

Engelsk stil da Greftsprekka ble dykket

English style when diving in Greftsprekka

The dive in Greftsprekka was carried out with relatively "heavyweight" equipment. A drysuit and 2x7 litre sidemounted cylinders were used. Taking a drysuit and thick underclothes was absolutely essential, given the expected temperature of the water. The main problem with taking a drysuit is not the suit itself, but the increased need for lead. 11 kg of lead was required. 8 kg were worn on the waist belt of the divers' harness, the other 3 kg were worn as a chest weight underneath the drysuit. With side-mounted cylinders, moving some of the weight up to the chest gives a better trim. The 7 litre cylinders were perhaps bigger than strictly necessary. However, I wanted to have plenty of gas to allow plenty of time underwater and to allow good safety. Diving in such a remote site puts extra mental pressure on the diver and it is comforting to have plenty of gas in reserve.

The equipment was packed carefully for transport. The regulators and other fragile items were placed inside a "Daren drum". This was then padded with foam sit mats and placed inside a tackle bag. Each cylinder was fitted with a 22 kn tape attached to both the cylinder band and the valve, to provide the necessary security on the vertical sections. Blanking plugs were screwed into the cylinder valves to keep out dirt.

Kitting up for the dive went very smoothly, although it was necessary to be quite careful to avoid getting mud in either the regulators or the zip of the drysuit. The line was tied off and the diving operation began. On the far side (to the north) there is a low passage underwater and a similar passage just above water. Both of these passages are too tight, although the one underwater could possibly be dug to make progress.

The main way on is around the corner of the sump pool at the southern end. Here an obvious rift descends. It gets gradually narrower until 17 m deep. At this point there is a distinctive ledge and the rift below is extremely small. It is possible that further progress could be made by working sideways along the rift to the north. However, visibility was already very poor as air bubbles dislodged large amounts of silt from the walls of the rift. It was therefore not possible to be sure that the line would stay in the correct position (no tie-off could be found). If another attempt is made a stemple belay would be very useful.

The return was uneventful and after packing the equipment the sherpas had a hot meal ready for me, which was first-class service!