South Carolina Aquarium
Dive Safety Manual

South Carolina Aquarium

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THE SOUTH CAROLINA AQUARIUM
DIVING SAFETY MANUAL CHANGE REQUEST FORM

Any changes recommended to this manual should be submitted on this form and returned to the Dive Safety Officer and Dive Control Board. Changes can include updated information, suggestions or comments about the manual, and changes that will make it work better. Additional pages may be attached if necessary.

Your ideas and comments are greatly appreciated.

MANUAL SECTION: _____

PAGE #:_____ PARAGRAPH: _____

WHAT IS PRESENTLY STATED IN THIS SECTION? _____

_____

_____

_____

WHAT IS THE CHANGE YOU ARE RECOMMENDING? _____

_____

_____

_____

HOW WILL THIS IMPROVE THE MANUAL? _____

_____

_____

_____

YOUR NAME: _____ GROUP:_____

Volume 1

Sections 1.00 through 6.00

SECTION 1.00 GENERAL POLICY

1.10 Purpose

The purpose of this manual is to ensure that all diving affiliated with The South Carolina Aquarium (SCA) is conducted in a manner that will maximize protection of divers from accidental injury and/or illness. It sets forth standards for The South Carolina Aquarium diving program, the organization for the conduct of this program, standards for training and the basic regulations and procedures for safety in all diving operations. This manual conforms to OSHA 29 Code of Federal Regulations Part 1910 Subpart T.

This manual combines both OSHA commercial diving guidelines and American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS) scientific diving standards, and both the location and task are the basis for which standard is to be used. This manual was developed and written by The South Carolina Aquarium by compiling the policies set forth in the diving manuals and practices of OSHA, AAUS, NOAA, Association of Diving Contractors International (ADCI) Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), Association of Dive Program Administrators (ADPA), various partner aquariums, as well as several universities, private, and governmental scientific diving programs. Many of these programs share a common heritage with the scientific diving program at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO). Adherence to the SIO standards has proven both feasible and effective in protecting the health and safety of scientific divers since 1954.

1.11 Preservation Acts

It is declared that in any emergency situation requiring the rescue and saving of volunteers, staff, and guests, all designated dive safety officers, team leaders, or dive person(s) in charge may act in variance of the dive operation procedures established in this manual. Any diver may deviate from the requirements of this manual to the extent necessary to prevent or minimize a situation that is likely to cause death, physical harm, or major environmental damage. A written report of such actions must be submitted to the Diving Control Board via the Diving Safety Officer explaining the circumstances and justifications.

1.12 Scientific Diving Definition

In 1982, OSHA exempted scientific diving from commercial diving regulations (29 CFR Part 1910, Subpart T) under certain conditions that are outlined below. The final guidelines for the exemption became effective in 1985 (Federal Register, Vol. 50, No.6, p.1046). The AAUS are recognized by OSHA as the scientific diving standard setting organization.

Scientific diving is defined (29 CFR 1910.402) as diving performed solely as a necessary part of a scientific, research, or educational activity by staff (both paid and unpaid) whose sole purpose for diving is to perform scientific research tasks. For dives classified under the Scientific Exemption, SCA uses American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS) for recognized scientific diving programs, the organization for the conduct of these programs, and the basic regulations and procedures for safety in scientific diving operations. It also establishes a framework for reciprocity between AAUS organizational members that adhere to these standards.

1.13 Scientific Diving Exemption

OSHA has granted an exemption for scientific diving from commercial diving regulations under the following guidelines (29 CFR Part 1910 Subpart T Appendix B):

- The Diving Control Board consists of a majority of active scientific divers and has autonomous and absolute authority over the scientific diving program's operation.
- The purpose of the project using scientific diving is the advancement of science; therefore, information and data resulting from the project are non-proprietary.
- The tasks of a scientific diver are those of an observer and data gatherer. Construction and trouble-shooting tasks traditionally associated with commercial diving are not included within scientific diving.
- Scientific divers, based on the nature of their activities, must use scientific expertise in studying the underwater environment, and therefore are scientists or scientists-in-training.

In addition, the scientific diving program shall contain at least the following elements (29CFR1910.401):

- Diving safety manual which includes at a minimum: Procedures covering all diving operations specific to the program; including procedures for emergency care, recompression and evacuation; and the criteria for diver training and certification.
- Diving control (safety) board, with the majority of its members being active scientific divers, which shall at a minimum have the authority to: approve and monitor diving projects, review and revise the diving safety manual, assure compliance with the manual, certify the depths to which a diver has been trained, take disciplinary action for unsafe practices, and assure adherence to the buddy system (a diver is accompanied by and is in continuous contact with another diver in the water) for SCUBA diving.

(See Appendix 1 OSHA Guidelines for Scientific Diving)

1.14 Association of Diving Contractors International - Commercial Diving Standards

Included in the OSHA commercial diving standards revision dated August 11, 2006, OSHA and the U.S. Coast Guard officially recognize the Association of Diving Contractors International (ADCI) standards as the "best established industry practices." The official statement is as follows:

OSHA recognizes the ADCI Consensus Standards for Commercial Diving and Underwater Operations as meeting the general requirements of 29 CFR 1910.420 for a safe practices manual. The contents of this document meet or exceed the requirements of 29 CFR 1910, Subpart T. For diving-related operational, maintenance, and testing matters that are not addressed by OSHA standards, OSHA recognizes ADCI standards as the best established industry practice.

OSHA's recognition of the ADCI standards is consistent with the position taken by the U.S. Coast Guard. In a letter from the U.S. Coast Guard, Chief, Office of Compliance, to the ADCI dated February 9, 2005, the U.S. Coast Guard stated, "Of significance, ADCI's Consensus Standards for Commercial Diving and Underwater Operations fully meet and exceed the Coast Guard's regulatory requirements for commercial diving operations found in 46 CFR 197. Now in its fifth edition, the ADCI Consensus Standards are considered commercial diving industry best practices and are recognized and used by the United States Coast Guard as our comprehensive guidance document."

1.15 Exemption from Federal OSHA Commercial Diving Standards

29 CFR Part 1910, Subpart T, Appendix B (FEDERAL AND STATE AUTHORITY)

Federal OSHA's commercial diving standard covers private-sector employers in federal enforcement States, and employers who dive in association with maritime standards (i.e., shipyard employment, longshoring, and marine terminals) when these operations are not covered by a State with an OSHA-approved State-Plan State and local government employees are covered by the commercial diving standard only in States with State-Plans.

Twenty-one States and one Territory have OSHA-approved State-Plans covering both private and public sector employment: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Oregon, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and Wyoming.

Three States and one Territory (Connecticut, New Jersey, New York and the U.S. Virgin Islands) have approved plans covering State and local government employment only.

California, Michigan, Oregon, and Washington have promulgated State diving standards which differ from the federal standards. The other State-Plans have promulgated diving standards identical to the federal standards at 29 CFR Part 1910, Subpart T.

California, Minnesota, Vermont, and Washington cover certain private sector maritime operations (i.e., shore-based shipyard employment and marine terminals) under their State-Plans. State coverage is set out in the text of this directive and in the appropriate subparts of 29 CFR Part 1952, and is generally limited to shore-based activities not on the navigable waters (graving docks and marine railways are part of navigable waters). For specific guidance, see Section XV, paragraph 9(c) of this directive. Also, Oregon covers commercial diving from all shore-side locations (for definition of dive location see Section XV, paragraph B.11), even in maritime operations such as shipyard employment and marine terminals.

1.16 Review of Standards

An annual report and review of diving activities shall be prepared and submitted to the Diving Control Board (DCB) by The South Carolina Aquarium Diving Safety Officer. At this time any recommendations for modifications of these standards shall be submitted to the DCB for consideration. As part of each organizational member's annual report, any recommendations for modifications of the scientific standards shall be submitted to the AAUS for consideration.

1.17 Liability

In adopting the policies set forth in this manual, The South Carolina Aquarium assumes no liability not otherwise imposed by law. Outside of those South Carolina Aquarium staff members diving in the course of their employment, each diver is assumed under this policy to be voluntarily performing activities for which he/she assumes all risks, consequences, and potential liability.
(See Appendix 10 Liability Release and Assumption of Risk)

1.20 Operational Control

1.21 The South Carolina Aquarium Auspices Defined

For the purposes of these standards, the auspices of The South Carolina Aquarium includes any diving operation in which The South Carolina Aquarium is connected because of ownership of any equipment used, locations selected, or relationship with the individual(s) concerned. This includes all cases involving the operations of employees of The South Carolina Aquarium, where such employees are acting within the scope of their employment, the operations of The South Carolina Aquarium volunteers and other persons who are engaged in diving with The South Carolina Aquarium.

It is The South Carolina Aquarium's responsibility to adhere to the OSHA guidelines set forth in the South Carolina Aquarium Dive Safety and Operations Manual. The South Carolina Aquarium will appoint a Diving Safety Officer, and a Diving Control Board to oversee all diving operations. The administration of the diving program will reside with the Diving Control Board (DCB). The decisions of the Diving Control Board shall be final.
The regulations herein shall be observed at all locations where diving is conducted.

1.22 The South Carolina Aquarium's Diving Safety Manual

The South Carolina Aquarium shall develop and maintain a diving safety manual that provides for the development and implementation of policies and procedures that will enable it to meet requirements of local environments and conditions as well as to comply with OSHA dive guidelines. The South Carolina Aquarium's diving standards shall include, but not be limited to:

- OSHA commercial dive guidelines
- The AAUS Standards have been used as a set of minimal guidelines for the development of the South Carolina Aquarium's scientific diving safety program.
- Emergency evacuation and medical treatment procedures.
- The criteria for diver training and certification.
- Standards written or adopted by reference for each diving mode utilized which include the following:
  - Safety procedures for the diving operation.
  - Responsibilities of the dive team members.
  - Equipment use and maintenance procedures.
  - Emergency procedures.

1.23 The Diving Safety Officer (DSO)

The Diving Safety Officer (DSO) serves as a member of the Diving Control Board. He/She should have broad technical and scientific expertise in related diving.

Qualifications:

- Shall be appointed by the Executive Director of the South Carolina Aquarium or his/her designee, with the advice and counsel of the Diving Control Board (DCB). Reports to the DCB for issues pertaining to daily diving activities, record keeping, diver training and safety.

- Shall be trained as a scientific diver.
- Shall be a member as defined by the AAUS.
- Shall be an active underwater SCUBA diving instructor certified through an internationally recognized dive training agency.
- Shall be a paid staff member.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Shall be responsible, through the DCB, to the Executive Director of the South Carolina Aquarium or his/her designee, for the conduct of the diving program of the South Carolina Aquarium. The routine operational authority for this program, including the conduct of training and certification, approval of dive plans, maintenance of diving records, and ensuring compliance with this manual and all relevant regulations of The South Carolina Aquarium, rests with the Diving Safety Officer.
- May permit portions of this program to be carried out by a qualified delegate, although the Diving Safety Officer may not delegate responsibility for the safe conduct of the local diving program.
- Shall be guided in the performance of the required duties by the advice of the DCB, but the Diving Safety Officer will retain operational responsibility for the conduct of the local diving program.
- Shall suspend diving operations that he/she considers to be unsafe or unwise.
- Shall develop, in conjunction with the Diving Control Board chair, the agenda for the DCB meetings and file yearly reports.

1.24 The Diving Control Board

The Diving Control Board (DCB) shall consist of a majority of active divers. Voting members shall include the Diving Safety Officer, the responsible administrative officer, or his/her designee, and should include other representatives of the diving program such as qualified divers and members selected by procedures established by The South Carolina Aquarium. A chairperson and a secretary may be chosen from the membership of the board according to local procedure. The DCB will meet annually unless merited by extenuating circumstances.

South Carolina Aquarium voting members shall include:

- Director of Husbandry and Facilities
- DSO
- Paid Husbandry staff diver
- 3 Active Volunteer diver representatives
- Curator
- Medical Advisor
- Assistant Dive Safety Officer (ADSO)

The Diving Control Board:

- Has autonomous and absolute authority over the diving program's operation.
- Shall approve and monitor diving projects.
- Shall review and revise the diving safety manual.

- Shall assure compliance with the manual.
- Shall certify the depths to which a diver has been trained.
- Shall take disciplinary action for unsafe practices.
- Shall assure adherence to proper staffing requirements for all diving.
- Is the final board of appeal to consider diver-related problems.
- Recommends the issue, re-issue, or the revocation of diving certificates.
- Recommends changes in policy and amendments to The South Carolina Aquarium Diving Safety Manual as the need arises.
- Establishes and/or approves training programs through which the applicants for certification can satisfy the requirements of this manual.
- Shall suspend diving programs that it considers to be unsafe or unwise.
- Shall establish criteria for equipment selection and use.
- Shall recommend new equipment or techniques.
- Shall establish and/or approve facilities for the inspection and maintenance of diving and associated equipment.
- Shall ensure that The South Carolina Aquarium's air station(s) meet air quality standards as described in Section 3.60 of this manual.
- Shall periodically review the Diving Safety Officer's performance and program.
- Shall sit as a board of investigation to inquire into the nature and cause of diving accidents or violations of this manual.
- Is committed to and recognizes that open water diving requirements are different from that of confined water (exhibit) diving and always maintains a clear distinction between the two.
- Understands and promotes the benefits of diver supervision (as outlined in this manual) but believes that ultimate responsibility for diving competency and proper (safe) dive planning and execution lies with the individual diver or team.
- Understands that "entry-level" diver training only qualifies a diver to engage in open water diving activities under supervision, provided the diving activities, methods/techniques, sea/weather conditions, equipment, and areas dived approximate those in which the diver has been trained.
- The DSO of The South Carolina Aquarium, or his/her designee, shall act as the official representative of The South Carolina Aquarium DCB in matters concerning the diving program.

1.25 Instructional Personnel

Qualifications:

- All personnel involved in diving instruction under the auspices of The South Carolina Aquarium shall be qualified for the type of instruction being given.

Selection:

- The Diving Safety Officer or his/her designee, who will solicit the advice of the DCB in conducting preliminary screening of applicants for instructional positions, will select instructional personnel. All instructional personnel must be active and insured with their respective diver training organization.

1.26 Dive Person in Charge

For each dive, one paid staff individual shall be designated as the Dive Person in Charge (DPIC). He/she shall be at the location during the diving operation.

The DPIC shall be responsible for:

- Coordination with other known activities in the vicinity that are likely to interfere with diving operations.
- Ensuring all dive team members possess current certification and are qualified for the type of diving operation.
- Planning dives in accordance with Section 2.21
- Ensuring that all divers make the required safety stop upon ascent.
- Ensuring safety and emergency equipment is in working order and at the dive site.
- Briefing the dive team members on:
  - Dive objectives.
  - Unusual hazards or environmental conditions likely to affect the safety of the dive.
  - Modifications to diving or emergency procedures necessitated by the specific diving operation.
- Suspending diving operations if in his/her opinion conditions are not safe.
- Reporting to the DSO and DCB any physical problems or adverse physiological effects including, but not limited to, symptoms of pressure-related injuries.

1.30 Reciprocity and Visiting Scientific Diver

Two or more AAUS Organizational Members engaged jointly in diving activities, or engaged jointly in the use of diving resources, shall designate one of the participating Diving Control Boards to govern the joint dive project.

A diver from The South Carolina Aquarium shall apply for permission to dive under the auspices of another Organizational Member by submitting to the Diving Safety Officer of the host Organizational Member a document containing all the information described in Appendix 7. (Letter of Reciprocity) signed by the Diving Safety Officer, Assistant Dive Safety Officer, or Chairperson of the South Carolina Aquarium Diving Control Board.

A visiting diver may be asked to demonstrate his/her knowledge and skills for the planned diving. An example of items to be demonstrated is presented in Section 5.20.

If a host Organizational Member denies a visiting diver permission to dive, the host Diving Control Board shall notify the visiting diver and his/her Diving Control Board with an explanation of all reasons for the denial.

1.40 Waiver of Requirements

The South Carolina Aquarium Diving Control Board may grant a waiver for specific requirements of training, examinations, depth certification, and minimum activity to maintain certification. Medical examination requirements may not be waived.

1.50 Consequences of Violations of Regulations by SCA Divers

Failure to comply with the regulations of The South Carolina Aquarium's Diving Manual may be cause for the revocation or restriction of the diver's diving privilege by action of The South Carolina Aquarium's Diving Control Board.

SCA divers found in violation of any dive standards shall be subject to immediate verbal and written warning. A copy of the warning shall be sent to the diver's supervisor for record keeping purposes and performance evaluation. One serious offense, two violations of the same standard or three total violations shall result in temporary suspension from active dive status. Continued violation of the standards shall be managed on a case by case basis.

1.60 CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLATION OF REGULATIONS BY ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS

Failure to comply with the regulations of this standard may be cause for the revocation or restriction of The South Carolina Aquarium's recognition by the AAUS and potential OSHA violations.

1.70 RECORD MAINTENANCE

The Diving Safety Officer or his/her designee shall maintain permanent records for each individual diver certified. The file shall include evidence of certification level, log sheets, results of current physical examination, waiver, reports of disciplinary actions by the organizational member Diving Control Board, and other pertinent information deemed necessary.
Availability of Records:
Medical records shall be available to the attending physician of a diver or former diver when released in writing by the diver.
The South Carolina Aquarium shall retain records and documents required by this standard for the following period:

- Physician's written reports of medical examinations for dive team members - 5 years.
- Manual for diving safety - current document only.
- Records of dive - 1 year, except 5 years where there has been an incident of pressure related injury.
- Pressure-related injury assessment - 5 years.
- Equipment inspection and testing records - current entry or tag, or until equipment is withdrawn from service.

SECTION 2.00 DIVING REGULATIONS FOR SCUBA (OPEN CIRCUIT, COMPRESSED AIR)

2.10 Introduction

No person shall engage in diving operations under the auspices of The South Carolina Aquarium diving program unless he/she holds a current certificate issued pursuant to the provisions of this manual.

2.20 Pre-Dive Procedures

2.21 Dive Plans

All exhibit and open water diving should be planned around the competency of the least experienced diver. Before conducting any diving operations under the auspices of The South Carolina Aquarium, the DPIC for a proposed operation must formulate a dive plan that should include the following:

- Diver qualifications and the type of certificate or certification held by each diver.
- Each staff diver shall be currently certified, trained, and qualified for the diving mode being used, and each dive team member shall have experience or training in the following:
  - The use of the instruments and equipment appropriate to the diving activity to be conducted.
  - Dive planning and emergency procedures.
  - Diving-related physics and physiology, recognition of pressure related injuries, and the appropriate emergency treatments.

2.22 Emergency plan (see Appendix 8) should be filled out with the following information:

- Name; telephone number, and relationship of person to be contacted for each diver in the event of an emergency.
- Nearest operational recompression chamber
- Nearest accessible hospital
- Available means of transport
- Approximate number of proposed dives.
- Location(s) of proposed dives.
- Estimated depth(s) and bottom time(s) anticipated.
- Decompression status and repetitive dive plans, if required.
- Proposed work, equipment, and boats to be employed.
- Any hazardous conditions anticipated

2.23 Pre-dive Safety Checks

Diver's Responsibility:

- Each diver shall conduct a functional check of his/her diving equipment in the presence of the diving buddy, tender, or standby.
- It is the diver's responsibility and duty to refuse to dive if, in his/her judgment, conditions are unfavorable, or if he/she would be violating the precepts of his/her training, of this manual, or the organizational member's diving manual.
- No dive team member shall be required to be exposed to hyperbaric conditions against his/her will, except when necessary to prevent or treat a pressure-related injury.
- No dive team member shall be permitted to dive for the duration of any known condition which is likely to adversely affect the safety and health of the diver or other dive members.

- A mandatory safety stop shall be made at 15' for 3 minutes before exiting the water during open water diving and dives in the Great Ocean Tank.
- The diver shall terminate the dive while there is still sufficient tank pressure to permit the diver to safely reach the surface including safety stops.

Equipment Evaluations:

- Each diver shall insure that his/her equipment is in proper working order and that the equipment is suitable for the type of diving operation.
- Each diver shall have the capability of achieving and maintaining positive buoyancy throughout the dive.

Site Evaluation:

- The environmental conditions at the site will be evaluated.

2.30 Diving Procedures

2.31 Solo Diving Prohibition

All diving under the auspices of The South Carolina Aquarium shall be planned and executed in such a manner as to ensure proper manning requirements and constant effective communication based on the job task and dive environment.

Diving should be planned around the competency of the least experienced person. If loss of effective communication occurs within a team, all persons in that team shall surface and re-establish contact.

Normal diving procedure in the GOT permits at least two divers on SCUBA to work together (one Safety diver and one or more Working diver(s)) in conjunction with a Standby diver and a DPIC.

A standby diver shall be available topside at the dive location while divers are in the water for all operation in the Great Ocean Tank. The Standby Diver must be trained and willing to respond in an emergency.

An in-water Safety diver is required for all normal commercial dive operations in the Great Ocean Tank.

Under special considerations and approval from DPIC, a SCUBA diver on full face mask communications can be line tended and have a standby diver on ready.

Open water diving requires a buddy system for divers on SCUBA for all dives. A Standby diver will be available on the boat or shore.

2.32 Refusal to Dive

The decision to dive is that of the diver. A diver may refuse to dive, without fear of penalty, whenever he/she feels it is unsafe for them to make the dive (see Section 2.23).
Safety - The ultimate responsibility for safety rests with the individual diver. It is the diver's responsibility and duty to refuse to dive if, in his/her judgment, conditions are unsafe or unfavorable, or if he/she would be violating the precepts of his/her training or the regulations in this manual.

2.33 Termination of the Dive

It is the responsibility of the diver to terminate the dive, without fear of penalty, whenever he/she feels it is unsafe to continue the dive, unless it compromises the safety of another diver already in the water (see Section 2.23).
The dive shall be terminated while there is still sufficient cylinder pressure to permit the diver to safely reach the surface, including decompression time, or to safely reach an additional air source at the decompression station.

2.34 Emergency Deviation from Standards

Any diver may deviate from the requirements of this manual to the extent necessary to prevent or minimize a situation that is likely to cause death, serious physical harm, or major environmental damage. A written report of such actions must be submitted to the Diving Control Board explaining the circumstances and justifications

2.35 Enclosed or Confined Spaces

Where an enclosed or confined space is not large enough for two divers, a diver shall be stationed at the underwater point of entry and an orientation line shall be used. Divers participating in SCA-sanctioned open water diving, are not authorized to enter overhead environments unless the buddy team is trained, has the need, been approved by the DSO, and is equipped and certified to do so.

2.40 Post-Dive Procedures

2.41 Post Dive Safety Check

After the completion of a dive, each diver shall report any physical problems, symptoms of decompression sickness, or equipment malfunctions.
If a diver accidentally exceeds the no-decompression limits, he/she should remain awake for at least one hour after diving, and in the company of a dive team member who is prepared to transport him/her to a hyperbaric chamber if necessary.

2.50 Emergency Procedures

Diving shall not be conducted unless procedures have been established for emergency evacuation of the diver(s) to a hyperbaric chamber or appropriate medical facility, and these procedures have been approved by The South Carolina Aquarium Diving Control Board. (Appendix 8)

2.51 Open Water Diving Emergency Procedures

These procedures should be followed in the event of an accident (unless otherwise specified):

On a boat:

- Administer proper First Aid, including oxygen, CPR, and AED
- Notify the nearest Coast Guard Base—VHF Radio Ch. 16; coordinate emergency response and transportation procedures with them.
- Record dive profile, personal information and accident/symptom descriptions for emergency personnel. (Appendix 9)

- Notify the Divers Alert network (DAN) at 1-800-446-2671 or (919) 684-9111.
- Notify the DSO

On land, off property:

- Administer proper First Aid, including oxygen, CPR, and AED
- Notify the Emergency Medical System (EMS)- Telephone # 911.
- Advise the EMS of your situation and location; coordinate emergency response and transportation procedures with them.
- Record dive profile, personal information and accident/symptom descriptions for emergency personnel. (Appendix 9)
- Notify the Divers Alert network (DAN) at 1-800-446-2671 or (919) 684-9111.
- Notify the DSO

2.52 Exhibit Diving Emergency Procedures:

Administer proper First Aid, including oxygen, CPR, and AED.

Call the South Carolina Aquarium Security on channel 1 or at 579-8507.

DO NOT CALL 911—Security will coordinate the response with in-house personnel, the EMS and contact the DSO.

Describe your location, emergency situation and any specifics needed to help with the response.

Exhibit Diver Evacuation Procedures

The objective of these procedures is to preserve life, prevent further injury or worsening of a condition, and promote recovery.

Great Ocean Tank: Activate alarm system. Stabilize victim at surface. Extract diver with Stokes Basket. Check for pulse and breathing. Administer CPR, AED, Emergency Oxygen and First Aid if required.

Carolina Seas: Activate alarm system. Stabilize victim at surface. Extract diver with cinch collar. Check for pulse and breathing. Administer CPR, AED, Emergency Oxygen and First Aid if required.

Ocean Floor Transect, Rocky Reef, Saltmarsh, Sea Turtles, Shark Shallows and Other Small Exhibits or Backup tanks: Notify Security at once via phone or radio. Stabilize victim at surface. Extract diver with spine board. Check for pulse and breathing. Administer CPR, AED, Emergency Oxygen and First Aid if required.

First Aid Supplies

There is a Backboard, DAN Oxygen Kit (O2), AED, First Aid Kit, Ring Buoy, Stokes Basket and a 15' Rescue Hook located at the entrance to the Great Ocean Tank.

There is a First Aid Kit, Backboard and Cinch Collar located at Carolina Seas.

There is a First Aid Kit and Backboard available at all other exhibits.

There is an Emergency Oxygen unit attached to the surface supply cart.

There is an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) located on each floor of the aquarium.

A First Aid Kit, Emergency Oxygen Unit, and AED will be available at all open water dive sites.

First Aid Procedures

The following information outlines the first aid procedures for diving-related injuries. Professional medical treatment procedures will not be discussed; only immediate and temporary aid is described.

First Aid Priorities - Primary Assessment

In the event of an accident or sudden illness, it is necessary to act quickly; but it is equally important to know *what to do and what the correct priority for action is.* For example, both a superficial cut and respiratory failure require immediate action. However, should both problems occur simultaneously, first aid priorities (in addition to common sense) dictate that response to the respiratory failure should occur before attending to the superficial cut. Diving related causes of respiratory failure include obstructed airway, near drowning, cardiac failure (most common in diving emergencies), head injuries, adverse (allergic) reaction to marine-life wounds (poison), or decompression illness (DCI).

A *Primary Assessment* is to be done in the position in which the victim is found except when the victim must be removed from a life-threatening situation. Examples, surfacing an unconscious, non-breathing diver. Listed in correct order are the steps included in a primary assessment:

1) AROUSAL/CHECK FOR CONSCIOUSNESS
2) CHECK FOR PULSE
3) ESTABLISH AN AIRWAY
4) CHECK FOR BREATHING
5) CHECK FOR BLEEDING
6) SHOCK MANAGEMENT

Unconscious Diver

In the event that a diver is found unconscious in the Great Ocean Tank or other exhibits, the following steps should be taken:

1) Activate alarm system. Security will notify 911 and the DSO
2) Get diver to platform.
3) Remove gear from diver. (*Do not disassemble the patient's gear*)
4) Get diver on Stokes basket, cinch collar, or spine board depending on exhibit
5) Remove patient from water.
6) Make a Primary Assessment
7) Start **CPR** at once if needed.
8) Ready the AED
9) Provide Oxygen First Aid.

Evacuating Diver

In the event of a diving related emergency, the diver will need to be transported. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO TRANSPORT DIVER VIA THE FREIGHT ELEVATOR. Notify security of your location, stabilize the patient there and wait for EMS to respond. Wait with stabilized patient at the original location until the arrival of EMS, at which time EMS will transport patient down the elevator. Once Security has activated EMS (**9-1-1**), they will dispatch an individual to position Freight Elevator.

Basic Life Support

A primary assessment of a patient may indicate the need for ***B****asic* ***L****ife* ***S****upport*.

BLS includes those emergency lifesaving procedures designed to treat failure of the respiratory or cardiovascular system. Diving-related causes of respiratory failure include obstructed airway, near drowning, cardiac failure, head injury, and severe reaction to marine-life wounds or poisoning.

When a patient does not respond to being aroused during a primary assessment, place him in a horizontal position, face up, and on a firm surface. Quickly loosen the wet suit or remove restrictive equipment.

When an individual is in a life-threatening position, the following steps should be taken:

1) Activate diver alarm.
2) Security will notify DSO and husbandry staff.

3) Begin **CPR** if needed. Once CPR is started, continue until spontaneous breathing and heartbeat occur or until patient is turned over to another equally trained person.
4) Ready AED as soon as possible
5) Provide 100% emergency oxygen
6) Once EMS has arrived at The South Carolina Aquarium they will be escorted by security to location of the patient.
7) Patient will be turned over to EMS, and SCA personnel will assist EMS with evacuating patient.

2.60 Flying After Diving Or Ascending to Altitude (over 1000 feet)

- Following a Single No-Decompression Dive: Divers should have a minimum preflight surface interval of 12 hours.
- Following Multiple Dives per Day or Multiple Days of Diving: Divers should have a minimum preflight surface interval of 18 hours.
- Following Dives Requiring Decompression Stops: Divers should have a minimum preflight surface interval of 24 hours.
- Before ascending to Altitude above (1000 feet) by Land Transport: Divers should follow the appropriate guideline for preflight surface intervals unless the decompression procedure used has accounted for the increase in elevation.

2.70 Recordkeeping and Requirements

2.71 Personal Diving Log

Each diver shall log every dive made under the auspices of The South Carolina Aquarium's program, and is encouraged to log all other dives. All divers will record their daily dives in the written dive log kept by the DSO. All divers will also record their dives on the computerized individual dive log at http://sca.diveaaus.com/ . All logs will be accessible by the DSO at any time for review but may be read-only protected by individuals to prevent tampering. The dive log shall be in a format specified by the organization and/or shall include the following:

- Name of diver and buddy
- Date and location
- Diving modes used.
- General nature of diving activity
- Approximate surface and water conditions (open water)
- Maximum depth, bottom and surface-interval times
- Diving tables or computers used
- Detailed report of any near or actual incidents.

2.72 Required Incident Reporting

All diving incidents requiring recompression treatment, hospitalization of more than 24 hours, or resulting in moderate or serious injury, or death shall be reported to The South Carolina Aquarium's Diving Control Board and AAUS for scientific dives. The South Carolina Aquarium's regular procedures for incident reporting, including those required by the OSHA, shall be followed. The report will specify the circumstances of the incident and the extent of any injuries or illnesses.

Additional information must meet the following reporting requirements:
The South Carolina Aquarium shall record and report occupational injuries and illnesses in accordance with requirements of the appropriate Labor Code Section and The South Carolina Aquarium policy.
If pressure-related injuries are suspected, or if symptoms are evident, the following additional information shall be recorded and retained by the organizational member, with the record of the dive, for a period of 5 years:

The acting DPIC shall complete the Incident Report Form (Appendix9).
Written descriptive report to include:

- Name, address, phone numbers of the principal parties involved.
- Summary of experience of divers involved.
- Location, description of dive sites and description of conditions that led up to incident.
- Description of symptoms, including depth and time of onset.
- Description and results of treatment.
- Disposition of case.
- Recommendations to avoid repetition of incident.

The DSO shall investigate and document any incident of pressure-related injury and prepare a report that is to be forwarded to the AAUS during the annual reporting cycle. This report must first be reviewed and released by the Diving Control Board.

SECTION 3.00 DIVING EQUIPMENT

3.10 General Policy

All equipment shall meet standards as determined by the Diving Safety Officer and the Diving Control Board. Equipment that is subjected to extreme usage under adverse conditions should require more frequent testing and maintenance. Equipment such as full facemasks, regulators, SCUBA bottles, BC's, reserve breathing supplies, etc., that provide direct life support shall be the type familiar to the diver and subject to a planned maintenance system. Due to the life-support nature of diving, personnel involved in the operation, maintenance, and repair of diving systems and equipment shall have appropriate training and experience in the type of equipment used. The Dive Office shall ensure that all diving systems and equipment have been examined and tested to the extent necessary to determine its condition and suitability for service.

All equipment shall be regularly examined by the person using them.

3.20 Equipment

3.21 Regulators

- Only those makes and models specifically approved by the Diving Safety Officer and the Diving Control Board shall be used.
- Inspection and testing.
- SCUBA regulators shall be inspected and tested prior to first use and every six months thereafter.
- Be serviced annually or more frequently in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Primary regulators will consist of a first stage, primary second stage, a pressure gauge, and an alternate air source, (such as an octopus second stage or redundant air supply) and a low pressure inflator (LPI) hose.
- Reserve Air Systems will have a first stage, second stage, and a pressure gauge.
- Regulators shall be able to deliver the proper pressure and flow to the diver.
- Regulators shall be fitted with a dust cap.

3.22 Breathing Full Face Masks and Helmets

Breathing masks and helmets shall:

- Contain a first stage, second stage, LPI hose, and HP pressure gauge when used for SCUBA.
- Be serviced annually in accordance with the manufactures recommendations
- Have a visual and performance test including a check of the intermediate and inhalation break pressures every six months.
- Be fitted with a dust cap.
- Have a non-return valve at the attachment point between helmet or mask hose, which shall close readily and positively.
- Have an exhaust valve.
- Have a minimum ventilation rate capable of maintaining the diver at the depth to which he/she is diving.

3.23 SCUBA Cylinders

- SCUBA cylinders shall be designed, constructed, and maintained in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Unfired Pressure Vessel Safety Orders.
- SCUBA cylinders must be hydrostatically tested every 5 years in accordance with DOT/CGA standards.
- SCUBA cylinders must have an internal inspection at intervals not to exceed twelve months.
- SCUBA cylinder valves shall be functionally tested at intervals not to exceed twelve months.

3.24 Diver's Dress

Diver's dress shall be suitable for the job intended, considering such factors as thermal conditions, and may include the following:

- Full wetsuit or drysuits
- Neoprene booties
- Gloves
- Hood

Divers must keep them clean, disinfected, and presentable.

3.25 Harnesses

Harnesses shall:

- Be made of material of suitable strength to lift the diver and their equipment from the water
- Have a mechanical quick release between the harness and the umbilical during commercial operations
- Be constructed and fitted to prevent an unconscious diver from slipping free of the harness, or from a strain being placed on the full facemask or regulator
- Shall be capable of a quick release of the weight system
- Be designed to prevent restriction of the diver's breathing when their full weight is supported by the harness
- A positive buckling device when used for surface-supplied diving

3.26 Weight Belts

Weight belts shall:

- Be of sufficient weight to maintain the diver at the working depth or at neutral buoyancy
- Not be used as an attachment point for the diving umbilical during surface-supplied dive operations
- Be capable of quick release
- Be attached to the diver in a manner to avoid accidental disengagement
- BCD's with integrated weight systems may be used

3.27 Diver-Carried Reserve Breathing Supply

Reserve breathing supply shall:

- Have a cylinder meeting Section 3.23
- Have a regulator on the cylinder capable of delivering the proper pressure and flow to the diver
- Have a means of attachment which prevents accidental detachment
- Be of sufficient capacity to permit return of the diver to the surface at a travel rate of
  - 33 ft. (10m) per minute.

**NOTE FROM FED OSHA 29 CFR 1910.424(c)(4)(5): A Spare Air® bottle, or equivalent device, that is attached positively to the diver by a suitable line (so that the bottle is not lost if dropped) is sufficient as an independent reserve cylinder, provided that it meets the emergency air volume requirements for the dive profile. Spare Air® is the trade name for a small, high-pressure air bottle with an attached breathing regulator that is designed for use as an emergency-air source.*

3.28 Hoses

General

Flexible hoses used with diving systems or equipment shall:

- Have a minimum burst pressure equal to four (4) times the Maximum Allowable Working Pressure (M.A.W.P.)
- Have a M.A.W.P. and flow rating not less than the system in which it is installed or used and be suitable for the service intended
- Have connectors with pressure capability equal to or greater than the hose on which they are installed, made of corrosion-resistant materials, and be resistant to accidental disengagement from either the hose or mating connector
- Be kink resistant or arranged to prevent kinking
- Be subjected to annual visual examination and pressure test to 1.5 times the working pressure
- Have their open ends taped, capped or plugged when not in use

Breathing Gas Hoses

Breathing gas hose assemblies shall:

- Be made of corrosion-resistant materials including cadmium or zinc plated material
- Be suitable for breathing gas service
- Have a maximum allowable working pressure equal to or greater than maximum depth of dive relative to supply source plus 150 PSI
- Be of suitable design to prevent collapse when used for operation with higher external pressure than internal pressure
- Be resistant to accidental disengagement from either the hose or the mating connector

3.29 Umbilicals

South Carolina Aquarium dive umbilicals used for commercial operations shall:

- Be subjected to a planned annual maintenance program
- Consist of a breathing hose, communications cable, and strength member rating
- Have strength members made of material unaffected by immersion in water for extended periods
- Be marked in 10-ft increments to 100 feet beginning at the diver and then 50-ft increments thereafter.

3.30 Flotation Devices

- Each diver shall have the capability of achieving and maintaining positive buoyancy.
- Personal flotation systems, buoyancy compensators, dry suits, or other variable volume buoyancy compensation devices shall be equipped with an exhaust valve.
- These devices shall be functionally inspected and tested at intervals not to exceed twelve months.
- For all open water dives, or exhibit dives with SCUBA gear, each diver shall wear equipment that has been approved by the DCB
    - Drysuits are not to be used without a separate buoyancy control device (BCD).

- BCDs are not required by divers diving in the exhibits while on surface supplied diving mode.
- BCDs must be capable of providing the diver with positive floatation at the surface.
- Wetsuits, drysuits and BCDs are not acceptable substitutes for the Coast Guard approved personal floatation devices required for the operator and all passengers on boats.

3.31 Timing Devices, Depth and Pressure Gauges During Open-Water Dives

- Both members of the diving pair must have an underwater timing device, an approved depth indicator, and a submersible pressure gauge. Depth gauges are not required in the exhibits, since all exhibit diving is conducted with known max depths. Depth gauges will always be used for open water diving activities.
- Gauges shall be inspected and tested before first use and every twelve months thereafter.
- Submersible pressure gauges shall be tested against a master gauge at intervals not to exceed six months.
- Each depth gauge shall be tested or calibrated every six months and when there is reasonable cause to believe a discrepancy exists

3.32 Determination of Decompression Status: Dive Tables, Dive Computers

A set of diving tables, approved by the Diving Control Board, must be available at the dive location. These tables must be as conservative as the United States Navy Diving Tables, and the SCA divers will not exceed the No Decompression Limits (NDLs) or Maximum Dive Times (MDTs).

Dive computers may be utilized in place of diving tables, and must be approved by the Diving Control Board. Dive Computer training is required.

See Section 3.46 for recommendations on dive computers.

3.33 Dive Tables

No Decompression Table

The US Navy Diving No-Decompression table (Table 9-7) gives the maximum time that can be spent at a given depth without the need for decompression stops during the subsequent ascent to the surface. At depths of 20 FSW and shallower, there is no limit on the amount of time that can be spent at depth. Deeper than 20 FSW, the time that can be spent is limited.

The No-Decompression Table also provides the repetitive group designators for dives that fall within the no-decompression limits. Even though no decompression stops are required during ascent, the diver still surfaces with some residual nitrogen in their tissues. This residual nitrogen needs to be accounted for if a repetitive dive is planned.

Table 9-7 No-Decompression Limits and Repetitive Group Designators for No-Decompression Dives																	
depth (fsw)	No-Stop Time Limit	Repetitive Group Designation (RGD)															
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	Z
10	Unlimited	57	101	158	245	426	*										
15	Unlimited	36	60	88	121	163	217	297	449	*							
20	Unlimited	26	43	61	82	106	133	165	205	256	330	461	*				
25	595	20	33	47	62	78	97	117	140	166	198	236	285	354	469	595	
30	371	17	27	38	50	62	76	91	107	125	145	167	193	223	260	307	371
35	232	14	23	32	42	52	63	74	87	100	115	131	148	168	190	215	232
40	163	12	20	27	36	44	53	63	73	84	95	108	121	135	151	163	
45	125	11	17	24	31	39	46	55	63	72	82	92	102	114	125		
50	92	9	15	21	28	34	41	48	56	63	71	80	89	92			
55	74	8	14	19	25	31	37	43	50	56	63	71	74				
60	60	7	12	17	22	28	33	39	45	51	57	60					
70	48	6	10	14	19	23	28	32	37	42	47	48					
80	39	5	9	12	16	20	24	28	32	36	39						
90	30	4	7	11	14	17	21	24	28	30							
100	25	4	6	9	12	15	18	21	25								
110	20	3	6	8	11	14	16	19	20								
120	15	3	5	7	10	12	15										
130	10	2	4	6	9	10											
140	10	2	4	6	8	10											
150	5	2	3	5													

*Highest repetitive group that can be achieved at this depth regardless of bottom time

Figure 9-7 U.S. Navy Diving Manual – Volume 2 Revision 6 pg. 9-62

3.34 Auxiliary Equipment

Hand held underwater power tools.
Electrical tools and equipment used underwater shall be specifically approved for the intended purpose of use. Electrical tools and equipment supplied with power from the surface shall be de-energized before being placed into or retrieved from the water. Hand held power tools should not be supplied with power from the dive location until requested by the diver.

3.40 Support Equipment

3.41 First aid supplies.

First aid kit, emergency oxygen, and AED shall be available at all dive exhibits and when offshore.

3.42 Diver's Flag

A diver's flag shall be displayed prominently whenever diving is conducted under circumstances where required or where water traffic is probable.

3.43 Compressor Systems – South Carolina Aquarium Controlled

The following will be considered in design and location of compressor systems:

- Low-pressure compressors used to supply air to the diver if equipped with a volume tank shall have a check valve on the inlet side, a relief valve, and a drain valve.
- Compressed air systems over 500 psig shall have slow-opening shut-off valves.
- All air compressor intakes shall be located away from areas containing exhaust or other contaminants.
- Shall meet required service and record keeping in Section 3.52

3.44 SCUBA Cylinder Fill Station

All divers are required to be trained and certified in accordance to Professional SCUBA Inspectors (PSI) Cylinder Hazmat Fill Station Compliance guidelines. All divers are required to refill SCUBA cylinders they have used. Cylinders shall be filled at the SCUBA fill station blast chamber in the dive hallway or compressor room and done in accordance with the posted Fill Station Operator Checklist. Only cylinders owned and maintained by SCA shall be filled by the SCA compressor unless the DSO specifically authorizes otherwise. The Dive Office will be responsible for the training and evaluating of divers in the proper use of the fill stations.

3.45 Oxygen Systems

- Equipment used with oxygen or mixtures containing over forty percent (40%) by volume oxygen shall be designed and maintained for oxygen service.
- Components exposed to oxygen or mixtures containing over forty percent (40%) by volume oxygen shall be cleaned of flammable materials before being placed into service.
- Oxygen systems over 125 psig shall have slow-opening shut-off valves.

3.46 Dive Computers

Only those models of dive computers specifically approved by the Dive Safety Officer (DSO) may be used.

Any diver desiring the approval to use a dive computer as a means of determining decompression status must apply to the DSO.

Dive computer training will include:

- Personal instruction and diver access to all literature supplied by the computer manufacturer, including display interpretation, proper operation and basic maintenance.

- A written examination covering basic decompression theory, specifics on the computer to be used, computer diving safety and The South Carolina Aquarium guidelines for computer diving.
- Each diver relying on a dive computer must have his own unit.
- On any given dive, both divers in the buddy pair must follow the more conservative computer.
- If the dive computer fails or gives erroneous readings at any time during the dive, the dive must be terminated and appropriate surfacing procedures should be initiated immediately. The computer should be returned to the manufacturer and should not be used again until it has been repaired.

  NOTE: *Subsequent dives can be made only if the dive profile from previous diving falls within the limits of the US Navy dive tables or more conservative dive planning table.*

Always begin using a dive computer without pressure exposure during the preceding 24 hours when using a computer which is not designed for multi-day use. Diving with a computer while the diver is retaining excess nitrogen, which is not factored into the computer, will lead to misleading and dangerous readings from the computer.

Once the dive computer is in use, it must <u>not</u> be switched off until it indicates complete off gassing has occurred or 18 hours have elapsed, whichever comes first.

When using a dive computer, non-emergency ascents are to be at the rate specified for the make and model of dive computer being used. If the diver exceeds the ascent rate requirement of the computer, the diver's nitrogen situation will be beyond the monitoring capability of the computer and all diving should be terminated for at least 18 hours.

Ascent rates shall not exceed 30 ft/min. in the last 60 fsw.

Whenever practical, divers using a dive computer should make a safety stop between 15 and 25 feet for 3-5 minutes, especially for dives below 60 fsw.

Decompression diving is not allowed under the auspices of The South Carolina Aquarium diving program. Dive computers must not be used to facilitate this type of diving.

Ascending profiles should always be used on a deep, multi-level dive.

Repetitive dives should be planned with the deepest dive first and subsequent dives shallower than the one preceding.

Divers should avoid pushing bottom times to the computer's limits. These limits are model limits, they do not allow for environmental conditions or personal limitations (i.e.: strenuous work, diver's age, previous injury, history of DCS etc.). A safety factor should be also added to minimum surface intervals between dives.

All dives using a computer for determining time and depth factors should be backed up with an additional depth gauge and timing device in the event of computer malfunction.

Due to the additional bottom time allowed by the use of a dive computer, divers are more likely to encounter hypothermia and out-of air situations. Special consideration of these possibilities should be observed while diving with a computer.

Repetitive diving should be limited to RDP limits.

3.47 Diver Recall Devices

An underwater speaker is mounted beside the Great Ocean Tank to use in emergency audible/verbal recall to the surface.

A metal wrench and submersed metal ladder shall be available at the entrance to the Great Ocean Tank for auxiliary audible diver recall to the surface.

A dive light shall be available at the entrance to the Great Ocean Tank for auxiliary visual diver recall to the surface.

3.50 Equipment Maintenance

3.51 Recordkeeping

Each equipment modification, repair, test, calibration, or maintenance service shall be logged, including the date and nature of work performed, serial number of the item, and the name of the person performing the work for the following equipment:

- Regulators
- Submersible pressure gauges
- Depth gauges
- SCUBA cylinders
- Cylinder valves
- Diving helmets
- Submersible breathing full face masks
- Compressors
- Gas control panels
- Air storage cylinders
- Air filtration systems
- Analytical instruments
- Buoyancy control devices
- Dry suits

3.52 Compressor Operation and Air Test Records

Gas analyses and air tests shall be performed on each organizational member-controlled breathing air compressor at regular intervals of no more than 100 hours of operation or three months, whichever occurs first. The results of these tests shall be entered in a formal log and be maintained.

A log shall be maintained showing operation, repair, overhaul, filter maintenance, and temperature adjustment for each compressor. Responsibility for compressor maintenance and air quality testing falls with the Dive Safety Officer or a qualified designee.

3.60 Air Quality Standards

Breathing air for SCUBA shall meet the following specifications as set forth by the Compressed Gas Association (CGA Pamphlet G-7.1).

Component	CGA Grade E Maximum	Oxygen Compatible Air Maximum
Oxygen %	20 - 22%/v	20 - 22%/v
Carbon Dioxide	1000 PPM/v	1000 PPM/v
Carbon Monoxide	10 PPM/v	2 PPM/v
Total Hydrocarbons as Methane	25 PPM/v	25 PPM/v
Water Vapor	67 PPM	67 PPM
Dew Point	-50 F	-50 F
Condensed Hydrocarbons	5 mg/m^3	0.1 mg/m^3
Particles	NA	0.1 mg/m^3
Objectionable Odors	None	None

For breathing air used in conjunction with self-contained breathing apparatus in extreme cold where moisture can condense and freeze, causing the breathing apparatus to malfunction, a dew point not to exceed -50°F (63 pm v/v) or 10 degrees lower than the coldest temperature expected in the area is required.

SECTION 4.00 - ENTRY-LEVEL TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

4.10 General Policy

Training and certification as an entry-level diver is a prerequisite to SCA Diver Training. In lieu of writing/promulgating standards for entry-level divers, SCA references here, the standards for entry-level diver training as defined by the WRSTC and/or ISO. If SCA wishes to train entry-level divers they may do so using one of the following options:

1) Under the auspices and standards of an internationally recognized diver training agency.
2) Under the auspices of AAUS using the minimum guidelines presented by the most current version of the RSTC/WRSTC and/or ISO entry-level diver standards.

4.11 References

"Minimum Course Content for Open Water Diver Certification"- World Recreational SCUBA Training Council (WRSTC), www.wrstc.com.

"Safety related minimum requirements for the training of recreational SCUBA divers -- Part 2: Level 2 -- Autonomous diver". ISO 24801-2:2007- International Organization for Standardization (ISO)- www.iso.org.

SECTION 5.00 DIVER CERTIFICATION

This Section describes the training and performance standards for SCA Divers. These standards represent the minimum required level of knowledge and skills presented in a generalized format. Individual diving programs are encouraged to expand upon and augment these requirements, develop or utilize appropriate educational materials, and optimize instructional programs to suit and reflect their specific needs.

5.10 Prerequisites

Administrative

The applicant/candidate must complete all administrative and legal documentation required by SCA.

Diver Certification

The applicant/ candidate must, at minimum, show documented proof of entry-level diver certification from an internationally recognized training agency. As an alternative, if SCA wishes to train and certify entry-level divers under they may do so under the guidelines presented in Section 4.0.

Medical Examination

The applicant/candidate must be medically qualified for diving as described in Section 6.0 of the SCA Diving Manual.

Swimming/Watermanship Evaluation

The applicant/candidate must demonstrate the following in the presence of the Diving Safety Officer, instructor, or other approved examiner. All tests are to be performed without swim aids, however, where exposure protection is needed, the applicant must be appropriately weighted to provide for neutral buoyancy.

- Swim underwater for a distance of 25 yards/meters without surfacing.
- Swim 400 yards/meters in less than 12 minutes.
- Tread water for 10 minutes, or 2 minutes without the use of hands.
- Transport a passive person of equal size a distance of 25 yards/meters in the water.

5.20 Training

The diver must complete theoretical aspects and practical training for a minimum cumulative time of 100 hours. Theoretical aspects shall include principles and activities appropriate to the intended area of scientific study.

Theoretical Training/ Knowledge Development Required Topics:

- Diving Emergency Care Training
  - Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
  - Standard or Basic First Aid
  - Recognition of DCS and AGE
  - Accident Management
  - Field Neurological Exam
  - Oxygen Administration
- Dive Rescue
- Dive Physics
- Dive Physiology
- Dive Environments
- Decompression Theory and its Application

- AAUS Scientific Diving Regulations and History
  - Scientific Dive Planning
  - Coordination with other Agencies
  - Appropriate Governmental Regulations

- Scientific Method
- Data Gathering Techniques (Only Items specific to area of study required)
  - Transect Sampling (Quadrating)
  - Transecting
  - Mapping
  - Coring
  - Photography
  - Tagging
  - Collecting
  - Animal Handling
  - Archaeology
  - Common Biota
  - Organism Identification
  - Behavior
  - Ecology
  - Site Selection, Location, and Re-location
  - Specialized Equipment for data gathering
  - HazMat Training
  - HP Cylinders
  - Chemical Hygiene, Laboratory Safety (Use Of Chemicals)

Theoretical Training/ Knowledge Suggested Topics:

- Specific Dive Modes (methods of gas delivery)
  - Open Circuit
  - Hooka
  - Surface Supplied diving
- Small Boat Operation
- Rebreathers
  - Closed
  - Semi-closed
- Specialized Breathing Gas
  - Nitrox
  - Mixed Gas
- Specialized Environments and Conditions
  - Blue Water Diving,
  - Ice and Polar Diving (Cold Water Diving)
  - Zero Visibility Diving
  - Polluted Water Diving
  - Saturation Diving
  - Decompression Diving
  - Overhead Environments
  - Aquarium Diving
  - Night Diving
  - Kelp Diving

    - Strong Current Diving (Live-boating)
    - Potential Entanglement
- Specialized Diving Equipment
    - Full face mask
    - Dry Suit
    - Communications

Practical Training/ Skill Development

Confined Water Evaluation

At the completion of training, the trainee must satisfy the Diving Safety Officer or the instructor of their ability to perform the following, as a minimum, in a pool or in sheltered water:

- Enter water with full equipment.
- Clear face mask.
- Demonstrate air sharing, including both buddy breathing and the use of alternate air source, as both donor and recipient, with and without a face mask.
- Demonstrate ability to alternate between snorkel and SCUBA while kicking.
- Demonstrate understanding of underwater signs and signals.
- Demonstrate simulated in-water mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.
- Rescue and transport, as a diver, a passive simulated victim of an accident.
- Demonstrate ability to remove and replace equipment while submerged.
- Demonstrate watermanship ability, which is acceptable to the instructor.

Open Water Evaluation

The trainee must satisfy an instructor, approved by the Diving Safety Officer, of their ability to perform at least the following in open water:

- Surface dive to a depth of 10 feet in open water without SCUBA.
- Demonstrate proficiency in air sharing as both donor and receiver.
- Enter and leave open water or surf, or leave and board a diving vessel, while wearing SCUBA gear.
- Kick on the surface 400 yards while wearing SCUBA gear, but not breathing from the SCUBA unit.
- Demonstrate judgment adequate for safe diving.
- Demonstrate, where appropriate, the ability to maneuver efficiently in the environment, at and below the surface.
- Complete a simulated emergency swimming ascent.
- Demonstrate clearing of mask and regulator while submerged.
- Demonstrate ability to achieve and maintain neutral buoyancy while submerged.
- Demonstrate techniques of self-rescue and buddy rescue.
- Navigate underwater.
- Plan and execute a dive.

Checkout Dive/ Additional Experience

Practical training must include an Open Water checkout dive(s), with evaluation of the skills listed in Open Water Evaluation, with the DSO or qualified delegate followed by at least 11 ocean or open water dives in a variety of dive sites and diving conditions, for a cumulative bottom time of 6 hours. Dives following the checkout dive must be supervised by a certified Scientific Diver with experience in the type of diving planned, with the knowledge and permission of the DSO.

6.16 Laboratory Requirements for Diving Medical Evaluation and Intervals.

Initial examination under age 40:

- Medical History
- Complete Physical Exam, emphasis on neurological and otological components
- Urinalysis
- Any further tests deemed necessary by the physician.

Periodic re-examination under age 40 (every 5 years):

- Medical History
- Complete Physical Exam, emphasis on neurological and otological components
- Urinalysis
- Any further tests deemed necessary by the physician

Initial exam over age 40:

- Medical History
- Complete Physical Exam, emphasis on neurological and otological components
- Detailed assessment of coronary artery disease risk factors using Multiple-Risk-Factor Assessment[1,2] (age, family history, lipid profile, blood pressure, diabetic screening, smoking history). Further cardiac screening may be indicated based on risk factor assessment.
- Resting EKG
- Chest X-ray
- Urinalysis
- Any further tests deemed necessary by the physician

Periodic re-examination over age 40 (every 3 years); over age 60 (every 2 years):

- Medical History
- Complete Physical Exam, emphasis on neurological and otological components
- Detailed assessment of coronary artery disease risk factors using Multiple-Risk-Factor
- Assessment[1] (age, family history, lipid profile, blood pressure, diabetic screening, smoking
- history). Further cardiac screening may be indicated based on risk factor assessment.
- Resting EKG
- Urinalysis
- Any further tests deemed necessary by the physician

6.17 Physician's Written Report

After any medical examination relating to the individual's fitness to dive, The South Carolina Aquarium shall obtain a written report prepared by the examining physician, which shall contain the examining physician's opinion of the individual's fitness to dive, including any recommended restrictions or limitations. This will be reviewed by the DCB.

The South Carolina Aquarium shall make a copy of the physician's written report available to the individual upon request.

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[1] Grundy, R.J. et. al. 1999. Assessment of Cardiovascular Risk by Use of Multiple-Risk-Factor Assessment Equations. AHA/ACC Scientific Statement. http://www.acc.org/clinical/consensus/risk/risk1999.pdf

[2] Bove, A.A. 2011. The cardiovascular system and diving risk. *Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine* 38(4): 261-269.

Volume 2

Sections 7.00 through 10.00

SECTION 7 NITROX DIVING GUIDELINES

The following guidelines address the use of nitrox by scientific divers under the auspices of an AAUS Organizational Member. Nitrox is defined for these guidelines as breathing mixtures composed predominately of nitrogen and oxygen, most commonly produced by the addition of oxygen or the removal of nitrogen from air.

7.10 Perquisites

7.11 Eligibility

Only a certified Diver or Diver In Training (see Section 4.00 and 5.00) diving under the auspices of a member organization is eligible for authorization to use nitrox. After completion, review and acceptance of application materials, training and qualification as per Section 7.12 of these guidelines, an applicant will be authorized to use nitrox within his/her depth authorization, as specified in Standards Sec 5.40.

Equivalent Nitrox certifications may be considered for divers requesting authorization.

7.12 Application and documentation

Application and documentation for authorization to use nitrox should be made on forms specified by the Diving Control Board.

7.20 Requirements for Authorization to Use Nitrox

Submission of documents and participation in aptitude examinations does not automatically result in authorization to use nitrox. The applicant must convince the DSO and members of the DCB that he/she is sufficiently skilled and proficient. The signature of the DSO on the authorization form will acknowledge authorization. After completion of training and evaluation, authorization to use nitrox may be denied to any diver who does not demonstrate to the satisfaction of the DSO or DCB the appropriate judgment or proficiency to ensure the safety of the diver and dive buddy.

Prior to authorization to use nitrox, the following minimum requirements should be met:

7.21 Training

The diver must complete additional theoretical and practical training beyond the Diver In Training air certification level, to the satisfaction of the member organization's DSO and DCB (see Section 7.30).

7.22 Examinations

Each diver should demonstrate proficiency in skills and theory in written, oral, and practical examinations covering:

- Written examinations covering the information presented in the classroom training session(s) (i.e., gas theory, oxygen toxicity, partial pressure determination, etc. ...); (see Section 7.33)
- Practical examinations covering the information presented in the practical training session(s) (i.e., gas analysis, documentation procedures, etc. ...); (see Section 7.32)
- Openwater checkout dives, to appropriate depths, to demonstrate the application of theoretical and practical skills learned.

Section 10 Guest Immersion Divers

Guest Immersion divers are classified as any non-SCA volunteer or staff diver(s) who dive under the auspices of the South Carolina Aquarium. Examples of Guest Immersion Diver would include Donors, VIP, Media, and Pay-to-Dive. Guest divers must be at a minimum certified open water divers by an internationally-recognized SCUBA certifying agency. An age requirement may be initiated at the Diving Control Board's discretion.

Guest dive programs will follow World Recreational SCUBA Training Council guidelines.

Guest divers shall:

1. Provide proof of open water certification or higher when applicable
1. Sign Liability and Risk Acknowledgment waiver
2. Provide a signed medical clearance

Guest immersion programs require in-water guides to be certified and active as recreational Divemasters or higher.

The South Carolina Aquarium requires

1. 1:1 supervision ratio
2. A Standby Diver will be topside during in-water activities
3. A DPIC will also be onsite during in-water activities.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 through 12

Appendix 1 OSHA Guidelines for Scientific Diving

Based on the OSHA directive CPL 02-00-151 effective June 13, 2011
Subject - 29 CFR Part 1910, Subpart T – Commercial Diving Operations
APPENDIX C: Exclusions and Exemptions from OSHA's Commercial Diving Standard

https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/Directive_pdf/CPL_02-00-151.pdf

1. "The Diving Control (safety) Board consists of a majority of active scientific divers and has autonomous and absolute authority over the scientific diving program's operations."

   The first guideline concerns organizational structure. OSHA concluded that the organizational structure of the scientific diving community's consensual standard program is not only vital to the integrity of scientific diving programs, but effectively serves to segregate scientific diving from commercial diving. The Diving Control Board required for scientific diving programs must contain several elements that distinguish the exempt scientific diving programs from commercial diving. These distinctive elements include absolute authority over diving operations, the autonomy inherent in the Diving Control Board's decision making powers and responsibilities, and peer review. OSHA's intent was for the Diving Control Board, primarily consisting of the divers themselves, to regulate the diving activities in a manner consistent with that described by the scientific diving community during the rulemaking process. Therefore, OSHA requires that Diving Control Boards have this autonomous and absolute authority over scientific diving operations. OSHA also concluded that the peer review system has successfully regulated scientific diving programs and, therefore, OSHA mandated that the majority of members of the Diving Control Board be active divers. OSHA's intent with respect to this "peer review" was that the active divers required to make up the Diving Control Board would be scientists who actively dive, since at issue was the control of a scientific program. Thus, OSHA will interpret the membership requirement as it was intended in the final rule. The "majority of active divers" on the Diving Control Board also must be scientists.

2. "The purpose of the project using scientific diving is the advancement of science; therefore, information and data resulting from the project are non-proprietary."

   The second guideline concerns the restricted purpose of the project. In part, the definition of scientific diving is "diving performed solely as a necessary part of a scientific, research, or educational activity" (see Federal Register notice 47 FR 53365 and 29 CFR 1910.402). The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Diving Manual notes that "marine research using diving as a tool has been important in understanding the ocean, its organisms, and its dynamic processes." Such diving includes the study of fish behavior, ecological surveys and benthic surveys (the aggregate of organisms living on or at the bottom of a body of water). Scientific diving is an adjunct used in the advancement of underwater science. For example, representatives from the scientific diving community noted during public hearings and in written comments "Our objective is to promote the advancement of science and the use of underwater methods," that "Research and the furtherance of scientific knowledge are their (the divers) primary goals," results are "shared worldwide," and further that coverage of the scientific diving community by 29 CFR Part 1910, Subpart T - Commercial Diving Operations, may cause "irreparable damage to the underwater scientific effort of the United States." Because the exemplary safety record,

APPENDIX 2
DIVING MEDICAL EXAM OVERVIEW FOR THE EXAMINING PHYSICIAN

TO THE EXAMINING PHYSICIAN:

This person, _____, requires a medical examination to assess their fitness for certification as a Scientific Diver for the South Carolina Aquarium. Their answers on the Diving Medical History Form (attached) may indicate potential health or safety risks as noted. Your evaluation is requested on the attached SCUBA Diving Fitness Medical Evaluation Report. If you have questions about diving medicine, you may wish to consult one of the references on the attached list or contact one of the physicians with expertise in diving medicine whose names and phone numbers appear on an attached list, the Undersea Hyperbaric and Medical Society, or the Divers Alert Network. Please contact the undersigned Diving Safety Officer if you have any questions or concerns about diving medicine or the South Carolina Aquarium standards. Thank you for your assistance.

_____ _____
Diving Safety Officer Date

_____ _____
Printed Name Phone Number

SCUBA and other modes of compressed-gas diving can be strenuous and hazardous. A special risk is present if the middle ear, sinuses, or lung segments do not readily equalize air pressure changes. The most common cause of distress is eustachian insufficiency. Recent deaths in the scientific diving community have been attributed to cardiovascular disease. Please consult the following list of conditions that usually restrict candidates from diving.

(Adapted from Bove, 1998: bracketed numbers are pages in Bove)

CONDITIONS WHICH MAY DISQUALIFY CANDIDATES FROM DIVING

1. Abnormalities of the tympanic membrane, such as perforation, presence of a monomeric membrane, or inability to autoinflate the middle ears. [5 ,7, 8, 9]
2. Vertigo, including Meniere's Disease. [13]
3. Stapedectomy or middle ear reconstructive surgery. [11]
4. Recent ocular surgery. [15, 18, 19]
5. Psychiatric disorders including claustrophobia, suicidal ideation, psychosis, anxiety states, untreated depression. [20 - 23]
6. Substance abuse, including alcohol. [24 - 25]
7. Episodic loss of consciousness. [1, 26, 27]
8. History of seizure. [27, 28]
9. History of stroke or a fixed neurological deficit. [29, 30]

10. Recurring neurologic disorders, including transient ischemic attacks. [29, 30]
11. History of intracranial aneurysm, other vascular malformation or intracranial hemorrhage. [31]
12. History of neurological decompression illness with residual deficit. [29, 30]
13. Head injury with sequelae. [26, 27]
14. Hematologic disorders including coagulopathies. [41, 42]
15. Evidence of coronary artery disease or high risk for coronary artery disease. [33 - 35]
16. Atrial septal defects. [39]
17. Significant valvular heart disease - isolated mitral valve prolapse is not disqualifying. [38]
18. Significant cardiac rhythm or conduction abnormalities. [36 - 37]
19. Implanted cardiac pacemakers and cardiac defibrillators (ICD). [39, 40]
20. Inadequate exercise tolerance. [34]
21. Severe hypertension. [35]
22. History of spontaneous or traumatic pneumothorax. [45]
23. Asthma. [42 - 44]
24. Chronic pulmonary disease, including radiographic evidence of pulmonary blebs, bullae, or cysts. [45,46]
25. Diabetes mellitus. [46 - 47]
26. Pregnancy. [56]

SELECTED REFERENCES IN DIVING MEDICINE

Available from Best Publishing Company, P.O. Box 30100, Flagstaff, AZ 86003-0100, the Divers Alert Network (DAN) or the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society (UHMS), Durham, NC

- Elliott, D.H. ed. 1996. *Are Asthmatics Fit to Dive?* Kensington, MD: Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society.
- Bove, A.A. 2011. The cardiovascular system and diving risk. *Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine* 38(4): 261-269.
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- Mitchell, S.J., and A.A. Bove. 2011. Medical screening of recreational divers for cardiovascular disease: Consensus discussion at the Divers Alert Network Fatality Workshop. *Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine* 38(4): 289-296.
- Grundy, S.M., Pasternak, R., Greenland, P., Smith, S., and Fuster, V. 1999. Assessment of Cardiovascular Risk by Use of Multiple-Risk-Factor Assessment Equations. AHA/ACC Scientific Statement. *Journal of the American College of Cardiology,* 34: 1348-1359. http://content.onlinejacc.org/cgi/content/short/34/4/1348
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- Edmonds, C., Lowry, C., Pennefather, J. and Walker, R. 2002. DIVING AND SUBAQUATIC MEDICINE, Fourth Edition. London: Hodder Arnold Publishers.
- Bove, A.A. ed. 1998. MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF SPORT SCUBA DIVERS, San Antonio, TX: Medical Seminars, Inc.
- NOAA DIVING MANUAL, NOAA. Superintendent of Documents. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.
- U.S. NAVY DIVING MANUAL. Superintendent of Documents, Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

	Yes	No	Please indicate whether or not the following apply to you	Comments
44			Shortness of breath	
45			Lung problem or abnormality	
46			Spit blood	
47			Breathing difficulty after eating particular foods, after exposure to particular pollens or animals	
48			Are you subject to bronchitis	
49			Subcutaneous emphysema (air under the skin)	
50			Air embolism after diving	
51			Decompression sickness	
52			Rheumatic fever	
53			Scarlet fever	
54			Heart murmur	
55			Large heart	
56			High blood pressure	
57			Angina (heart pains or pressure in the chest)	
58			Heart attack	
59			Low blood pressure	
60			Recurrent or persistent swelling of the legs	
61			Pounding, rapid heartbeat or palpitations	
62			Easily fatigued or short of breath	
63			Abnormal EKG	
64			Joint problems, dislocations or arthritis	
65			Back trouble or back injuries	
66			Ruptured or slipped disk	
67			Limiting physical handicaps	
68			Muscle cramps	
69			Varicose veins	

	Yes	No	Please indicate whether or not the following apply to you	Comments
70			Amputations	
71			Head injury causing unconsciousness	
72			Paralysis	
73			Have you ever had an adverse reaction to medication?	
74			Do you smoke?	
75			Have you ever had any other medical problems not listed? If so, please list or describe below;	
76			Is there a family history of high cholesterol?	
77			Is there a family history of heart disease or stroke?	
78			Is there a family history of diabetes?	
79			Is there a family history of asthma?	
80			Date of last tetanus shot? Vaccination dates?	

Please explain any "yes" answers to the above questions.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

I certify that the above answers and information represent an accurate and complete description of my medical history.

_____

Signature Date

APPENDIX 5

RECOMMENDED PHYSICIANS WITH EXPERTISE IN DIVING MEDICINE

List of local medical doctors that have training and expertise in diving or undersea medicine:

Dr. Lance Davis
Roper Hospital Hyperbaric Chamber
316 Calhoun Street
Charleston, SC
843 724-2014

Divers Alert Network
6 West Colony Place
Durham, NC 27705
919 684-9111

APPENDIX 6

DEFINITION OF TERMS

AAUS - The American Academy of Underwater Sciences. The Academy is a non-profit organization comprised of individuals and organizations that are interested in and/or use diving as a research tool. The principal aims of the Academy are to establish and maintain scientific diving standards, to promote diving safety, and to exchange information on scientific diving methods and techniques.
Air sharing - Sharing of an air supply between divers.
ATA(s) - "Atmospheres Absolute", Total pressure exerted on an object, by a gas or mixture of gases, at a specific depth or elevation, including normal atmospheric pressure.
Bottom Time - The total elapsed time measured in minutes from the time when the diver leaves the surface in descent to the time that the diver begins a direct ascent to the surface.
Breath-hold Diving - A diving mode in which the diver uses no self-contained or surface-supplied air or oxygen supply.
Buddy Breathing - The sharing of a single air source between divers.
Buddy Diver - Second member of the dive team.
Buoyant Ascent - An ascent made using some form of positive buoyancy.
Burst Pressure - The pressure at which a pressure containment device would fail structurally.
Certified Diver - A diver who holds a recognized valid certificate from a member organization or recognized certifying agency.
Controlled Ascent - Any one of several kinds of ascents including normal, swimming, and buddy breathing ascents where the diver(s) maintain control so a pause or stop can be made during the ascent.
Cylinder - A pressure vessel for the storage of gases.
Decompression Chamber - A pressure vessel for human occupancy. Also called a hyperbaric chamber or recompression chamber.
Decompression Sickness - A condition with a variety of symptoms that may result from gas and bubbles in the tissues of divers after pressure reduction.
Decompression Table - A profile or set of profiles of depth-time relationships for ascent rates and breathing mixtures to be followed after a specific depth-time exposure or exposures. (Also called dive tables.)
Dive - A descent into the water, an underwater diving activity utilizing compressed gas, an ascent, and return to the surface.
Dive Location - A surface or vessel from which a diving operation is conducted.
Dive Location Reserve Breathing Air - A supply system of air at the dive location, which is independent of the primary supply system and sufficient to support divers during any planned decompression dive.
Dive Person in Charge - The qualified paid staff diver with experience and training to conduct and supervise the diving operation.
Dive Site - The physical location of a diver during a dive.
Dive Table - A profile or set of profiles of depth-time relationships for ascent rates and breathing mixtures to be followed after a specific depth-time exposure or exposures.
Dive Team - Divers and support individuals who are exposed to or control the exposure of others to hyperbaric conditions.

Diver - An individual in the water who uses apparatus, including snorkels, which supplies breathing gas at ambient pressure.
Diver-In-Training - An individual gaining experience and training in additional diving activities under the supervision of a dive team member experienced in those activities.
Diver-carried Reserve Breathing Air - A diver-carried independent supply of air or sufficient under standard operating conditions to allow the diver to reach the surface, or another source of breathing gas, or to be reached by another diver.
Diving Mode - A type of diving requiring specific equipment, procedures, and techniques, for example, snorkel, SCUBA or surface-supplied air).
Diving Control Board or DCB. - The group of individuals who sit in council with autonomous and absolute authority for the South Carolina Aquarium in matters concerning the scientific diving program.
Diving Safety Officer or DSO - The official representative for the DCB that is responsible for the safe conduct of overall diving procedures and the operation of the dive program of The South Carolina Aquarium (see Section 1.23).
EAD - Equivalent Air Depth (see below).
Emergency Ascent - An ascent made under emergency conditions where the diver exceeds the normal ascent rate.
Enriched Air (EANx) - A name for a breathing mixture of air and oxygen when the percentage of oxygen exceeds 21%. This term is considered synonymous with the term "nitrox" (Section 7.00)
Equivalent Air Depth (EAD) - Depth at which air will have the same nitrogen partial pressure as the nitrox mixture being used. This number expressed in units of feet seawater or saltwater, will always be less than the actual depth for any enriched air mixture.
Entry-level - Refers to the initial training received by new divers for recreational, sport, or underwater sightseeing purposes only while using SCUBA. An active instructor with a nationally recognized diver training organization awards certification. It certifies the individual for open water diving in daylight hours to a depth of 60 fsw or 61 ffw.
fN_2 - Fraction of nitrogen in a gas mixture, expressed as either a decimal or percentage by volume.
fO_2 - Fraction of oxygen in a gas mixture, expressed as either a decimal or percentage by volume.
FFW - Feet of freshwater, or equivalent static head.
FSW - Feet of seawater, or equivalent static head.
Hookah Diving - A type of shallow water surface-supplied diving where there is no voice communication with the surface.
Hyperbaric Chamber - See decompression chamber.
Hyperbaric Conditions - Pressure conditions in excess of normal atmospheric pressure at the dive location.
Lead Diver - The most experienced scientific diver during open water activities. Responsible for the dive log and all diving operations, subject to the discretion of the "chief scientist" or a boat captain. Ensures that all equipment is in good working order. Reports to the DSO how SDTs performed during open water diving. Is responsible for advising the "chief scientist" on the diving to be conducted
Maximum Working Pressure - The maximum pressure to which a pressure vessel may be exposed under standard operating conditions.
Mixed Gas - MG
Mixed-gas diving - A diving mode in which the diver is supplied in the water with a breathing gas other than air.
MOD - Maximum Operating Depth, usually determined as the depth at which the pO2 for a given gas mixture reaches a predetermined maximum.
MSW - Meters of seawater or equivalent static head.
Nitrox - Any gas mixture comprised predominately of Nitrogen and Oxygen, most frequently containing between 21% and 40% oxygen. Also referred to as Enriched Air Nitrox, abbreviated EAN.

NOAA Diving Manual - Refers to the *NOAA Diving Manual, Diving for Science and Technology*, 2001 edition. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Undersea Research, US Department of Commerce.
No-Decompression Limits - The depth-time limits of the "no-decompression limits and repetitive dive group designations table for no-decompression air dives" of the U.S. Navy Diving Manual or equivalent limits.
Normal Ascent - An ascent made with an adequate air supply at a rate of 60 feet per minute or less.
Organization Member - An organization which is a current member of the AAUS, and which has a program that adheres to the standards of the AAUS as set forth in the AAUS Standards for Scientific Diving Certification and Operation of Scientific Diving Programs.
Oxygen Clean - All combustible contaminants have been removed.
Oxygen Compatible - A gas delivery system that has components (o-rings, valve seats, diaphragms, etc.) that are compatible with oxygen at a stated pressure and temperature.
Oxygen Service - A gas delivery system that is both oxygen clean and oxygen compatible.
Oxygen Toxicity Unit - OTU
Oxygen Toxicity - Any adverse reaction of the central nervous system ("acute" or "CNS" oxygen toxicity) or lungs ("chronic", "whole body", or "pulmonary" oxygen toxicity) brought on by exposure to an increased (above atmospheric levels) partial pressure of oxygen.
Pressure-related Injury - Any injury resulting from pressure disequilibria within the body as the result of hyperbaric exposure. Examples include decompression sickness, pneumothorax, mediastinal emphysema, air embolism, subcutaneous emphysema, or ruptured eardrum.
Pressure Vessel - See cylinder.
pN_2 - Inspired partial pressure of nitrogen, usually expressed in units of atmospheric absolute.
pO_2 - Inspired partial pressure of oxygen, usually expressed in units of atmospheric absolute.
Psi - Units of pressure, "pounds per square inch".
Psig - Units of pressure, "pounds per square inch gauge".
Recompression Chamber - See decompression chamber.
Reserve Air Supply System - See Diver Carried Reserve Breathing Air
Safety Diver - A diver responsible for in-water supervision and monitoring of the working divers
Scientific Diving - Scientific diving is defined (29CFR1910.402) as diving performed solely as a necessary part of a scientific, research, or educational activity by employees whose sole purpose for diving is to perform scientific research tasks.
SCUBA Diving - A diving mode independent of surface supply in which the diver uses open circuit self-contained underwater breathing apparatus.
Standby Diver - A diver at the dive location capable of rendering assistance to a diver in the water.
Surface Supplied Diving - A diving mode in which the diver in the water is supplied from the dive location with compressed gas for breathing and voice communication with the surface.
Swimming Ascent - An ascent that can be done under normal or emergency conditions accomplished by simply swimming to the surface.
Tender - Topside active diver that monitors, air and communications during a Surface Supply Dive
Umbilical - The composite hose bundle between a dive location and a diver or bell, or between a diver and a bell, which supplies the diver or bell with breathing gas, communications, power, or heat, as appropriate to the diving mode or conditions, and includes a safety line between the diver and the dive location.
Volume Tank - A pressure vessel connected to the outlet of a compressor and used as an air reservoir.
Working Pressure - The normal pressure at which the system is designed to operate.

South Carolina Aquarium

APPENDIX 7
AAUS REQUEST FOR DIVING RECIPROCITY FORM
VERIFICATION OF DIVER TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

A scientific diver that is currently certified under the auspices of an organizational member institution of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS) shall be recognized by any other organizational member of AAUS and may apply for reciprocity in order to dive with the host organization. Organizational members that are in good standing with AAUS operate, at a minimum, under the AAUS Standards for Scientific Diving Certification and Operation of Scientific Diving Programs (1996 edition). The visiting diver will comply with the diving regulations of the host organization's Diving Safety Manual unless previously arranged by both organization's Diving Control Boards.

The host organization has the right to approve or deny this request and may require, at a minimum, a checkout dive with the Diving Safety Officer (DSO) or designee of the host organization. If the request is denied, the host organization should notify to the DSO of the visiting diver the reason for the denial. The DSO for the visiting scientific diver has confirmed the following information:

Name of diver:

(Date)

_____Written diving examination
_____Last diving medical examination
_____Most recent checkout dive
_____Regulator Service Date (Serial Number) _____
_____AGA Service Date (Serial Number) _____
_____BCD Service Date (Serial Number) _____
_____Cylinder Inspection Date (Serial Number) _____
_____CPR training (Agency) _____
_____Oxygen administration (Agency) _____
_____First aid for diving (Agency) _____
_____Date of last dive
_____Number of dives completed within previous 12 months?
_____Depth certification
_____Any restrictions? (Y/N)
_____if yes, explain:

Please check any pertinent specialty certifications:

_____Dry suit	_____Rescue	_____Blue water
_____Dive Computer	_____Divemaster	_____Altitude
_____Nitrox	_____Instructor	_____Ice/Polar
_____Mixed gas	_____EMT	_____Cave
_____Closed circuit	_____Full Face Mask	_____Dive Accident Management
_____Night	_____Saturation	_____Chamber operator
_____Decompression	_____Lifesaving	

OTHER_____

Emergency Information: (To notify in an emergency)

Name:_____ Relationship: _____

Telephone: (work)_____ (home) _____

Address:_____

This is to verify that the above individual is currently a certified scientific diver:

Diving Safety Officer: _____
(Signature) (Date)

_____ _____
(Print) (Telephone, FAX, e-mail)

_____
(Institution)

APPENDIX 8

DIVING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

Introduction

A diving accident victim could be any person who has been breathing compressed air underwater, regardless of depth. It is essential that emergency procedures are pre-planned and that medical treatment is initiated as soon as possible. It is the responsibility of each AAUS organizational member to develop procedures for diving emergencies including evacuation and medical treatment for each dive location.

General Procedures

Depending on and according to the nature of the diving accident, stabilize the patient, administer 100% oxygen, contact local Emergency Medical System (EMS) for transport to medical facility, contact diving accident coordinator, as appropriate. Explain the circumstances of the dive incident to the evacuation teams, medics and physicians. Do not assume that they understand why 100% oxygen may be required for the diving accident victim or that recompression treatment may be necessary.

Make contact with victim and/or rescue as required. Activate dive alarm and/or call Security (depending on location).

Establish, (C)irculation (A)irway, and (B)reathing as required.

Administer 100% oxygen, if appropriate (in cases of decompression illness, or near drowning).

Call Security for response to all emergencies. Do not dial 911 unless security cannot be reached.

Call DAN for contact with dive physician and recompression chamber @ Roper Hospital.

Notify DSO or designee according to Section 2.50 of the Diving Safety Manual.

Complete and submit Incident Report Form (Appendix 9) to the DCB of the organization and the AAUS (As required in Section 2.72)

Emergency Contact numbers for dive emergencies: SCA SECURITY- 579-8507or Radio Channel 1

Security will notify the following husbandry staff:

Curator
Dive Officer
Director/ Husbandry
Executive Director

DAN- DIVER ALERT NETWORK- Duke University, Durham, North Carolina- 919-684-9111
ROPER HOSPITAL HYPERBARIC CHAMBER- 316 Calhoun Street, Charleston, S.C. 724-2014
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES- 911
OFFSHORE DIVING- COAST GUARD- VHF CHANNEL 16 MOBILE- 911

South Carolina Aquarium

APPENDIX 9 Staff/ Volunteer Accident/Injury/Incident Report

MIR # _____

SS#:___ -___ -___ SEX: M / F

Name (Last, First, M.I.) _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone: (___) ___-____ Work Phone: (___) ___-____ Cellular: (___) ___-____

Job Title: _____ Normal Working Hours: ____ to ____

Division: _____ Supervisor: _____

Department: _____

Type of Accident / Injury or Incident: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Date and Time of Accident / Incident: _____ (am / pm)

Location of Accident / Incident: (Be as specific as possible – in route to work / at work / work related business) _____

_____

_____

Date and Time of Accident / Injury or Incident Reported: _____ (am / pm)

To who was the Incident Reported: _____

Describe the nature of the accident / Injury: _____

_____

_____

(Staff / Volunteer Accident / Injury or Incident Report Continued) MIR #

Print Names of any witnesses and their Telephone numbers:

_____	( ) -
_____	( ) -
_____	( ) -
_____	( ) -

FIRST RESPONDER INFORMATION

Name of 1st Responder: _____

Medical Information:

Time:	B/P: /	Pulse:	RESP:
Time:	B/P: /	Pulse:	RESP:
Time:	B/P: /	Pulse:	RESP:

Treatment Given: _____

_____

_____

_____

DISPOSITION

No First Aid required, Returned to work ☐

Provided First Aid, Returned to work ☐

Sent for Medical Evaluation / Treatment ☐

Emergency Transport to Medical Facility ☐

_____ EMS Activated (Unit #: _____)

_____ Transported by Aquarium Vehicle

_____ Transported by Personal Vehicle

_____ Photographs taken (QTY: _____)

Safety Manager Notified: Yes or No Date: _____ Time: _____ am / pm

APPENDIX 10 ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND LIABILITY RELEASE AGREEMENT

I _____, acknowledge that I have voluntarily applied to participate in skin and/or SCUBA diving under the auspices of The South Carolina Aquarium dive program located in the City of Charleston, County of Charleston, and State of South Carolina.

I AM AWARE THAT SCUBA AND/OR SKIN DIVING IS A HAZARDOUS ACTIVITY AND INVOLVES RISKS THAT MAY LEAD TO SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH. I AM VOLUNTARILY PARTICIPATING IN THESE ACTIVITIES WITH KNOWLEDGE OF THE DANGER INVOLVED, HEREBY AGREE TO ACCEPT ANY AND ALL RISKS OF INJURY OR DEATH, AND VERIFY THIS STATEMENT BY PLACING MY INITIALS HERE: _____.

As consideration for being permitted to enroll and participate in skin and/or SCUBA diving within the auspices of The South Carolina Aquarium dive program, I hereby voluntarily release, discharge, waive and relinquish any and all actions or causes of action for personal injury, property damage or wrongful death occurring to me arising as a result of engaging or receiving instructions in skin and/or SCUBA diving activities, or any activities incidental thereto, wherever or however the same may occur and for whatever period the activities or instructions may continue, and I do for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns hereby voluntarily release, waive, discharge and relinquish any action or causes of action which may hereafter arise for me and for my estate, and agree that under no circumstances will I or my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns prosecute, present any claim for personal injury, property damage or wrongful death against The South Carolina Aquarium or any of its officers, agents, servants or employees for any of said causes of action, whether the same shall arise by negligence or otherwise.

IT IS MY INTENTION, BY THIS INSTRUMENT, TO EXEMPT AND RELIEVE THE SOUTH CAROLINA AQUARIUM FROM LIABILITY FOR PERSONAL INJURY, PROPERTY DAMAGE OR WRONGFUL DEATH CAUSED BY NEGLIGENCE.

The Undersigned, for him/herself, his/her heirs, executors, administrators or assigns agrees that in the event any claim for personal injury, property damage or wrongful death shall be prosecuted against The South Carolina Aquarium he/she shall indemnify and save harmless the same The South Carolina Aquarium from any and all claims or causes of action by whomever or wherever made or presented for personal injuries, property damage or wrongful death.

I have carefully read this agreement, am fully and completely aware of the potential dangers incidental to engaging in the activity of skin and/or SCUBA diving, and am fully aware of the legal consequences of signing this agreement. I am aware that this is a release from liability and sign it of my own free will.

_____ _____

Witness Signature of Volunteer/Guest Date

APPENDIX 11 APPLICATION FOR THE SOUTH CAROLINA AQUARIUM DIVE CERTIFICATION

Name _____Date .....
Address .....
Home phone _____Work phone .....
Emergency Contact: _____ Phone .....
SCUBA Certification:
Agency _____ Date _____ Level _____
Total dives logged _____Date of last dive _____

SOUTH CAROLINA AQUARIUM CERTIFICATION REQUESTED:

❑ STAFF DIVER ❑ VOLUNTEER DIVER
❑ OPEN WATER DIVER ❑ EXHIBIT DIVER

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

❑ RECIPROCITY CERTIFICATION If RECIPROCITY is being requested:
Name of home organization:.....
Dive Officer: _____ Telephone: .....

Applicant: Do not write below this line

THE SOUTH CAROLINA AQUARIUM CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT CHECK LIST

Checkout Dive
Physical examination
SCUBA certification card
Written examination
CPR Certification
O2 Certification

TYPE OF CERTIFICATION/ DEPTH

Diver In Training
Aquarium Diver
Open Water Diver
Temporary Diver Permit

OPEN WATER DIVER CERTIFICATION DEPTH

30 foot 60 foot 100 foot 130 foot

Certification is not valid until all requirements are met and the South Carolina Aquarium Diving Safety Officer approves this application.

_____ _____
Signature, the South Carolina Aquarium Diving Safety Officer Date

APPENDIX 12

Accident Medical Coverage Acknowledgment Form

It is the intention of the South Carolina Aquarium to clearly explain the extent of accident medical coverage provided by the South Carolina Aquarium for its volunteer divers.

The maximum coverage for any medical expense resulting from an accident while diving as a volunteer at the South Carolina Aquarium is $50,000 per covered accident. Any amount of medical expenses over $50,000 will be the sole responsibility of the individual volunteer diver.

Divers Alert Network (DAN) supplemental dive insurance does not cover divers during aquarium dives.

As a volunteer diver, I acknowledge the accident medical coverage provided through the South Carolina Aquarium and understand that the medical expenses over $50,000 associated with injuries resulting from dive accidents is the sole responsibility of each individual volunteer diver in the case of a covered accident while diving in exhibits at the South Carolina Aquarium.

_____ _____

Signature Date

_____

Print Name