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South Carolina Aquarium
Dive Operations

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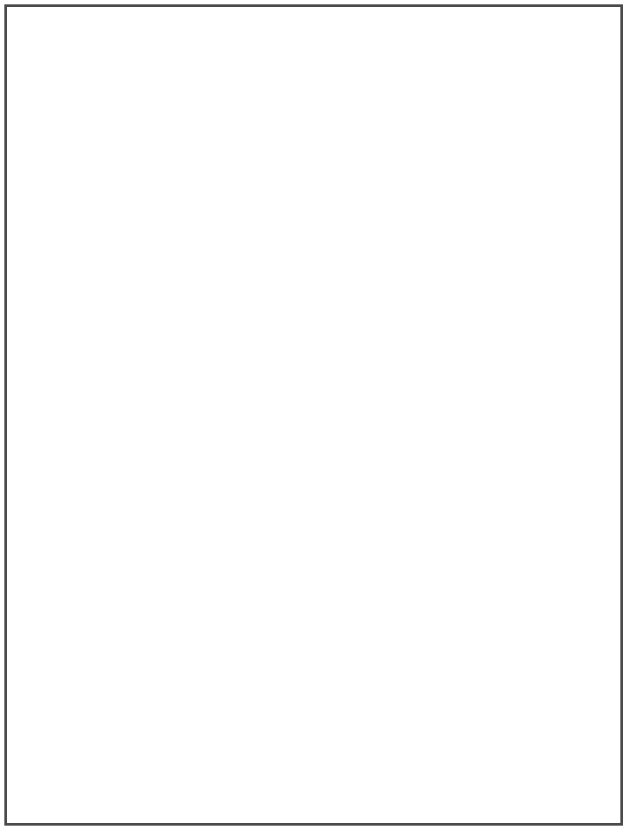
Diver Recall



- Power down the unit
- Remove speaker from water once divers are surfacing
- As soon as cleared from the emergency rinse the speaker off in fresh water, towel dry and return to original location

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Fire Alarms

- If the fire alarm sounds or if there is an announcement of a building evacuation proceed to the nearest fire exit stairway
- Do not use elevators
- If divers are in the water, surface support personnel will use the diver recall to notify divers to begin an immediate ascent
- If no surface support, the first diver exiting the water will use the diver recall for alerting
- Use the dry erase board dive log to confirm that all divers get out of the water
- Once on the surface divers will remove scuba gear, check out on the dry erase board, and exit the building

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Logging Dives

- Dry Erase Dive Log Board
- Paper Log
- AAUS Computerized Individual Dive Log

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Logging Dives - Dive Log Board

Posted PRIOR to Dive	Posted AFTER the Dive
• Name • Tag # • Surface Interval • Buddy • Task/Purpose • PSI In (Tank & RASS) • Time In	• Time Out • Bottom Time • PSI Out

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Logging Dives – Paper Logs

- Information must be transferred from the Dive Log Board to the daily paper log

- Date & acting DPIC must be transferred onto paper log as well

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Logging Dives – AAUS (computerized)

- Divers are required to maintain an individual computerized dive log.
- The computer outside the Dive Locker has the shortcut for this purpose
- Please go to sca.diveaaus.com/ to set up your profile on your first diving day
  - **Username: firstnamelastname (ex. johnsmith)**
  - **Password: scadiver**

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Logging Dives – AAUS (computerized)

- Information from the paper log is used to log each dive in AAUS
- Do not enter dives until after diver exits the water
- Decompression planning is usually

  ☒ Dive Computer: Sherwood
- Purpose: ☒ Commercial

  ☒ (Your task: Presenter, Safety, Observation, Cleaning)
- Specialized Environment: ☒ Aquarium Diving
- Comments: Please us abbreviations for DSO Review

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- Logging "Cheatsheet" is posted above Diver Log Computer

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Dive Gear

- Diver provides wetsuit, booties, gloves, hood and mask
- Personal wrist mount computers are allowed in addition to the Aquarium wrist mount Computers
- Diver also provides swimsuit and towel
- SCA provides everything else
  - **Personal gear like regulators, BCD's, and fins are not allowed without prior approval of the DSO**

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Disinfection / Cross Contamination

- Critical that all dive gear be disinfected properly to avoid contamination
- Any personal dive gear (wet suits, booties, cameras, etc.) must be disinfected before you enter the exhibit
- All gear, including personal gear, should be disinfected at the end of the diving day
- If personal gear is not used between aquarium visits, it can be considered clean

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Disinfect Procedures

- BCDs, wetsuits, cameras will be disinfected by:
  - **Place in disinfect bucket for 10 minute**
  - **Place in freshwater and rinse**
  - **BCDs should be rinsed inside using water hose adapter (please drain!)**
- Fill BCD with air and hang in storage room to dry

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Disinfect – Regulators

- Insure that the first stage cap is in place prior to placing in water
- Rinse regulator in freshwater
- Remove and spray second stage with Birex
- Hang to dry for 10 minutes
- Rinse regulator in freshwater
- Return regulator to gear closet.

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Disinfect – Guardian FFM

- Rinse Guardian Full Face Mask (GFFM) in freshwater
- Spray microphone and inside of mask with Birex
- Hang to dry for 10 minutes
- Rinse GFFM in freshwater
- Return to gear closet

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Disinfect – Hard Surfaces

- The following need to be rinsed in freshwater only for 10 minutes:
  - **Cylinders**
  - **Fins**
  - **Weights**

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Disinfect – Feeding Equipment

- All equipment used in feeding (buckets, tongs, trays, etc.) is to be disinfected in the designated feed disinfect bucket
- Place in disinfect for 10 minutes
- Clean food containers again in food prep
- Return to proper location in food prep

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Problems with Dive Gear

- All broken gear (except tanks) should be given directly to Dive Ops to be tagged and **put on the floor of the compressor room**.
- A problem with a tank such as missing O-ring: tag tank and place on left slot in rack adjacent to the compressor

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Entry

- Use controlled seated entry only
- Check area for animals prior to entering
- Enter water gently to minimize stress on animals
- Signal OK
- Descend with Team

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Exit

- Be aware of any animal activity
- If wearing full face mask, remove it initially
- Remove weights
- Remove BCD
- Remove fins
- Insure all items that went into the exhibit have come out of exhibit

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Safety Stop

- All dives in the GOT will include a safety stop during the ascent
- A safety stop will be a minimum of 3 minutes at a depth between 10 to 20 feet
- Maximum ascent rate of 30 feet per minute

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Animal Interaction

- Become familiar with the habits of certain fish and where they like to hide
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- If you have to move an animal, use ONLY the closed backside of your hand to redirect
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Animal Interaction - Sharks

- We are in “their space”
- Sharks may occasionally bump into a diver
- Report any unusual shark behavior immediately to the DSO or husbandry
- Examples of unusual shark behavior:
  - **Bumping**
  - **Arched back**
  - **Pectoral fins down**
  - **Tight s-curve swimming**
  - **Erratic change in swimming behavior**

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Animal - Sick or Dead

- Notify DSO or husbandry as soon as possible. They will instruct you on what to do
- When reporting on the radio a dead or possibly dead fish in the exhibit use the term “FOB” – Fish On Bottom. Guests of the aquarium may be able to hear transmissions

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Overhead Environments

- There are “caves” in the GOT that is considered an overhead environment
- Prior to a diver entering the caves another diver will be dedicated as a spotter until the diver exits the cave
- Any diver entering the cave should have a functioning dive light

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Buddy System

- No solo diving is permitted in any exhibit without direct proper approval from the Dive Safety Officer

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Safety Diver

- Every dive will have person assigned as safety diver for their task
- Dive task is focused on in-water safety
- Safety diver should be first in and last out
- Hover mid water column
- Signaling device needed
- Constantly looking at divers and animal interactions

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Closing Duties

- Dump all disinfect and rinse buckets
- Turn off and depressurize regulator on emergency dive gear
- Fill and store all tanks
- Insure that ALL logs have been completed (dive and feed)
- Clean and disinfect feeding buckets and return to food prep
- Clean and disinfect feed cart and return to outside of food prep
- Hose down the locker room and spray bleach solution on the floor. Squeegee dry.

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Closing Duties (continued)

- Hose down and squeegee the floor around the GOT
- Ensure all safety lines and gates around GOT are secured
- Alert Security that all divers have exited the water (if not previously done)
- Return radios to charging stands
- Turn off all lights and lock all doors around GOT backup area

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On Show

- Remember, you are always representing the aquarium!
- When in public view:
  - **Wear proper uniform (including name tag)**
  - **Do not talk or text on cell phones**
  - **No food or drink in public areas**

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Night Dives

- Infrequently night dives are scheduled in the GOT for special events or tank cleaning
- All actions required for routine dives will be completed to include checking emergency alarms, cleaning and disinfecting gear

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Unable to Make Your Scheduled Dive

- If you are unable to work your assigned dive day use SCA Diver list server to try to find a replacement diver
  - **Send an email as soon as possible (multiple days in advance) to give other divers time to respond**
- scadiver@scaquarium.org
- If you find that you will not be able to work on short notice, you must also call Security at 843 579-8507
  - **Calling in sick or any other last minute changes**

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When You Should Consider Not Diving

- If you have sinus issues
- If you have open cuts or abrasions
- If your doctor has recommended you not dive
- If you just don't feel "right"
- You can still come in and assist as Surface Support

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Cameras

- Divers are required to ask permission for camera use from the DSO
- Use is supported, but there are some special considerations with lights and animal interaction that need to be discussed
- The aquarium also requests copies of any “good” photos for aquarium use.

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If you have any questions please ask the DSO or Team Leader

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