

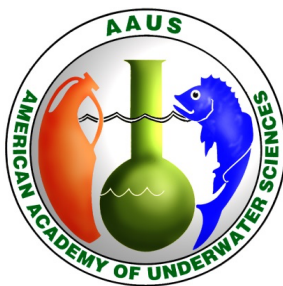


**2020**

**Duke University**

DUKE UNIVERSITY MARINE LAB

135 Marine Lab Road, Beaufort, North Carolina 28516



THIS MANUAL MEETS OR EXCEEDS THE  
**American Academy of Underwater Sciences**  
**STANDARDS FOR SCIENTIFIC DIVING**

AAUS • PO Box 9067, Mobile, AL 36691-9067  
www.aaus.org • aaus@aaus.org • 251.591.3775

**AAUS ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP:** Duke University, including the Duke University Marine Laboratory (DUML), is an ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBER (OM) of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS) and will be referred to throughout this manual as such.

**DUKE UNIVERSITY DIVING CONTROL BOARD (DCB) – January 2020**

Dr. James Hench (Member/Chair) – Duke University  
Steve Broadhurst (Member/DSO) – Duke University Contract / DSO Services, Inc.  
Rebecca Smith (Member) – Duke University  
Julia Notar (Member) – Duke University  
Walter Torres (Member) – Duke University

**FOREWORD**

Since 1951 the scientific diving community has endeavored to promote safe, effective diving through self-imposed diver training and education programs. Over the years, manuals for diving safety have been circulated between organizations, revised and modified for local implementation, and have resulted in an enviable safety record.

This document represents the minimal safety standards for scientific diving at the present day. As diving science progresses so must this standard, and it is the responsibility of every member of the Academy to see that it always reflects state of the art, safe diving practice. – **AAUS**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Academy thanks the numerous dedicated individual and organizational members for their contributions and editorial comments in the production of these standards.

**REVISION HISTORY:**

**December 2018 (w/ corrections March 2019)** – The new AAUS standards template was approved by the AAUS Board of Directors and is available at [www.aaus.org/About/DivingStandards](http://www.aaus.org/About/DivingStandards).

**January 2020** – A complete revision of the DUKE-DUML Scientific Diving Manual, incorporating the new AAUS 2018-19 Standards, was submitted to the AAUS Standards Committee and was approved in March 2020.

**April 2020** – The newly revised DUKE-DUML Scientific Diving Manual was sent to the DUKE-DUML Diving Control Board for review and approval.

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# Volume 1

Sections 1.00 through 5.00

**Required for all Organizational Members**

## **Section 1.00 - GENERAL POLICY**

### **1.10 Scientific Diving Standards**

#### **Purpose**

As required by the United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the purpose of these Scientific Diving Standards is to ensure scientific diving is conducted in a manner that will maximize the protection of scientific divers from accidental injury and/or illness, and to set forth standards for training and certification that will allow a working reciprocity between American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS) Organizational Members (OM). Fulfillment of these purposes shall be consistent with the furtherance of research and safety, and facilitation of collaborative opportunities between AAUS OMs.

This manual sets minimum standards for AAUS 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 OMs that adhere to these minimum standards.

#### **Historical Perspective**

This manual was developed and written by AAUS by compiling the policies set forth in the diving manuals of several university, private, and governmental scientific diving programs. 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.

In 1982, OSHA exempted scientific diving from commercial diving regulations (29CFR1910, 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). AAUS is recognized by OSHA as the scientific diving standard setting organization.

#### **Scientific Diving Definition**

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. Scientific diving does not include performing any tasks usually associated with commercial diving such as: Placing or removing heavy objects underwater; inspection of pipelines and similar objects; construction; demolition; cutting or welding; or the use of explosives.”

#### **Scientific Diving Exemption**

The two elements that a diving program must contain as defined by OSHA in 29 CFR 1910 Subpart T 1910.401(a)(2)(iv) are:

- Diving safety manual which includes at a minimum: Procedures covering all diving operations specific to the program; procedures for emergency care, including recompression and evacuation; and criteria for diver training and certification.
- Diving control (safety) board, with the majority of its members being active divers, which must 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.

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

- 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.

### **Recommendations for Changes to AAUS Manual**

As part of each OM's annual report, recommendations for modifications of this manual must be submitted to AAUS for consideration.

## **1.20 Operational Control**

### **Organizational Member Auspices and Responsibilities**

OM auspices include any scientific diving operation in which an OM is connected because of ownership of life support equipment used, locations selected, or relationship with the individual(s) concerned. This includes all cases involving the operations of authorized individuals of the OM or auxiliary organizations, where such individuals are acting within the scope of their authorization.

It is the OM's responsibility to adhere to the AAUS Standards for Scientific Diving Certification and Operation of Scientific Diving Programs. The administration of the OM's local diving program will reside with the OM's Diving Control Board (DCB).

The regulations herein must be observed at all locations where scientific diving is conducted.

### **Organizational Member Diving Safety Manual**

Meeting AAUS minimum standards is a requirement for organizational membership. Each OM must develop and maintain a diving safety manual that includes wording on how the OM defines specific policies and procedures required for the proper function of a scientific diving program. The OM manual must address environmental and working conditions unique to the program's operations. The OM diving manual must meet or exceed the AAUS standards.

AAUS standards must be the foundation for the development of an OM's scientific diving safety manual. The order and formatting of the OM manual does not have to conform to the AAUS template. The information contained in Volume 1, Sections 1.00 through 5.00 and the Appendices are required for all manuals. Volume 2, Sections 6.00 through 12.00 are required only when the OM conducts the specifically referenced diving mode or activity. Deviations or significant changes to AAUS minimum standards may require justification before approval is granted by the AAUS Standards Committee.

### **Diving Control Board**

- The Diving Control Board (DCB) must consist of a majority of active scientific divers. Voting members include the Diving Safety Officer (DSO), and other representatives of the diving program such as qualified divers and members selected by each OM. A chairperson and a secretary may be chosen from the membership of the board according to local procedure.



- The DCB has autonomous and absolute authority over the scientific diving program's operation.
- The DCB must:
  - Establish additional standards, protocols, and operational procedures beyond the AAUS minimums to address OM specific needs and concerns.
  - Approve and monitor diving projects.
  - Review and revise the diving safety manual.
  - Ensure compliance with the diving safety manual.
  - Approve the depth to which a diver has been authorized to dive.
  - Take disciplinary action for unsafe practices.
  - Ensure adherence to the buddy system for scientific diving.
  - Act as the official representative of the OM in matters concerning the scientific diving program.
  - Act as a board of appeal to consider diver-related problems.
  - Recommend the issue, reissue, or the revocation of diving authorizations.
  - Recommend changes in policy and amendments to AAUS and the OM's diving safety manual as the need arises.
  - Establish and/or approve training protocols or standards through which the applicants for authorization can satisfy the requirements of the OM's diving safety manual.
  - Suspend diving operations considered to be unsafe or unwise.
  - Establish criteria for equipment selection and use.
  - Recommend new equipment or techniques.
  - Establish and/or approve facilities for the inspection and maintenance of diving and associated equipment.
  - Ensure that the OM's air station(s) meet air quality standards described in Section 3.60.
  - Periodically review the DSO's performance and program.
  - Investigate diving incidents within the OM's diving program or violations of the OM's diving safety manual.
- The DCB may delegate operational oversight for portions of the program to the DSO; however, the DCB may not abdicate responsibility for the safe conduct of the diving program.

## **Diving Safety Officer**

The Diving Safety Officer (DSO) serves as a voting member of the DCB and should be designated one of the OM Representatives to AAUS. This person should have broad technical expertise and experience in research related diving.

### **Qualifications:**

1. Must be an active scuba instructor from an internationally recognized certifying agency.
2. Must be appointed by the responsible administrative officer or designee, with the advice and counsel of the DCB.
3. Must qualify as a Full Voting Member of AAUS as defined by AAUS Bylaws:
  - (a) Holds a diving certification from a recognized national certifying agency or equivalent, and
  - (b) Has engaged in sustained or successive scientific diving activities during the past two years, or
  - (c) Has completed a course in scientific diving that meets the requirements as specified by the most current edition of the AAUS Standards for Scientific Diving.

4. Must attend an AAUS DSO Orientation within one year of accepting a position at an AAUS approved OM, unless they have served as a DSO for another current AAUS OM within the last year.

### **Duties and Responsibilities**

1. Answers, through the DCB, to the appropriate administrative officer or designee, for the conduct of the scientific diving program of the OM.
2. If delegated by the DCB, the routine operational authority for this program rests with the DSO. This oversight includes, but is not limited to training, diver authorizations, approval of dive plans, maintenance of diving records, and ensuring compliance with this Manual.
3. May permit some duties and responsibilities to be carried out by a qualified delegate, with the approval of the DCB.
4. Must be guided in the performance of the required duties by the advice of the DCB, but operational responsibility for the conduct of the scientific diving program will be retained by the DSO.
5. Must suspend diving operations determined to be unsafe or unwise.

### **Instructional Personnel Qualifications**

All personnel involved in diving instruction under the auspices of the OM must be reviewed and authorized by the DCB.

### **Lead Diver**

For each dive, one scientific diver shall be designated as the Lead Diver who shall be at the dive location during the diving operation. The Lead Diver must have a minimum of 24 logged scientific dives and be qualified for the depth and type of diving planned. The Lead Diver shall be responsible for:

- Ensuring dives are conducted in accordance with Section 2.00.
- Ensuring all dive team members possess current authorization and are qualified for the type of diving operation.
- Coordination with other known activities in the area that could interfere with dive operations.
- Ensuring safety and emergency equipment is in working order and at the dive site.
- Suspending diving operations if in their opinion conditions are not safe.
- Reporting to the DCB, through the DSO, any physical problems or adverse physiological effects including symptoms of pressure-related injuries.

### **Scientific Divers (Workers' Compensation Requirements)**

- Faculty/Staff (Non-Student)
- Independent Contractors
- Students
- Volunteers

### **Reciprocity and Visiting Scientific Diver**

- Two or more AAUS OMs engaged jointly in diving activities, or engaged jointly in the use of diving resources, must designate one of the participating DCBs to govern the joint dive project. However, responsibility for individual divers ultimately resides with the home OM.
- Letter of Reciprocity (LOR) - A Scientific Diver from one OM must apply for permission to

dive under the auspices of another OM by submitting to the DSO of the host OM, an LOR containing all the information listed in Appendix 6, signed by the DSO or designee of the home DCB.

- A visiting Scientific Diver may be asked to demonstrate their knowledge and dive skills.
- If a host OM denies a visiting Scientific Diver permission to dive, the host DCB must notify the visiting Scientific Diver and their DCB with an explanation of all reasons for the denial.

### **Waiver of Requirements**

The OM DCB may grant a waiver for specific requirements of training, examinations, depth authorizations, and minimum activity to maintain authorizations. AAUS medical standards may not be waived.

### **1.30 Consequence of Violation of Regulations by Scientific Divers**

Failure to comply with the regulations of the OM's diving safety manual may be cause for the restriction or revocation of the diver's scientific diving authorization by action of the OM's DCB.

### **1.40 Consequences of Violation of Regulations by Organizational Members**

Failure to comply with the regulations of this manual may be cause for the restriction or revocation of the OM's recognition by AAUS.

### **1.50 Record Maintenance**

Each OM must maintain consistent records for its diving program and for each participant. These records include but are not limited to: diving safety manual; equipment inspection, testing, and maintenance records; dive plans (project and/or individual); records of dive (project and/or individual); medical approval to dive; diver training records; diver authorization(s); individual dive log; dive incident reports; reports of disciplinary actions by the DCB; and other pertinent information deemed necessary by the OM.

#### **Availability of Records:**

- Medical records must be available to an attending physician of a diver or former diver when released in writing by the diver.
- Records and documents required by this manual must be retained by the OM for the following period:
  1. Scientific Diving Manual – Current document only.
  2. Equipment inspection and maintenance records – Minimum current entry or tag.
  3. Records of Dive – Minimum of 1 year, except 5 years where there has been an incident of pressure-related injury.
  4. Medical approval to dive – Minimum of 1 year past the expiration of the current document except 5 years where there has been an incident of pressure-related injury.
  5. Diver training records – Minimum of 1 year beyond the life of the diver's program participation.
  6. Diver authorization(s) – Minimum of 1 year beyond the life of the diver's program participation.
  7. Pressure-related injury assessment – Minimum of 5 years.
  8. Reports of disciplinary actions by the DCB – Minimum of 1 year beyond the life of the diver's program participation.

## SECTION 2.00 - DIVING REGULATIONS

### 2.10 Introduction

- No person shall engage in scientific diving operations under the auspices of the OM's scientific diving program unless they are authorized by the OM's DCB.
- A list of the OM's active divers can be found on the OM's Dive Program Webpage.
- All remote dive operations, including dives from boats greater than 1 mile from shore, require a topside safety tender who is an approved boat operator.

### 2.20 Pre-Dive Procedures

#### Dive Plans

Before conducting any diving operations under the auspices of the OM, a dive plan for the proposed dive(s) must be submitted for approval by the DCB or designee. Dive plans should be formulated and submitted by the project's Principal Investigator and/or Lead Diver, 4 weeks prior to the first planned dive. Dives should be planned around the competency of the least experienced diver. Dive plans will naturally expire 3 months after approval. At the conclusion of all diving associated with a specific dive plan, the Lead Diver should confirm all dives are logged and contact the DSO to "close out" the plan. A dive planning worksheet, resources, and template can be found on the OM's Dive Program Webpage. At minimum, the dive plan should include the following:

- Diving Mode(s) and Gas(es)
- Divers' authorizations
- 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
- Emergency Action Plan (Appendix 8)
- In water details of the dive plan should include:
  - Dive Buddy assignments and tasks
  - Goals and objectives
  - Maximum depth(s) and bottom time
  - Gas management plan
  - Entry, exit, descent and ascent procedures
  - Perceived environmental and operational hazards and mitigations
  - Emergency and diver recall procedures
- Required Safety Equipment Checklist to include Dive Flag, First Aid/O2 Kit, VHF Radio/Cell Phone, Dive Tables, Dive Plan, and Emergency Plan/Procedures.

#### Diver Responsibility and Refusal to Dive

- The decision to dive is that of the diver. The ultimate responsibility for safety rests with the individual diver. It is the diver's responsibility and duty to refuse to dive, without fear of penalty, if in their judgment, conditions are unsafe or unfavorable, or if they would be violating the precepts of regulations in this manual.
- No diver will be required to be exposed to hyperbaric conditions against their will.
- No diver may dive for the duration of any known condition, which is likely to adversely

affect the safety and health of the diver or other dive team members.

### **Pre-dive Safety Checks**

- Prior to commencing the dive, the Lead Diver must assure that every team member is healthy, fit, and trained for the type of dive that is being attempted.
- Scientific divers must conduct a functional check of their diving equipment in the presence of the dive buddy or tender. They must ensure the equipment is functioning properly and suitable for the type of diving operation being conducted.
- Each diver must have the capability of maintaining positive buoyancy at the surface.
- Environmental conditions at the site will be evaluated prior to entering the water.

### **Pre-dive Briefings**

Before conducting any diving operations under the auspices of the OM, the dive team members must be briefed by the Lead Diver on the following at minimum:

- Dive Buddy assignments and tasks
- Dive objectives
- Maximum depth(s) and bottom time
- Turn around pressure and required surfacing pressure
- Entry, exit, descent and ascent procedures
- Perceived environmental and operational hazards and mitigations
- Emergency and diver recall procedures

## **2.30 Diving Procedures**

### **Solo Diving Prohibition**

All diving activities must assure adherence to the buddy system. This buddy system is based upon mutual assistance, especially in the case of an emergency. All divers must be accompanied by, and in continuous contact with, another diver in water at all times.

### **Buddy Separation**

- If loss of contact occurs between dive buddies, each diver will search the immediate area for no more than 1 minute. The divers shall surface if they do not re-establish contact underwater.

### **Decompression Management**

- On any given dive, both divers in the buddy pair must follow the most conservative dive profile.
- A “safety stop”, made between 15-20 feet for 3-5 minutes, performed during the final ascent phase of the dive should be conducted on any dive that exceeds 30 feet (9.14m).
- A “deep stop”, made at half the dive’s maximum depth for 1-2 minutes, performed during the final ascent phase of the dive should be considered on any dive that exceeds 80 feet (18.28m).

### **Termination of the Dive**

- Any dive must 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.
- It is the responsibility of the diver to terminate any dive they consider unsafe, without fear of reprisal, in a way that does not compromise the safety of another diver already in the water.

## **Emergencies and Deviations from Regulations**

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

### **2.40 Post-Dive Procedures and Safety Checks**

- After the completion of a dive, each diver must report any physical problems, symptoms of decompression sickness, or equipment malfunctions to the Lead Diver, DSO, and/or DCB.
- When dive time is outside the maximum no decompression limit, divers should not dive again for at least 24 hours.
- When dive time is close to or outside the maximum no decompression limit, divers should remain awake for at least one hour after diving, and in the company of a dive team member who is prepared to transport them to a hyperbaric chamber if necessary.

### **2.50 Emergency Procedures**

Each OM will develop emergency procedures which follow the standards of care of the community and must include procedures and implementation criteria for emergency care, recompression, evacuation, and incident reporting.

### **2.60 Flying After Diving or Ascending to Altitude (Over 1000 feet/304 meters)**

- 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 (304 meters): Divers should follow the appropriate guideline for preflight surface intervals unless the decompression procedure used has accounted for the increase in elevation.

### **2.70 Record Keeping Requirements**

#### **Personal Diving Log**

Each authorized scientific diver must log every dive made under the auspices of the OM's program within 30 days of completion and is encouraged to log all other dives. Logs must be submitted using the Online Dive Logging System found on the OM's Dive Program Webpage and must remain in the divers' file. The dive log must include at least the following:

- Name of diver and buddy
- Date, time, and location
- Diving modes used
- General nature of diving activities
- Maximum depth and dive time
- Diving tables or computers used
- Detailed report of any near or actual incidents

## Required Incident Reporting

All diving incidents requiring recompression treatment, or resulting in moderate or serious injury, or death must be reported to the OM's DSO and DCB within 24 hours. OMs must record and report these occupational injuries and illnesses to AAUS in a timely manner and in accordance with requirements of the appropriate Labor Code section. OMs must investigate and document any incident of pressure-related injury and prepare a report that is to be forwarded to AAUS during the annual reporting cycle.

- If pressure-related injuries are suspected, or if symptoms are evident, the following additional information must be recorded and retained by the OM, with the record of the dive, for a period of 5 years:
- Written descriptive report shall include:
- Name, address, phone numbers of the principal parties involved.
- Summary of experience of divers involved.
- Location, description of dive site, and description of conditions that led up to incident.
- The circumstances of the incident and the extent of any injuries or illnesses.
- Description of symptoms, including depth and time of onset.
- Description and results of treatment.
- Disposition of case.
- Recommendations to avoid repetition of incident.

In addition to requirements specific to the OM, all diving incidents will be reported to the AAUS. This report must first be reviewed and released by the OM's DCB and at a minimum contain:

- Complete AAUS Incident Report.
- Summary of experience of divers involved.
- Description of dive site, and description of conditions that led up to incident.
- The circumstances of the incident and the extent of any injuries or illnesses.
- Description of symptoms, including depth and time of onset.
- Description and results of treatment.
- Disposition of case.
- Recommendations to avoid repetition of incident.

## **SECTION 3.00 - DIVING EQUIPMENT**

### **3.10 General Policy**

All equipment must meet standards as determined by the DSO and the DCB. All equipment must be regularly examined by the person using it, inspected prior to each dive, and serviced according to manufacturer recommendations. Equipment that is subjected to extreme usage under adverse conditions should require more frequent testing and maintenance. Ultimately the care of the equipment must be the responsibility of the individual diver.

### **3.20 Equipment**

The OM DCB must establish the minimum equipment configuration for all dives.

#### **Regulators and Submersible Pressure Gauges**

- Scuba regulators and gauges must be inspected and tested prior to each use
- Standard open circuit (OC) regulator configuration is:
  - A 1<sup>st</sup> stage
  - Primary 2<sup>nd</sup> stage
  - Back up 2<sup>nd</sup> stage
  - Submersible Pressure Gauge (SPG)
  - Inflator hose for a Buoyancy Compensator Device or Drysuit
- A Full-Face Mask may be used in place of the primary 2<sup>nd</sup> stage according to manufacturer's recommendations. Divers must complete specialized full-face mask training.
- These devices must be functionally inspected and tested/serviced at intervals not to exceed 12 months or at least to manufacturer's recommendations.

#### **Equipment for Determining Decompression Status (Dive Computers, Depth Gauges, Timers, Tables)**

- A set of dive tables must be available at the dive location.
- Each member of the buddy team must have an underwater timing device and depth indicator, or dive computer (cannot be shared).
- If a dive computer is used the diver must use the same computer on repetitive dives.
- These devices must be functionally inspected and tested/serviced at intervals not to exceed 12 months or at least to manufacturer's recommendations.
- In an aquarium or other manmade structure of a known maximum obtainable depth:
  - A depth indicator is not required, except when a diver's decompression status must be taken into consideration on repetitive dives.
  - Only one buddy must be equipped with a timing device.
  - The maximum obtainable depth of the aquarium must be used as the diving depth.

#### **Scuba Cylinders and Valves**

- Scuba cylinders must be designed, constructed, and maintained in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Unfired Pressure Vessel Safety Orders.
- Scuba cylinders must be hydrostatically tested in accordance with DOT standards.
- Scuba cylinders must have an internal/external visual inspection (VIP) at intervals not to exceed 12 months.
- Scuba cylinder valves must be functionally inspected and tested/serviced at intervals not to exceed 12 months or at least to manufacturer's recommendations.



### **Buoyancy Compensation Devices (BCDs and Drysuits)**

- Each diver must have the capability of maintaining neutral buoyancy underwater and positive buoyancy at the surface.
- BCDs, drysuits, or other variable volume buoyancy compensation devices must be equipped with an exhaust valve.
- BCDs, drysuits, or other variable volume buoyancy compensation devices must not be used as a lifting device in lieu of lift bags (see below).
- These devices must be functionally inspected and tested/serviced at intervals not to exceed 12 months or at least to manufacturer's recommendations.
- Divers must complete specialized drysuit training.

### **Other Required Equipment**

- All Dives require each diver to carry the following:
  - Mask (Full-Face Mask requires a standard mask as back-up)
  - Fins
  - Snorkel (pocket snorkel acceptable)
  - Dive Knife (or other cutting tool)
  - Surface signaling device (whistle, horn, etc.)
  - Compass (as needed)
  - Weights (as needed) – must be capable of quick release
- Boat Dives greater than 1 mile from shore require each diver to carry the following:
  - SMB (Surface Marker Buoy/Safety Sausage)
  - Line Reel (as needed)
- A diver-carried reserve breathing gas supply (Pony Bottle) is required:
  - On all dives deeper than 80 feet
  - On any planned decompression dive
  - On any live boating dive deeper than 60 feet

## **3.30 Auxiliary Equipment**

### **Handheld Underwater Power Tools**

- Power tools and equipment used underwater must be specifically approved for this purpose.
- Only simple light-weight power tools, not associated with commercial diving and underwater construction, will be approved
- Tools and equipment supplied with power from the surface must be de-energized before being placed into or retrieved from the water and must not be energized until requested by the diver.

### **Lift Bags**

- Lift bags should be used for lifting underwater objects weighing more than 10 pounds.
- Scientific divers should not attempt to use lift bags to lift objects weighing more than 100 pounds.
- Divers must complete specialized lift bag training.

### 3.40 Support Equipment

#### First Aid Supplies

- A First Aid Kit (with AED where applicable) and Emergency Oxygen Kit (appropriate for the diving being conducted/location) must be available at the dive site.
- These devices must be functionally inspected and tested/serviced at intervals not to exceed 12 months or at least to manufacturer's recommendations.

#### Emergency Communication Equipment

- A functional cellular telephone or satellite telephone must be available at the dive site.
- Additionally, offshore dives greater than 1 mile from shore require a functional VHF Radio. This radio should be tested daily during dive operations.

#### Dive Flags

- A Standard Dive Flag (red with diagonal white stripe) must be displayed prominently whenever diving is conducted under circumstances where required or where water traffic is probable.
- Additionally, an international Dive Flag (blue and white – maritime code “A”) must be displayed when diving offshore or in international waters.

#### Compressor Systems - *OM Controlled*

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

### 3.50 Equipment Maintenance

#### Record Keeping

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

- Regulators
- Gauges (SPG, Depth Gauges, Timers, and Dive Computers)
- BCDs
- Drysuits
- Scuba Cylinders and Valves
- Full Face Masks
- Compressors, air filtration systems, gas control panels, and storage banks
- Surface Supplied Equipment
- Rebreather Systems
- First Aid Kits, O2 Kits (O2 Cylinders and Regulators), and AEDs.
- Additional equipment categories as determined by the DCB

#### Compressor Operation and Air Test Records

- Gas analyses and air tests must be performed on each *OM Controlled* breathing air compressor at regular intervals of no more than 100 hours of operation or 6 months, whichever occurs first. The results of these tests must be maintained in a formal log.

- Breathing air from *non-OM Controlled* sources must be verified to meet the following air quality standards. A copy of the air quality certificate shall be provided to the DSO as part of the dive planning approval process.
- For remote site operations using breathing air from *non-OM Controlled* sources, every effort should be made to verify breathing gas meets the requirements of this standard. If CGA Grade E gas is not verifiable, the DCB must develop a protocol to mitigate risk to the diver.

### 3.60 Air Quality Standards

#### Breathing Gas (Air)

Breathing gas must meet the following specifications as set forth by the Compressed Gas Association (CGA Pamphlet G-7.1; see table below).

CGA Grade E (Air)	
Component	Maximum
Oxygen	20 - 22%/v
Carbon Monoxide	10 PPM/v
Carbon Dioxide	1000 PPM/v
Condensed Hydrocarbons	5 mg/m <sup>3</sup>
Total Hydrocarbons as Methane	25 PPM/v
Water Vapor ppm	(2)
Objectionable Odors	None

For breathing air used in conjunction with SCUBA 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 - SCIENTIFIC DIVER CERTIFICATION AND AUTHORIZATIONS**

This section describes the training and performance standards for AAUS Scientific Divers and 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.

### **4.10 Prerequisites**

#### **Administrative – Application/Waiver/Eligibility**

The candidate must complete all administrative and legal documentation required by the OM. See program application Appendix 1 and waiver Appendix 2. Applicants must have a “need to dive” endorsed by their supervisor/advisor and must be approved by the DCB.

#### **Entry Level Diver Certification**

The candidate must, at minimum, show documented proof of Diver Certification or equivalent from an internationally recognized training agency. OMs who wish to train and certify entry level divers may do so under the standards of the most current version of the RSTC/WRSTC and/or ISO entry-level diver standards. Entry level diver training is a prerequisite to scientific diver training and therefore no part of entry level training may be counted in any way toward scientific diver training.

<sup>1</sup> “Minimum Course Content for Open Water Diver Certification”- World Recreational Scuba Training Council (WRSTC), [www.wrstc.com](http://www.wrstc.com)

<sup>2</sup> “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](http://www.iso.org)

#### **Medical Examination**

The candidate must be medically qualified for diving as described in Section 5.00 and Appendix 3 of this manual. AAUS medical standards may not be waived.

#### **Swimming/Watermanship Evaluation**

The candidate must demonstrate the following in the presence of the DSO or designee. All tests are to be performed without swim aids. However, where exposure protection is needed, the candidate must be appropriately weighted to provide for neutral buoyancy.

- a) Swim underwater for a distance of 25 yards (23 meters) without surfacing.
- b) Swim 400 yards (366 meters) in less than 12 minutes.
- c) Tread water for 10 minutes, or 2 minutes without the use of hands.
- d) Transport a passive person of equal size a distance of 25 yards (23 meters) in the water.

#### **Dive Accident Insurance – Health and Workers’ Compensation Insurance**

Each applicant must show proof of current dive accident insurance equivalent to that offered by the Divers Alert Network (DAN) and should have adequate Health Insurance and Workers’ Comp coverage.

#### **Dive Equipment Service**

Each applicant must show proof that their dive equipment (regulator, gauges, BCD, computer, drysuit, etc.) was serviced within 1 year.

## 4.20 Scientific Diver Training

The candidate must successfully complete prerequisites, theoretical aspects, practical training, and examinations for a minimum cumulative time of 100 hours and a minimum of 12 open water dives. Theoretical aspects must include principles and activities appropriate to the intended area of scientific study. Formats for meeting the 100-hour training requirement include OM developed formalized training course, or a combination of formalized and on the job training.

When a diver's resume provides clear evidence of significant scientific diving experience, the diver can be given credit for meeting portions of the 100-hour course requirements. The DCB will identify specific overlap between on-the-job training, previous scientific diving training/experience and course requirements, and then determine how potential deficiencies will be resolved. However, OMs cannot "test-out" divers, regardless of experience, when they have no previous experience in scientific diving.

Any candidate who does not convince the DCB, through the DSO, that they possess the necessary judgment, under diving conditions, for the safety of the diver and their buddy, may be denied OM scientific diving privileges.

<b>Theoretical Training / Knowledge Development</b>	
<b>Required Topics:</b>	<b>Suggested Topics:</b>
Diving Emergency Care Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)</li><li>• AED</li><li>• Standard or Basic First Aid</li><li>• Recognition of DCS and AGE</li><li>• Accident Management</li><li>• Field Neurological Exam</li><li>• Oxygen Administration</li></ul>	Specific Dive Modes (methods of gas delivery) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Open Circuit</li><li>• Hookah</li><li>• Surface Supplied diving</li><li>• Rebreathers (closed and/or semi-closed)</li></ul>
Dive Rescue <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To include procedures relevant to OM specific protocols. (See water skills below)</li></ul>	Specialized Breathing Gas <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nitrox</li><li>• Mixed Gas</li></ul>
Scientific Method	Small Boat Operation
Data Gathering Techniques (Only items specific to area of study required) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transects and Quadrats</li><li>• Mapping</li><li>• Coring</li><li>• Photography</li><li>• Tagging</li><li>• Collecting</li><li>• Animal Handling</li><li>• Archaeology</li><li>• Common Biota</li><li>• Organism Identification</li><li>• Behavior</li><li>• Ecology</li><li>• Site Selection, Location, and Re-location</li></ul>	Specialized Environments and Conditions <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Blue Water Diving</li><li>• Altitude</li><li>• Ice and Polar Diving (Cold Water Diving)</li><li>• Zero Visibility Diving</li><li>• Polluted Water Diving</li><li>• Saturation Diving</li><li>• Decompression Diving</li><li>• Overhead Environments</li><li>• Aquarium Diving</li><li>• Night Diving</li><li>• Kelp Diving</li><li>• Strong Current Diving</li><li>• Potential Entanglement/Entrapment</li><li>• Live boating</li></ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specialized Data Gathering Equipment</li> </ul>	
<b>Required Topics:</b>	<b>Suggested Topics:</b>
Navigation	HazMat Training
HazMat Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HP Cylinders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chemical Hygiene, Laboratory Safety (Use of Chemicals)</li> </ul>
Decompression Management Tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dive Tables</li> <li>Dive Computers</li> <li>PC Based Software</li> </ul>	Specialized Diving Equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full-Face Mask</li> <li>Communications</li> <li>Drysuit</li> <li>Dive Propulsion Vehicle (DPV)</li> <li>SMB's &amp; Lift Bags</li> <li>Line Reels</li> </ul>
AAUS Scientific Diving Regulations and History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scientific Dive Planning</li> <li>Coordination with other Agencies</li> <li>Appropriate Government Regulations</li> </ul>	
Hazards of breath-hold diving and ascents	
Dive Physics (Beyond entry level scuba)	Other Topics and Techniques as Determined by the DCB
Dive Physiology (Beyond entry level scuba)	
Dive Environments	
Decompression Theory and its Application	

<b>Practical Training / Skill Development</b>	
Confined Water	<p>At the completion of training, the trainee must satisfy the DSO or DCB-approved designee of their ability to perform the following, as a minimum, in a pool or in sheltered water:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enter water fully equipped for diving</li> <li>Clear fully flooded face mask</li> <li>Demonstrate air sharing and ascent using an alternate air source, as both donor and recipient, with and without a face mask</li> <li>Demonstrate buddy breathing as both donor and recipient, with and without a face mask</li> <li>Demonstrate understanding of underwater signs and signals</li> <li>Demonstrate ability to remove and replace equipment while submerged</li> <li>Demonstrate acceptable watermanship skills for anticipated scientific diving conditions</li> </ul>
Open Water Skills	<p>The trainee must satisfy the DSO, or DCB-approved designee, of their ability to perform at least the following in open water:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surface dive to a depth of 10 feet (3 meters) without scuba*</li> <li>Enter and exit water while wearing scuba gear* ^^</li> <li>Kick on the surface 400 yards (366 meters) while wearing scuba gear, but not breathing from the scuba unit*</li> <li>Demonstrate proficiency in air sharing ascent as both donor and receiver*</li> <li>Demonstrate the ability to maneuver efficiently in the environment, at and below the surface* ^^</li> <li>Complete a simulated emergency swimming ascent*</li> <li>Demonstrate clearing of mask and regulator while submerged*</li> <li>Underwater communications^^</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate ability to achieve and maintain neutral buoyancy while submerged*</li> <li>• Demonstrate techniques of self-rescue and buddy rescue*</li> <li>• Navigate underwater ^</li> <li>• Plan and execute a dive^</li> <li>• Demonstrate judgment adequate for safe scientific diving* ^^</li> </ul>
	<p>Rescue Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rescue from depth and transport 25 yards (23 meters), as a diver, a passive simulated victim of an accident: surface diver, establish buoyancy, stabilize victim</li> <li>• Demonstrate simulated in-water mouth-to-mouth resuscitation</li> <li>• Removal of victim from water to shore or boat</li> <li>• Stressed and panicked diver scenarios</li> <li>• Recommendations for Rescue of a Submerged Unresponsive Compressed-Gas Diver – Appendix 9</li> </ul>
	<p>Successfully complete a minimum of one checkout dive and at least eleven additional open water dives in a variety of dive sites, for a cumulative surface to surface time of 6 hours. Dives following the checkout dive(s) may be supervised by an active Scientific Diver holding the necessary depth authorization experienced in the type of diving planned, and with the knowledge and permission of the DSO</p>
	<p>The eleven dives (minimum) following the initial checkout dive may be conducted over a variety of depth ranges as specified by the OM DCB. Depth progression must proceed shallower to deeper after acceptable skills and judgement have been demonstrated, and are not to exceed 60 feet (30 m) during the initial 12 dive cycle</p>
	<p>* Checkout dive element          ^^ Evaluated on all dives          ^ Evaluated at some point during the training cycle</p>

<b>Examinations</b>	
Equipment	<p>The trainee will be subject to examination/review of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal diving equipment</li> <li>• Task specific equipment</li> <li>• Function and manipulation of decompression computer to be employed by the diver (if applicable)</li> </ul>
Written Exams	<p>The trainee must pass a written examination reviewed and approved by the OM DCB that demonstrates knowledge of at least the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Function, care, use, and maintenance of diving equipment</li> <li>• Advanced physics and physiology of diving</li> <li>• Diving regulations</li> <li>• Applicable diving environments</li> <li>• Emergency procedures for OM-specific dive mode(s) and environments, including buoyant ascent and ascent by air sharing</li> <li>• Currently accepted decompression theory and procedures</li> <li>• Proper use of dive tables</li> <li>• Hazards of breath-hold diving and ascents</li> <li>• Planning and supervision of diving operations</li> <li>• Navigation</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diving hazards &amp; mitigations</li> <li>• Cause, symptoms, treatment, and prevention of the following: near drowning, air embolism, hypercapnia, squeezes, oxygen toxicity, nitrogen narcosis, exhaustion and panic, respiratory fatigue, motion sickness, decompression sickness, hypothermia, and hypoxia/anoxia</li> <li>• Applicable theoretical training and knowledge development from the Required and Suggested Topics (above)</li> </ul>
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#### **4.30 Scientific Diver Certifications and Authorizations**

Only a person diving under the auspices of an OM that subscribes to the practices of the AAUS is eligible for a scientific diver certification.

##### **Diver-In-Training (DIT) Authorization**

This is an authorization to dive, usable only while it is current and for the purpose intended. This authorization signifies that a diver has completed and been certified as at least an entry level diver through an internationally recognized certifying agency and has the knowledge skills and experience necessary to commence and continue training as a scientific diver under supervision, as approved by the DCB. DIT status must only be used when the diver is on their way to becoming certified as a scientific diver. While it is recommended for DITs to have hands-on scientific diver experience during their training, the DIT status is intended to be a temporary authorization, not a substitute for Scientific Diver Certification.

##### **Scientific Diver Certification**

Signifies a diver has completed all requirements in Section 4.20 and is certified by the AAUS OM to engage in scientific diving without supervision, as approved by the DCB through the DSO. Submission of documents and participation in aptitude examinations does not automatically result in certification. To be certified, the applicant must demonstrate to the DCB, through the DSO, that s/he is sufficiently skilled and proficient, and possess the necessary judgement for their safety and/or that of the dive team. Scientific Diver Certification is only active when required authorizations are in place and current.

##### **Scientific Aquarium Diver Certification**

Scientific Aquarium Diver is a certification authorizing the diver to participate in scientific diving solely in the aquarium environment.

All requirements set forth for Scientific Diver certification must apply, except follows:

- Practical training must include at least 12 supervised aquarium dives for a cumulative bottom time of 6 hours.
- Training requirements for navigation and 400-yard (366-meter) surface swim in scuba gear may be waived at the discretion of the DCB.

##### **Temporary Diver Authorization**

Only a diver not under the auspices of an AAUS OM may be granted a Temporary Diver Authorization. The individual in question must demonstrate proficiency in diving and can contribute measurably to a planned dive. A Temporary Diver Authorization constitutes a waiver of selected requirements of Section 4.00 and is valid only for a limited time, as approved by the DCB. A Temporary Diver Authorization must be restricted to the planned diving operation and must comply with all other policies, regulations, and standards of this manual, including medical requirements. This authorization is not to be utilized as a repeated mechanism to circumvent existing standards set forth in this manual.



## 4.40 Depth Authorizations

### Depth Ratings and Progression to Next Depth Level

Indicates the maximum depth in which a diver can conduct science and may supervise other divers holding a lesser depth authorization. A scientific diver requires a valid depth authorization to be considered active.

A diver may be authorized to the next depth level after successfully completing the requirements for that level. During training, a diver may exceed their depth authorization when accompanied and supervised by a dive buddy holding a depth authorization greater or equal to the intended depth. These training dives must be planned and executed with the permission of the DCB or designee.

In the event a diver within the OM does not hold an authorization at the desired next level, the DCB may authorize a required training progression or procedure for a diver to attain a deeper authorization. If local conditions do not conform to traditional AAUS depth progressions, the DCB may devise a reasonable accommodation. However, the total number of dives to obtain a given depth authorization must follow the cumulative number of dives listed below.

- a) **Authorization to 30 Foot Depth** - Initial scientific diver depth authorization, approved upon the successful completion of training listed in Section 4.00. Minimum total dive time of 6 hours. Cumulative minimum supervised dives: 12.
- b) **Authorization to 60 Foot Depth** - A diver holding a 30-foot authorization may be authorized to a depth of 60 feet after successfully completing and logging 12 supervised dives to depths between 31 and 60 feet (at least one dive should be at or near 60 feet) under supervision of a diver authorized by the DCB, for a minimum total dive time of 4 hours. Cumulative minimum supervised dives: 24.
- c) **Authorization to 100 Foot Depth** - A diver holding a 60-foot authorization may be authorized to a depth of 100 feet after successfully completing and logging 6 supervised dives to depths between 61 and 100 feet (at least one dive should be at or near 100 feet) under supervision of a dive buddy authorized by the DCB. The diver must also demonstrate proficiency in the use of the appropriate decompression profiling method. Cumulative minimum supervised dives: 30.
- d) **Authorization to 130 Foot Depth** - A diver holding a 100-foot authorization may be authorized to a depth of 130 feet after successfully completing and logging 6 supervised dives to depths between 101 and 130 feet (at least one dive should be at or near 130 feet) under supervision of a dive buddy authorized by the DCB. The diver must also demonstrate proficiency in the use of the appropriate decompression profiling method. Cumulative minimum supervised dives: 36.
- e) **Authorization to 150 Foot Depth** - A diver holding a 130-foot authorization may be authorized to a depth of 150 feet after successfully completing and logging 6 supervised dives to depths between 131 and 150 feet (at least one dive should be at or near 150 feet) under supervision of a dive buddy authorized by the DCB. The diver must also demonstrate knowledge of the special problems of deep diving and of special safety requirements. Cumulative minimum supervised dives: 42.
- f) **Authorization to 190 Foot Depth** - A diver holding a 150-foot authorization may be authorized to a depth of 190 feet after successfully completing and logging 6 dives to depths between 151 and 190 feet (at least one dive should be at or near 190 feet) under supervision of a dive buddy authorized by the DCB. The diver must also demonstrate knowledge of the special problems of deep diving and of special safety requirements. Cumulative minimum supervised dives: 48.

**DIVING ON AIR IS NOT PERMITTED BEYOND A DEPTH OF 190 FEET.**

**Dives beyond 190 feet require the use of mixed gas.**

- g) **Authorization to 250 Foot Depth** - A diver holding a 190-foot authorization may be authorized to a depth of 250 feet after successfully completing and logging 6 supervised dives to depths between 191 and 250 feet (at least one dive should be at or near 250 feet) under supervision of a dive buddy authorized by the DCB. The diver must also demonstrate knowledge of the special problems of deep diving and of special safety requirements.
- h) **Authorization to 300 Foot Depth** - A diver holding a 250-foot authorization may be authorized to a depth of 300 feet after successfully completing and logging 6 supervised dives to depths between 251 and 300 feet (at least one dive should be at or near 300 feet) under supervision of dive buddy authorized by the DCB. The diver must also demonstrate knowledge of the special problems of deep diving and of special safety requirements.
- i) **Authorizations deeper than 300 Feet** - Depth authorizations deeper than 300 feet progress in 50-foot depth/6 dive increments. A diver holding a 300 foot, or deeper authorization may be authorized to the next depth authorization increment after successfully completing and logging 6 supervised dives under supervision of dive buddy authorized by the DCB. The diver must also demonstrate knowledge of the special problems of deep diving and of special safety requirements.

## **4.50 Maintaining Active Status**

### **Minimum Activity to Maintain Authorizations**

During any 12-month period, each scientific diver must log a minimum of 12 scientific, scientific training, or proficiency dives to maintain their certification. Additionally, at least 1 dive must be logged at or near the maximum depth of the diver's depth authorization during each 6-month period. At least 1 of these dives must be classified as a scientific research dive. Only 1 aquarium or pool dive can count towards the annual proficiency requirement. Proficiency dives must be at least 10 minutes long with a minimum surface interval of 10 minutes. Divers authorized to 150 feet or deeper may satisfy these requirements with dives to 130 feet or deeper. Failure to meet these requirements will result in revocation of certification and/or depth authorization.

### **Requalification of Authorization**

Divers whose certification has lapsed due to lack of activity (less than 12 dives annually) are required to complete an open water checkout dive and rescue drill with the DSO or designee. Divers whose depth authorization has lapsed due to lack of activity may be requalified by making one observation dive at or near the requalification depth (with no assigned scientific work tasks) with another active scientific diver qualified at that depth and approved by the DSO. Divers who remain inactive and log no dives in a 60-month (5 year) period cannot be reactivated without completely repeating the AAUS 100-hour scientific dive training class.

### **Medical Examination**

All scientific divers must pass a medical examination at the intervals specified in Section 5.00. A medically cleared diver experiencing any Conditions Which May Disqualify Candidates from Diving (see Appendix 3) must receive clearance to return to diving from a physician before resuming diving activities. This medical examination requirement cannot be waived for any diver.

### **Emergency Care Training**

The scientific diver must hold current training in the following:

- Adult CPR and AED
- Emergency Oxygen Administration
- First Aid for Diving Accidents

### **Dive Accident Insurance – Health and Workers’ Compensation Insurance**

All scientific divers must show proof of current dive accident insurance equivalent to that offered by the Divers Alert Network (DAN) and should have adequate Health Insurance and Workers’ Comp coverage.

### **Dive Equipment Service**

All scientific divers must show proof that their dive equipment (regulator, gauges, BCD, computer, drysuit, etc.) was serviced within 1 year.

### **Fitness to Dive**

All scientific divers must remain physically and mentally fit for diving. Annual swim testing and rescue drills may be required by the DCB.

### **4.60 Revocation of Authorization**

An individual’s scientific diver certification can be restricted or revoked by the DCB. Authorizations associated with an individual’s scientific diver certification may be restricted or suspended by the DSO. Restrictions or suspensions issued by the DSO may be rescinded by the DSO; these issues will be reported to and reviewed by the DCB, and the outcomes or actions resulting from this review will be documented in the diver’s OM record. Violations of regulations set forth in this manual or other governmental subdivisions not in conflict with this manual, or demonstration of poor judgement, may be considered cause. The DCB or designee must inform the diver in writing of the reason(s) for revocation. The diver will be given the opportunity to present their case in writing to the DCB for reconsideration. Following revocation, the diver may be reauthorized after complying with conditions the DCB may impose. All such written statements and requests, as identified in this section, are formal documents, and therefore part of the diver’s file.

## SECTION 5.00 - MEDICAL STANDARDS

### 5.10 Medical Requirements

#### General

- All medical evaluations required by the OM must be performed by, or under the direction of, a licensed physician (MD or DO) of the applicant-diver's choice, preferably one trained in diving/undersea medicine.
- The diver should be free of any chronic disabling disease and any conditions contained in the list of conditions for which restrictions from diving are generally recommended. (Appendix 3)
- The OM must verify that divers have been declared by the examining medical authority to be fit to engage in diving activities.

### 5.20 Frequency of Medical Evaluations

<i>Medical evaluation must be completed:</i>		
Before Age 40	After age 40 Before Age 60	After Age 60
Before a diver may begin diving, unless an equivalent initial medical evaluation has been given within the preceding 5 years	Before a diver may begin diving, unless an equivalent initial medical evaluation has been given within the preceding 3 years	Before a diver may begin diving, unless an equivalent initial medical evaluation has been given within the preceding 2 years
At 5-year intervals	At 3-year intervals	At 2-year intervals
Clearance to return to diving must be obtained from a healthcare provider following a medically cleared diver experiencing any <u>Conditions Which May Disqualify Candidates from Diving</u> (Appendix 3), or following any major injury or illness, or any condition requiring chronic medication. If the condition is pressure related, the clearance to return to diving must come from a physician trained in diving medicine.		

### 5.30 Information Provided to the Examining Physician

The OM must provide a copy of the medical evaluation requirements of this manual to the examining physician. (Appendix 3)

### 5.40 Content of Medical Evaluations

Medical examinations conducted initially and at the intervals specified in Section 5.20 must consist of the following (Appendix 3):

1. Diving physical examination. Modifications or omissions of required tests are not permitted.
2. Applicant agreement for release of medical information to the Diving Safety Officer and the DCB
3. Medical history.

### 5.50 Physician's Written Report

- The Medical Evaluation of Fitness for Scuba Diving Report (AAUS SCUBA DIVING MEDICAL EXAMINATION - Appendix 3) signed by the examining physician (MD or DO) stating the individual's fitness to dive, including any recommended restrictions or limitations, will be submitted to the OM for the diver's record after the examination is completed. This report must be signed by a doctor - MD or DO. A signature from a PA or NP will NOT be accepted.

- The Medical Evaluation of Fitness for Scuba Diving Report will be reviewed by the DCB or designee and the diver's record and authorizations will be updated accordingly.
- A copy of any physician's written reports will be made available to the individual.
- It is the diver's responsibility to provide to the OM a written statement from the examining medical authority listing any restrictions, limitations, or clearances to dive resulting from medical examinations obtained by the individual outside of their normal diving medical examination cycle. These statements will be reviewed by the DCB or designee and the diver's record and authorizations will be updated accordingly.

# Volume 2

**Sections 6.00 through 12.00**

**Required Only When Conducting Described Diving Activities  
and  
Organizational Member Specific Sections**

## SECTION 6.00 - NITROX DIVING

This section describes the requirements for authorization and use of Nitrox, in place of air, as the breathing gas for diving. Otherwise, divers shall comply with all other scuba diving procedures in this manual unless specified below. All nitrox divers must be certified scientific divers or divers in training and have completed nitrox specific training and have specific authorization of the DCB.

### 6.10 Requirements for Nitrox Authorization

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

#### Prerequisites

Only a certified Scientific Diver or DIT diving under the auspices of an OM is eligible for authorization to use nitrox.

Application for authorization to use nitrox must be made to the DCB. Submission of documents and participation in aptitude examinations does not automatically result in authorization to use nitrox. The applicant must convince the DCB through the DSO that they are sufficiently knowledgeable, skilled and proficient in the theory and use of nitrox for diving.

#### Training

In lieu of writing/promulgating AAUS specific training standards for Nitrox divers, AAUS references the standards for Nitrox diver training as defined by the WRSTC and/or ISO. AAUS programs who wish to train Nitrox divers may do so using one of the following options:

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

#### *References:*

"Minimum Course Content for Enriched Air Nitrox Certification" - World Recreational Scuba Training Council (WRSTC), [www.wrstc.com](http://www.wrstc.com)

"Recreational diving services- Requirements for training programs on enriched air nitrox (EAN) diving". ISO 11107:2009 - International Organization for Standardization (ISO), [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)

#### Practical Evaluation

- Oxygen analysis of nitrox mixtures.
- Determination of MOD, oxygen partial pressure exposure, and oxygen toxicity time limits, for various nitrox mixtures at various depths.
- Determination of nitrogen-based dive limits status by EAD method using air dive tables, and/or using nitrox dive tables, as approved by the DCB.
- Nitrox dive computer use may be included, as approved by the DCB.
- A minimum of two supervised open water dives using nitrox is required for authorization.

## Written Evaluation

- Function, care, use, and maintenance of equipment cleaned for nitrox use.
- Physical and physiological considerations of nitrox diving (e.g.: O<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> toxicity)
- Diving regulations, procedures/operations, and dive planning as related to nitrox diving
- Equipment marking and maintenance requirements
- Dive table and/or dive computer usage
- Calculation of: MOD, pO<sub>2</sub>, and other aspects of Nitrox diving as required by the DCB

### 6.20 Minimum Activity to Maintain Authorization

The diver should log at least one nitrox dive per year. Failure to meet the minimum activity level may be cause for restriction or revocation of nitrox authorization.

### 6.30 Operational Requirements

#### Oxygen Exposure Limits

- The inspired oxygen partial pressure experienced at depth should not exceed 1.6 ATA.
- The maximum allowable exposure limit should be reduced in cases where cold or strenuous dive conditions, or extended exposure times are expected.

#### Calculation of Decompression Status

- A set of DCB approved nitrox dive tables should be available at the dive site.
- Dive computers may be used to compute decompression status during nitrox dives. Manufacturers' guidelines and operation instructions should be followed.
- Dive computers capable of pO<sub>2</sub> limit and fO<sub>2</sub> adjustment should be checked by the diver prior to the start each dive to ensure conformity with the mix being used.

#### Gas Mixture Requirements

- Only nitrox mixtures and mixing methods approved by the DCB may be used.
- OM personnel mixing nitrox must be qualified and approved by the DCB for the method(s) used.
- Oxygen used for mixing nitrox should meet the purity levels for "Medical Grade" (U.S.P.) or "Aviator Grade" standards.
- In addition to the AAUS Air Purity Guidelines outlined in Section 3.60, any air that may come in contact with oxygen concentrations greater than 40% (i.e.: during mixing), must also have a hydrocarbon contaminant no greater than .01 mg/m<sup>3</sup>.
  - For remote site operations using compressors not controlled by the OM where this is not verifiable, the DCB must develop a protocol to mitigate risk to the diver.

#### Analysis Verification by User

- Prior to the dive, it is the responsibility of each diver to analyze the oxygen content of their scuba cylinder. And acknowledge in writing the following information for each cylinder: fO<sub>2</sub>, MOD, cylinder pressure, date of analysis, and user's name.
- Individual dive log reporting forms should report fO<sub>2</sub> of nitrox used, if different than 21%.



## **6.40 Nitrox Diving Equipment**

### **Required Equipment**

All of the designated equipment and stated requirements regarding scuba equipment required in the AAUS Manual apply to nitrox operations. Additional minimal equipment necessary for nitrox diving operations includes:

- Labeled SCUBA Cylinders in Accordance with Industry Standards
- Oxygen Analyzers
- Oxygen compatible equipment as applicable

### **Requirement for Oxygen Service**

- All equipment, which during the dive or cylinder filling process is exposed to concentrations greater than 40% oxygen, should be cleaned and maintained for oxygen service.
- Any equipment used with oxygen or mixtures containing over 40% by volume oxygen must be designed and maintained for oxygen service. Oxygen systems over 125 psig must have slow-opening shut-off valves.

### **Compressor system**

- Compressor/filtration system must produce oil-free air, or
- An oil-lubricated compressor placed in service for a nitrox system should be checked for oil and hydrocarbon contamination at least quarterly.

## SECTION 7.00 - SURFACE SUPPLIED DIVING TECHNOLOGIES

Surface supplied diving technologies include any diving mode in which a diver at depth is supplied with breathing gas from the surface. Otherwise, divers shall comply with all other scuba diving procedures in this manual unless specified below.

### 7.10 Prerequisites

All surface supplied divers and/or hookah divers must be certified scientific divers or divers in training and have completed surface supplied diving and/or hookah diving specific training and have specific authorization of the DCB.

### 7.20 Surface Supplied Diving

#### Surface Supply Definition

A mode of diving using open circuit, surface supplied, compressed gas delivered by means of a pressurized umbilical hose. The umbilical generally consists of a gas supply hose, strength member, pneumofathometer hose, and communication line. The umbilical supplies a helmet or full-face mask, often with voice communications.

#### Procedures

- Each diver must be continuously tended while in the water.
- A diver must be stationed at the underwater point of entry when diving is conducted in enclosed or physically confined spaces.
- Each diving operation must have a primary breathing gas supply sufficient to support divers for the duration of the planned dive including decompression.
- For dives deeper than 100 feet (30 m) or outside the no-decompression limits:
  - A separate dive team member must tend each diver in the water;
  - A standby diver must be available while a diver is in the water;
- A diver using Surface Supply may rely on surface personnel to keep the diver's depth, time and diving profile
- Surface supplied air diving must not be conducted at depths deeper than 190 feet (57.9 m).
- The OM DCB is responsible for developing additional operational protocols

#### Manning Requirements

The minimum number of personnel comprising a surface supplied dive team is three. They consist of a Designated Person-In-Charge (DPIC), a Diver, and a Tender. Additional dive team members are required when a diving operation or dive site is considered complex, or when the task loading of a dive team member is deemed excessive. It is the OM DCB's responsibility to define when the surface supplied dive team must be expanded beyond the minimum manning requirements.

#### Equipment

- The diver will wear a positive buckling device on the safety harness to which the umbilical hose will be secured. The attachment must be of sufficient strength to prevent any strain on the helmet/full face mask hose connections and equipment must be configured to allow retrieval of the diver by the surface tender without risk of interrupting air supply to the diver.

- Each diver must be equipped with a diver-carried independent reserve breathing gas supply containing sufficient volume to complete the ascent to the surface, including all required decompression and safety stops.
- Masks and Helmets
  - Surface supplied and mixed gas masks and helmets must have:
    - A non-return valve at the attachment point between the mask/helmet and hose which must close readily and positively; and
    - An exhaust valve
  - Surface-supplied masks and helmets must have a minimum ventilation rate capability of 4.5 actual cubic feet per minute (acfm) at any depth at which they are operated or the capability of maintaining the diver's inspired carbon dioxide partial pressure below 0.02 atmospheres absolute (ATA) when the diver is producing carbon dioxide at the rate of 1.6 standard liters per minute
  - Helmets or masks connected directly to the drysuit or other buoyancy-changing equipment must be equipped with an exhaust valve
- Air supplied to the diver must meet the air quality standards outlined in section 3.60

### **Surface Supplied in Aquariums**

- In an aquarium habitat where the maximum depth is known, a pneumofathometer is not required.
- The maximum obtainable depth of the aquarium may be used as the diving depth
- One tender may line-tend multiple divers, provided the tender is monitoring only one air source, there is mutual assistance between divers, there are no overhead obstructions or entanglements, or other restrictions as defined by the OM DCB.
- The OM DCB is responsible for developing additional operational protocols for surface supplied diving specific to the aquarium environment.

## **7.40 Hookah**

### **Hookah Definition**

Hookah is an open circuit diving mode comprised of a remote gas supply, a long hose, and a standard scuba second stage or full-face mask. Hookah is generally used in shallow water (30 feet or less), though the configuration has been used to supply breathing gas from a diving bell, habitat, or submersible/submarine.

### **Equipment Requirements**

- The air supply hose must be rated for a minimum operating pressure of 130psi.
- Air supplied to the hookah diver must meet the air quality standards outlined in section 3.60
- Hookah supply systems must be capable of supplying all divers breathing from the system with sufficient gas for comfortable breathing for the planned depth and workload.
- Hookah system second stage should be capable of being attached to the diver in a way to avoid pulling stress on the second stage mouthpiece and affords easy release if the diver must jettison the regulator and hose.
- An independent reserve breathing gas supplied will be carried by each hookah diver:
  - When the diver does not have direct access to the surface or
  - At depths or distance from alternate breathing gas source determined by the DCB.

## **Operational Requirements**

- Hookah diving must not be conducted beyond depths or distance from alternate breathing gas source as determined by the DCB.
- A diver's independent reserve breathing gas supply, if worn, must contain sufficient volume to allow the diver(s) to exit to the surface or alternate breathing gas source
- Hookah divers not supported by diving bell, or underwater habitat must not be exposed to dives that require staged decompression.
- The OM DCB is responsible for developing additional operational protocols.

## **Hookah Diving in Aquariums**

- In an aquarium habitat where the maximum depth is known and planned for, a depth gauge is not required.
- The maximum obtainable depth of the aquarium may be used as the maximum diving depth.
- A hookah configured diver may operate without an in-water buddy in an aquarium provided the diver is tended from the surface; has visual, line pull, or voice communication with the tender; the diver carries an independent reserve breathing gas source containing sufficient volume to allow the diver to exit to the surface or alternate breathing gas source; and under other operational conditions as determined by the OM DCB.
- The OM DCB is responsible for developing additional operational protocols for hookah diving specific to the aquarium environment.

## SECTION 8.00 - STAGED DECOMPRESSION DIVING

Decompression diving is defined as any diving during which the diver cannot perform a direct return to the surface without performing a mandatory decompression stop to allow the release of inert gas from the diver's body.

The following procedures must be observed when conducting dives requiring planned decompression stops. Otherwise, divers shall comply with all other scuba diving procedures in this manual unless specified below. All staged decompression divers must be certified scientific divers or divers in training and have completed staged decompression specific training and have specific authorization of the DCB.

### 8.10 Minimum Experience and Training Requirements

#### Prerequisites

- 1) Scientific Diver qualification according to Section 4.00.
- 2) Minimum of 100 logged dives with experience in the depth range where decompression dives will be conducted.
- 3) Demonstration of the ability to safely plan and conduct dives deeper than 100 feet.
- 4) Nitrox certification/authorization according to AAUS Section 6.00 recommended.

#### Training

Training must be appropriate for the conditions in which dive operations are to be conducted. Minimum Training must include the following:

1. A minimum of 6 hours of classroom training to ensure theoretical knowledge to include: physics and physiology of decompression; decompression planning and procedures; gas management; equipment configurations; decompression method, emergency procedures, and omitted decompression.
2. It is recommended that at least one training session be conducted in a pool or sheltered water setting, to cover equipment handling and familiarization, swimming and buoyancy control, to estimate gas consumption rates, and to practice emergency procedures.
3. At least 6 open-water training dives simulating/requiring decompression must be conducted, emphasizing planning and execution of required decompression dives, and including practice of emergency procedures.
4. Progression to greater depths must be by 6-dive increments at depth intervals as specified in Section 5.50.
5. No training dives requiring decompression shall be conducted until the diver has demonstrated acceptable skills under simulated conditions.
6. The following are the minimum skills the diver must demonstrate proficiently during dives simulating and requiring decompression:
  - Buoyancy control
  - Proper ascent rate
  - Proper depth control
  - Equipment manipulation
  - Stage/decompression bottle use as pertinent to planned diving operation
  - Buddy skills
  - Gas management
  - Time management
  - Task loading
  - Emergency skills

Divers must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the DSO or the DSO's qualified designee proficiency in planning and executing required decompression dives appropriate to the conditions in which diving operations are to be conducted.

Upon completion of training, the diver must be authorized to conduct required decompression dives with DSO approval.

### **8.20 Minimum Equipment Requirements**

1. Valve and regulator systems for primary (bottom) gas supplies must be configured in a redundant manner that allows continuous breathing gas delivery in the event of failure of any one component of the regulator/valve system.
2. Cylinders with volume and configuration adequate for planned diving operations
3. One of the second stages on the primary gas supply must be configured with a hose of adequate length to facilitate effective emergency gas sharing in the intended environment.
4. Minimum dive equipment should include:
  - a) Diver location devices adequate for the planned diving operations and environment.
  - b) Compass

Redundancy in the following components may be required at the discretion of the DCB:

- a) Decompression Schedules
- b) Dive Computers, Timing Devices, and Depth Gauges
- c) Buoyancy Control Devices
- d) Cutting devices
- e) Lift bags and line reels

### **8.30 Minimum Operational Requirements**

1. The maximum  $pO_2$  to be used for planning required decompression dives is 1.6 for open circuit. It is recommended that a  $pO_2$  of less than 1.6 be used during bottom exposure.
2. Decompression dives may be planned using dive tables, dive computers, and/or PC software approved by the DCB.
3. Breathing gases used while performing in-water decompression must contain the same or greater oxygen content as that used during the bottom phase of the dive.
4. The dive team prior to each dive must review emergency decompression procedures appropriate for the planned dive.
5. If breathing gas mixtures other than air are used for required decompression, their use must be in accordance with those regulations set forth in the appropriate sections of this manual.
6. Use of additional nitrox and/or high-oxygen fraction decompression mixtures as travel and decompression gases to decrease decompression obligations is recommended.
7. Use of alternate inert gas mixtures to limit narcosis is recommended for depths greater than 150 feet.
8. The maximum depth for required decompression using air as the bottom gas is 190 feet.
9. If a period of more than 6 months has elapsed since the last decompression dive, a series of progressive workup dives defined by the DCB to return the diver(s) to proficiency status prior to the start of project diving operations are required.
10. Mission specific workup dives are recommended.

## SECTION 9.00 - MIXED GAS DIVING

Mixed gas diving is defined as dives done while breathing gas mixes containing proportions greater than 1% by volume of an inert gas other than nitrogen. Divers shall comply with all other scuba diving procedures in this manual unless specified below. All mixed gas divers must be certified scientific divers or divers in training and have completed mixed gas specific training and have specific authorization of the DCB.

### 9.10 Minimum Experience and Training Requirements

#### Prerequisites

1. Nitrox authorization (Section 6.00).
2. If the intended use entails required decompression stops, divers will be previously authorized in decompression diving (Section 8.00).
3. Divers must demonstrate to the DCB's satisfaction skills, knowledge, and attitude appropriate for training in the safe use of mixed gases.

#### Classroom training including

1. Review of topics and issues previously outlined in nitrox and required decompression diving training as pertinent to the planned operations
2. The use of helium or other inert gases, and the use of multiple decompression gases
3. Equipment configurations
4. Mixed gas decompression planning
5. Gas management planning
6. Thermal considerations
7. END determination
8. Mission planning and logistics
9. Emergency procedures
10. Mixed gas production methods
11. Methods of gas handling and cylinder filling
12. Oxygen exposure management
13. Gas analysis
14. Mixed gas physics and physiology

#### Practical Training

1. Confined water session(s) in which divers demonstrate proficiency in required skills and techniques for proposed diving operations.
2. A minimum of 6 open water training dives.
3. At least one initial dive must be in 130 feet or less to practice equipment handling and emergency procedures.
4. Subsequent dives will gradually increase in depth, with a majority of the training dives being

conducted between 130 feet and the planned operational depth.

5. Planned operational depth for initial training dives must not exceed 260 feet.
6. Diving operations beyond 260 feet requires additional training dives.

### **9.20 Equipment and Gas Quality Requirements**

1. Equipment requirements must be developed and approved by the DCB. Equipment must meet other pertinent requirements set forth elsewhere in this manual.
2. The quality of inert gases used to produce breathing mixtures must be of an acceptable grade for human consumption.

### **9.30 Minimum Operational Requirements**

1. All applicable operational requirements for nitrox and decompression diving must be met.
2. The maximum  $pO_2$  to be used for planning required open circuit decompression dives is 1.6. It is recommended that a  $pO_2$  of less than 1.6 be used during bottom exposure.
3. Divers decompressing on high-oxygen concentration mixtures must closely monitor one another for signs of acute oxygen toxicity.
4. If a period of more than 6 months has elapsed since the last decompression dive, a series of progressive workup dives defined by the DCB to return the diver(s) to proficiency status prior to the start of project diving operations are required.
5. Mission specific workup dives are recommended.



## **SECTION 10.00 - SPECIALIZED DIVING ENVIRONMENTS, TECHNIQUES, AND EQUIPMENT**

Certain types of diving, some of which are listed below, require specialized equipment and/or procedures and require specialized training. Supplementary guidelines for these technologies are in development by the AAUS. OMs using these, must have guidelines established by their Diving Control Board. Additionally, divers shall comply with all other scuba diving procedures in this manual unless specified below. All divers must be certified scientific divers or divers in training and have completed the required specific training and have specific authorization of the DCB for each of the following environments, techniques, and equipment types.

### **10.10 Blue Water Diving**

Blue water diving is defined as diving in open water where the bottom is generally greater than 200 feet deep. It requires special training and the use of multiple-tethered diving techniques. Specific guidelines that should be followed are outlined in “Blue Water Diving Guidelines” (California Sea Grant Publ. No. T-CSGCP-014).

### **10.20 Ice and Polar Diving**

Divers planning to dive under ice or in polar conditions should use the following: “PESH-POL\_2000.08 Standards for the Conduct of Scientific Diving”, National Science Foundation, Division of Polar Programs, 2015.

### **10.30 Overhead Environments**

Overhead environments include water filled Caverns, Caves, Flooded Mines and Ice diving, as well as portions of Sunken Shipwrecks and other manmade structures. It is the responsibility of the OM’s DCB to establish the requirements and protocol under which this diving will be safely conducted. In a physically confined space or space not large enough for two divers, a diver must be stationed at the underwater point of entry and an orientation line must be used.

For the purposes of this manual, Ice diving is a specialized overhead environment addressed in Section 10.20 and supplemented by requirements and protocols established by the OM’s DCB.

See Section 12 for Cavern, Cave, or Flooded Mine Diving.

### **10.40 Saturation Diving**

If conducting saturation diving operations, divers must comply with the saturation diving guidelines of the OM.

### **10.50 Aquarium Diving**

An aquarium is an artificial, confined body of water, which is operated by or under the control of an institution and is used for the purposes of specimen exhibit, education, husbandry, or research.

It is recognized that within scientific aquarium diving there are environments and equipment that fall outside the scope of those addressed in this manual. In those circumstances it is the responsibility of the OM’s DCB to establish the requirements and protocol under which diving will be safely conducted.

### **10.60 Specialized Diving Techniques** - The following are topics for future development by the OM.

**Live Boating** - Divers must complete specialized training

**Night Diving** - Divers must complete specialized training

**Low Visibility/Zero Visibility Diving** - Divers must complete specialized training

**Line Tended Diving** - Divers must complete specialized training

**High Altitude Diving** - Divers must complete specialized training

**Strong Current/Drift Diving** - Divers must complete specialized training

**Cold Water Diving**

- Cold water is defined by having a temperature of less than 65°F.
- Exposure-time shall be limited on cold water dives (see below).
- The Lead Diver will make the exposure-time limitation decision based on many variables, weather conditions, and wellbeing of the divers.
- Variables include (but are not limited to) water temp, air temp, exposure time, activity, body mass, wind, surface interval conditions, wetsuit thickness, drysuit, hood, gloves, drysuit, etc.
- Diving WET in cold water
  - 65°F or warmer = No restrictions
  - 55-65°F = Exposure-time limited
  - 45-55°F = Exposure-time extremely limited
  - Below 45°F = No diving
- Diving DRY in cold water
  - 55°F or warmer = No restrictions
  - 45-55°F = Exposure-time limited
  - 35-45°F = Exposure-time extremely limited
  - Below 35°F = No diving
- Limited = maximum bottom time of 30 minutes per dive
  - no more than 4 dives per day per diver
  - warming required between dives and check-in with lead diver to assess divers
- Extremely Limited = maximum bottom time of 20 minutes per dive
  - no more than 2 dives per day per diver
  - warming required between dives and check-in with lead diver leader to assess divers

**10.70 Specialized Diving Equipment** - The following are topics for future development by the OM.

**Drysuits** - Divers must complete specialized training

**Full-Face Masks** - Divers must complete specialized training

**Communications** - Divers must complete specialized training

**Diver Propulsion Vehicles (DPV)** - Divers must complete specialized training

**Lift Bags** - Divers must complete specialized training

**Surface Marker Buoys (SMB)** - Divers must complete specialized training

**Line Reels** - Divers must complete specialized training

**Underwater Photography and Video** - Divers must complete specialized training

## SECTION 11.00 - REBREATHERS

This section defines specific considerations regarding the following issues for the use of rebreathers:

- Training and/or experience verification requirements for authorization
- Equipment requirements
- Operational requirements and additional safety protocols to be used

Divers shall comply with all other scuba diving procedures in this manual unless specified below. All rebreather divers must be certified scientific divers or divers in training and have completed rebreather specific training and have specific authorization of the DCB.

Application of this standard is in addition to pertinent requirements of all other sections of this manual.

For rebreather dives that also involve staged decompression and/or mixed gas diving, all requirements for each of the relevant diving modes must be met. The DCB reserves the authority to review each application of all specialized diving modes, and include any further requirements deemed necessary beyond those listed here on a case-by-case basis.

No diver shall conduct planned operations using rebreathers without prior review and approval of the DCB.

In all cases, trainers must be qualified for the type of instruction to be provided. Training must be conducted by agencies or instructors approved by DSO and DCB.

### 11.10 Definition

- A. Rebreathers are defined as any device that recycles some or all of the exhaled gas in the breathing loop and returns it to the diver. Rebreathers maintain levels of oxygen and carbon dioxide that support life by metered injection of oxygen and chemical removal of carbon dioxide. These characteristics fundamentally distinguish rebreathers from OC life support systems, in that the breathing gas composition is dynamic rather than fixed.
- B. There are three classes of rebreathers:
  1. Oxygen Rebreathers: Oxygen rebreathers recycle breathing gas, consisting of pure oxygen, replenishing the oxygen metabolized by the diver. Oxygen rebreathers are generally the least complicated design but are limited in depth of use due to the physiological limits associated with oxygen toxicity.
  2. Semi-Closed Circuit Rebreathers: Semi-closed circuit rebreathers (SCR) recycle the majority of exhaled breathing gas, venting a portion into the water and replenishing it with a constant or variable amount of a single oxygen-enriched gas mixture. Gas addition and venting is balanced against diver metabolism to maintain safe oxygen levels.
  3. Closed-Circuit Rebreathers: Closed-circuit mixed gas rebreathers (CCR) recycle all of the exhaled gas. Electronically controlled CCRs (eCCR) replace metabolized oxygen via an electronically controlled valve, governed by oxygen sensors. Manually controlled CCR (mCCR) rely on mechanical oxygen addition and diver monitoring to control oxygen partial pressure (ppO<sub>2</sub>). Depending on the design, manual oxygen addition may be available on eCCR units as a diver override, in case of electronic system failure. Systems are equipped with two cylinders; one with oxygen, the other with a diluent gas source used to make up gas volume with depth increase and to dilute

oxygen levels. CCR systems operate to maintain a constant ppO<sub>2</sub> during the dive, regardless of depth.

### 11.20 Prerequisites for use of any rebreather

- A. Active scientific diver status, with depth authorization sufficient for the type, make, and model of rebreather, and planned application.
- B. Completion of a minimum of 25 open-water dives on open circuit SCUBA. The DCB may require increased dive experience depending upon the intended use of the rebreather system for scientific diving.
- C. For SCR or CCR, a minimum 60-feet-depth authorization is generally recommended, to ensure the diver is sufficiently conversant with the complications of deeper diving. If the sole expected application for use of rebreathers is shallower than this, a lesser depth authorization may be allowed with the approval of the DCB.
- D. Nitrox training. Training in use of nitrox mixtures containing 25% to 40% oxygen is required. Training in use of mixtures containing 40% to 100% oxygen may be required, as needed for the planned application and rebreather system.

### 11.30 Training

- A. Specific training requirements for use of each rebreather model must be defined by DCB on a case-by-case basis. Training must include factory-recommended requirements, but may exceed this to prepare for the type of mission intended (e.g., staged decompression or heliox/trimix CCR diving). (See training section for details.)
- B. Successful completion of training does not in itself authorize the diver to use rebreathers. The diver must demonstrate to the DCB or its designee that the diver possesses the proper attitude, judgment, and discipline to safely conduct rebreather diving in the context of planned operations.
- C. Post training supervised dives are required before the Scientific rebreather diver is authorized to use rebreather for research dives. (See training section for details).

### Individual Equipment Requirements

Individual Equipment Requirements			
Key: X = include, IA = If Applicable			
	O <sub>2</sub>	SCR	CCR
DCB approved rebreather make and model	X	X	X
Bottom timer, and depth gauge	X	X	X
Dive computer (separate from rebreather unit)		X	X
Approved dive tables		IA	IA
SMB (surface marker buoy) and line reel or spool with sufficient line to deploy an SMB from the bottom in the training environment	IA	IA	IA
Access to an oxygen analyzer	X	X	X
Cutting implement	X	X	X
BCD capable of floating a diver with a flooded loop and/or drysuit at the Surface	X	X	X
Bailout gas supply of sufficient volume for planned diving activities	X	X	X
Approved CO <sub>2</sub> absorbent and other consumables	X	X	X

## 11.40 Equipment Requirements

### A. General

1. Only those models of rebreathers specifically approved by DCB shall be used.
2. Rebreathers should meet the quality control/quality assurance protocols of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) requirements: ISO 9004: 2009 or the most current version, AND successful completion of CE (Conformité Européenne) or DCB approved third party testing.
3. Rebreather modifications (including consumables and operational limits) that deviate from or are not covered by manufacturer documentation should be discussed with the manufacturer and approved by the DCB prior to implementation.

### B. Equipment Maintenance Requirements

1. The DCB or their designee will establish policies for the maintenance of rebreathers and related equipment under their auspices. Rebreathers should be maintained in accordance with manufacturer servicing recommendations.
2. Field repairs and replacement of components covered in rebreather diver training is not annual maintenance and may be performed by the rebreather diver in accordance with DCB policy.
3. A maintenance log will be kept and will minimally include:
  - a) Dates of service
  - b) Service performed
  - c) Individuals or company performing the service

## 11.50 Operational Requirements

### A. Dive Plan

In addition to standard dive plan components, at a minimum all dive plans that include the use of rebreathers must include:

- a) Information about the specific rebreather model(s) to be used
- b) Type of CO<sub>2</sub> absorbent material
- c) Composition and volume(s) of supply gasses
- d) Bailout procedures
- e) Other specific details as required by the DCB

- B. Particular attention should be paid to using rebreathers under conditions where vibration or pulsating water movement could affect electronics or control switches and systems.
- C. Particular attention should be paid to using rebreathers under conditions where heavy physical exertion is anticipated.
- D. Respired gas densities should be less than 5 g·L<sup>-1</sup>, and should not exceed 6 g·L<sup>-1</sup> under normal circumstances.
- E. User replaceable consumable rebreather components should be replaced per manufacture recommendations or as defined by the DCB.
- F. If performed, periodic field validation of oxygen cells should be conducted per DCB designated procedure.
- G. Diver carried off-board bailout is not required under conditions where the onboard reserves are adequate to return the diver to the surface while meeting proper ascent rate and stop requirements, and the system is configured to allow access to onboard gas.

These calculations must take into consideration mixed mode operations where an open circuit diver could require assistance in an out of gas situation.

- H. Use and reuse of CO<sub>2</sub> scrubber media should be per manufacture recommendations or as defined by the DCB.
- I. Planned oxygen partial pressure in the breathing gas must not exceed 1.4 atmospheres at depths greater than 30 feet, or 1.6 at depths less than 30 feet.
- J. Both CNS and Oxygen Tolerance Units (OTUs) should be tracked for each diver. Exposure limits should be established by the DCB.
- K. The DCB or their designee will:
  - 1. Establish policies for the use of checklists related to rebreather operations.
  - 2. Establish policies for pre- and post- dive equipment checks to be conducted by their divers.
  - 3. Establish policies for disinfection of rebreathers to be used by their divers.
  - 4. Establish policies for pre-breathing of rebreathers used by their divers
  - 5. Establish policies for the use of mixed mode and mixed rebreather platform dive teams under their auspices.
    - a) Mixed mode and/or mixed platform dive teams are permitted.
    - b) At minimum, divers must be cross briefed on basic system operations for establishing positive buoyancy, closing a rebreather diver's breathing loop, and procedures for gas sharing.
  - 6. Establish policies for the maximum depth of dives conducted using a particular class of rebreather within the auspices of their diving operations.
  - 7. Establish policies for depth authorization and maintenance for divers using rebreathers.
  - 8. Establish policies for implementing workup dives within program
    - a) Pre-operation workup dives, including review and practice of emergency recognition and response skills, and management of task loading are required for operations defined by the DCB as beyond the scope of normal operating conditions.
  - 9. Establish policies for the minimum use of rebreathers to maintain proficiency.
    - a) The minimum Annual rebreather diving activity should be 12 rebreather dives, with a minimum of 12 h underwater time.
    - b) To count, dives should be no less than 30 min in duration. A required element of maintaining proficiency is the periodic performance and reevaluation of skills related to in-water problem recognition and emergency procedures
- L. Establish policies for reauthorization for the use of rebreathers if minimum proficiency requirements are not met.
  - 1. Reestablishment of authorization to use rebreathers must require more than just performing a dive on a particular make or model of rebreather.
  - 2. At minimum demonstrated skills included in the required training elements for the level of rebreather operation must be performed and reevaluated.

## 11.60 Rebreather Training Section

### A. Entry Level Training

1. The training area for O<sub>2</sub> Rebreather should not exceed 20 feet in depth.
2. Entry level CCR and SCR training is limited in depth of 130feet and shallower.
3. Entry level CCR and SCR training is limited to nitrogen/oxygen breathing media.
4. Divers at the CCR and SCR entry level may not log dives that require a single decompression stop longer than 10 minutes.
5. Who may teach: Individuals authorized as a CCR, SCR, or O<sub>2</sub> Rebreather Instructor by the DCB; in all cases, the individual authorized must have operational experience on the rebreather platform being taught, and where applicable the individual being authorized should be authorized as an instructor by the respective rebreather manufacturer or their designee.
6. Maximum Student/Instructor Ratio: 4 to 1. This ratio is to be reduced as required by environmental conditions or operational constraints.
7. Upon completion of practical training, the diver must demonstrate proficiency in pre-dive, dive, and post-dive procedures for the particular model of rebreather used.
8. Supervised dives target activities associated with the planned science diving application. Supervisor for these dives is the DSO or designee, experienced with the make/model rebreather used.

Rebreather Entry Level Training Requirements			
Key: X = include, IA = If Applicable, ISE = If So Equipped			
	O <sub>2</sub>	SCR	CCR
<b>Required Training Topic</b>			
<b>Academic</b>			
<b>History of technology</b>	X	X	X
<b>Medical &amp; physiological aspects of:</b>			
Oxygen toxicity	X	X	X
Chemical burns & caustic cocktail	X	X	X
Hypoxia – insufficient O <sub>2</sub>	X	X	X
Hypercapnia – excessive CO <sub>2</sub>	X	X	X
Arterial gas embolism	X	X	X
Middle Ear Oxygen Absorption Syndrome (oxygen ear)	X	X	X
Hygienic concerns	X	X	X
Nitrogen absorption & decompression sickness		X	X
CO <sub>2</sub> retention	X	X	X
Hyperoxia-induced myopia	X	X	X
<b>System design, assembly, and operation, including:</b>			
Layout and design	X	X	X
Oxygen control systems	X	X	X
Diluent control systems		ISE	ISE
Use of checklists	X	X	X
Complete assembly and disassembly of the unit	X	X	X
Canister design & proper packing and handling of chemical absorbent	X	X	X

Decompression management and applicable tracking methods		ISE	X
Oxygen and high-pressure gas handling and safety	X	X	X
Fire triangle	X	X	X
Filling of cylinders	X	X	X
Pre-dive testing & trouble shooting	X	X	X
Post-dive break-down and maintenance	X	X	X
Trouble shooting and manufacturer authorized field repairs	X	X	X
Required maintenance and intervals	X	X	X
Manufacturer supported additional items (ADV, temp stick, CO2 monitor, etc.)	ISE	ISE	ISE
<b>Dive planning:</b>			
Operational planning	X	X	X
Gas requirements	X	X	X
Oxygen exposure and management	X	X	X
Gas density calculations		X	X
Oxygen metabolizing calculations	X	X	X
Scrubber limitations	X	X	X
Mixed mode diving (buddies using different dive modes)	X	X	X
Mixed platform diving (buddies using different rebreather platforms)	X	X	X
<b>Problem Recognition &amp; Emergency Procedures:</b>			
Applicable open circuit emergency procedures for common gear	X	X	X
Loss of electronics	ISE	ISE	X
Partially flooded loop	X	X	X
Fully flooded loop	X	X	X
Cell warnings		ISE	X
Battery warnings	ISE	ISE	X
High O <sub>2</sub> warning	ISE	ISE	X
Low O <sub>2</sub> warning	ISE	ISE	X
High CO <sub>2</sub> warning	ISE	ISE	ISE
Recognizing issues as indicated by onboard scrubber monitors	ISE	ISE	ISE
Recognizing hypercapnia signs and symptoms in self or buddy	X	X	X
Excluded O <sub>2</sub> cell(s)	ISE	ISE	ISE
Loss of Heads Up Display (HUD)	ISE	ISE	ISE
Loss of buoyancy	X	X	X
Diluent manual add button not functioning		ISE	ISE
O <sub>2</sub> manual add button not functioning	ISE	ISE	ISE
Exhausted oxygen supply	X	X	X
Exhausted diluent supply		ISE	ISE
Lost or exhausted bailout	ISE	ISE	ISE
Handset not functioning	ISE	ISE	ISE
Solenoid stuck open	ISE	ISE	ISE
Solenoid stuck closed	ISE	ISE	ISE
ADV stuck open	ISE	ISE	ISE
ADV stuck closed	ISE	ISE	ISE
Isolator valve(s) not functioning	ISE	ISE	ISE
Oxygen sensor validation	ISE	ISE	X
CO <sub>2</sub> sensor validation	IA	IA	IA



Gas sharing	X	X	X
Diver assist and diver rescue	X	X	X
Other problem recognition and emergency procedures specific to the particular unit, environment, or diving conditions	X	X	X
<b>Practical Training and Evaluations</b>			
<b>Demonstrated skills must include, at a minimum:</b>			
Use of checklists	X	X	X
Carbon dioxide absorbent canister packing	X	X	X
Supply gas cylinder analysis and pressure check	X	X	X
Test of one-way valves	X	X	X
System assembly and breathing loop leak testing	X	X	X
Oxygen control system calibration	ISE	ISE	X
Proper pre-breathe procedure	X	X	X
In-water bubble check	X	X	X
Proper buoyancy control during descent, dive operations, and ascent	X	X	X
System monitoring & control during descent, dive operations, and	X	X	X
Proper interpretation and operation of system instrumentation	X	X	X
Proper buddy contact and communication	X	X	X
Use of a line reel or spool to deploy an SMB from planned dive depth and while controlling buoyancy in the water column	X	X	X
Proper management of line reel or spool, and SMB during ascents and safety or required stops	X	X	X
Unit removal and replacement on the surface	X	X	X
<b>Bailout and emergency procedures for self and buddy, including:</b>			
System malfunction recognition and solution	X	X	X
Manual system control	ISE	ISE	ISE
Flooded breathing loop recovery	IA	IA	IA
Absorbent canister failure	X	X	X
Alternate bailout options	X	X	X
Manipulation of onboard and off board cylinder valves	X	X	X
Manipulation of bailout cylinders (removal, replacement, passing and receiving while maintaining buoyancy control)	ISE	ISE	ISE
Manipulation of quick disconnects, isolator valves, and manual controls specific to the unit and gear configuration	ISE	ISE	ISE
<b>Proper system maintenance, including:</b>			
Breathing loop disassembly and disinfection	X	X	X
Oxygen sensor replacement	ISE	ISE	ISE
Battery removal and replacement or recharging	ISE	ISE	ISE
Other tasks as required by specific rebreather models	X	X	X
<b>Written Evaluation</b>	X	X	X
<b>Supervised Rebreather Dives</b>	X	X	X
<b>Entry Level Training – Minimum Underwater Requirements</b>			
	<b>Pool/Confined Water</b>	<b>Open water</b>	<b>Supervised Dives</b>
<b>O2</b>	1 Dive, 90 – 120 minutes	4 dives, 120 minute cumulative	2 Dives, 120 minute cumulative
<b>SCR</b>	1 Dive, 90 – 120 minutes	4 dives, 120 minute cumulative	4 dives, 120 minute cumulative
<b>CCR</b>	1 Dive, 90 – 120 minutes	8 dives, 380 minute cumulative	4 dives, 240 minute cumulative

## B. Rebreather Required Decompression, Normoxic, and Hypoxic Mix Training

1. Required Decompression and Normoxic Training may be taught separately or combined.
2. Prerequisites:
  - a) Required Decompression 25 rebreather dives for a minimum cumulative dive time of 25 hours.
  - b) Mixed Gas:
    - (1) Normoxic Mixes – 25 rebreather dives for a minimum cumulative dive time of 25 hours.
    - (2) Hypoxic Mixes – Rebreather Required Decompression Certification and Normoxic Certification and 25 decompression rebreather dives for a minimum cumulative dive time of 40 hours on dives requiring decompression.
3. Who may teach: Individuals authorized as a CCR/SRC required decompression and/or Normoxic and/or Hypoxic Mix instructor by the DCB or their designee (this is in addition to the original authorization from section A#5).
4. Maximum Student/Instructor Ratio: 2 to 1. This ratio is to be reduced as required by environmental conditions or operational constraints.
5. Upon completion of practical training, the diver must demonstrate proficiency in pre-dive, dive, and post-dive operational procedures for the particular model of rebreather used.
6. Supervised dives target activities associated with the planned science diving application. Supervisor for these dives is the DSO or designee, experienced with the make/model rebreather used.

Rebreather Required Decompression, Normoxic & Hypoxic Mix Training Requirements			
Key: X = include, IA = If Applicable, ISE = If So Equipped			
	Deco	Normoxic	Hypoxic Mixes
<b>Required Training Topic</b>			
<b>Academic</b>			
Review of applicable subject matter from previous training	X	X	X
<b>Medical &amp; physiological aspects of:</b>			
Hypercapnia, hypoxia, hyperoxia	X	X	X
Oxygen limitations	X	X	X
Nitrogen limitations	X	X	X
Helium absorption and elimination		X	X
High Pressure Nervous Syndrome (HPNS)			X
<b>System design, assembly, and operation, including:</b>			
Gear considerations and rigging	X	X	X
Gas switching	X	X	X
<b>Dive planning:</b>			
Decompression calculation	X	X	X

Gradient Factors	X	X	X
Scrubber duration and the effects of depth on scrubber function	X	X	X
Gas requirements including bailout scenarios	X	X	X
Bailout gas management – individual vs team bailout	X	X	X
Gas density calculations	X	X	X
Operational Planning	X	X	X
Equivalent narcosis depth theory		X	X
Gas selection, gas mixing and gas formulas		X	X
<b>Problem Recognition &amp; Emergency Procedures:</b>			
Applicable open circuit emergency procedures for common gear	X	X	X
Flooded loop	X	X	X
Cell warnings	X	X	X
Battery warnings	X	X	X
Hypercapnia, hypoxia, hyperoxia	X	X	X
<b>Practical Training and Evaluations</b>			
<b>Demonstrated skills must include, at a minimum:</b>			
Proper demonstration of applicable skills from previous training	X	X	X
Proper manipulation of DSV and/or BOV	X	X	X
Proper descent and bubble check procedures	X	X	X
Proper monitoring of setpoint switching and pO2 levels	X	X	X
Proper interpretation and operation of system instrumentation	X	X	X
System monitoring & control during descent, dive operations, and ascent	X	X	X
Demonstrate the ability to manually change setpoint and electronics settings during the dive	ISE	ISE	ISE
Demonstrate buoyancy control; ability to hover at fixed position in water column without moving hands or feet	X	X	X
Demonstrate controlled ascent with an incapacitated diver including surface tow at least 30 meters / 100 feet with equipment removal on surface, in water too deep to stand	X	X	X
Onboard and off board valve manipulation for proper use, and reduction of gas loss	X	X	X
Diagnosis of and proper reactions for a flooded absorbent canister	X	X	X
Diagnosis of and proper reactions for CO2 breakthrough	X	X	X
Diagnosis of and proper response to Cell Errors	X	X	X
Diagnosis of and proper reactions for Low oxygen drills	X	X	X
Diagnosis of and proper reactions for Flooded Loop	X	X	X
Diagnosis of and proper reactions for High Oxygen Drills	X	X	X
Diagnosis of and proper reactions for electronics and battery	X	X	X
Operation in semi-closed mode	X	X	X
Properly execute the ascent procedures for an incapacitated	X	X	X
Proper buddy contact and communication	X	X	X

Use of a line reel or spool to deploy an SMB from planned dive depth and while controlling buoyancy in the water column	X	X	X
Proper management of line reel or spool, and SMB during ascents and safety or required stops	X	X	X
Demonstrate the ability to maintain minimum loop volume	X	X	X
Demonstrate comfort swimming on surface and at depth carrying a single bailout/decompression cylinder/bailout rebreather	X		
Demonstrate ability to pass and retrieve a single bailout/decompression cylinder or bailout rebreather while maintaining position in the water column	X		
Demonstrate ability to pass and receive multiple bailout/decompression cylinders or bailout rebreather while maintaining position in the water column	IA	X	X
Demonstration of the ability to perform simulated decompression stops at pre-determined depths for scheduled times	X	X	X
Demonstration of the ability to perform decompression stops at pre-determined depths for scheduled times	X	X	X
Demonstrate competence managing multiple bailout cylinders, including drop and recovery while maintaining position in the water column	IA	X	X
Demonstrate appropriate reaction to simulated free-flowing deco regulator	X	X	X
Gas share of deco gas for at least 1 minute	X	X	X
Demonstrate oxygen rebreather mode at appropriate stop depth		X	X
Complete bailout scenarios from depth to include decompression obligation on open circuit	X	X	X
<b>Written Evaluation</b>	X	X	X
<b>Supervised Rebreather Dives</b>	X	X	X
<b>Minimum Underwater Requirements</b>			
	<b>Pool/Confined</b>	<b>Openwater</b>	<b>Supervised Dives**</b>
<b>Deco</b>	1 Dive / 60 min	7 Dives / 420 min	4 Dives / 240 min.
<b>Normoxic</b>	1 Dive / 60 min	7 Dives / 420 min	4 Dives / 240 min.
<b>Deco/Normoxic Combined</b>	1 Dive / 60 min	7 Dives / 420 min 3 Normoxic Dives / 180 min	4 Dives / 240 min.
<b>Hypoxic Mixes</b>		7 Dives / 420 min	4 Dives / 240 min.
**A minimum of three supervised dives should comply with authorization parameters			

#### B. Rebreather Crossover Training

1. Crossover training to a new rebreather platform requires a minimum of 4 training dives for a minimum cumulative dive time of 240 min.
2. Advanced level certification on a new rebreather platform may be awarded upon successful demonstration of required skills using the new platform.

## SECTION 12.00 - SCIENTIFIC CAVE AND CAVERN DIVING

This section defines specific considerations regarding the following issues for Scientific Cavern and Cave diving:

- Training and/or experience verification requirements for authorization
- Equipment requirements
- Operational requirements and additional safety protocols to be used

Divers shall comply with all other scuba diving procedures in this manual unless specified below. All cave and cavern divers must be certified scientific divers or divers in training and have completed cave and cavern specific training and have specific authorization of the DCB.

Application of this standard is in addition to pertinent requirements of all other sections of this manual.

For cavern or cave dives that also involve staged decompression, rebreathers, and/or mixed gas diving, all requirements for each of the relevant diving techniques, modes, or gases must be met.

No diver must conduct planned operations in caverns, caves, or other overhead environments without prior review and approval of the DCB or designee. The diver must demonstrate that they possess the proper attitude, judgment, and discipline to safely conduct cave and cavern diving in the context of planned operations.

If a conflict exists between this section and other sections in this manual, the information set forth in this section only takes precedence when the scientific diving being conducted takes place wholly or partly within an underwater cave or cavern environment.

### 12.10 Definition

A dive team must be considered to be cave or cavern diving if at any time during the dive they find themselves in a position where they cannot complete a direct, unobstructed ascent to the surface because of rock formations. In addition to blocking direct access to surfacing, underwater caves have additional environmental hazards including but not limited to:

- The absence of natural light.
- Current or flow that vary in strength and direction. Of particular note is a condition known as siphoning. Siphoning caves have flow or current directed into the cave. This can cause poor visibility as a result of mud and silt being drawn into the cave entrance.
- The presences of silt, sand, mud, clay, etc. that can cause visibility to be reduced to nothing in a very short time.
- Restrictions – Any passage through which two divers cannot easily pass side by side while sharing air make air sharing difficult.
- Cave-Ins – Cave-Ins are a normal part of cave evolution; however experiencing a cave-in during diving operations is extremely unlikely.

## 12.20 Prerequisites

Prerequisites	Cavern: OC or Rebreather	Cave	Rebreather Cave
Active scientific diver status, with depth qualification sufficient for proposed training location(s)	X	X	X
Completion of a minimum of 25 dives.	X		
Cavern Diver Authorization		X	X

## 12.30 Training

Training	Cavern: OC or Rebreather	Cave OC	Rebreather Cave
Key: X = include, R = Review, IA = If Applicable, OC = Open Circuit			
Trainers must be qualified for the type of instruction to be provided. Training must be conducted by agencies or instructors approved by the DCB or their designee	X	X	X
<b>Academic</b>			
Policy for diving overhead environments	X	X	X
Environment and environmental hazards	X	X	X
Accident analysis	X	X	X
Psychological considerations	X	X	X
<b>Required equipment and equipment configuration</b>			
Single cylinder with H or Y Valve	IA	IA	
Doubles with Isolation Manifold	IA	IA	
Side Mount		IA	IA
No Mount		IA	IA
Stage Cylinder(s)		IA	IA
Off-board Bailout	IA		X
Communications	X	X	X
<b>Diving techniques</b>			
Body control	X	X	X
Navigation and guidelines	X	X	X
Entry and Exit Protocols (Right of Way)	X	R	R
Use of line arrows and cookies	X	X	X
Line Systems Applicable to the Area and/or Cave System	X	R	R
Line Jumps		X	X
Circuits		X	X
<b>Dive planning</b>			
Rule of Sixths	X	R	R
Rule of Thirds	X	R	R
Gas Matching	IA	X	X
Decompression Theory	R	R	R
Dive Tables	R	R	R
Mixed Mode Diving	IA	IA	IA
Cave geology	X	R	R

Cave hydrology	X	R	R
Cave biology	X	X	X
Emergency procedures	X	X	X
<b>Practical Training and Evaluation</b>			
<b>Land Drills</b>			
Line Reel Use	X	R	R
Techniques and Considerations for Laying a Guideline	X	X	X
Guideline Following	X	R	R
Buddy Communication	X	R	R
Team Positioning for Normal Entry and Exit	X	X	X
Zero Visibility Drills			
Line Reel Use	X	R	R
Line and Line Arrow Identification and Following	X	R	R
Bump and Go (Skills description)		X	X
Emergency Procedures			
How Far Can You Go Out of Gas?(Skills description)	X	X	X
Team Positioning for Emergency Situations	X	X	X
<b>In-Water</b>			
<b>Demonstrated skills must include, at a minimum:</b>			
A minimum of four (4) cavern dives, preferably to be conducted in a minimum of two (2) different caverns	X		
A minimum of twelve (12) cave dives, preferably to be conducted in a minimum of four (4) different cave sites with differing conditions		X	X
Safety drill (S-drill) – Performed on every dive			
Review of Dive Plan and Turn Pressures	X	X	X
Essential Gear Identification, Positioning, and Function Check	X	X	X
Proper Valve Position Check	X	X	X
Bubble Check	X	X	X
Proper Buoyancy Compensator Use	X	X	X
Proper Trim and Body Positioning	X	X	X
Hovering and Buoyancy with Hand Tasks	X	X	X
Specialized Propulsion Techniques and Anti-Silting Techniques (modified flutter kick, modified frog kick, pull and glide, ceiling walk or shuffle)	X	X	X
Proper Light and Hand Signal Use	X	R	R
Proper Reel and Guideline Use	X	X	X
Ability to Deploy a Primary Reel and Tie Into a Main Line Under Different Conditions (Flow, Visibility, Bottom/Silt, etc.)	X	X	X
Proper Line Placement and Etiquette	X	X	X
Proper Use of Safety Reel		X	X
Proper Use of Jump/Gap Reel(s)		X	X
<b>Use of Drop/Stage Cylinders</b>			
Proper Placement and Retrieval of Cylinder(s) With Minimal Disturbance of Environment and Visibility		IA	IA
Ability to Deploy and Retrieve Cylinders with Minimal Loss of Forward Progress		IA	IA

Surveying	IA	IA	IA
Ability to Properly Critique Their Dives and Performance	X	X	X
Zero Visibility Drills	IA	X	X
Line Reel Use	X	R	R
Buddy Communication	X		
Line and Line Arrow Identification and Following	X	R	R
Bump and Go (Skills Description)		X	X
Emergency Procedures			
Team Positioning for Emergency Situations	X	X	X
Lost Line (Skills Description)		X	X
Lost Buddy	X	X	X
Gas Sharing While Following Guideline (Conducted with and without visibility, As Donor and Receiver)	X	X	X
Gas Sharing in a Minor Restriction Using a Single File Method As Donor and Receiver		X	X
Valve Manipulation	X	X	X
Proper Attitude, Judgment, and Discipline to Safely Conduct Dives In An Overhead Environment	X	X	X
<b>Written Examination</b>			
A written evaluation approved by the DCB with a predetermined passing score, covering concepts of both classroom and practical training	X	X	X

#### 12.40 Equipment Requirements

Equipment used for SCUBA in cave or cavern diving is based on the concept of redundancy. Redundant SCUBA equipment must be carried whenever the planned penetration distances are such that an emergency swimming ascent is not theoretically possible.

Minimum Equipment	Cavern OC	Rebreather Cavern	Cave OC	Rebreather Cave
Key: X = include, R = Review, IA = If Applicable, OC = Open Circuit				
At a minimum, a single cylinder with adequate volume and configured to allow divers to exit from farthest/deepest penetration while supporting self and dive buddy equipped with a “K” valve; standard OC regulator configuration (Section 3.20); and BCD	X			
At minimum, a single cylinder equipped with an “H” or “Y” valve Or an alternate gas supply with adequate volume and configured to allow divers to exit from farthest/deepest penetration while supporting self and dive buddy			IA	
Off-board/bailout gas supply of sufficient volume and configured to allow diver to exit from farthest/deepest penetration	IA	X		X
A BCD capable of being inflated from the cylinder	X	X	X	X
Slate and pencil	X	X	X	X
A functioning primary light with sufficient burn time for the planned dive			X	X



Two functioning battery powered secondary lights	X	X	X	X
Two cutting devices	X	X	X	X
One primary reel of at least 350 feet (106 m) for each team	X	X	X	X
Safety reel with at least 150 feet (45.6 m) of line			X	X
Directional Line Markers			X	X
Cylinders with dual orifice isolation valve manifold Or independent SCUBA systems* with enough volume for the planned dive plus required reserve			X	
Two completely independent regulators, at least one of each having submersible tank pressure gauge and a low-pressure inflator for the BCD			X	
One regulator to be configured with a five foot or longer second stage hose			X	
Rebreather		X		X
Off-board Bailout of sufficient capacity for the diver to exit to the surface		X		X
*Independent SCUBA systems must be configured to allow for monitoring of gas pressures in each cylinder				

### 12.50 Operational Requirements and Safety Protocols

Operational Requirements and Safety Protocols	Cavern	Cave
Diving must not be conducted at penetration distance into the overhead environment greater than 200 feet (60 m) from the water's surface, with a depth limit of 100 feet (30 m)	X	
Dive teams must perform a safety drill prior to each dive that includes equipment check, gas management, and dive objectives	X	X
Each team within the overhead zone must utilize a continuous guideline appropriate for the environment leading to a point from which an uninterrupted ascent to the surface may be made	X	X
Gas management must be appropriate for the planned dive with special considerations made for; DPV's, siphon diving, rebreathers, etc.	X	X
The entire dive team is to immediately terminate the dive whenever any dive team member calls (terminates) the dive	X	X

# Appendices

**Appendix 1 through 8 or Equivalent**

**Required for all Organizational Members**

# APPENDIX 1 - DIVE PROGRAM APPLICATION, REAPPLICATION, AND ANNUAL UPDATE

## Duke University Duke University Marine Laboratory

Applicant Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: M F Initial Application: YES NO

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Driver's License # and State of Issue \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty/Staff (Non-Student): YES NO Department \_\_\_\_\_

Student: YES NO Advisor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose of Diving \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor's Signature of Endorsement (MANDATORY) \_\_\_\_\_

Health Insurance Provider \_\_\_\_\_ Policy # \_\_\_\_\_

DAN Dive Accident Insurance: *Must Submit Copy of Current DAN Membership Card with Program Application*

Member # \_\_\_\_\_ Plan Type \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Original Scientific Dive Training Date and Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Level Recreational Dive Certification \_\_\_\_\_ Nitrox: YES NO

*New Applicants Must Submit Copies of Recreational Certification Cards*

Date of Last Dive and Depth and Location \_\_\_\_\_

Dive Logging: *New Applicants Must Submit Copy of Dive Log – Those Reapplying Must Maintain Online Dive Log*

**Certification Record:** *New Applicants must list CPR, First Aid, and O2 Certification. If Applicable, those Reapplying should list Updated Dive Physical, CPR, First Aid, and O2 Recertifications. Also list any new certifications completed in the last year. Must Submit Copies of Updated Exams, Certification Cards, etc...*

Certification	Instructor	Date

**Other Specialty Training or Experience:** Check all that apply

- ☐ Nitrox   ☐ Mixed Gas   ☐ Trimix   ☐ HeliOx   ☐ Technical   ☐ Twin Tanks   ☐ Rebreather   ☐ Dive Computer  
☐ Decompression   ☐ High Altitude   ☐ Dry Suit   ☐ Underwater Photography   ☐ Underwater Video   ☐ DPV  
☐ Habitat   ☐ Lift Bag   ☐ Full Face Mask   ☐ Underwater Communication   ☐ Hookah   ☐ Surface Supplied Air  
☐ Ocean   ☐ Lake   ☐ River   ☐ Bluewater   ☐ Tropical   ☐ Coldwater   ☐ Ice   ☐ Deep   ☐ Night   ☐ Wreck   ☐ Cave  
☐ Cavern   ☐ Overhead Environment   ☐ Strong Current   ☐ Low Visibility

**Annual Swim Test:** To be completed in the pool of your choice with results reported by honor system

400 Yard Surface Swim in less than 12 minutes   Actual Time \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

25 Yard Underwater Swim on One Breath   Completed:   YES   NO

**Annual Equipment Service:** (Regulator, BC, and Computer) *Must Submit Copies of Service Record*

Date of Service/Inspection \_\_\_\_\_ Serviced by \_\_\_\_\_

**Incident Reporting:** Have you experienced decompression illness, embolism, or other accident(s) *in the last 12 months?*   YES   NO   If Yes, provide a detailed report to include the

following: Date, Location, Dive Profile (Ascent Rate, Depth, Bottom Time, Decompression, Safety Stop), Equipment Used, Witness Statements, Accident Type, Symptoms, Treatment, Follow Up.

If yes to above, have you been medically cleared to resume diving by a qualified Diving Physician?

YES   NO   Physician's Name \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby apply/reapply to the Duke University - Duke University Marine Laboratory Scientific Diving Program. I have read the scientific diving manual and agree to abide by its rules and regulations. I agree to assume all risks involved with participation in the program, and here by release Duke University, the Director of Duke Marine Laboratory, and Duke Marine Laboratory's Dive Safety Officer and Dive Control Board, from any and all liability for any injury or illness, including death, due to my participation in this program.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **APPENDIX 2 - WAIVER, RELEASE, HOLD HARMLESS, AND STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING**

### **Duke University Duke University Marine Laboratory**

For the purposes of this document, herein after referred to as “**Release**,” the party intending to participate or volunteer in the University activity shall hereafter be referred to as “**Participant**.” The Duke University - Duke University Marine Laboratory and its trustees, officers, employees and agents shall hereafter be referred to as “**University**.” The Participant’s successors, assignees, heirs, guardians and legal representatives shall be referred to as “**Participant’s Representatives**.” The Participant’s participation in the University’s AAUS Scientific Dive Program, including but not limited to Participant’s participation in underwater SCUBA diving and related travel associated with the University’s Scientific Diver Training Certification Courses, shall hereafter be referred to as the “**Activity**.”

**1. Release and Waiver of Liability:** Participant understands that Participant is not required to participate in the Activity. Participation in the Activity is wholly voluntary. In consideration of the opportunity afforded Participant to participate in the Activity, Participant hereby releases and forever discharges the University from any and all liability, claims, and demands of whatever kind or nature, either in law or in equity, which arise or may hereafter arise from or in connection with the Activity, whether resulting from the negligence of the University or otherwise. Participant understands that this Release discharges the University from any liability or claim that Participant may have against the University with respect to any bodily injury, personal injury, illness, death, property loss, or property damage that may result from participation in the Activity, even if the University was negligent. Participant further agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the University from any and all loss, liability, damages, or cost (including court costs and attorneys’ fees) that may be incurred due to Participant’s participation in the Activity.

**2. Assumption of Risk:** Participant understands and acknowledges that potential risks to health and personal property may be associated with participation in the Activity, and Participant voluntarily assumes those risks. Specifically, Participant acknowledges and understands the risks associated with the Activity include, but is not limited to, travel to and from the Activity in boats and vessels, wading, and underwater SCUBA diving. Participant understands and acknowledges that some of the Activity involves a risk of injury and even death. I further understand that the Activity, may be conducted at a site that is remote, either by time of distance or both, from a medical treatment facility and recompression chamber and I still choose to proceed with the Activity in spite of the possible absence of a recompression chamber in proximity to the dive site. Participant further acknowledges the risk of driving or riding in a non-University vehicle (e.g., car or boat). Specifically, Participant understands that there is no University insurance available to cover any loss, property damage, and/or personal injury, including death that may be sustained by Participant, Participant’s passengers, or third parties while driving or riding in a non-University vehicle, whether or not caused by Participant.

**3. Medical Treatment and Preexisting Medical Conditions:** In the event Participant becomes ill or is injured and is unable to consent to medical treatment, Participant hereby authorizes University representatives to obtain medical, safety, emergency or other assistance for Participant as deemed necessary, and Participant hereby assumes responsibility for the financial costs of such treatment. Participant understands that this authorization is given in advance of any specific diagnosis, treatment, or hospital care being required but is given to provide authority and power on the part of the University to

give specific consent to the diagnosis, treatment, or hospital care which in the best judgment of a licensed physician is deemed advisable. Participant also grants permission for first aid, emergency oxygen administration or cardiopulmonary resuscitation (“CPR”) to be administered by a certified person should it become necessary. In the event that the University provides any medical, safety, emergency, or other assistance to Participant, which Participant hereby authorizes, Participant understands that such assistance does not diminish Participant’s sole responsibility for their own health and safety otherwise, and Participant hereby releases and forever discharges the University from any claim whatsoever that arises or may hereafter arise on account of any such actions for such treatment. Participant also agrees to take appropriate precautions or medications to treat or reduce the likelihood of exacerbating any pre-existing health conditions or allergies.

**4. Requirement of Physical Examination:** Participant further understands and acknowledges that a physical examination is required prior to engaging in the Activity and that Participant must consult with their physician about physical activity and exercise generally, and underwater diving specifically, before participating in this Activity, especially if Participant has any physical conditions that may be harmfully affected by vigorous exercise including, but not limited to, heart, circulatory, respiratory or musculoskeletal conditions. Participant acknowledges that Participant has had a physical examination and has been given their physician’s permission to participate.

**5. No Representations:** The University makes no representations as to the safety of any of the activities administered by non-University entities that may be involved in the Activity, including DSO Services, Inc., Discovery Diving, or Olympus Dive Center, nor any representations or warranties of fitness for a particular purpose regarding any facility or item of equipment provided by these entities.

**6. Permission for Use of Name, Image and Statements:** Participant hereby grants to the University permission to reproduce Participant’s name, likeness, identity, voice, photographic image, video image, and oral or recorded statements in any publication of the University intended for research, educational, promotional, fund-raising or other related use, including but not limited to, film broadcast, printed publications, web pages and web-based publications, associated with the University. Participant will receive no money or remuneration of any kind from the University related to this grant of permission.

**7. Other:** This Release shall be binding and enforceable against Participant and Participant’s Representatives. This Release shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of North Carolina. In the event that any clause or provision of this Release shall be held to be invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity of such clause or provision shall not otherwise affect the remaining provisions of this Release which shall continue to be enforceable. A copy of this document shall have the same force and effect as the original.

**I HAVE CAREFULLY READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS RELEASE.**

_____ Name of Participant	_____ Signature of Participant	_____ Date
_____ Name of Parent or Guardian (If Participant is under 18)	_____ Signature of Parent or Guardian (If Participant is under 18)	_____ Date

## APPENDIX 3 - AAUS SCUBA DIVING MEDICAL EXAMINATION FORM

### DUKE UNIVERSITY – DUKE UNIVERSITY MARINE LAB —— AAUS SCUBA DIVING MEDICAL EXAMINATION ——

**To the Examining Physician:** This person, \_\_\_\_\_, requires a medical examination to assess their fitness for certification as a Scientific Diver for the Duke University – Duke University Marine Lab. 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. This Medical Evaluation Report MUST BE SIGNED BY A DOCTOR – MD or DO. A signature from a PA or NP will NOT be accepted. If you have questions about diving medicine, you may wish to consult one of the selected references in diving medicine or the Undersea Hyperbaric and Medical Society, or the Divers Alert Network. Please contact the undersigned Dive Safety Officer if you have any questions or concerns about this exam or the Duke University – Duke University Marine Lab standards. Thank you for your assistance.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Duke University - Dive 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, 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.
- Thompson, P.D. 2011. The cardiovascular risks of diving. *Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine* 38(4): 271-277.
- Douglas, P.S. 2011. Cardiovascular screening in asymptomatic adults: Lessons for the diving world. *Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine* 38(4): 279-287.
- 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>
- Bove, A.A. and Davis, J. 2003. *DIVING MEDICINE*, Fourth Edition. Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders Company.
- 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.



**DUKE UNIVERSITY – DUKE UNIVERSITY MARINE LAB  
AAUS MEDICAL EVALUATION OF FITNESS FOR SCUBA DIVING REPORT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Applicant (Print or Type)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Medical Evaluation (Month/Day/Year)

**To the Examining Physician:** Your evaluation is requested on this Medical Evaluation Report. This report **MUST BE SIGNED BY A DOCTOR – MD or DO.** A signature from a PA or NP will NOT be accepted. Scientific divers require periodic scuba diving medical examinations to assess their fitness to engage in diving with self-contained underwater breathing apparatus (scuba). Their answers on the Diving Medical History Form may indicate potential health or safety risks as noted. Scuba diving is an activity that puts unusual stress on the individual in several ways. Scuba diving requires heavy exertion. The diver must be free of cardiovascular and respiratory disease (see references, following page). An absolute requirement is the ability of the lungs, middle ears and sinuses to equalize pressure. Any condition that risks the loss of consciousness should disqualify the applicant. Please proceed in accordance with the AAUS Medical Standards (Sec. 5.00). If you have questions about diving medicine, please consult with the Undersea Hyperbaric Medical Society or Divers Alert Network.

**THE FOLLOWING TESTS ARE REQUIRED DURING ALL INITIAL AND PERIODIC RE-EXAMS:**

- Medical history
- Complete physical exam, with emphasis on neurological and otological components
- Urinalysis
- Any further tests deemed necessary by the physician

**THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL TESTS ARE REQUIRED IF APPLICANT IS AGE 40 OR OLDER:**

- Chest x-ray (Required only during first exam when age 40 or older)
- Resting EKG
- Assessment of Coronary Artery Disease using Multiple-Risk-Factor Assessment<sup>1</sup> (Considerations include Age, Smoking, Lipid Profile, Blood Pressure, and Diabetic Screening - Exercise Stress Testing May Be Required)

**PHYSICIAN'S STATEMENT:** *Check Appropriate Boxes and Complete Information Below*

☐ Diver **IS** medically qualified to dive for: ☐ 2 years (over age 60), ☐ 3 years (age 40-59), ☐ 5 years (under age 40)

☐ Diver **IS NOT** medically qualified to dive: ☐ Permanently ☐ Temporarily

I have evaluated the abovementioned individual according to the American Academy of Underwater Sciences medical standards and required tests for scientific diving (Sec. 5.00) and my opinion regarding their medical fitness to dive is indicated above. Furthermore, I have discussed with the patient any medical condition(s) that would not necessarily disqualify them from diving, but which may seriously compromise subsequent health. The patient understands the nature of the hazards and the risks involved in diving with these conditions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Doctor's Signature (**NOT to be signed by a PA or NP**) **MD or DO**  
(circle one) \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Print or Type)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail Address

My familiarity with applicant is: ☐ This exam only ☐ Regular physician for \_\_\_\_\_ years

My familiarity with diving medicine is: \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> 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>

**DUKE UNIVERSITY – DUKE UNIVERSITY MARINE LAB**  
**DIVING MEDICAL HISTORY FORM**  
 (To Be Completed by Applicant-Diver)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Wt. \_\_\_\_\_ Ht. \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Department/Advisor/PI/Project/Program/School/Etc.) (MM/DD/YYYY)

**To the Applicant:** The Medical Evaluation Report MUST BE SIGNED BY A DOCTOR – MD or DO. A signature from a PA or NP will NOT be accepted. Scuba diving places considerable physical and mental demands on the diver. Certain medical and physical requirements must be met before beginning a diving or training program. Your accurate answers to the questions are more important, in many instances, in determining your fitness to dive than what the physician may see, hear or feel as part of the diving medical certification procedure. This form shall be kept confidential by the examining physician. If you believe any question amounts to invasion of your privacy, you may elect to omit an answer, provided that you shall subsequently discuss that matter with your own physician who must then indicate, in writing, that you have done so and that no health hazard exists. Should your answers indicate a condition, which might make diving hazardous, you will be asked to review the matter with your physician. In such instances, their written authorization will be required for further consideration to be given to your application. If your physician concludes that diving would involve undue risk for you, remember that they are concerned only with your well-being and safety.

	Yes	No	Please indicate whether or not the following apply to you	Comments
1			Convulsions, seizures, or epilepsy	
2			Fainting spells or dizziness	
3			Been addicted to drugs	
4			Diabetes	
5			Motion sickness or sea/air sickness	
6			Claustrophobia	
7			Mental disorder or nervous breakdown	
8			Are you pregnant?	
9			Do you suffer from menstrual problems?	
10			Anxiety spells or hyperventilation	
11			Frequent sour stomachs, nervous stomachs or vomiting spells	
12			Had a major operation	
13			Presently being treated by a physician	
14			Taking any medication regularly (even non-prescription)	
15			Been rejected or restricted from sports	
16			Headaches (frequent and severe)	
17			Wear dental plates	
18			Wear glasses or contact lenses	
19			Bleeding disorders	
20			Alcoholism	
21			Any problems related to diving	
22			Nervous tension or emotional problems	
23			Take tranquilizers	
24			Perforated ear drums	
25			Had fever	
26			Frequent sinus trouble, drainage, post-nasal drip, or stuffy nose	

	Yes	No	Please indicate whether or not the following apply to you	Comments
27			Frequent earaches	
28			Drainage from the ears	
29			Difficulty with your ears in airplanes or on mountains	
30			Ear surgery	
31			Ringing in your ears	
32			Frequent dizzy spells	
33			Hearing problems	
34			Trouble equalizing pressure in your ears	
35			Asthma	
36			Wheezing attacks	
37			Cough (chronic or recurrent)	
38			Frequently raise sputum	
39			Pleurisy	
40			Collapsed lung (pneumothorax)	
41			Lung cysts	
42			Pneumonia	
43			Tuberculosis	
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	



## APPENDIX 4 - RECOMMENDED PHYSICIANS WITH EXPERTISE IN DIVING MEDICINE

A List of Medical Doctors that have training and expertise in diving or undersea medicine can be found through the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society or Divers Alert Network. See links below.

<https://www.uhms.org/resources/diving-medical-examiners-list.html>

<https://www.diversalertnetwork.org/medical/physicians.asp>

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

## APPENDIX 5 - DEFINITION OF TERMS

*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.

*Alternate Gas Supply* - Fully redundant system capable of providing a gas source to the diver should their primary gas supply fail.

*Authorization* - The DCB authorizes divers to dive using specialized modes of diving, and the depth they may dive to.

*Breath-Hold Diving* - A diving mode in which the diver uses no self-contained or surface-supplied air or oxygen supply.

*Bubble Check* - Visual examination by the dive team of their diving systems, looking for O-ring leaks or other air leaks conducted in the water prior to entering a cave. Usually included in the "S" Drill.

*Buddy Breathing* - Sharing of a single air source between divers.

*Buddy System* - Two comparably equipped scuba divers in the water in constant communication.

*Buoyant Ascent* - An ascent made using some form of positive buoyancy.

*Cave Dive* - A dive, which takes place partially or wholly underground, in which one or more of the environmental parameters defining a cavern dive are exceeded.

*Cavern Dive* - A dive which takes place partially or wholly underground, in which natural sunlight is continuously visible from the entrance.

*Certified Diver* - A diver who holds a recognized valid certification from an AAUS OM or internationally recognized certifying agency.

*(Scientific Diver) Certification* - A diver who holds a recognized valid certification from an AAUS OM

*Controlled Ascent* - Any one of several kinds of ascents including normal, swimming, and air sharing 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 Sickness* - A condition with a variety of symptoms, which may result from gas, and bubbles in the tissues of divers after pressure reduction.

*Deep Stop* - A stop made at half the dive's maximum depth for 1 minute during the final ascent phase of the dive.

*Designated Person-In-Charge (DPIC)* - Surface Supplied diving mode manning requirement. An individual designated by the OM DCB or designee with the experience or training necessary to direct and oversee in the surface supplied diving operation being conducted.

*Dive* - A descent into the water, an underwater diving activity utilizing compressed gas, an ascent, and return to the surface.

*Dive Computer* - A microprocessor-based device which computes a diver's theoretical decompression status, in real time, by using pressure (depth) and time as input to a decompression model, or set of decompression tables, programmed into the device.

*Dive Location* - A surface or vessel from which a diving operation is conducted.

*Dive Site* - 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.

*Diver* - A person who stays underwater for long periods by having compressed gas supplied from the surface or by carrying a supply of compressed gas.

*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.

*Diving Mode* - A type of diving required specific equipment, procedures, and techniques, for example, snorkel, scuba, surface-supplied air, or mixed gas.

*Diving Control Board (DCB)* - Group of individuals who act as the official representative of the membership organization in matters concerning the scientific diving program (See Diving Control Board under Section 1.00).

*Diving Safety Officer (DSO)* - Individual responsible for the safe conduct of the scientific diving program of the membership organization (See Diving Safety Officer under Section 1.00).

*EAD* - Equivalent Air Depth (see below).

*Emergency Swimming Ascent* - An ascent made under emergency conditions where the diver may exceed the normal ascent rate.

*Enriched Air (EANx)* - A name for a breathing mixture of air and oxygen when the percent of oxygen exceeds 21%. This term is considered synonymous with the term “nitrox” (Section 6.00).

*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.

*Flooded Mine Diving* - Diving in the flooded portions of a man-made mine. Necessitates use of techniques detailed for cave diving.

*fO<sub>2</sub>* - Fraction of oxygen in a gas mixture, expressed as either a decimal or percentage, by volume.

*FSW* - Feet of seawater.

*Gas Management* - Gas planning rule which is used in cave diving environments in which the diver reserves a portion of their available breathing gas for anticipated emergencies (See Rule of Thirds, Sixths).

*Gas Matching* - The technique of calculating breathing gas reserves and turn pressures for divers using different volume cylinders. Divers outfitted with the same volume cylinders may employ the Rule of Thirds for gas management purposes. Divers outfitted with different volume cylinders will not observe the same gauge readings when their cylinders contain the same gas volume, therefore the Rule of Thirds will not guarantee adequate reserve if both divers must breathe from a single gas volume at a Rule of Thirds turn pressure. Gas Matching is based on individual consumption rates in volume consumed per minute. It allows divers to calculate turn pressures based on combined consumption rates and to convert the required reserve to a gauge-based turn pressure specific to each diver's cylinder configuration.

*Guideline* - Continuous line used as a navigational reference during a dive leading from the team position to a point where a direct vertical ascent may be made to the surface.

*Hookah* - While similar to Surface Supplied in that the breathing gas is supplied from the surface by means of a pressurized hose, the supply hose does not require a strength member, pneumofathometer hose, or communication line. Hookah equipment may be as simple as a long hose attached to a standard

scuba cylinder supplying a standard scuba second stage. The diver is responsible for the monitoring their own depth, time, and diving profile.

*Hyperbaric Conditions* - Pressure conditions in excess of normal atmospheric pressure at the dive location.

*Independent Reserve Breathing Gas* - A diver-carried independent supply of air or mixed gas (as appropriate) 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.

*Jump/Gap Reel* - Spool or reel used to connect one guide-line to another thus ensuring a continuous line to the exit.

*Life Support Equipment* - Underwater equipment necessary to sustain life.

*Lead Diver* - Certified scientific diver with experience and training to conduct the diving operation.

*Organizational Member (OM)* - An organization which is a current member of the AAUS, and which has a program, which adheres to the standards of the AAUS as, set forth in the AAUS Manual.

*Manifold with Isolator Valve* - A manifold joining two diving cylinders, that allows the use of two completely independent regulators. If either regulator fails, it may be shut off, allowing the remaining regulator access to the gas in both of the diving cylinders.

*Mixed Gas* - Breathing gas containing proportions of inert gas other than nitrogen greater than 1% by volume.

*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  $pO_2$  for a given gas mixture reaches a predetermined maximum.

*Nitrox* - Any gas mixture comprised predominately of nitrogen and oxygen, most frequently containing between 22% and 40% oxygen. Also be referred to as Enriched Air Nitrox, abbreviated EAN.

*Normal Ascent* - An ascent made with an adequate air supply at a rate of 30 feet per minute or less.

*OTU* - Oxygen Toxicity Unit

*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* - 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.

*Penetration Distance* - Linear distance from the entrance intended or reached by a dive team during a dive at a dive site.

*Pressure-Related Injury* - An injury resulting from pressure disequilibrium within the body as the result of hyperbaric exposure. Examples include: decompression sickness, pneumothorax, mediastinal emphysema, air embolism, subcutaneous emphysema, or ruptured eardrum.

*$pO_2$*  - Inspired partial pressure of oxygen, usually expressed in units of atmospheres absolute.

*Primary Reel* - Initial guideline used by the dive team from open water to maximum penetration or a permanently installed guideline.



*Psi* - Unit of pressure, “pounds per square inch.

*Psig* - Unit of pressure, “pounds per square inch gauge.

*Recompression Chamber* - A pressure vessel for human occupancy. Also called a hyperbaric chamber or decompression chamber.

*Restriction* - Any passage through which two divers cannot easily pass side by side while sharing air.

*Rule of Thirds* - Gas planning rule which is used in cave diving environments in which the diver reserves 2/3's of their breathing gas supply for exiting the cave or cavern.

*Rule of Sixths* - Air planning rule which is used in cave or other confined diving environments in which the diver reserves 5/6's of their breathing gas supply (for DPV use, siphon diving, etc.) for exiting the cave or cavern.

*Safety Drill* - ("S" Drill) Short gas sharing, equipment evaluation, dive plan, and communication exercise carried out prior to entering a cave or cavern dive by the dive team.

*Safety Reel* - Secondary reel used as a backup to the primary reel, usually containing 150 feet of guideline that is used in an emergency.

*Safety Stop* - A stop made between 15-20 feet for 3-5 minutes during the final ascent phase of a dive.

*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.

*Side Mount* - A diving mode utilizing two independent SCUBA systems carried along the sides of the diver's body; either of which always has sufficient air to allow the diver to reach the surface unassisted.

*Siphon* - Cave into which water flows with a generally continuous in-current.

*Standby Diver* - A diver at the dive location capable of rendering assistance to a diver in the water.

*Surface Supplied Diving* - Surface Supplied: Dives where the breathing gas is supplied from the surface by means of a pressurized umbilical hose. The umbilical generally consists of a gas supply hose, strength member, pneumofathometer hose, and communication line. The umbilical supplies a helmet or full-face mask. The diver may rely on the tender at the surface to keep up with the divers' depth, time and diving profile.

*Swimming Ascent* - An ascent, which can be done under normal or emergency conditions accomplished by simply swimming to the surface.

*Tender* - Used in Surface supplied and tethered diving. The tender comprises the topsides buddy for the in-water diver on the other end of the tether. The tender must have the experience or training to perform the assigned tasks in a safe and healthful manner.

*Turn Pressure* - The gauge reading of a diver's open circuit scuba system designating the gas limit for terminating the dive and beginning the exit from the water.

*Umbilical* - Composite hose bundle between a dive location and a diver or bell, or between a diver and a bell, which supplies a 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.

## APPENDIX 6 - AAUS REQUEST FOR DIVING RECIPROCITY AND VERIFICATION OF DIVER TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

### DUKE UNIVERSITY – DUKE UNIVERSITY MARINE LABORATORY

#### AAUS REQUEST FOR DIVING RECIPROCITY (LOR) VERIFICATION OF DIVER TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE (VOT)

Diver: \_\_\_\_\_ Issue Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This letter serves to verify that the above listed person has met the training and pre-requisites as indicated below, and has completed all requirements necessary to be certified as a **Scientific Diver or Scientific Diver in Training** as established by the **Duke University – Duke University Marine Lab** Diving Safety Manual, and has demonstrated competency in the indicated areas. The **Duke University – Duke University Marine Lab** is an AAUS OM and meets or exceeds all AAUS training requirements.

**The following is a brief summary of this diver's personnel file regarding dive status at Duke University – Duke University Marine Lab.**

DD/MM/YYYY Original diving authorization  
DD/MM/YYYY Written scientific diving examination  
DD/MM/YYYY Last diving medical examination (Medical exam Exp. DD/MM/YYYY)  
DD/MM/YYYY Most recent checkout dive (Annual with DSO including Rescue Drill)  
DD/MM/YYYY Scuba equipment (Regulator, BC, Computer) service/test  
DD/MM/YYYY CPR Training - Agency: \_\_\_\_\_ CPR Exp. DD/MM/YYYY  
DD/MM/YYYY Oxygen Administration - Agency: \_\_\_\_\_ 02 Exp. DD/MM/YYYY  
DD/MM/YYYY First Aid for Diving - Agency: \_\_\_\_\_ First Aid Exp. DD/MM/YYYY  
DD/MM/YYYY Date of last dive \_\_\_\_\_ Depth \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of dives completed within previous 12 months? \_\_\_\_\_  
Depth Authorization \_\_\_\_\_ fsw Total number of career dives? \_\_\_\_\_

DAN Insurance Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Any Restrictions or Waivers of Requirements? (Y/N) \_\_\_\_ if yes, explain:

Pertinent specialty certifications or training:

Special medical approvals or training considerations:

#### **Emergency Information:**

Name and Relationship:

Address and Telephone:

This is to verify that the above individual is currently a certified scientific diver at  
**Duke University – Duke University Marine Lab.**

Dive Safety Officer: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature) Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## APPENDIX 7 - DIVE PLANNING WORKSHEET

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ For: \_\_\_\_Proposal; \_\_\_\_New Project; \_\_\_\_Continuing Project/Renewal

PI/Project Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: \_\_\_\_Research; \_\_\_\_Instruction; \_\_\_\_Training; \_\_\_\_Education; \_\_\_\_Other (Describe)\_\_\_\_\_

List of Dive Team Members: (Indicate Lead Diver(s) with \*)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_; Auth. Depth: \_\_\_\_\_; Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_; Auth. Depth: \_\_\_\_\_; Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_; Auth. Depth: \_\_\_\_\_; Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_; Auth. Depth: \_\_\_\_\_; Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_; Auth. Depth: \_\_\_\_\_; Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_; Auth. Depth: \_\_\_\_\_; Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_; Auth. Depth: \_\_\_\_\_; Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) of Dive Operations: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Description of Activity: \_\_\_\_\_

Max. Planned Depth: \_\_\_\_\_; Max. Daily Bottom Time: \_\_\_\_\_; Max. Dives per Day/Week: \_\_\_\_\_

Mode: \_\_\_\_Open Circuit; \_\_\_\_Semi-closed Circuit; \_\_\_\_Closed Circuit; \_\_\_\_Hookah; \_\_\_\_Surface Supplied

Environment: \_\_\_\_Coastal Seas/Reef; \_\_\_\_Open Sea/Bluewater; \_\_\_\_Lake/River; \_\_\_\_Restricted Overhead

Platform: \_\_\_\_Shore; \_\_\_\_Small Craft; \_\_\_\_Pool; \_\_\_\_Ship; Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Breathing Gas: \_\_\_\_Air; \_\_\_\_EAN (\_\_\_\_ % O<sub>2</sub>); \_\_\_\_Mixed Gas (list composition of mixtures in attachment)

Dive Tables to Be Used: \_\_\_\_USN; \_\_\_\_NAUI; Other: \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_Computers (where authorized)

Source of Breathing Gas: \_\_\_\_\_

Type and Source of Vessels: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Equipment and Considerations: \_\_\_\_\_

Specific Site Hazards: \_\_\_\_\_

## Emergency Management Plan

Emergency Oxygen On-Site? Yes / No

Separate Vessel Captain? Yes / No

First Aid Kit On-Site? Yes / No

Surface Tender On-Site? Yes / No

Other Emergency Equipment On-Site: \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Emergency Communication: \_\_\_\_\_

Dive Safety Officer (DSO) Contact Info: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Consult: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Shore Based Emergency Transportation: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Shore Based Emergency Transportation: \_\_\_\_\_

At Sea Emergency Transportation: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Hospital Emergency Room: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Hospital Emergency Room: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Hyperbaric Treatment Chamber: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Hyperbaric Treatment Chamber: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Lead Diver's and Supervisor's Affidavits:** I agree to follow all University diving regulations, and applicable State and Federal law while conducting these dive operations.

Signature of Lead Diver: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of PI, Advisor, or Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

DSO use only

### Dive Safety Officer Approval / Dive Control Board Approval:

\_\_\_ Approved; \_\_\_ Disapproved; \_\_\_ Conditionally Approved (See Below for Remarks, Conditions, or Restrictions)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

DSO Review Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature, DSO: \_\_\_\_\_

DCB Review Date (if required): \_\_\_\_\_ Signature, DCB Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

## APPENDIX 8 - EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

### Introduction

A diving accident victim could be any person who has been breathing compressed gas 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 OM 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:

1. Make appropriate contact with victim or rescue as required.
2. Establish (A)irway (B)reathing (C)irculation or (C)irculation (A)irway (B)reathing as appropriate
3. Stabilize the victim
3. Administer 100% oxygen, if appropriate (in cases of Decompression Illness, or Near Drowning).
4. Call local Emergency Medical System (EMS) for transport to nearest medical treatment facility.  
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.
5. Call appropriate Diving Accident Coordinator for contact with diving physician and recompression chamber, etc.
6. Notify DSO or designee according to the Emergency Action Plan of the OM.
7. Complete and submit Incident Report Form ([www.aaus.org](http://www.aaus.org)) to the DCB of the organization and the AAUS (Section 2.70 Required Incident Reporting).

### List of Emergency Contact Numbers Appropriate for Dive Location

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### Available Procedures

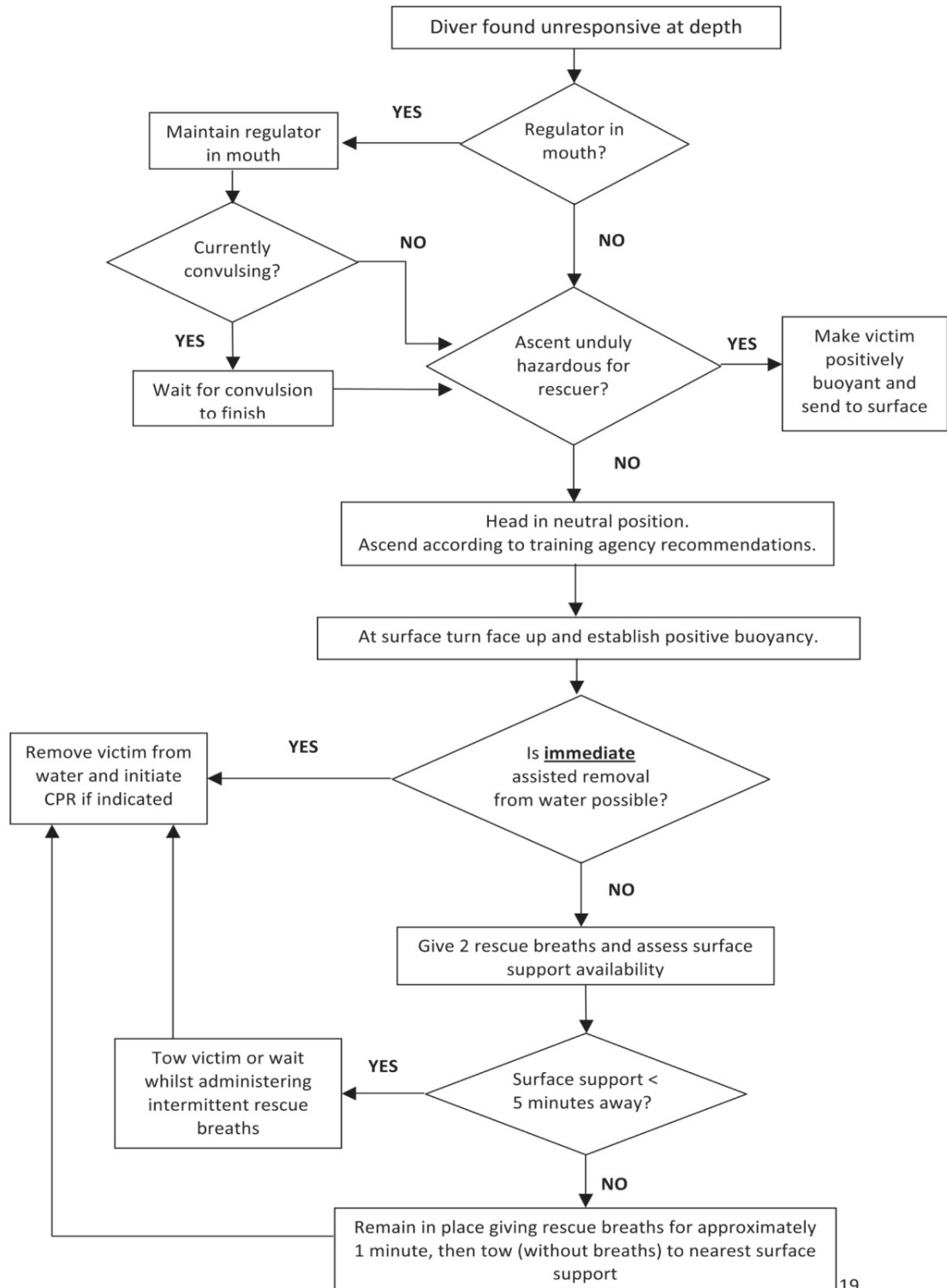
- Emergency care
- Recompression
- Evacuation

### Emergency Plan Content

- 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.

# APPENDIX 9 - RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RESCUE OF A SUBMERGED UNRESPONSIVE COMPRESSED-GAS DIVER

From: S.J. Mitchell et al., Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine 2012, Vol. 39, No. 6, pages 1099-1108



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## APPENDIX 10 - AAUS STATISTICS COLLECTION CRITERIA AND DEFINITIONS

### COLLECTION CRITERIA:

The "Dive Time in Minutes", The Number of Dives Logged", and the "Number of Divers Logging Dives" will be collected for the following categories.

- Dive Classification
- Breathing Gas
- Diving Mode
- Decompression Planning and Calculation Method
- Depth Ranges
- Specialized Environments
- Incident Types

Dive Time in Minutes is defined as the surface-to-surface time including any safety or required decompression stops.

A Dive is defined as a descent underwater utilizing compressed gas and subsequent ascent/return to the surface with a minimum surface interval of 10 minutes.

Dives will not be differentiated as open water or confined water dives. But open water and confined water dives will be logged and submitted for AAUS statistics classified as either scientific or training/proficiency.

A "Diver Logging a Dive" is defined as a person who is diving under the auspices of your scientific diving organization. Dives logged by divers from another AAUS Organization will be reported with the diver's home organization. Only a diver who has actually logged a dive during the reporting period is counted under this category.

Incident(s) that occur during the collection cycle: Only incidents that occurred during, or resulting from, a dive where the diver is breathing a compressed gas will be submitted to AAUS.

### DEFINITIONS:

#### Dive Classification:

- Scientific Dives: Dives that meet the scientific diving exemption as defined in 29 CFR 1910.402. Diving tasks traditionally associated with a specific scientific discipline are considered a scientific dive. Construction and trouble-shooting tasks traditionally associated with commercial diving are not considered a scientific dive.
- Training and Proficiency Dives: Dives performed as part of a scientific diver-training program, or dives performed in maintenance of a scientific diving certification/authorization.

#### Breathing Gas:

- Air: Dives where the bottom gas used for the dive is air.
- Nitrox: Dives where the bottom gas used for the dive is a combination of nitrogen and oxygen percentages different from those of air.
- Mixed Gas: Dives where the bottom gas used for the dive is a combination of oxygen, nitrogen, and helium (or other inert gas), or any other breathing gas combination not classified as air or nitrox.

### Diving Mode:

- Open Circuit SCUBA: Dives where the breathing gas is inhaled from a self-contained underwater breathing apparatus and all of the exhaled gas leaves the breathing loop.
- Surface Supplied: Dives where the breathing gas is supplied from the surface by means of a pressurized umbilical hose. The umbilical generally consists of a gas supply hose, strength member, pneumofathometer hose, and communication line. The umbilical supplies a helmet or full-face mask. The diver may rely on the tender at the surface to monitor the divers' depth, time and diving profile.
- Hookah: While similar to Surface Supplied in that the breathing gas is supplied from the surface by means of a pressurized hose, the supply hose does not require a strength member, pneumofathometer hose, or communication line. Hookah equipment may be as simple as a long hose attached to a standard scuba cylinder supplying a standard scuba second stage. The diver is responsible for monitoring their own depth, time, and diving profile.
- Rebreathers: Dives where the breathing gas is repeatedly recycled in a breathing loop. The breathing loop may be fully closed or semi-closed. Note: A rebreather dive ending in an open circuit bailout is still logged as a rebreather dive.

### Decompression Planning and Calculation Method:

- Dive Tables
- Dive Computer
- PC Based Decompression Software

### Depth Ranges:

Depth ranges for sorting logged dives are: 0-30, 31-60, 61-100, 101-130, 131-150, 151-190, 191-250, 251-300, and 301->. Depths are in feet seawater (when measured in meters: 0-10, >10-30, >30-40, >40-45, >45-58, >58-76, >76-92, and >92->). A dive is logged to the maximum depth reached during the dive. Note: Only "The Number of Dives Logged" and "The Number of Divers Logging Dives" will be collected for this category.

### Specialized Environments:

- Required Decompression: Any dive where the diver exceeds the no-decompression limit of the decompression planning method being employed.
- Overhead Environments: Any dive where the diver does not have direct access to the surface due to a physical obstruction.
- Blue Water Diving: Openwater diving where the bottom is generally greater than 200 feet deep and requires the use of multiple-tethers diving techniques.
- Ice and Polar Diving: Any dive conducted under ice or in polar conditions. Note: An Ice Dive would also be classified as an Overhead Environment dive.
- Saturation Diving: Excursion dives conducted as part of a saturation mission are to be logged by "classification", "mode", "gas", etc. The "surface" for these excursions is defined as leaving and surfacing within the Habitat. Time spent within the Habitat or chamber must not be logged by AAUS.
- Aquarium: An aquarium is a shallow, confined body of water, which is operated by or under the control of an institution and is used for the purposes of specimen exhibit, education, husbandry, or research (Not a swimming pool).



### Incident Types:

- Hyperbaric: Decompression Sickness, AGE, or other barotrauma requiring recompression therapy.
- Barotrauma: Barotrauma requiring medical attention from a physician or medical facility, but not requiring recompression therapy.
- Injury: Any non-barotrauma injury occurring during a dive that requires medical attention from a physician or medical facility.
- Illness: Any illness requiring medical attention that can be attributed to diving.
- Near Drowning/ Hypoxia: An incident where a person asphyxiates to the minimum point of unconsciousness during a dive involving a compressed gas. But the person recovers.
- Hyperoxic/Oxygen Toxicity: An incident that can be attributed to the diver being exposed to too high a partial pressure of oxygen.
- Hypercapnea: An incident that can be attributed to the diver being exposed to an excess of carbon dioxide.
- Fatality: Any death accruing during a dive or resulting from the diving exposure.
- Other: An incident that does not fit one of the listed incident types

### Incident Classification Rating Scale:

- Minor: Injuries that the OM considers being minor in nature. Examples of this classification of incident would include, but not be limited to:
  - Mask squeeze that produced discoloration of the eyes.
  - Lacerations requiring medical attention but not involving moderate or severe bleeding.
  - Other injuries that would not be expected to produce long term adverse effects on the diver's health or diving status.
- Moderate: Injuries that the OM considers being moderate in nature. Examples of this classification would include, but not be limited to:
  - DCS symptoms that resolved with the administration of oxygen, hyperbaric treatment given as a precaution.
  - DCS symptoms resolved with the first hyperbaric treatment.
  - Broken bones.
  - Torn ligaments or cartilage.
  - Concussion.
  - Ear barotrauma requiring surgical repair.
- Serious: Injuries that the OM considers being serious in nature. Examples of this classification would include, but not be limited to:
  - Arterial Gas Embolism.
  - DCS symptoms requiring multiple hyperbaric treatment.
  - Near drowning.
  - Oxygen Toxicity.
  - Hypercapnea.
  - Spinal injuries.
  - Heart attack.
  - Fatality.