting mode: Sea Mode, Sea-Q Mode, ROV Mode or ROV-Q Mode.
13.	Stabilisation Switch. To enable/disable Stabilisation Hold function. Also used to switch between compass and gyro, and activate Heading Hold
14.	Depth Hold switch. To enable/disable Depth Hold function. Also used to activate position hold if DVL is present
15.	Grabber or brush control. See accessory manual for details.
16.	Grabber or brush control. See accessory manual for details.
17.	RIGHT joystick. In Sea Modes, used to control the ROV forward, back and yaw movements. In ROV Modes, used to control the ROV forward, back and lateral movements.
18.	Trackball – used to control mouse icon on 17" UHD screen.
19.	Left “mouse” button used to select items on the 17" screen.



20.	Right “mouse” button. Currently no function.
21.	STOP button (red). Used to power off the Control Station.
22.	¼” mount (used for mounting Ninja Recorder).
23.	ACCESSORY port. Supplies power to the Ninja V
24.	CLEAN HDMI port. Used to route the HDMI video signal from the ROV to the Ninja V Recorder.
25.	Air ventilation intakes. Used to keep Control Station cool. Do not cover or allow water to enter
26.	Left USB port. Has a few uses, including software updates and uploading log files
27.	HDMI In port. Not present on standard Boxfish Alpha.
28.	Right USB port. Not present on standard Boxfish Alpha.



5.5 Tether reel

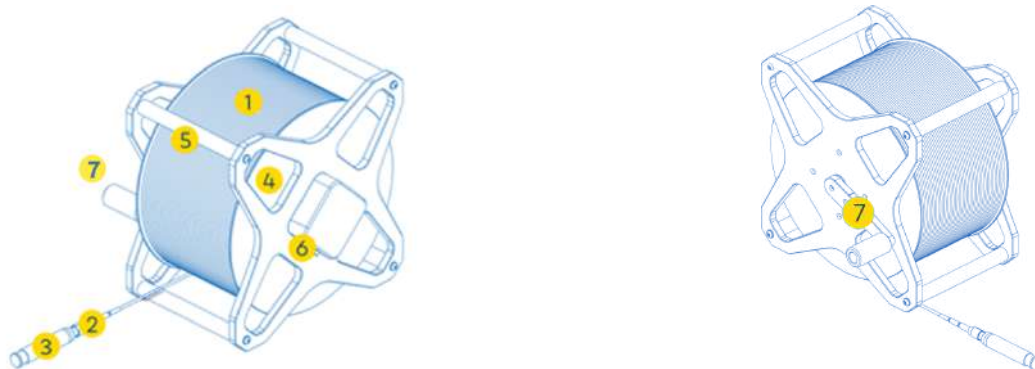
IMPORTANT!

Do not drop the tether penetrator. Parts used in the termination inside the tether penetrator can be easily damaged by drops or knocks.

The tether reel comes in a few standard sizes and lengths depending on the depth capability of your ROV. The parts shown below are common to all sizes.

The **tether penetrator** (at the end of the fibre optic tether cable) attaches to the ROV.

The tether reel connects to the Control Station via a **fibre patch cable**, which is attached to the side of the tether reel.



1.	Tether cable (fibre optic)	Durable fibre optic cable neutrally buoyant in salt water. Carries all control and video signals to and from ROV. Comes in 2.7mm, 3.7mm or 4.3mm standard diameters.
2. 3.	Tether penetrator and protective caps	This is the brass connector containing the fibre cable at the end of the tether cable. The tether penetrator is goes into the tether port on the ROV. When not in use, the tether penetrator should always be covered with TWO caps: a small clear plastic cap should cover the exposed end of the fibre cable, and the large black plastic cap should cover the whole brass assembly. Additionally, the black plastic cap should be fastened to its black plastic collar on the tether cable.



4.	Drum	Stores the wound tether cable. Cable should not be kinked or twisted. Light tension should be applied to the tether cable to make sure it is not jammed or kinked while winding on to the drum.
5.	Carry handles	Used to carry and move the tether reel. Larger tether reels (carrying more than 1.2km tether cable) are a two (2) person lift; please take care when lifting.
6.	Fibre patch cable port	Port for the fibre optic patch cable between the tether reel and the Control Station. Always cover the connector with its red/yellow cap when not in use.
7.	Tether reel winder handle and thumbscrew	Used to wind the tether cable back onto the drum. The handle should be attached to the tether reel using the thumbscrew provided. Not for use as a winch: do not use winder to retrieve ROV using the tether cable.

5.6 Accessory Box contents

The following accessories are provided in the Accessory Box at the time of this manual's release. Other items may be present if your order includes additional sensors/accessories.

5.6.1 Control Station power cables

Power can be supplied to the Control Station via:

- AC outlet, or
- 12V DC source such as boat or car.

	Universal single-phase (100-250V AC 50-60 Hz) AC adaptor for powering the Control Station from an AC supply. Local cable to connect the AC power adapter to your local wall outlet.
	Standard vehicle type plug to Control Station cable for powering the Control Station from a DC supply.



WARNING!

ONLY use AC power adapters supplied by Boxfish.

DO NOT connect the Control Station to a DC supply less than 10.5V or greater than 29.5V.

5.6.2 Fibre patch connector cable

Armoured, military grade fibre patch cable. This cable connects the tether reel to the Control Station. At least two cables of different lengths will be supplied with your order.

IMPORTANT!

The connectors at each end of the fibre patch cable are covered by clear plastic dust caps to protect the sensitive fibre optics inside. Ensure caps are always in place when not in use.



*Fibre patch cable. Note the ends are protected with clear plastic caps – **always** keep these on when cable not in use.*

5.6.3 Battery charger and cables

The below items are used to charge the ROV battery. Charging is done while the battery pack is inside the ROV. For more information see our **Boxfish Battery Charging Manual**. (latest version available on our website:

<https://www.boxfish.nz/downloads/>.



LiPo BATTERY WARNING!

Treat all charging equipment with care. Contact us immediately if you have any concern about your charging equipment or need a replacement item.



1.	Battery charger	Universal (100-250V AC 50-60 Hz) AC charger used to charge the ROV battery pack or prepare it for storage or shipping.
2.	Battery charger power cable	Used to connect the battery charger to your local AC supply.
3.	ROV battery charging cable	Cable with positive and negative charge leads.
4.	ROV cell balancing cable	Cell balancing cable to ensure cells within the batteries are charged evenly.

5.6.4 Vacuum pump and hose

Used to pressurize the ROV vacuum chamber, as a way of preventing water ingress.



1.	Vacuum pump	Manual hand operated vacuum pump used to apply vacuum to ROV body
2.	Vacuum hose	Connects the vacuum pump to the vacuum port on the ROV



5.6.5 Ninja V 5-inch 4Kp60 HDR Monitor Recorder

The Ninja V attaches to the Control Station and records video from the front camera.

	Ninja V monitor/recorder unit *
	Mounting arm: Used to hold the Ninja V and mount to the 1/4" mount on the Control Station
	HDMI and power cables. Power cable connects the Ninja V (via the battery-eliminating adapter) to the Control Station for power and video. 2x HDMI cables transfer video to the Ninja and from the Ninja to the 17" UHD screen on the Control Station
	Battery eliminator. Slots into the battery compartment of the Ninja V. Allows cable to be connected to allow power to be provided from the Control Station *
	Atomos SSD Mini. Solid state disk for storing recordings from the Ninja V *

* Will only be supplied if ordered.

5.6.6 Boxfish SATA to USB Converter

This device is used to connect the Ninja SSD to a computer to view and download video recorded from the front camera.

	SATA to USB converter
	USB MicroB to USB Type A cable. Connect USB MicroB end to converter and USB Type A end to your computer.



5.6.7 ROV magnetic On/Off keys

	2x Boxfish magnetic key used for powering the ROV on and off using the off and on pads. Can be attached to a lanyard, key ring or cable via the hole (on the left side).
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5.6.8 Fibre optic cleaning pen and sticks

For cleaning fibre optic connectors on Control Station, tether reel and fibre optic cables.



1.	Fibre optic cleaning pen
2.	Pack containing 10 x single-use fibre optic connector cleaning sticks

5.6.9 Spares and tools

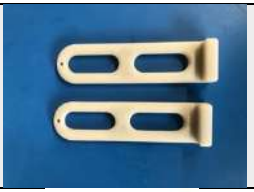
The following spares and tools will be in the Accessory Box.

1.	Set of spare O-rings. See Section 20: Regular maintenance for details.
2.	Set of spare fasteners for rear lid and thrusters
3.	Set of spare fibre optic caps: 4 x fibre port caps and 4 x clear plastic dust caps to cover exposed fibre cable ends
4.	80 x ballast washers (12.5g each)
5.	Silicone grease x 1 tube
6.	Ball-end hex key set
7.	1 x complete thruster set with longer (aft) cable into the ROV
8.	Spare propellers: (CW) and counter-clockwise (CCW). 2x M3 x 5 screws are included for each propeller

The following is also supplied in more recent ROVs:

9.	Cable ties: for external cables and batteries in the battery pack.	
10.	Optical fault finder plus 2x AA batteries. Can be used to troubleshoot fibre optic connections.	



11.	L-shaped levers for removing ROV tray.	
12.	No. 2 Phillips screwdriver (for replacing a thruster or propeller).	
13.	Optical microfibre cloth for cleaning front dome. Note: make sure there are no debris on the dome before using the cloth to prevent scratches.	

5.6.10 Optional sensors for the Boxfish ROV system

The accessory box may also contain items for additional sensors in your order. Details will be in the accompanying manual.



6 Charging the ROV battery pack

6.1 Receiving your ROV

The first task you'll do with your new ROV is charge the ROV battery pack to a suitable storage voltage.

IMPORTANT!

The ROV battery pack should be charged **IMMEDIATELY** after any travel, including after we have shipped it to you for the first time.

We discharge the battery pack to 15.0V during shipping, but this is too low for long periods of storage, in case the batteries self discharge too much to be recharged.

As soon as the ROV arrives at its destination, the ROV battery pack must be charged to the storage voltage of 15.6V.

6.2 How to charge your ROV battery pack

For all tasks related to battery safety and charging, see our **Boxfish Battery Charging Manual**. (latest version available on our website:

<https://www.boxfish.nz/downloads/>.



LiPo BATTERY WARNING!

You must read the Boxfish Battery Charging Manual and follow the instructions carefully. Misuse of the Boxfish ROV lithium battery pack may cause a battery fire and/or explosion.



7 Putting together the Boxfish Alpha system

This section describes how to put together the Boxfish Alpha ROV when you first receive it, and how to test some of its functions before you put it in the water.

We recommend finding a suitable place, for example a large table or bench, to practice assembling your ROV for the first time. Caps and covers for the fibre cables and ports are small and may be easily lost. Store these safely and nearby so you can reattach them later.

IMPORTANT!

Do not touch the ends of the fibre cables or fibre ports. Minimise the fibre optic connections' exposure to air, salt, water and dust by removing protective caps immediately before inserting the cables.

IMPORTANT!

Many of the cables and connectors contain exposed pins. The cables and pins are robust, and you should not need to force any connectors together – doing so will cause breakage. If a cable does not insert first try, look for any guiding grooves or notches, or use a light source such as flashlight or phone light to see the connector better.

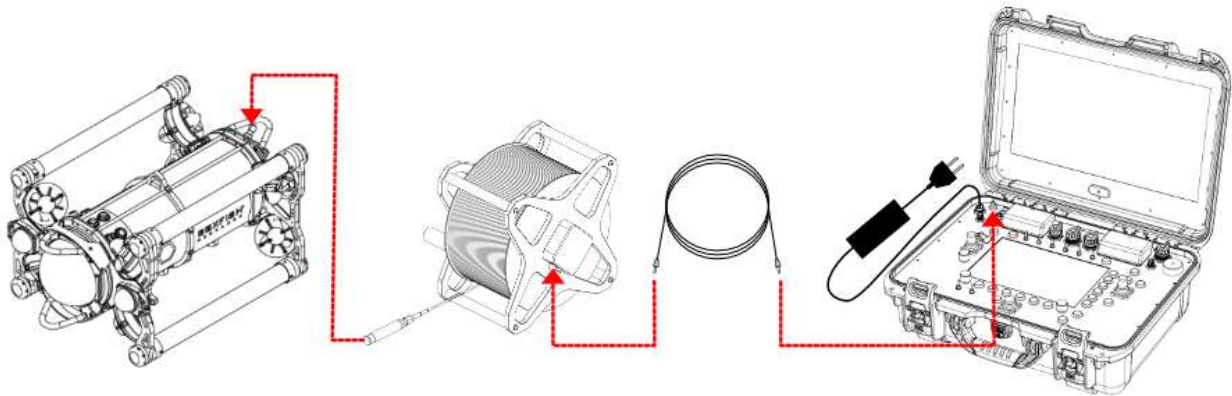
7.1 Charge the ROV battery

See our **Boxfish Battery Charging Manual**. (latest version available on our website: <https://www.boxfish.nz/downloads/>)

7.2 Connecting cables - connection diagram

The diagram below shows how the Boxfish ROV system is connected.

Please read this section carefully as there are special instructions for each connection point.



From right to left: Control Station (plugged into a power source) is connected to the tether reel via the fibre patch cable, and the tether reel is connected to the ROV via the tether penetrator at the end of the tether cable.

7.3 Connect Control Station to power

Take Control Station case out of its case. Open the case and remove the cover from the **POWER** port. Connect the power cable to the port: note that the cable and connector have a groove and notch to guide connection. Screw in the cable using the plastic collar to make sure it can't be pulled out accidentally.



Power cable plugged in and secured with plastic collar



WARNING!

ONLY use power adapters supplied by Boxfish.

DO NOT connect the Control Station to a DC supply less than 10.5V or greater than 29.5V.

7.4 Assemble tether reel



Find a place near the Control Station to set up your tether reel.

1. Open the tether reel box. Inside will be the tether reel and handle. The handle will be detached and wrapped for protection.
2. Take out the tether reel and place it so that the rubber feet (to prevent sliding) are on the bottom.
3. Using the provided thumbscrew, attach the handle to the side of the tether reel so that it looks like the below picture.



Handle attached to the side of the tether reel using the thumbscrew

7.5 Connect fibre patch cable to tether reel

IMPORTANT!

Do not insert this cable at an angle. It should be inserted perpendicular / straight into the connector to avoid breaking the interior of the connector.

1. Locate the fibre connection port on the side of the tether reel (it will be covered by a red or yellow plastic protective cap).
2. Remove the caps from the port and fibre patch cable. Insert the cable carefully, orienting it perpendicular to the connector. Attach and screw in the cable to the port.
3. Store the caps safely.



Fibre patch connection point on tether reel covered by red cap



Fibre patch cable connected to tether reel



4. Remove the red cap from the **FIBRE** port and remove the clear cap from the cable, again minimizing the time each exposed fibre point is exposed to the air.
5. Insert the cable carefully, orienting it perpendicular to the connector. Attach and screw in the cable to the port.
6. Store the caps safely.



Fibre patch cable connected and secured to Control Station

7.6 Connect tether cable to ROV

Unwind the tether reel slightly so that the tether penetrator is close to the back end of the ROV. The tether penetrator is shown below.



Tether penetrator (covered by its black plastic protective cap)

Next, practice the below steps so you can perform them quickly and confidently in the field.

1. Unscrew the black knurled collar from the plug in the ROV's tether port (at the rear of the ROV) and pull out the plug. It is held in place with two O-rings so you will need to pull past these.





2. On the tether penetrator, unscrew the knurled black collar from the black plastic tether penetrator cap.



3. Take off the tether penetrator cap. The knurled collar will remain on the tether penetrator. The brass tether penetrator will now be exposed. You will see the white inner tether cable which is protected by a clear plastic cap.



4. Remove the clear plastic cap from the end of the fibre optic cable.



5. Insert the tether penetrator into the tether port, far down into the ROV. You will meet some resistance from the waterproofing O-rings. Once the tether penetrator is in position, screw in the black knurled collar so it is finger-tight, as shown in the picture on the right.



7.7 Store fibre port caps and fibre cable caps safely

Fibre protective caps can be stored inside the **black plastic tether penetrator protective cap** and the **ROV tether port plug**. In total, there are 3x clear plastic dust caps and 2x coloured – red or yellow – port caps.



Store the fibre inside the tether penetrator protective cap



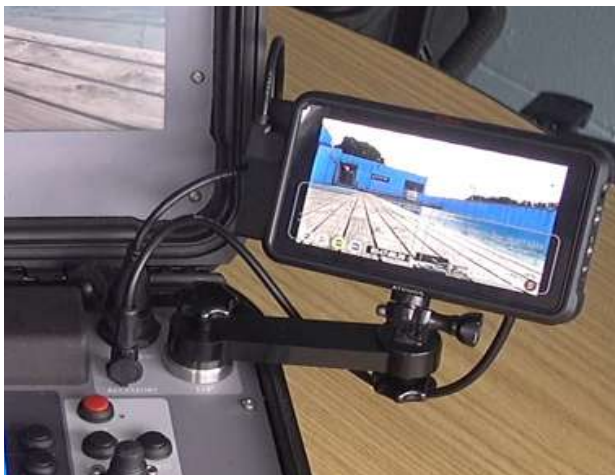
Screw in the fibre port plug into the tether penetrator cap.



7.8 Attach Ninja V monitor/recorder to Control Station

Attach the Ninja V monitor/recorder to the Control Station to display and record the HDMI camera feed from the ROV.

6. Install the SSD card into the back of the Ninja.
7. Insert the battery eliminator into the battery compartment on the back of the Ninja.
8. Screw in the mount to the ¼" mounting plate on the Control Station.
9. Attach the Ninja to the mount and set the Ninja to your desired position.
10. Attach the HDMI cable to the **HDMI In** plug on the left side of the Ninja, and the **Clean HDMI** port on the Control Station.
11. Connect the Ninja power cable to the back of the Ninja and the Control Station **ACCESSORY** port.



Ninja V installed on Control Station

7.8.1 Recording with the Ninja V

The Ninja has various input and codec options. For basic operating instructions see the Ninja V user manual at <https://www.atomos.com/product-support>.

7.8.2 Downloading video to your device

To transfer video from the Ninja V SSD to your device, use the SATA to USB converter supplied in your Accessories Box.

7.9 Familiarity with your ROV

Now that your Boxfish ROV is put together, note the following items. We will cover these in more details later in this manual.



7.9.1 Thrusters

Check the thrusters and propellers are free of damage/debris before every dive.

7.9.2 Balancing chambers

Eight ballast chambers are located at each end of the frame tubes. Unscrew the caps on the ends of the tubes to access the ballast rings inside.

7.9.3 Lights

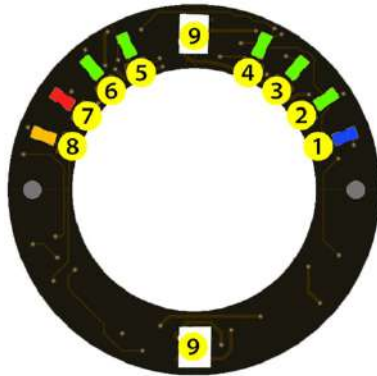
The lighting arms are adjustable. Slightly unscrew the upper front two ballast ring caps to pull the lighting arms out and tighten the caps to hold the lights in position. Lights can also be rotated on the ball mounts at the end of each lighting arm.



8 Powering on the ROV system

8.1 Power on ROV with magnetic key

Take a magnetic key and hold it to the green ON pad on the back of the ROV. The Status LEDs inside the rear dome will light up for the power on sequence. During the sequence, the following lights will appear:



1. Blue (1): ROV is powered on
2. Green (2): Critical power needed to drive ROV is OK
3. Green (3): Power required for front camera video feed is OK
4. Amber (8) blinking: Control system is OK.

Some/all of the green lights 4, 5 and 6 will light up if you have accessories or external sensors installed on your ROV.

[Appendix III: ROV](#) contains more detail and troubleshooting information for the status LED lights.

8.2 Power on Control Station

IMPORTANT!

DO NOT connect any accessories to the Control Station USB ports before powering it up. Accessories using the USB ports can be attached after the Control Station has booted.

Press the green **Enable** button on the Control Station. Wait until the system boots (up to a minute).

The feed from the front camera will appear on the 17" screen, and the telemetry screen will be populated with data from ROV sensors and video feeds from the forward and rear navigation cameras.

8.3 View feeds on telemetry screen



An introduction to the telemetry screen is below. We will cover more telemetry screen features in later sections.



1.	Top and bottom labels	Labels to control various functions of ROV and Control Station. Can be selected using the trackpad and left “mouse” button.
2.	Front cam	Feed from the main camera in the front dome.
3.	Reverse nav cam	Wide-angle rear view from the ROV.
4.	Telemetry data	Various data received from the ROV. Includes: Depth: Depth in metres according to ROV depth sensor Uptime: No. of seconds since the ROV was powered on with the magnetic key. Useful to confirm communication between ROV and Control Station Battery: Remaining voltage, % remaining and trend line Pressure: Pressure in mBar inside the ROV Rx Signal: Received signal over the tether – indicates signal loss. Value should be between -7 and -20dBm.
5.	Function labels	To control various functions on the ROV.
6.	Widget tabs	Tabs for thruster function, and for other accessories such as USBL and GPS (if installed). Tabs can be selected with the trackpad and left “mouse” button.



Note: Sometimes the navigation cameras feeds do not come through first time on start-up of the Control Station. If they don't appear, press the Restart button (bottom right button below the telemetry screen).



9 Pre-deployment checks

This section outlines the tasks that need to be done before putting your ROV in the water. It is important to practise these tests and know how to do them before using your ROV on your first proper mission.

9.1 Apply and test vacuum on ROV pressure vessel

To protect the ROV from water ingress, a vacuum is set inside the pressure vessel.

Vacuum is applied using the ROV's vacuum port. The vacuum port consists of:

- A screw-on cap that holds the vacuum release valve in place. This cap must be secured in place at all times so that it is not lost (except when pressurising or depressurising the ROV).
- A pressure valve which can remove the vacuum in the chamber simply by pulling it out.

IMPORTANT!

Ensure the PRESSURE reading on the telemetry screen remains constant for ten minutes while at the surface to ensure the ROV is watertight.

To set a vacuum (875mbar) and check it stays constant, follow these steps:

1. Locate the vacuum pump and hose inside the accessories case and connect the hose and pump together.
2. Unscrew and take the cap off the vacuum port on the rear of the ROV. Keep the cap in a safe place while you are working.



Unscrewing cap from vacuum port



3. Hold the green end of the vacuum hose to the vacuum port so it is flush against the ROV. Squeeze the trigger of the vacuum pump to suck air out of the chamber. You will see the PRESSURE reading on the telemetry screen begin to fall. It will take a minute or two for the pressure to fall to 875 mBar.



Holding the vacuum hose in place while pressurising the ROV

4. When the pressure reaches 875mbar, the status LEDs in the rear dome will flash off and then back on, and the ROV will beep quietly.
5. Screw the cap back onto the vacuum port.
6. Wait 10 minutes to confirm that the PRESSURE reading remains constant. It should not rise more than 5mbar during these 10 minutes.

IMPORTANT!

Replace cap on vacuum port before use.

DO NOT set a vacuum of below 850mbar.

9.2 Test LED illumination lights

To set position of lighting arms:

1. Slightly unscrew the ballast chamber caps on the ends of the ROV frame tubes so that the lighting arms are free to move.
2. Rotate the arms and light panels as desired. In general, keep the lighting arms out for reduced backscatter, and in closer for close-up work and tight spaces. The lights should also be rotated slightly outwards from the dome to reduce reflection from small particles in the water.
3. When happy with the configuration, tighten the ballast chamber caps to maintain position of the lights.



To test the lights are working, use the trackball and left “mouse” button to move the slider on the lights bar on the telemetry screen.

Note: To prevent damage to the LED modules, the lights will operate at a maximum of 5% intensity while the ROV is out of the water.



WARNING!

DO NOT look directly into the LED illumination lights.

9.3 Test thrusters

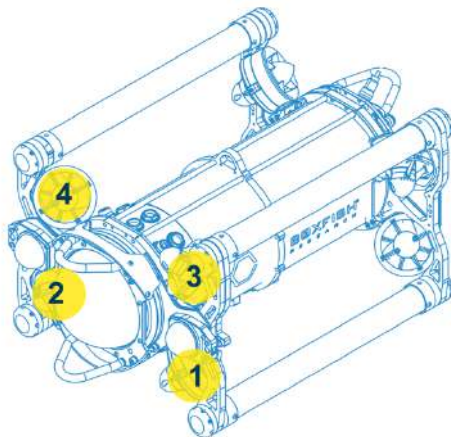
After you’ve visually inspected the thrusters to confirm they are free from damage or foreign material you can perform a thruster test.



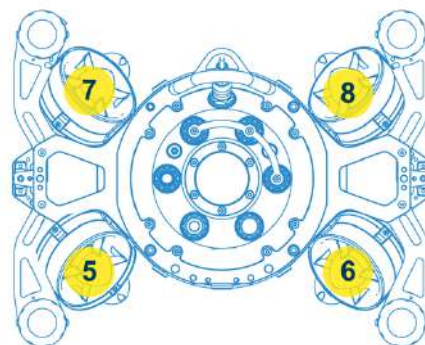
WARNING!

DO NOT touch the thrusters or serious injury may occur. Keep fingers, long hair and loose clothing or anything that may become entangled well clear of the thrusters when operating.

1. Using the left “mouse” button, press and hold the **Test Thrusters** button on the screen for **six seconds**. The ROV will emit a sequence of beeps as a warning to keep away from the thrusters.
2. The ROV will rotate each thruster for a few seconds, in sequence from 1-8 as shown in the diagram below.



Front thrusters



Rear thrusters



3. During the test, verify each thruster is working properly.

Note: Thrusters may be slightly noisy during surface testing as they are designed to operate underwater.

9.4 Test scaling lasers (if present)



WARNING!

DO NOT look directly into the ROV scaling lasers. They emit Class 3R laser light.

If the optional scaling lasers are fitted to your ROV, using the left “mouse” button, press the **Lasers Off** button (on the top row). When the lasers are enabled, the label will change to **Lasers On**. Hold a piece of paper in front of the ROV to see them. Turn the lasers off after your test.

Note: Lasers fitted within the front dome of the ROV are spaced 138mm apart. Externally fitted lasers are 50mm apart.

9.5 Test Ninja V

Press the ON button on the right side of the Ninja. 4K 30fps input into the Ninja will display as UHD29.97.

Now is a good time to practise recording with the Ninja and testing its settings so that you can record video according to your preferences. Also make sure that you can download footage to your computer.

9.6 Add ballast washers

Ballast chambers are located on the eight ends of the frame tubes of the ROV. Unscrew the ends of the frame tubes to familiarise yourself with the method for removing or adding the metal ballast washers. There are spare ballast washers in your Accessory Box.

Your ROV will be balanced for freshwater use before shipping, so it's best to only practice adding/removing ballast rings at this point.



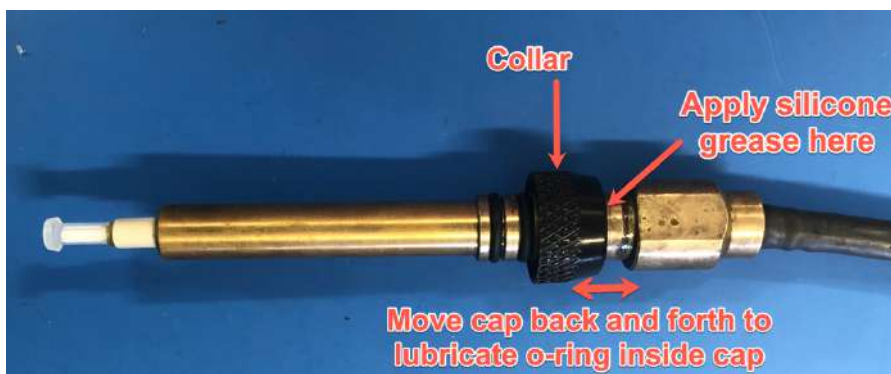
A rough guide is to add 8 ballast rings to each of the 8 ballast compartments for sea water. We will cover balancing the ROV in [Section 12.7: Balance ROV and make neutrally buoyant](#).

9.7 Lubricate tether penetrator O-rings and collar O-ring

It's good practice to lubricate the O-rings on the tether penetrator (at the end of the tether cable) **before every dive** to maintain the water-tightness of this part. The parts requiring lubrication are:

- The two O-rings on the brass tether penetrator
- The O-ring that is contained inside the black knurled collar on the tether penetrator – this O-ring is not visible but still needs regular lubrication.

To lubricate the O-ring inside the collar, unscrew the knurled collar and take off the tether penetrator protective cap. Squeeze a tiny amount of silicone grease onto your fingers and apply it to the bottom of the collar, between the collar and the metal body of the tether penetrator. Then, move the collar back and forward to get the grease inside the collar to lubricate the O-ring inside.



Lubricating the O-ring inside the collar of the tether penetrator



10 Boxfish ROV pack up sequence (from out-of-water testing)

Now we'll practice packing up the ROV so it's easier in the field. For additional post-dive tasks, see [Section 16: After-dive procedures](#).

Note: Make sure the ROV's battery pack is not fully charged when the ROV is packed away. The batteries should not be at 100% for more than 24 hours otherwise the batteries will be damaged.

10.1 Power off Ninja V Recorder

Power off the Ninja using the On/Off button, detach all components from the Control Station and store in the Accessories Box.

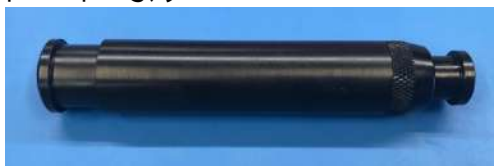
10.2 Power off ROV

Hold the magnetic key over the red OFF pad. The rear LED lights will turn off when the ROV is powered down.

10.3 Unplug tether from ROV

Follow the steps below. Practice these several times so you can perform them quickly and confidently and minimise exposure of the fibre optic connections.

1. Find the black plastic tether penetrator protective cap. If you followed our recommendation to keep the fibre caps inside the tether penetrator/tether port plug, you will find all the fibre caps in one place!



2. Unscrew the tether port plug from the black plastic tether penetrator cap, and carefully find a temporary place to store the coloured and clear plastic caps inside.
3. Unscrew and pull out the tether penetrator from the ROV.
4. IMMEDIATELY replace the tether port plug into the tether port of the ROV. Do this step first because it is the most difficult connection to clean if any water/dust/humid air gets in.
5. Cover the end of the tether cable with a clear plastic dust cap.



6. Put the black plastic tether penetrator protective cap on the end of the tether penetrator, and screw in the knurled nut so that it can't come off.



7. Carefully wind tether cable back onto tether reel. Apply light tension to the tether cable to wind it on neatly.

10.4 Disconnect fibre patch cable

Note: Pull the fibre patch cable straight out (not at an angle) to avoid damaging the connector inside the tether or Control Station.

Get the 2x coloured port caps and 2x clear plastic dust caps ready.

1. Disconnect the fibre patch cable from the tether reel.
2. Quickly put the clear plastic dust cap on the end of the cable and put the red cap on the port.
3. Disconnect the fibre patch cable from the Control Station.
4. Quickly put the clear plastic dust cap on the end of the cable and put the red cap on the FIBRE port.

10.5 Power off Control Station

Press and hold the red **STOP** button on the Control Station for six seconds to power it off. Unplug the power cable, and store in the Accessory Box.

10.6 Pack away Boxfish ROV

Pack the Ninja and any components away in their respective boxes. Store all boxes in a stable, cool, and dry place.



11 Planning your dive

This section outlines some of the things you need to consider when preparing for a mission with your Boxfish ROV. It is essential that you take the time to plan how and where it will be used.

11.1 Charge ROV Battery

Allow enough time to fully charge the ROV battery pack (to 16.8V) before your dive.

For instructions, see our **Boxfish Battery Charging Manual**. Latest version is available on our website: <https://www.boxfish.nz/downloads/>

11.2 Safety

This manual cannot possibly predict all possible conditions you will encounter while using your ROV. Nor can we specify all the planning and risk mitigation steps you need to take as ROV operators.

Human safety should always take precedence over equipment and dive objectives.

Some things to consider are:

- How to safely achieve your dive plan and objectives
- Team members – who will pilot the ROV and who will manage the tether cable? How will you communicate effectively?
- Weather conditions
- Sea / water conditions
- Underwater hazards
- Communication with others, eg divers, boat skipper
- Contingency / recovery plans for the ROV in the worst case.

11.3 Research your launch vessel/site

Consider the vessel or location for launching your ROV. Plan ahead for the following:

- **Control Station placement:** the Control Station is splashproof but not waterproof, so ideally needs to be indoors or in a covered location. Consider how you will power the Control Station and place it close to its power



source. Bright sunlight can also make the 17" UHD screen difficult to view, so a shady spot is ideal. It is not necessary for the ROV pilot to be able to see the tether reel or ROV (before it enters the water); good communication with team members is more important.

- **Length of fibre patch cable:** choose a suitable length depending on the distance between the Control Station and tether reel. Consider how you will minimise the risk of tripping over this cable.
- **Tether reel placement:** the tether reel operator and Control Station operator need to be in frequent communication.
- **Height of launch spot:** the ROV should not freefall into the water from a height of more than 1 metre – utilise the lifting eye on the top of the ROV if the launch site is higher than this and deploy carefully by rope. If balance needs to be adjusted, a team member should be close enough to check it is neutrally buoyant and adjust ballast washers before descent (although it is not critical to have a perfectly balanced ROV).

11.4 Hazards

Potential hazards are listed below; what others can you think of? How will you minimise these hazards during your dive?

- **Trip hazards:** Tether cable, fibre patch cable, tether reel, storage cases, ROV, Control Station, tether, power cable for Control Station
- **Injury hazards:** tether reel mechanism, lifting heavy items, grabber, sharp protruding objects (like the grabber accessory)
- **Damage to ROV:** Scratching or causing cracks to domes, dropping and damaging the tether penetrator, stepping on tether cable, bending or damaging the tether cable, leaving fibre optic cable ends or ports without caps, water ingress to ROV or Control Station
- **Misplacing items:** fibre cable caps and fibre port caps, tether penetrator cap, tether port cap, tools/spares from the Accessory Box.

11.5 Keeping the ROV cool

The ROV should be kept cool (below 30C) while out of the water. During transport to the dive site, keep the ROV in the shade and away from hot areas such as engine rooms.

Avoid leaving the ROV in the sun for long periods – if this is impossible, cover with a wet towel. Also avoid leaving the ROV powered on while out of the water.



12 Deploying your ROV in the water

12.1 Overview

This section explains how to launch your ROV. It is essential that you have connected and powered on the ROV system correctly and completed the pre-deployment checks in previous sections.

IMPORTANT!

For new ROV operators, we recommend carrying out the tasks in this section and [Section 13: Piloting your ROV](#) during several practice sessions in a controlled setting such as a pool.

12.2 Assembling ROV for a dive

Reference [Section 7: Putting together the Boxfish ROV system](#) to assemble your ROV.

12.3 Power on ROV and Control Station

Reference [Section 8: Powering on the ROV system](#) to complete the following:

1. Power up the ROV and Control Station.
2. Check all video feeds are displaying as expected.
3. Check that the ROV has enough battery power to complete your dive.
4. Check telemetry information to verify there is good communication between the ROV and Control Station (UPTIME and Rx SIGNAL).

12.4 Pre-deployment checks

Check your ROV is operating correctly by performing all the checks, including thruster inspection and test, contained in [Section 9: Pre-deployment checks](#).

12.5 (If installed) Turn on Sensor Power for external devices

If your ROV has any external devices or sensors installed (eg altimeter, sonar, USBL, grabber or other) that require power from the ROV, turn the **Sensor Power** switch to the ON position just before you put the ROV in the water.



12.6 Put ROV in the water

When you are happy with the ROV is operating correctly, put the ROV in the water.

Note: Once the water sensor detects the ROV is in the water, the status LEDs at the rear of the ROV will automatically turn off.

12.7 Balance ROV and make neutrally buoyant

A well-balanced and neutrally buoyant ROV will be easier to control, more efficient while moving through the water, and use less battery power.

We will create buoyancy hardware (floats or extra ballast systems) for your ROV depending on which external sensors are required during most of your operations. Your ROV will be balanced in our freshwater pool during Factory Acceptance Testing.

You will need to re-balance your ROV if:

- You wish to change any parts on your ROV, such as external sensors or domes
- You wish to dive in salt water. The rule of thumb is to add eight ballast rings to the end of each frame tube (eight in total) for salt water.

12.7.1 Test balance with current ballast

To test its balance with the ROV's current ballast, hold the ROV under the surface and move it (upside down, on both ends) so that all of the air escapes from the frame tubes and around external components. Let go of the ROV and observe if it sinks or floats.

12.7.2 Add or remove weights to achieve neutral buoyancy

Note: The below steps will take time and patience. Allow around 30 minutes to balance your ROV until you get more experience.

To determine where to begin adding or removing weights:

5. When all trapped air has escaped from the ROV frame, observe which parts of the ROV are the heaviest and lightest. Light parts will pop out of the



water, and the ROV will turn itself upside down while floating upwards if a bottom frame tube is under-weighted.

6. Try to determine if the ROV needs weights added or subtracted. If the ROV is light, it will require a net addition of weights; if the ROV is heavy, it will require a net subtraction of weights
7. Once the ROV seems like it has the right amount of weight, you can start moving the weights around between the chambers to achieve neutral buoyancy in its upright orientation first, so that it is sitting just below the surface of the water
8. Rotate the ROV onto its side and adjust buoyancy in this orientation
9. Repeat for upside down and other side orientations
10. The ROV should be suspended in an upright position just below the surface of the water when properly balanced.

Note: You can remove the caps from the ballast holders to make it easier to add/remove weights. The springs inside will keep the weights in position. However, note that without the caps in place, the lights will move out of position and will affect the balance, so be sure to move them back into place before final balancing.

12.8 Check depth sensor

Check that the depth reading on the telemetry screen looks correct. If not, while the ROV is at the surface, push the **Depth Hold** switch to the FN position to zero the depth reading.

12.9 Check compass

The ROV has an internal gyro and compass. Both can be used to drive the ROV in a particular direction. To switch between gyro and compass, “double-click” the Stabilisation Hold switch up to the FN position. Wait a moment and the label under the dial on the Heading widget should change from **Gyro** to **Compass**.

Sometimes the compass may become uncalibrated; to verify it is working correctly you can check if the needle points magnetic North and rotate the ROV in the water 360 degrees. The needle should follow with the rotation. If it doesn't, you can calibrate the compass now – see [Section 19.2: How to recalibrate ROV compass](#).



12.10 Begin launch sequence



WARNING!

Keep fingers, long hair and loose clothing or anything that may become entangled well clear of the thrusters before you begin the launch sequence.

Launch sequence:

1. Turn off **Stabilisation Hold** and **Depth Hold** switches. Leave the Sensor Power switch ON if you have external accessories installed that require this to be on.
2. Press the green **Enable** button on the Control Station. This will enable the water sensor on the ROV, and activate the thrusters. TSUS will now change to from SUS (suspended) to ARMD.
3. Turn the **Stabilisation Hold** and **Depth Hold** switches ON once the ROV is stable and level.

At the end of the launch sequence, the thrusters should be keeping the ROV suspended in a fixed position just below the surface of the water.



13 Piloting your ROV

This section describes the piloting options available to you.

IMPORTANT!

While your ROV is in the water, ensure the tether is not left to drag excessively, and you consistently monitor the **PRESSURE** and **BATTERY** readings.

13.1 Useful telemetry screen info for piloting



In addition to the controls on the Control Station, you will use telemetry information received from the ROV itself for efficient piloting. This section builds on the information about the telemetry screen in [Section 8: Powering on the ROV system](#). Some additional information:

4. **TARGET ATTITUDE:** shows target input from the sticks for each of: Roll, Pitch and Yaw.
HEADING widget: shows the ROV's heading. Heading will be determined by the ROV's gyro or compass.
UPTIME: Should be counting upwards to confirm communication between the Control Station and ROV.

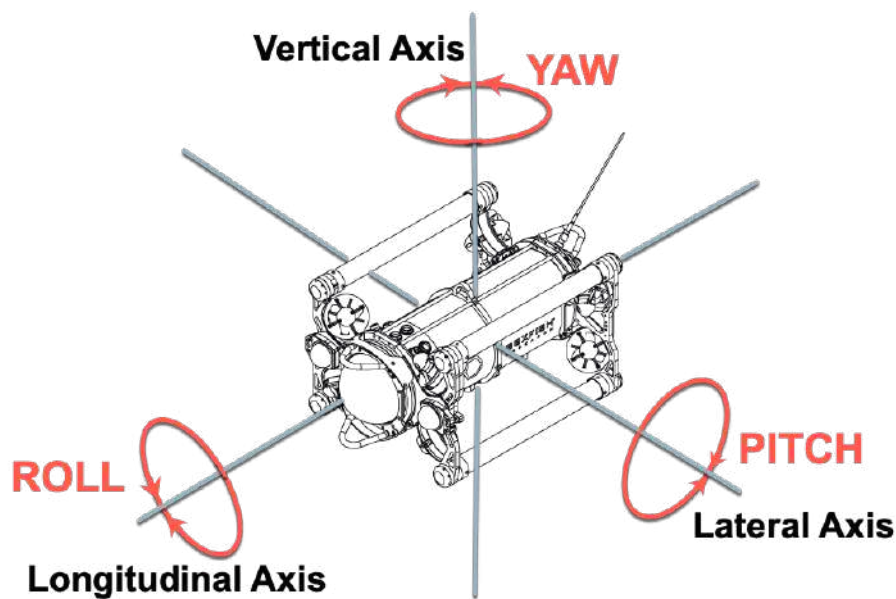


	MODE: Piloting mode. Sea Mode, ROV Mode, Sea-Q Mode or ROV-Q Mode. RTS: RTS for RTS Disable on or nothing displayed for RTS Disable off. STABILISE: STAB for ON or nothing displayed for OFF. DPTH HOLD: DPTH for ON or nothing displayed for OFF. STN-HOLD: ON if Station Hold is on (requires DVL). LIGHTS: Current percentage power for the ROV lights. PRESSURE: Monitor this via the trend line to ensure no sudden loss of pressure. Rx SIGNAL: Will be a negative value indicating signal loss over the fibre connections of the ROV. Is useful to understand if the tether cable is excessively twisted or otherwise under stress. We recommend making a note of this value before your ROV goes into the water and checking if it decreases during a dive: when this value approaches -20dBm some video feeds or telemetry data will be prevented from appearing on the telemetry screen.
6.	6. Tabs include Thrusters, USBL (will display data from USBL accessory) or OSD (On Screen Display – data can be selected to display on a video overlay on the HDMI feed (applicable hardware must be installed)).

Note: The full list of labels on the telemetry screen are explained in [Appendix II: Telemetry Screen – More Information](#).

13.2 ROV navigation

Boxfish ROV's eight thrusters allow the ROV to freely move in six degrees of freedom: it can move along its vertical, longitudinal and lateral axes, as well as rotate on them, as shown below.



1. Vertical descent / ascent: the ROV will move up and down along its vertical axis
2. Horizontal left / right: the ROV will move left and right (“crab”) along its lateral axis
3. Horizontal forward / back: the ROV will move forward and back along its longitudinal axis
4. Pitch forward / back: the ROV will tilt up (so that the nose is up) or down (so that the nose is down) on its lateral axis
5. Yaw left / right: the ROV will turn left and right on its vertical axis
6. Roll left / right: the ROV will tilt left and right (“bank”) on its longitudinal axis.

13.3 Piloting modes

13.3.1 Available modes

Press the **Mode** button to cycle through the four available piloting modes: Sea Mode, Sea-Q Mode, ROV Mode, and ROV-Q Mode.

13.3.2 About Sea Modes and ROV Modes

In **Sea Mode** (which is the default mode) and **Sea-Q Mode**, the ROV’s horizontal and vertical axes are aligned with the earth’s, regardless of the pitch or roll of the ROV. Sea Mode is the most commonly used mode. In Sea Mode, the joystick inputs will move the ROV relative to the earth. For example, using the left joystick to increase depth will move the ROV closer to the centre of the earth, and moving it forward or sideways will move it

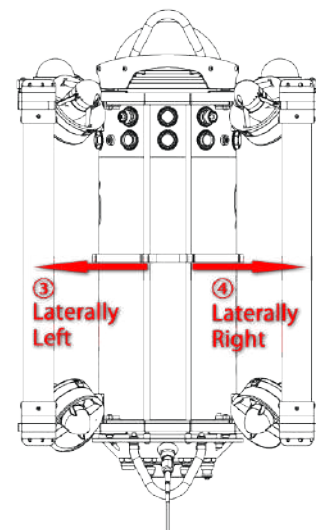
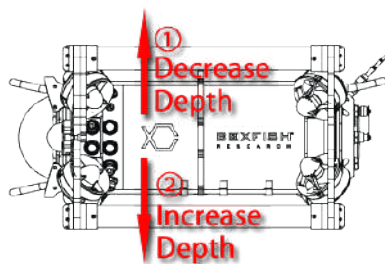


horizontally along the earth's surface. If the ROV is pitched down while moving forward in Sea Mode, its camera will track a single line along the bottom.

If you wish to change to **ROV Mode** or **ROV-Q Mode**, you must **turn off Depth Hold**. In ROV Mode or ROV-Q Mode, the joystick inputs are aligned with the axes of the ROV (not the Earth). So, the ROV will move according to the direction it is pointing. For example, if the ROV is pitched down and pointing at an object on the bottom, moving the right joystick forward will move the ROV straight towards that object, which is effectively a diagonal dive towards the bottom. ROV Modes are more difficult to master, so we recommend getting comfortable with Sea Modes first.

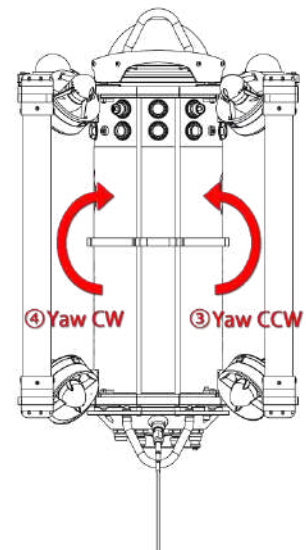
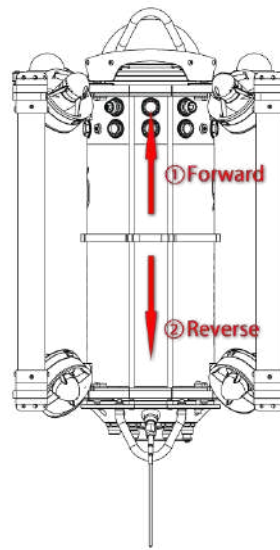
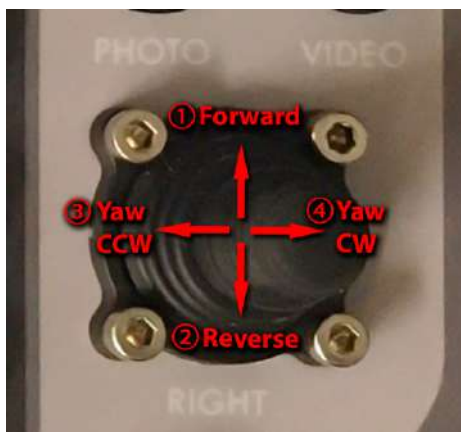
13.3.3 Controls for Sea Mode and ROV Mode

The **LEFT** joystick is used to control the ROV depth and lateral movement.



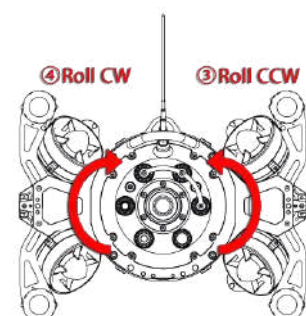
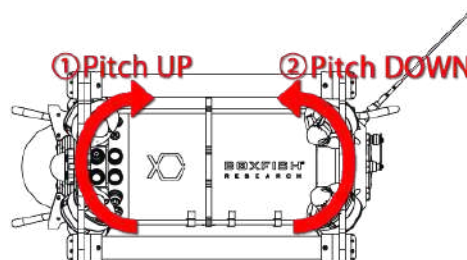
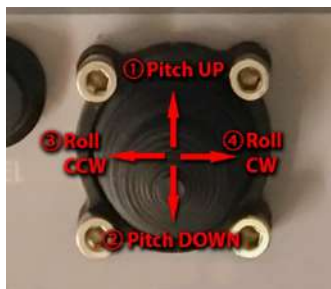
1. Move the joystick away from you to move the ROV up towards the surface
2. Move the joystick toward you to increase depth / move the ROV vertically down
3. Move the joystick to the left to move (“crab”) the ROV left (to port) along its longitudinal axis
4. Move the joystick to the right to move (“crab”) the ROV right (to starboard) along its longitudinal axis.

The **RIGHT** joystick is used to control the ROV yaw and forward and backwards movements.



1. Move the joystick away from you to move the ROV forward. The ROV will move in the direction the front dome is facing.
2. Move the joystick towards you to move the ROV in reverse, in the direction the rear camera/rear dome is facing.
3. Move the joystick LEFT to rotate the ROV on its vertical axis. The ROV will rotate to the left / anti-clockwise / counter-clockwise.
4. Move the joystick RIGHT to rotate the ROV to the right / clockwise.

The **AUX** joystick controls the ROV pitch and roll movements.



1. Move the joystick away from you to make the ROV pitch up. The ROV will rotate on its lateral axis. The front of the ROV will move up while the back of the ROV moves down.
2. Move the joystick towards you to cause the ROV to pitch down. The ROV will rotate on its lateral axis. The front of the ROV will tilt down while the back of the ROV moves up.
3. Move the joystick LEFT to roll the ROV to the left (anti-clockwise / counter-clockwise / CCW) on its longitudinal axis.



4. Move the joystick RIGHT to roll the ROV to the right (clockwise / CW) on its longitudinal axis.

13.3.4 Controls for Sea-Q Mode and ROV-Q Mode

If you are used to flying drones, you may wish to make use of these modes – the Q stands for “Quadcopter”. The only difference in these modes is that the lateral and yaw movements in the left and right joysticks are swapped. So, moving the left joystick to the left or right will change the yaw, and moving the right joystick left or right will move the ROV in a lateral “crab” movement.

13.4 Speed

The speed of movement in each direction is controlled by the amount the joystick is moved from the centre position, and the setting of the thrust control thumb wheel.

The thrust control thumb wheel is used to increase or decrease the maximum power applied to the thrusters for a given movement of the control joysticks. Fully to the left is minimum and fully to the right is maximum power. We recommend keeping it at the 1/3rd setting. **Note:** giving more power to the thrusters will reduce the length of time the battery lasts.



13.5 Depth Hold

The ROV will be most stable when Depth Hold is on. It is possible to move the ROV up and down without Depth Hold affecting stability: the ROV will hold the new depth.

Notes:

- If operating in a swell, turn off Depth Hold until you are below the influence of the swell to prevent the ROV moving up and down with the swell.
- If you require the ROV to be near the surface, keep it at or below 0.5m from the surface and activate Depth Hold to avoid it breaking the surface.



13.6 Heading Hold

IMPORTANT!

Heading Hold uses the ROV's compass for direction stabilization, and therefore requires the ROV's internal compass to be calibrated and operational. The ROV will be difficult to control if Heading Hold is on when the compass is not properly calibrated.

To drive the ROV on a fixed heading: hold the Stabilisation Hold switch up to the FN position for six seconds. The **H-Hold** label will appear in the HEADING widget.

Note: It is best to turn off Heading Hold when filming as it can interfere with stability.

13.7 Altitude Hold

If your ROV has an altimeter or DVL, its altitude will be displayed on the telemetry screen. To keep a fixed altitude from the bottom, turn on Altitude Hold. Detailed information on usage and limits are available in the manual for each accessory.

Note: if both Depth Hold and Altitude Hold are on, altitude hold will take priority.

13.8 Using the Level button

Short press: At any point in your dive, you can press the **LEVEL** button (with a short press) to return the ROV attitude to a neutral (zero) roll and pitch state. Pressing the button will cancel any current roll and pitch settings.

Long press (10 seconds): Use this during troubleshooting to reset all control inputs to zero – only use this when the joysticks are in a neutral state.

13.9 Adjusting the ROV LED illumination lights (underwater)

You can control the intensity with the Lights slider. In most situations you can keep the lights around 20%. Note that lights are a significant factor in using up the battery.



13.10 More about Sea Mode and ROV Mode

Sea Mode is the default mode and easiest to master. When piloting the ROV in Sea Mode (or Sea-Q Mode), you will tend to set the pitch first if required, and then pilot the ROV with mainly the left and right joysticks.

ROV Mode (or ROV-Q Mode) can be useful when working relative to sloped surfaces such as a ship's hull or sloping sea floor. In ROV Mode, you will tend to pilot the ROV with mainly the central and right joysticks. To move down a slope on the bottom with varying gradient, for example, you would pitch the ROV down and move it forward to move the ROV down the slope, and adjust the pitch for the different gradients. **Note:** You must turn the Depth Hold switch OFF when using ROV modes.

13.11 Enable RTS (Return to Surface)

Click the **RTS** label when you begin your dive. This will ensure the ROV will return to the surface after 10 minutes if it loses contact with the Control Station. When RTS is on, you will see **RTS** appear in the RTS field on the telemetry screen.

If you wish the ROV to explore enclosed spaces such as cave, pipe, shipwreck where the vertical path to the surface is obstructed, turn RTS off so that **RTS** does not appear on the telemetry screen.

13.12 Battery monitoring during your dive

As you become more familiar with your ROV, you will learn how the ROV functions and how much time to expect out of a full battery charge.

Use the **Battery** value on the telemetry screen to see how much battery is remaining. The trend line will give you clues as to what functions are draining the battery faster than others.

Variables that you as ROV Pilot and tether operator can control are:

- Speed of thrusters using the thrust control thumb wheel
- How far you push the joysticks in each direction
- Intensity of LED illumination lights
- Tether cable drag – there is excess tether cable in the water causing drag weight



- Tether cable tension – there is too much tension on the tether cable causing the ROV to work against it.

Some external variables affecting battery life are:

- Current
- Swell
- Depth / visibility (and therefore use of lights).

13.13 Battery limits

Aim to be **back at the surface with 14.7V remaining** in the batteries.

The ROV will automatically shut down its thrusters between 14.3 and 14.1V, and will power off completely at 13.7V to preserve its battery. Avoid discharging the battery completely: it is dangerous and will reduce the life of the battery.

13.14 Notes

- The navigation cameras will turn to black and white at depth or in dark environments. This is by design to produce a better picture.
- You can see the status of individual thrusters using the **Thrusters** tab on the telemetry application. Unfortunately, there is no way to tell if a thruster is not working due to entanglement or other interference, but the ROV may exhibit strange behaviour or become difficult to control. See [Section 19: Troubleshooting](#) if you are unable to control the ROV.



14 Managing tether cable during a dive

Good tether management during a dive is essential for safety and performance of your ROV and to ensure the fibre cable inside is protected from excessive stress (including bending, knotting or twisting) which could cause loss of communications or breakage.

14.1 Safety

- Your dive plan (for suggestions, see [Section 11: Planning your dive](#)) should note people or entanglement hazards in the water.
- The tether and patch cable are a trip hazard on deck / on shore.
- If the tether should break, do not handle the exposed end(s). It is best to tape over the ends immediately. The fibre inside is extremely sharp and can easily penetrate the skin, break off and be very difficult to remove.

14.2 Fibre cable handling

Protect the fibre from breakages or excessive loss: do not allow excess tether to be unspooled into the water, otherwise snags and knots can occur.

14.3 Tips for tether management

- ROV pilot and tether operator should be in constant communication to unspool tether to allow free movement of the ROV, or bring tether back in tether to avoid excess tether in the water.
- At the start of the dive, you might find it easier to unspool some cable from the tether reel onto the deck to pay out as the ROV descends.
- Don't put any tension on the tether, otherwise the ROV may have to work against the tether and use more battery power.
- The pilot should check the rear camera at regular intervals to make sure the tether cable does not appear too loose.

14.4 Tips for winding in the tether cable

- When the ROV is returning to the surface, leave the excess cable on deck until you have time to wind it onto the reel properly. You can also rinse it easily to get rid of salt/debris before winding it onto the drum.
- Take care not to make a mess of the tether cable when winding it onto the drum. Keep a bit of tension on the tether when winding it on.



IMPORTANT! DO NOT wind the ROV from depth with the tether reel.



15 Bringing the ROV back to surface

15.1 Safe ascent practices

Pay attention to all safety items:

- Do not lift the ROV out of the water using the tether
- Ensure ROV is off and thrusters not spinning before retrieving ROV from water
- Use two people to lift it out of the water.

15.2 How to bring ROV back to surface

1. Manoeuvre the ROV towards the surface: As with descending, it's easy to do this along a fixed reference such as an anchor line or wharf pile. If there is no fixed reference, it's often easiest to return the ROV to the launch point by turning the ROV around and following the tether.
2. Recover the tether as the ROV ascends. If it is ascending too fast to wind onto the drum, recover it onto deck and wind it on later.
3. Monitor the ascent via the **DEPTH** reading on the telemetry screen. When the ROV reaches approximately 5m depth, turn on the LED illumination lights to make the ROV easier to see.
4. When the ROV breaks the surface, disable the thrusters by pressing the red **STOP** button on the Control Station.
5. Lift ROV out of the water (two people) and place on deck.

15.3 Power down ROV

Turn off the ROV by holding the magnetic key over the red OFF pad.



16 After-dive procedures

This section outlines how to take care of your ROV after a dive.

16.1 Disconnect ROV components and cables

IMPORTANT!

To avoid damage to your ROV, it is vital that you exactly follow the pack down procedures you practised in [Section 10: Boxfish ROV pack up sequence](#). Be careful with the fibre optic cable ends and fibre penetration port to reduce exposure. Replace caps immediately after unplugging.

16.2 Rinse ROV, tether and accessories

As soon as possible after your dive, rinse the ROV and tether to remove salt, dirt and debris. Fresh water is ok in the short term. If the ROV will be stored for longer periods, clean it and all accessories with warm and soapy water to prevent corrosion.

1. Make sure ROV is watertight, and all ports are covered / plugged.
2. Hose down the ROV thoroughly with fresh water to clean off any salt, dirt and debris picked up during operation. If no hose is available, you can fill the ROV Pelican Case with water and immerse the ROV for at least an hour.
3. Check thrusters for debris.
4. Direct a stream of water to flush out any debris and salt from the pressure sensor at the rear of the ROV.
5. Rinse tether cable and tether reel.
6. Wash dome with warm soapy water to get rid of any grit.
7. If you have any accessories, such as a grabber, wash thoroughly to get salt out from the crevices.

16.3 Leave ROV components to dry

Dry all components. Leave lids on all cases open for at least 72 hours to ensure no moisture remains on the inside of the cases when they are closed.

Check dome for grit. Only wipe clean with a lens cloth if no grit is present, otherwise the dome may get scratched.



16.4 Attend to ROV battery

As soon as possible, get your battery pack back into storage voltage. See our **Boxfish Battery Charging Manual** (latest version available on our website: <https://www.boxfish.nz/downloads/>).



17 Storing your ROV

IMPORTANT!

Follow the instructions in this section carefully to ensure the ongoing operation of your ROV.

When you are not actively using your ROV, it must be stored correctly to look after its battery and internal electronics.

17.1 Prepare for storage

The ROV and its components should be washed with warm, soapy water to prevent corrosion, then left to dry completely.

ROV components should be stored in their original cases with all protective wrapping and padding.

The Control Station should be stored inside the Accessory Box.

17.2 Storage conditions

The storage area should be a cool, dry area with a stable temperature.

17.3 Adjust battery to storage voltage

Before storing, prepare the ROV battery pack to storage voltage of 15.6V, see the **Boxfish Battery Charging Manual** for instructions.

17.4 Monthly maintenance during storage

Don't forget about your ROV while it's in storage! It still needs attention:

- The front camera contains an internal battery which should not be allowed to go flat, otherwise the camera will lose its time/date and other settings.
- The ROV batteries cannot be allowed to drain, otherwise they will be unusable.

To keep your ROV in optimum condition, every month, take the ROV out of its case and use the magnetic key to power it on. Leave it for six hours while powered on.



This is also a good chance to give the ROV a once-over check for corrosion or anything unusual, and let us know.

When the six hours is up, charge the ROV battery to 15.6V again (see **Boxfish Battery Charging Manual**) before storing for another month.



18 Updating your ROV system

We will regularly release updates for your ROV system.

18.1 Items required

- A USB memory stick
- Computer
- Boxfish ROV, connected to Control Station via tether or dummy tether.

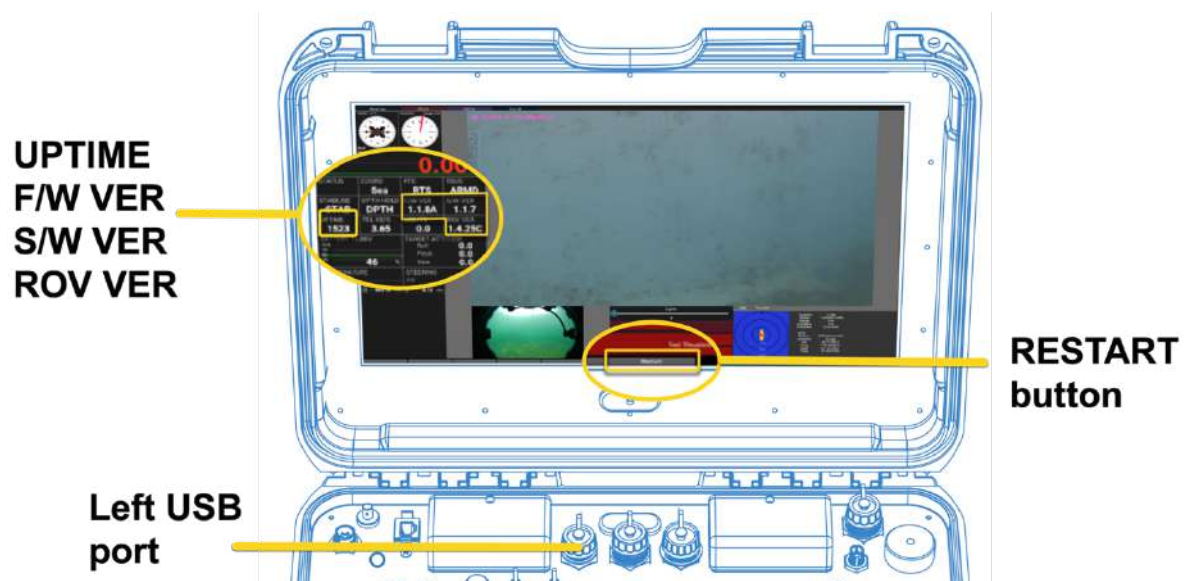
18.2 Relevant buttons and labels

You will use the following controls on the Control Station:

- Left USB port (to insert a memory stick with the update files)
- **Restart** button on the telemetry screen.

You will also use the visual indicators on the telemetry screen:

- UPTIME, F/W VER, S/W VER, ROV VER.



18.3 How to update Control Station

1. **Prepare memory stick:** Create a folder called FIRMWARE (all capitals) on your memory stick. It should be at root level, ie not contained within any other folders. If you have already created this file for prior updates, delete the old files so that the folder is empty.
2. **Unzip file containing the updates:** We will send you a zipped file by email. Inside there will be up to three update files (note that not all files may be present):



Update filename	Device	Telemetry screen label
ControlStation*.hex	Control Station firmware	F/W VER
ControlStation*.tgz	Control Station software	S/W VER

* will be replaced with the version number of the update.

3. **Transfer files onto USB stick:** Move the files into the FIRMWARE folder on your memory stick.
4. **Power on ROV and Control Station.**
5. **Insert memory stick:** Insert into the left USB port of the Control Station. Don't touch any controls until the update is complete.
6. **Wait about five minutes:** You will hear the ROV and Control Station beep during this time.
7. **Press restart button:** Check the labels on the Control Station to see if the F/W VER and S/W VER match the version numbers in the file names.

Note: If any of the updates did not succeed, remove the files that DID update from the FIRMWARE folder. Then, insert the USB stick again and try again to complete the remaining updates.

18.4 How to update ROV

1. **Prepare memory stick:** Create a folder called FIRMWARE (all capitals) on your memory stick. It should be at root level, ie not contained within any other folders. If you have already created this file for prior updates, delete the old files so that the folder is empty.
2. **Unzip file containing the update:** We will send you a zipped file by email. The update file will be inside this. The file will be named ROV*.hex (where * will be replaced by the version of the update).
3. **Transfer files onto USB stick:** Move the files into the FIRMWARE folder on your memory stick.
4. **Power on ROV and Control Station.**
5. **Insert memory stick:** Insert into the left USB port of the Control Station. Don't touch any controls until the update is complete.
6. The **UPTIME** counter will stop counting after about 20 seconds.
7. Wait (up to 15 minutes) until **UPTIME** starts counting again. When it starts counting again, the **ROV VER** label on the telemetry screen will show the new firmware version.



19 Troubleshooting

This section covers troubleshooting issues relating to testing and operations of your ROV. See the **Boxfish Battery Charging Manual** for battery-related troubleshooting. This manual is available at <https://www.boxfish.nz/downloads/>.

19.1 Potential issues and solutions

Issue	Solution
All status LEDs are blinking after ROV is powered up (instead of only the orange LED blinking)	Check that all three charging port plugs are properly in place and screwed in for all three charging ports.
Thruster test does not work	Check all ports on the rear of the ROV are covered. The thruster test won't start if any of the port covers are not in place. The battery port covers must be pushed in fully before tightening the knurled cap. Also check that the tray is properly secured with the four bolts are tightened as much as possible, (without being over-tight) so that the connectors inside can meet.
ROV thrusters won't enable	If you can't enable the ROV thrusters as part of the launch sequence, check the following: ■ Check the ROV is in the water, and that the status LEDs inside the rear dome are off. If the lights are on, there may be a problem with the water sensor. ■ Check that the link between the ROV and Control Station is working by looking at the UPTIME counter – it should be counting upwards.
Video feeds from ROV are interrupted or intermittent	Possible solutions: ■ Check the Rx value on the telemetry screen to ensure fibre cable is not twisted or the fibre connections are dirty.



	■ If you suspect the connections are dirty, use the pen cleaner and/or cleaning sticks to clean the fibre optic ports and cable connections (see Section 20.3: Cleaning the fibre optic connections). ■ If you clean the fibre connections and the Rx value (negative value) is approaching -20dBm, try connecting another fibre patch cable from your Accessory Box. ■ Restart the Control Station application using the Restart button.
Feed from front camera stops completely	This can happen if the ROV is left out in the sun, or has been operating for a long time: ■ Check the telemetry screen and if the internal temperature inside the ROV is 30C or over, turn off the ROV and put it in the shade or cover with a wet towel until it cools down. ■ Press the Video button for six seconds to restart the camera. It's also possible the 17" screen input has been accidentally changed: ■ Press the left-most button under the screen slowly and repeatedly until the camera feed returns.
Navigation camera freezes	Use the Restart button on the telemetry screen to restart the telemetry application. The feed from the navigation camera will be refreshed. While the application restarts you can still use the navigation controls as normal.
Navigation camera goes black and white or stops	The navigation cameras are designed to go to black and white at depth or when light is low, as this gives a sharper picture. When there is no light at all, the rear camera will shut off.
ROV is behaving strangely and not responding to joystick controls	If the ROV exhibits strange behaviour such as moving on its own or not being able to be controlled with the Control Station joysticks, you can try the following:



	■ Check that the Stabilisation Hold switch is ON. It is very difficult to pilot the ROV without Stabilisation Hold. ■ If you have an altimeter, check that Altitude Hold is not on if the ROV is more than 20m from the bottom. ■ If you are new to using the ROV, ensure the piloting mode is set to one of the Sea Modes. Sea Modes are the easiest to use. ■ If you are more experienced and wish to try ROV mode, the Depth Hold switch must be OFF. ■ Press the LEVEL button for 10 seconds – this will cancel any inputs into the controls and any drift that may have occurred with the mechanical joysticks. ■ You can try disabling thrusters one at a time to see if there is one that is not working – see Section 19.4: Troubleshooting thrusters during a dive. ■ If none of the above work, bring the ROV to the surface and ensure all the thrusters are working (do a thruster test). ■ If all thrusters are working, the ROV's compass may not be working so please recalibrate its compass by following the instructions below. ■ If none of the above solves the problem, please get the logs from the Control Station (see Section 19.3: How to retrieve log files from Control Station) and send to us for evaluation.
Thruster gets damaged or something becomes caught in a thruster during a dive	You can try to turn off the suspected fouled thruster so that you can more easily return to the surface. See instructions in this section. If the propeller or thruster needs replacing, replace according to the instructions in Section 21: Authorised repairs.



(At surface) ROV lights come on if ROV is powered on but not connected to Control Station	If the ROV is not connected to the Control Station, it will mimic the Return to Surface behaviour and its lights will come on after 10 minutes to indicate that there is no connection to the Control Station.
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19.2 How to recalibrate ROV compass

You may need to recalibrate the compass in your ROV on arrival after we ship it to you. It's also likely you'll need to recalibrate the compass if you are using your ROV near one of the Earth's magnetic poles.

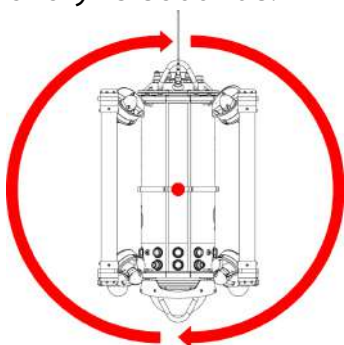
Note: It will be easier to perform the in-water steps when the ROV is well balanced and neutrally buoyant.

19.2.1 Prerequisites

- Two people: one to operate the Control Station and one to handle the ROV
- ROV components connected together and powered up
- A watch or phone to time 60 seconds.

19.2.2 Compass calibration procedure

1. Put the ROV into the water until it is just below the surface and hold onto it, as you would when balancing the ROV. Note that Depth Hold and Stab Hold switches should be OFF and the ROV should not be armed (thrusters should not be enabled). The ROV should be powered on only.
2. To initiate compass calibration, click the **Calibrate Compass** button on the telemetry screen and hold it for six seconds, then release. When the button is released, the UPTIME counter will stop counting.
3. Immediately after UPTIME stops counting, the person holding the ROV should manually rotate the ROV two full rotations on its vertical axis (in yaw). It is helpful to use a phone timer app to help rotate the ROV 180 degrees every 15 seconds.





Vertical axis/approximate centre of gravity indicated by point in the middle. Rotate ROV around this axis. Note: It does not matter if rotation is clockwise or anti-clockwise.

4. Immediately following the rotations, the gyro must be calibrated for the next 60 seconds (or until UPTIME starts counting again). The aim of the person holding the ROV is to move it so that it rotates it in all directions around its centre of gravity. So, move the ROV around so that it achieves all of the following positions: pitched up, pitched down, rolled left, rolled right, yawed left and yawed right. The exact pattern and order of these movements is not critical.
5. When the gyro has completed calibration, UPTIME will start counting again. This sometimes takes less than 60 seconds. The person at the Control Station can monitor and let the person moving the ROV know when UPTIME start counting again.

19.3 How to retrieve log files from Control Station

We might ask you get log files from the Control Station and send them to us to help us diagnose any issues. To do this:

1. On a computer, create a folder on your USB stick called LOGS (all capitals). Eject the stick.
2. Power up your Control Station (you don't need to connect the tether reel and ROV). Insert the USB stick into one of the USB ports (doesn't matter whether left or right).
3. Wait for 90 seconds. Log files will automatically be transferred onto the USB stick.
4. Attach the USB stick to your computer again and use a compression tool (such as WinZip) to zip the LOGS folder (to compress the files) Then send the zipped file to us by email.

19.4 Troubleshooting thrusters during a dive

Thrusters can be turned off individually using the telemetry application, and it is possible to pilot the ROV with one or more deactivated thrusters.

If you think that the cause of any issues with control of the ROV is due to a thruster becoming entangled or not working properly, you can turn off those thrusters.



Note that the ROV can be easily controlled with one thruster disabled but will go at half the maximum speed. It is still possible to pilot the ROV effectively with two thrusters disabled, but control will be noticeably reduced. With three or more disabled thrusters it is difficult to control the ROV.

To deactivate a thruster, use the trackball and left “mouse” button to click on the green **Enabled** label next to a thruster. When deactivated the label will turn red.



Turn off one thruster at a time to identify which thruster might be causing the issue.

If a thruster is obviously not working, replace it or its propeller according to the instructions in [Section 21: Authorised repairs](#).



20 Regular maintenance procedures

IMPORTANT!

To keep your ROV in good condition for operations, follow the procedures in this section at least as often as our recommendations in this manual.

20.1 Monthly: Power on ROV for six hours every month to maintain camera internal battery

The camera in your ROV contains an internal battery that stores camera settings.

Therefore, once a month, please take out your ROV and power it on with the magnetic key. (You only need to power on the ROV, you don't need to connect it to the Control Station or tether).

Leave the ROV powered on for six hours.

After this, please charge the ROV battery to storage voltage (see **Boxfish Battery Charging Manual**).

IMPORTANT!

Power on ROV for six hours every month to avoid losing camera settings.

20.2 Dome care and maintenance

IMPORTANT!

Do not use solvents to clean ROV domes as this will cause irreparable damage and cracks that may not be visible.

- **Front dome:** Keep clean and take extreme care to avoid scratches. To clean, use warm soapy water (dish soap is ideal) to remove grit. When clean and



dry, use a microfibre optical cleaning cloth like the one supplied in your Accessory Box.

- **Rear dome:** Take care not to bump or put pressure on this dome as it could cause cracks. For cleaning, use the same method as for the front dome. Inspect regularly for cracks.

20.3 Tether care

Don't bend, twist or pull the tether cable excessively. The fibre inside is well protected by its Kevlar coating however it can be broken if the bend radius is too small, the cable is excessively twisted or pulled too tight.

20.4 As required: cleaning the fibre optic connections

Use these procedures if you are experiencing signal loss over the tether, or interrupted video or feeds from the ROV.



WARNING!

DO NOT look into any of the fibre ports or connected fibre cables while the ROV is powered on. The lasers used to transmit signals over the fibre optic cables is invisible but can cause damage to the retina of the eye.

20.4.1 Clean ends of fibre optic cables

This process is for cleaning the ends of the fibre optic cables at the following points:

- The end of tether cable at the tether penetrator point
- Both ends of the fibre optic patch cable.

To do this, use the fibre optic cleaning pen with only the very top of the plastic cap removed, as shown below.





Follow the below steps for each cable end point, taking care to minimise exposure of the cable ends.

1. Remove the top plastic cap from the end of the pen
2. Remove the protective cap from the end of the fibre optic cable
3. Insert the uncapped end of the cable into the end of the pen, as shown below.



4. Push the pen towards the cable until you hear and feel a click
5. That's it! Replace the cap on the cable and the cap on the pen.

20.4.2 Clean fibre optic ports on Control Station and tether reel

Use the fibre optic pen cleaner to clean the following fibre ports:

- Fibre port (labelled FIBRE) on the Control Station
- Fibre port on the tether reel.

1. To clean the fibre ports, remove the entire plastic cap from the end of the pen, as shown below.



2. Rotate pen so it is in the 'CLEAN' position.



3. Remove the cap from the fibre port on the Control Station.
4. Insert the pen into the input, as shown below. Push the top of the pen down until you hear/feel a click. This click is sufficient for cleaning the fibre optic connection.



5. Replace the port cap.

20.4.3 Clean tether port on ROV

Use the cleaning sticks for this task.

1. Remove the tether port plug (or tether penetrator, if ROV is connected).
2. Insert one cleaning stick into the tether port. Ensure the swab reaches all the way down into the tether port to the connector inside the ROV.
3. Rotate the swab ten times in a clockwise direction on the connector inside the ROV.
4. Replace the plug (or cable) back into the ROV.
5. Throw away the cleaning stick – they are for **single use only**.

20.5 O-rings maintenance

As with all pressure vessels, good O-ring maintenance is critical to ensure no water ingress into your ROV.

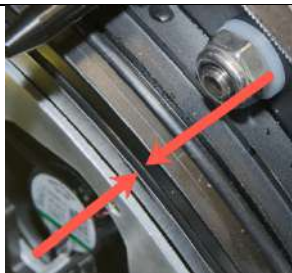
- Keep O-rings clean and clear of dust and dirt
- Lubricate O-rings frequently, especially on parts of the ROV where they are often used, such as tether penetrator and battery charge ports
- Only use O-rings supplied by Boxfish. There are spares in your Accessory Box
- Replace O-rings that form seals of ROV parts that are removed or opened, such as the tether penetrator and battery charge ports, **every year**.

20.5.1 How to lubricate O-rings

Smear a tiny amount of silicone grease on your finger and run the O-ring through your (clean) fingers to lubricate it before insertion. Don't use too much silicone grease as it will attract dust.



20.5.2 List of O-ring spares in Accessory Box

Type / Part #	Spares	Location on ROV	Example picture(s)
14 x 1.5 MOR.014X15N70 / [19112607]	5	O-rings on the outside of: ■ Tether port ■ Charge ports x3 ■ Vacuum port	
8.73 x 1.78 OR.011BN70 / [19072310]	4	O-rings on machined brass/plastic penetrators: ■ Charge port caps x3 ■ Brass tether penetrator ■ Tether port plug ■ Other port plugs	
8 x 2 MOR.008X2N70 / [20020837]	4	O-rings on our potted penetrators: ■ Thruster penetrators ■ Light penetrators ■ Accessory penetrators	
177.48 x 2.62 OR.167N70 / [20060440] (new)*	2	■ Rear lid (tray) face seal**	
190.18 x 2.62 OR.169N70 / [19072305]	2	■ Rear lid (tray) axial seal**	

* Earlier ROV versions have been supplied part number [19072304] (183.83 x 2.62 OR.167N70) but both O-rings will work for the rear lid face seal.

**** Note:** These seals are only accessible by opening the battery tray. This procedure is covered in the **Boxfish Battery Charging Manual**.



21 Authorised repairs

We have designed the repair procedures in this section to be simple to carry out in the field by people with no special technical experience.

If you follow these instructions closely, performing these tasks will not cause any damage to your ROV.

If you are experiencing problems with your ROV that require more complicated repairs, we will require you to return your ROV to our factory (unless agreed with us at time of sale that you will be performing repairs in the field).

21.1 How to release vacuum from inside the ROV

This procedure is a prerequisite for a few other tasks, including:

- Any procedures involving removing the internal tray or battery pack
- Removing or replacing any cables that go into ports in the ROV pressure vessel (such as thrusters, lights or accessories).

1. Unscrew and take off the cap of the vacuum port on the rear of the ROV. Keep the cap in a safe place while you are working.



2. Pull the pressure valve outwards to release the vacuum.



3. Replace cap back onto vacuum port.

21.2 How to replace a thruster



WARNING!

Make sure ROV is powered off before working on or touching thrusters.

21.2.1 About thrusters

We supply one thruster assembly in your Accessories Box. It is an aft thruster (with longer cable). If you need to replace a thruster at the front of the ROV, use a cable tie to secure the extra length of cable.

21.2.2 Prerequisites

- Release vacuum from the ROV, otherwise you will not be able to remove the thruster penetrators.
- Get your Allen Key set from the accessory box.

21.2.3 Removing a thruster

1. Ensure ROV is powered off and vacuum removed
2. Locate the cable and plug for the thruster to be removed. Thruster ports are at the rear of the ROV and are labelled T-1 to T-8.
3. Using your fingers, unscrew the penetrator cap (anti-clockwise) for the thruster cable, and gently pull out the plug. It is secured with two O-rings so you will need enough strength to pull past these.



Unscrewing the cap



Pulling out the plug

4. Unscrew the 2x screws attaching the thruster to its mounting point on the ROV. Keep the mounting plate and screws in a safe place.



Remove the two screws attaching thruster to its mount on the ROV

5. Carefully remove the entire thruster assembly, including cable and plug.



Thruster (fore, with shorter cable) when removed from the ROV

21.3 How to replace a propeller

You'll need to replace a propeller if it gets damaged, or if you're swapping out a thruster where the replacement propeller does not have the same orientation as the one you've removed.

Spare propellers and fastening screws are included in your Accessory Box.

Tools required: 2mm Allen Key and No. 2 Phillips Screwdriver.

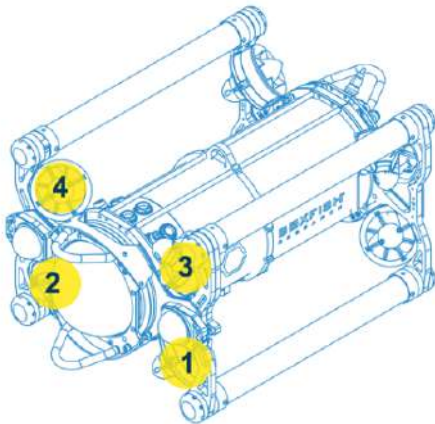
21.3.1 Propeller orientation: CW or CCW

IMPORTANT!

When replacing propellers, you must use a propeller with the same orientation. The propellers have CW (clockwise) or CCW (counterclockwise) written on them for easy identification

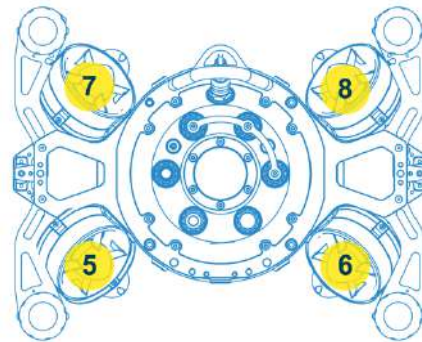


Propellers are oriented according to the illustrations below.



Front propellers

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| 1. CW | 3. CCW |
| 2. CCW | 4. CW |



Rear propellers

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| 5. CW | 7. CCW |
| 6. CCW | 8. CW |

Procedure:

1. Ensure ROV is powered off and vacuum removed.
2. Remove thruster and its cable from the ROV (see previous section).
3. Remove the mounting plate on the outside of the cowl/shroud of the thruster. First, unscrew the 4 x hex head screws from the mounting plate. Then, remove the mounting plate. Note: the orientation of the mounting plate on the cowling is determined by aligning the pin on the mounting plate with the pin hole on the cowling.



4. Unscrew the three Phillips screws from the cowl/shroud.





5. Slide thruster motor out of the cowling. **Note:** Pay attention to the location of the thruster cable on the cowling so that you can re-insert the motor in the same position after replacing the propeller.
6. Remove the 2 x hex head screws securing the propeller to the motor and slide propeller off.



Unscrewing hex head screws Sliding propeller off motor

7. Fit new propeller by gently sliding new propeller onto motor hub. Take care to align the holes in the propeller with the threaded holes on the motor hub. Secure the propeller to the motor using 2 x hex head screws. Do not over tighten or you may damage the propeller.
8. Refit thruster into cowling: Slide thruster motor into the cowl. Ensure the cable is located in the same position as it was when it was removed (if unsure test fit the thruster assembly to check the thruster cable will be facing the correct direction once thruster is refitted). Secure the motor to the cowling using the 3 x Philips head screws. (Note that the screw hole on thruster mount does not have a screw fitted and is used for mounting plate locating pin.)
9. Refit thruster mounting plate: align thruster mounting plate pin with the cowling mounting screw and secure with 4 x hex head screws.



Thruster mounting plate attached to cowling



21.4 How to put a thruster back on the ROV



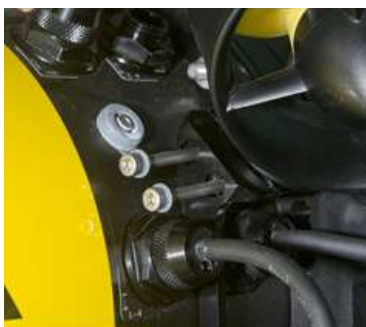
WARNING!

Make sure ROV is powered off before working on or touching thrusters.

IMPORTANT!

Ensure that the thruster's propeller is the correct orientation for its position on the ROV.

1. Ensure ROV is powered off and vacuum removed
2. Ensure that the thruster's propeller is the correct orientation for its position on the ROV (CW or CCW).
3. Line up the threaded holes on the mounting plate with the holes on the thruster mounting point on the ROV. Ensure thruster cable is not trapped and is in the correct orientation to allow it to be plugged into the thruster port.
4. Slide the 2x hex head screws through the ROV mounting point into the thruster mount. Tighten with an Allen key.



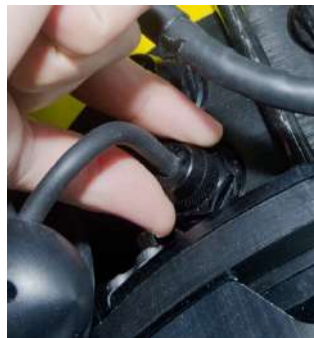
Thruster mounting point

5. Carefully plug in thruster cable. Align the three holes on the thruster cable plug with the three pins in the thruster port. Note: the plug is not keyed, i.e. the orientation of the three pins does not affect operation. Do not force the plug into place or you could push the connector into the ROV, requiring the ROV to come back to the factory.



Three pins in the thruster port

6. Screw on the cap of the cable until it is firmly finger tight.



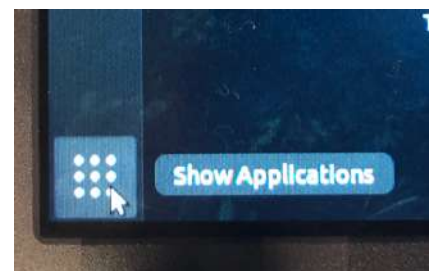
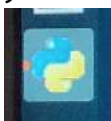
Before cap is screwed back on Cap should be finger tight

7. Power on ROV and perform a thruster test to confirm thruster is working correctly.
8. Check ROV can hold a vacuum.

21.5 Changing time zone on Control Station

If you wish, you can change the timezone of the Control Station to your local timezone (if it is not set to your local time already). Timestamps appear on Log files from the Control Station.

1. Press the Restart button on the Control Station. This will restart the telemetry application.
2. Click the icon with 9 dots. You will need to do this quickly, before the start-up process is too far along. If you see the Python logo appear on the left side of the screen it is too late, and you should press the Restart button again.

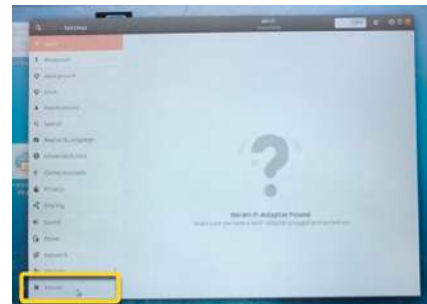




3. Click the Settings icon (middle right).



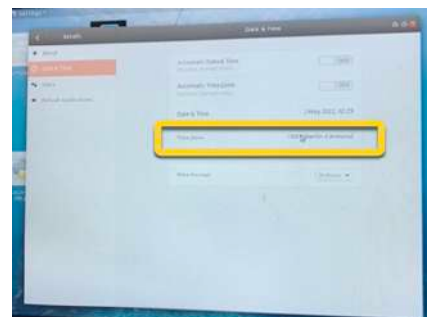
4. In the Settings window, click **Details** in the left hand menu.



5. Click Date & Time in the left hand menu.

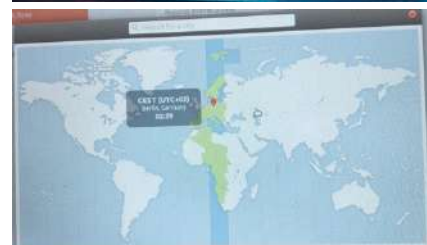


6. Click to select the Time Zone.



7. Click on the map to select your Time Zone and city.

8. Close the window with the red x icon.





9. Click on the Python logo to return to the telemetry screen.





22 Shipping or travelling with the ROV

It is important to prepare the ROV carefully for shipping or travel to avoid damage, delays or fines.

IMPORTANT!

Please pay careful attention to instructions in this section. Failure to properly prepare your ROV for travel could void your warranty.

22.1 Returning your ROV to us for service or repair

In accordance with our Terms of Sale (see <https://www.boxfish.nz/support/terms-conditions/>), you are responsible for arranging shipping and insurance if you need to return the ROV to us for repair or service. We will arrange return of your ROV to you after repair/service.

Please contact us for guidance on paperwork and values for customs purposes.

22.2 General preparation

Before the ROV travels you will need to:

- Ensure the ROV is clean and dry
- Use all original padding and protective parts supplied (eg front dome cover)
- Use the original Pelican cases for storage.

22.3 Preparing ROV battery

Please see the **Boxfish Battery Charging Manual** for the procedure for getting the battery to the correct voltage for shipping or travelling (15.0V).

Requirements for shipping lithium batteries depend on:

- Your shipping provider. Please contact them ahead of time to clarify their rules.
- Airlines. Refer to the guidelines supplied by your airline. These are based on the latest IATA requirements: (<https://www.iata.org/en/programs/cargo/dgr/lithium-batteries/>) however each airline makes their own rules for transport of lithium batteries.



The below sticker should be affixed to the ROV's shipping case with your contact details:



Attach all documentation about batteries that are required by your shipping provider. We can supply Materials Safety Data Sheets and other paperwork if required. Please contact us at support@boxfish.nz if you need assistance.

22.4 Packing the ROV components

To avoid damage:

- Your ROV system and all components should be packed in their original Pelican Cases, with all supplied protective inserts and protective padding.
- We also recommend putting the Pelican cases inside the original boxes (double box with foam in-between the boxes) used when we originally shipped the ROV to you.
- DO NOT ship or travel with the Control Station outside of the Accessory Box as it is not designed to be shipped separately. Doing so could result in damage and repairs will not be covered by your warranty.

IMPORTANT!

The Control Station should always be stored inside the Accessory Box when not in use. The 17" screen can be damaged by placing heavy weight on the lid, and the internal components can be damaged or come loose if it is shipped outside the Accessory Box.

22.5 Meeting weight limits for air travel



The heaviest item in your ROV kit will be the ROV case. It may be possible for you to check the ROV into the hold if it weighs close to the weight limit for your airline – in many cases this is 30kg but please check with your airline in advance.

Note that some ROVs may never get to less than 30kg (heavier ROVs tend to have reinforcements for higher depth rating, more sensors, bigger front domes etc). Some ideas for removing weight from the ROV case are below.

22.5.1 Removing battery pack and/or batteries from battery pack

Your best option for removing weight from the ROV is to take out the battery pack, which weighs around 4kg.

Please see our **Boxfish Battery Charging Manual** for instructions.



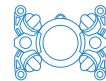
LiPo BATTERY WARNING!

If not handled according to our instructions, LiPo batteries could leak corrosive substances, emit toxic gases, catch fire or explode.

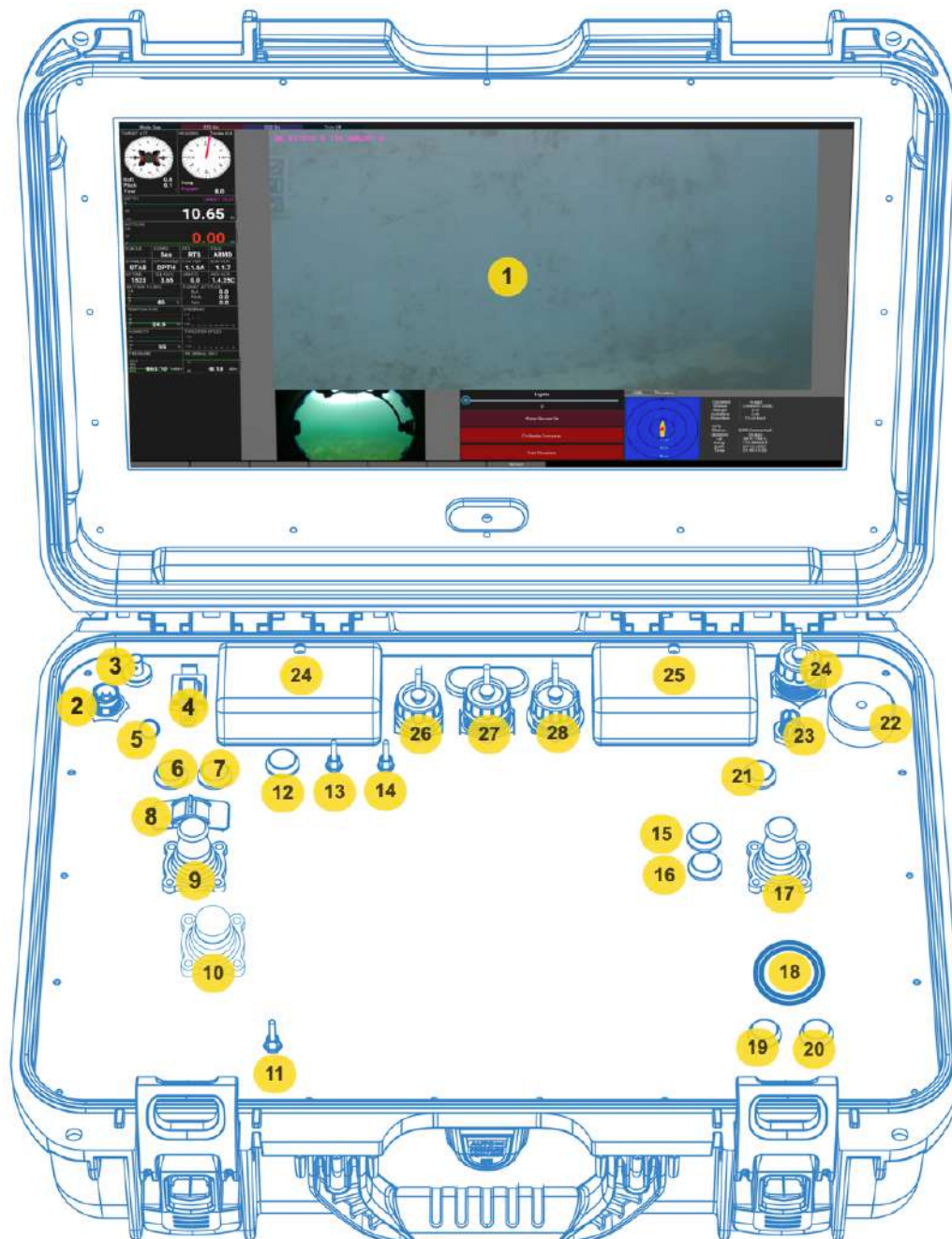
22.5.2 Removing handle from Pelican case

This video on the Pelican website explains how to remove the handle and castors assembly from the back of the ROV Pelican case.

<https://www.pelican.com/us/en/discover/videos/replacing-the-wheels-on-storm-im2500-and-im2620-cases/>



23 Appendix I: Control Station – more information



1.	17" 4K monitor. Displays video feed from front camera
2.	POWER: Power in port. Provides power to the Control Station, via: ■ Boxfish AC Adapter (15 Volts 13.4 Amps), OR ■ Directly from a DC supply capable of supplying 10 Amps with the Boxfish DC Power Cable.
3.	FIBRE communication port: used to send/receive telemetry, control signals and video between the Control Station and the ROV.



	Communication is provided by connecting a fibre optic patch cable between the fibre communication port and the tether reel fibre connector and the tether cable to the ROV. DO NOT look directly into this port when the Control Station is powered on.
4.	ETHERNET: RJ45 network port. Can be used to connect a laptop/computer to the Control Station to view data from certain accessories on the ROV (eg sonar, USBL, fluorometer). Usage will be detailed in the accessory manual.
5.	Blue LED. Indicates Control Station is powered on.
6.	LEVEL button. Short press used to restore the ROV to zero roll and pitch. Long press used to zero the controls (sticks should be neutral).
7.	ENABLE button. Used to control the following functions: 1. Power on the Control Station – When the Control Station is off the first press of the Enable Button will power on the Control Station. Once the Control Station has started up the telemetry screen will be active. 2. Enable the ROV thrusters – If the Control Station is already powered on, pressing the Enable button again will enable the ROV thrusters. The Telemetry Screen TSUS display will change from “SUS” (Suspend) to “ARMD” (Armed).
8.	THRUST control thumb wheel: used to increase or decrease the maximum power applied to the thrusters for a given movement of the control joysticks. Fully to the left is minimum and fully to the right is maximum power. It is recommended to keep the wheel at the 1/3 rd setting unless more power is required.
9.	LEFT joystick. In Sea Modes, used to control the ROV Depth and Lateral movements. In ROV Modes, used to control the ROV Depth and Yaw movements.
10.	AUX joystick. Controls ROV pitch and roll movements.
11.	LIGHTS switch. Turns the LED illumination Lights OFF and ON.
12.	MODE Button: used to switch between the four ROV operating modes for directional controls. Pressing the button will cycle through the ROV operating modes. Current setting is displayed under MODE on the telemetry screen. 1. Sea Mode: This is the default operating mode. Movement is relative to the body of water the ROV is in. In Sea Mode thrusting forward will



	cause the ROV to move in a forward direction and keep the current depth and pitch even if the ROV is pitched up or down. 2. ROV Mode: Movement is in whichever direction the ROV is pointing. Turn off Depth Hold if using ROV Mode – In ROV Mode thrusting forward will cause the ROV to move directly forward relative to the centre line of the ROV. If the ROV is pitched up, then the ROV will move forward and up at the same time. 3. Sea-Q Mode: The same as Sea Mode except the yaw and lateral controls (horizontal movements on the left/right joysticks) are reversed. 4. ROV-Q Mode: The same as ROV Mode except the yaw and lateral controls (horizontal movements on the left/right joysticks) are reversed.
13.	Stabilisation Switch: ENABLE and DISABLE the ROV stabilisation function 1. ON – With the switch on the built-in stabilisation system will automatically assist with stabilising the movement of the ROV making it easy to move the ROV in the direction required and stay on course. When switched on, STAB will appear on the telemetry screen. 2. OFF – With the switch off the ROV movement is based on control inputs but the ROV will not attempt to compensate for unexpected drift or direction changes. When switched off, nothing will appear on telemetry screen. 3. FN – Pressing the switch up to the FN position twice in quick succession will change from Gyro to Compass for heading stabilisation. 4. FN – Pressing the switch up to the FN position for two seconds will enable Heading Hold (note compass must be calibrated or ROV will be difficult to control when Heading Hold is on).
14.	Depth Hold switch: Enable or Disable the Depth Hold function. Also, the FN position can SET the zero (0) depth setting of the ROV. 1. ON – The ROV will hold the current depth set relative to the surface. Depth can still be changed using the Left Joystick. 2. OFF – The ROV will not attempt to keep its current depth, eg If the ROV is pitched down and you move forward the depth will increase. 3. FN – Push to FN position and hold for six seconds to zero the current depth reading. Will only work if indicated depth is less than 5 metres.



	4. FN – If DVL is present, pressing the switch up to the FN position twice in quick succession will activate Station Hold (position hold).
15.	Grabber or brush control button
16.	Grabber or brush control button
17.	RIGHT joystick. In Sea Modes, used to control the ROV forward, back and yaw movements. In ROV Modes, used to control the ROV forward, back and lateral movements.
18.	Trackball – used to control mouse icon on 17” UHD screen.
19.	Left “mouse” button used to select items on the 17” screen.
20.	Right “mouse” button. Currently no function.
21.	Stop button (Red). Used to control the following functions: 1. Disable the ROV thrusters - If the Control Station is already powered and ROV enabled on pressing the Stop button will disable the ROV thrusters. The telemetry screen TSUS display will change from "ARMD" (Armed) to "SUS" (Suspend) 2. Power off the Control Station - When the Control Station is on, press and hold the Stop button for six seconds to power the Control Station off. Note: powering off the Control Station will not disable the ROV thrusters.
22.	Metal 1/4" thread mount. Used for the Ninja mount
23.	ACCESSORY port. Used to provide power for the external Ninja Recorder
24.	CLEAN HDMI port: This is a HDMI feed of the video directly from the front camera. This feed is sent to the Ninja Recorder to allow capture of main camera video
25.	Air ventilation intakes. Used to keep Control Station cool. Do not cover or allow water to enter
26.	USB left port: Generic USB 3.0 port. Used for software/firmware updates and to retrieve log files
27.	HDMI In port. No function on Boxfish Alpha.
28.	USB right port: Generic USB 3.0 port.



24 Appendix II: Telemetry screen – more information

This section explains labels not covered in previous sections.



- Labels for the buttons and switches located above and below this screen on the Control Station.

Sensor Power: Turns power to external sensors/accessories on the ROV (eg USBL, altimeter, sonar, grabber) ON or OFF. We recommended you do not operate these sensors for extended periods while out of the water.

 - ON – With the switch on power will be sent to any external sensor and it will be operational.
 - OFF – With the switch off no power will be sent to any external sensor and they will not operate.

RTS: RTS (Return To Surface):

 - ON – Will be on by default. When on, RTS will appear under the RTS label on the telemetry screen. When RTS is on, RTS function is ENABLED and the ROV will initiate an automatic return to surface after 10 minutes if communication to the Control Station is lost.
 - OFF – With the switch OFF the RTS function is DISABLED. Turn RTS off when in enclosed spaces like a cave, pipe or shipwreck where the vertical path to the surface is obstructed.

OSD (optional extra feature): On-screen display. When switched on, will display data on-screen that can be recorded by the Ninja.



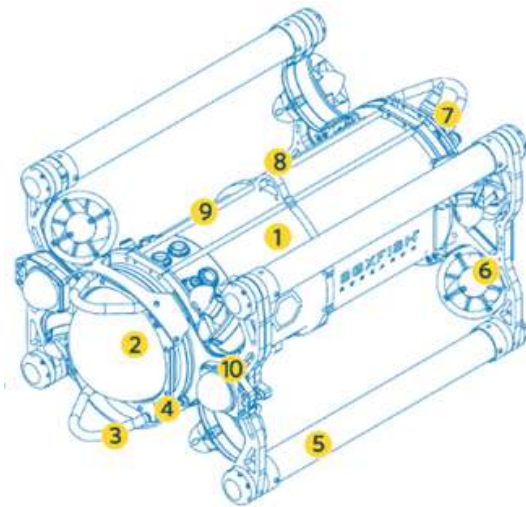
	Laser: If lasers are installed, will turn on or turn off the lasers. Video: Press this button to restart the main camera. Useful if the camera overheats, although camera will likely not stay on for long once overheated until cooled down. Cam Nav Down: Used for troubleshooting if the main camera runs out of battery. Cam Select: Used for troubleshooting if the main camera runs out of battery. Restart button (bottom right) allows you to restart the telemetry application displayed on the telemetry screen. While it restarts you can pilot the ROV using the controls as usual. Note: If you have any accessories attached to the USB ports on the Control Station, please disconnect these before using the Restart button.
2.	Forward navigation camera: video from the wide-angle forward navigation camera in the ROV front dome.
3.	Rear navigation camera: video from the wide-angle rear navigation camera in the ROV rear dome
4.	ATTITUDE: Current attitude HEADING: Heading according to internal compass DEPTH: Depth in metres according to depth sensor ALTITUDE: Altitude from the bottom in metres (will measure altitude only if altimeter accessory is installed and Sensor Power switch is ON), otherwise will display value of 0.00 in red text. STATUS: No function at this time MODE: Navigation Mode: Sea Mode, ROV Mode, Sea-Q Mode or ROV-Q RTS: Will display RTS if Return To Surface Disable switch is OFF TSUS: If thrusters are enabled, will be ARMD, if they are off will be SUS STABILISE: Will display STAB if Stabilisation switch is ON DEPTH: Will display DPTH if Depth Hold switch is ON F/W VER: Displays firmware version of Control Station S/W VER: Displays software version of Control Station UPTIME: Time since the ROV was powered on. Updates every second TEL KB/S: Rate of data transfer between ROV and Control Station LIGHTS: Current percentage power the lights on ROV are set to ROV VER: Current firmware version of the ROV BATTERY: Displays actual voltage, the percentage battery capacity left and a trend line to give an indication of the battery usage over time



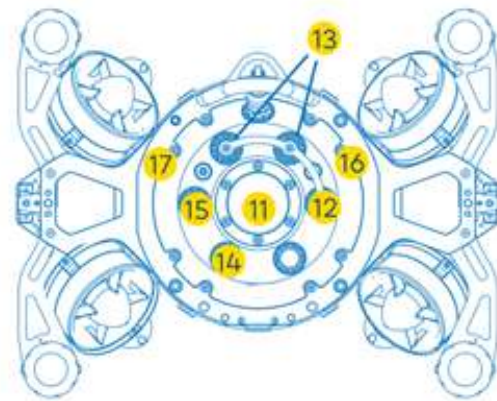
	TARGET ATTITUDE: Currently selected attitude for the ROV to attempt to achieve TEMPERATURE: Current ROV temperature in degrees Celsius and a trend line to give an indication of the temperature over time STEERING: In development HUMIDITY: Current value and trend line over time SOURCE VOLTAGE: To verify the power source is supplying the necessary voltage to power the Control Station PRESSURE: Current vacuum pressure (in mbar) in the ROV and a trend line to give indicate changes RX SIGNAL: Indicates signal loss over the tether. Will be a negative value indicating signal loss over the fibre connections of the ROV. Is useful to understand if the tether cable is excessively twisted or knotted. When this value approaches -20dBm video feeds and telemetry data will be impacted from appearing on the telemetry screen.
5.	Water sensor ON: Do not touch this button unless directed by us – the water sensor always needs to be on for the ROV to function correctly.
6.	Thrusters tab or USBL tab. Displays thruster information or USBL app, depending on which tab is displayed.



25 Appendix III: ROV



Front and left side view



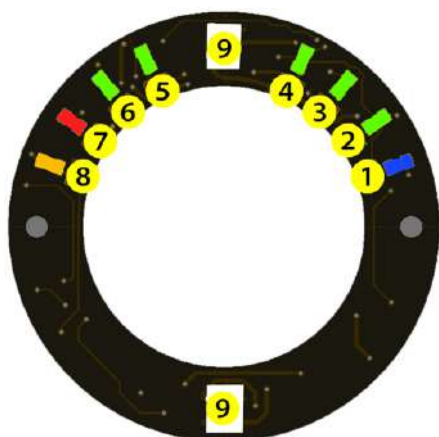
Rear view

1.	Pressure vessel	Pressure-rated body of hard anodised aluminium alloy
2.	Front dome	Contains front camera. 6" diameter toughened and polished acrylic dome
3.	Protection bars / Bumpers	Stainless Steel bars integrated into the body for bump protection for sensitive domes and tether areas
4.	Laser scalars (optional)	Two Class 3R lasers. If within dome, lasers are spaced 138mm apart. If external, lasers are 50mm apart.
5.	Frame tubes (with balancing chambers inside)	Carbon fibre shock absorbing tubes with internal patented ballasting system
6.	Thrusters	Eight (8) x 3D vectored, Maximum thrust 20kgf (f) / 14kgf (l) / 14kgf (v). Maximum speed 2.1kn (f) / 1.3kn (l) / 1.3kn (v) kn = knots
7.	Tether port	For fibre optic tether cable. Provides telemetry, control signals and video to and from the Control Station
8.	Lifting eye:	For attachment of a lifting or securing cable
9.	Rail for optional accessories	Two (2) 8mm diameter x 460mm long parallel rails with a 52mm spacing centre to centre on both the top and bottom of the ROV. Used for mounting additional sensors such as USBL.

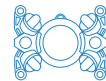


10.	Lighting arms and LED lights	Adjustable arms for balanced lighting with minimized backscatter on camera housing
11.	Rear dome	Toughened and polished acrylic dome. Contains Status LEDs and rear camera
12.	Battery balance port	Port for connecting the ROV to the battery charger and used to balance each cell to the same voltage
13.	Battery charge ports x2	Positive and negative ports (terminals) for connection to the Battery charger for battery charging. DO NOT put in water or submerge the ROV without the battery terminal port covers in place
14.	Depth sensor	Port containing ROV Depth sensor used to detect depth. DO NOT cover or block depth sensor port or ROV may indicate incorrect depth
15.	Vacuum port	Port used to apply vacuum to the ROV before operation. DO NOT put in water or submerge the ROV without the vacuum port plug and cap in place
16.	Off pad (red)	Can power the ROV on using magnetic key
17.	On pad (green)	Can power the ROV off using magnetic key

25.1 Status indicator LEDs



1.	Blue	ROV is powered on
2.	Green	Critical power needed to drive ROV is OK
3.	Green	Power required for main video link is OK
4.	Green	AUX battery power is on
5.	Green	AUX 12V power is on (for optional sensor/device)
6.	Green	AUX 24V power is on (for optional sensor/device)
7.	Red	Thrusters are enabled



8.	Amber	(Blinking) Control system is OK
9.	White	Rear navigation LEDs

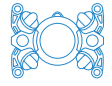
- Normal condition of the Status LED's (without optional accessories fitted) is 1, 2, and 3 will be ON and 8 will be flashing.
- LEDs 4, 5 and 6 may be on depending on which accessories you have installed and/or if the Sensor Power switch is set to the ON position on the control station.
- If lights are on and you do not want the rear LED's on, decrease the lighting intensity to below 30% and the rear navigation LED's will turn off.

Note: All status indicator LED's will turn off when the ROV is in the water.



26 Document history

Date	Description of changes	Revision number
12/10/22	■ Updated procedure for calibrating compass ■ How compass and gyro operate, and how to enable Heading Hold ■ How to activate Altitude Hold ■ Impact of removing sensors and domes on buoyancy and better instructions for balancing ROV ■ How to enable On Screen Display (OSD) (if present) ■ Parts additions: front dome protector ■ Parts removal: dummy tether.	R3
16/7/22	■ Moved all battery-related safety and charging procedures to separate document: Boxfish Battery Charging Manual. ■ Warning not to look in fibre ports – risk of eye damage due to lasers ■ Care instructions for domes and tethers to prevent breakages ■ How to set local timezone on Control Station ■ Separated regular maintenance procedures from authorised repair procedures and gave each their own chapter. ■ Accessory Box additions.	R2
8/11/21	Branched document from Boxfish ROV Owner's Manual and customised for Boxfish Alpha. Initial release.	R1





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