WETTAPP Assessment - Situational Awareness Matrix

WETTAPP Factors		Observation What is happening now?	Comprehension What is of concern?	Projection What may happen next?
W	Weather, Sea, and Ice Conditions	**What are the conditions?** • Prevailing weather? • Forecast weather? • Sea state? (chop, swell, direction, and current) • Tide Predictions • Ice, sea ice, and icebergs	• Quantifiable factors e.g.: wind speed • Forecast vs. reality, do they match? • Trends, is anything forecast to get worse or visibly deteriorating? • Do the prevailing and forecast conditions match the objectives of the activity?	• What might result from the projected combination of weather and ice conditions? • How might a change in one or more condition alter the situation and risk? • What does history or experience in this location add to the assessment?
E	Equipment	**What equipment is available and what is its condition?** • Personal equipment • Safety equipment • Small boat - integrity, motor, fuel delivery, battery and equipment • Guest clothing • Shore stranding gear	• Is anything broken? • Are quantities adequate? • Is the equipment fit for purpose? • Are there backups, substitutes or repair capabilities at hand? • Does the equipment pair with staff skills and training?	• How does the type, condition and availability of equipment fit the prevailing and forecast conditions? • What might result from any equipment failure or loss? • Would different equipment change any risk factors?
T	Terrains	**What specific terrain features are at the site?** • What is the gradient of areas guests will be in? • Is there any exposure? • What is the surface condition: loose, slippery? • What wildlife is present? • Do adjacent hazards exist?	• How familiar is the terrain? • Is the team suitably prepared and trained? • How will risks be managed? • What are terrain issues? • Could hazards be hidden?	• What might happen with guests across a range of mobility? • What potential incidents might occur and how would individuals and teams respond? • What would managing an incident look like in this terrain?
T	Traps	**What are the common heuristic traps?** • Have I done an honest self assessment? • Is there team culture for all to perform self assessments?	• Are there any known traps or history of incidents? • Is there elevated pressure associated with objectives? • Is ego a factor? • Are we trusting decisions of others without performing our own assessments?	• What if we reach the objective but can't get back? • What if conditions deteriorate beyond our experience? • What if I am prepared but my partner is not and vice versa?
A	Activity	**What do we plan to do?** • What are the purpose and objectives of this activity? • Is there anything we must or must not do? • Why are we undertaking this activity here?	• What needs to be briefed and have we made adequate time for it? • Are there escape plans and contingencies? • Are planned activities within our operator's permit conditions? • Are there bio-security issues with this activity?	• What are possible scenarios and outcomes for the planned activities at this site? • What are possible incidents that could unfold? • Are the emergency plans and contingencies feasible in this scenario?
P	People	**What is the composition of the group?** • Any pre-existing injuries or conditions? • What are the mobility levels? • Is there anyone that's physically/psychologically at high risk? • Is fatigue a factor? • Am I a hazard?	• Mental alertness and physical state of the guests, staff and crew • Are the skills and ability of guests and team adequate? • Are there any red flags? • Could language barriers present an issue?	• How could any of the observed human factors affect the risk of an incident and a potential response? • Are there ways the group could be changed or managed that might lower risk and improve outcomes? • How could any guests become a factor? • How could any teammates become a factor? • How could I become a factor?
P	Purpose	**What is the specific reason we are doing this?** • Is this the only chance to do this activity right now? • Is this critical to the trip? • Can we do this activity at another time or somewhere else? • Does the whole team share the same understanding of why we're here?	• Are itinerary or commercial pressures carrying more weight than they should? • Are guest expectations or requests nudging our decision? • Is anyone on the team chasing something personal that could cloud their judgement?	• Is the risk worth going through with this activity? • What if our pursuit of our goal unnecessarily puts us in harm's way? • What happens if the team or guests aren't aligned on the plan? • If something goes wrong can we defend our decision to do this activity?

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Credit: Developed from original concept by Matthew Bennett