

**ECU Standards for Diving Certification and
Operation of University Diving Programs**

East Carolina University

Greenville, North Carolina

**STANDARDS FOR SCIENTIFIC DIVING
MANUAL**

ECU DIVING MANUAL

REVISED December 2019

This manual has been developed as the standard to govern all compressed gas diving activities conducted under the auspices of East Carolina University (ECU). It satisfies the requirement 20 CFR part 1910 of the OSHA regulations on commercial diving to obtain an exemption for Educational/Scientific Diving.

The content of this manual meets standards as required by the American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS) for Scientific Diving. As an AAUS organizational member, ECU is assured reciprocity with other member organizations.

The information contained in this manual presents the minimum acceptable safety procedures to be employed in all ECU diving operations. No set of standard procedures can anticipate all operating situations which may be encountered, and consequently, no single individual may assume safe operation by merely following these guidelines blindly. No standards will ever exist which can substitute for common sense, sound judgment, and a continuing concern for safety. Safety is not a rule book - - it is a state of mind.

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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

The purpose of the ECU Standards For Diving Certification And Operation Of University Diving Programs, here after referred to as the ECU Diving Manual, is to set forth safety standards in compressed gas diving operations conducted under the auspices of East Carolina University (ECU). It is the intent of the University to ensure that all compressed gas diving conducted under University auspices is conducted in a manner that will maximize protection of divers from accidental injury and/or illness. It is also the purpose of this document to set forth standards for training and certification which will allow a working reciprocity between East Carolina University and the American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS), other colleges, universities, state and federal agencies engaged in scientific diving. Fulfillment of the purposes shall be consistent with the furtherance of research and safety.

Historical Perspective

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.

The Diving Safety Program

The purpose of the diving safety program is to oversee the training, certification and safety of compressed gas diving conducted under the auspices of East Carolina University as outlined by the ECU Diving Manual

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:

- a) 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.
- b) 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.

1.20 Scope

University Auspices

University auspices is limited to compressed gas diving in connection with: occupation, research, education, training and certification for University Scientific and Recreational Programs. Unless special arrangements are approved by the ECU Diving Safety Control Board "University Auspices" does not include persons who are not currently employed by the University or who are not currently enrolled as students in the University.

Scientific Programs

Any ECU program conducting scientific research requiring the use of diving is required to adhere to the standards set down in this manual.

Recreational Programs

Any ECU program involved in recreational diving is governed by the standards and procedures set down by the national certification agency, and thus are exempt from all portions of this manual with the exception of the requirements set forth in Section 8 (Recreational Diving).

Training and Certification

Any person involved in compressed gas diving under University auspices is required to observe the provisions of the ECU Diving Manual. Diving is not permitted by individuals until they have met the requirements for diving pertinent to the level of the proposed activity.

Equipment

All compressed gas diving under University auspices shall be done with equipment, regardless of ownership, which conforms to the standards set forth in the ECU Diving Manual.

Jurisdiction

The regulations in the ECU Diving Manual shall be observed at all locations, whether or not owned by the University, where diving is carried out under University auspices.

Liability

In adopting the policies set forth in the ECU Diving Manual, the University assumes no liability not otherwise imposed by law. Outside of those University employees diving in the course of their employment, each diver is assumed under this policy to be voluntarily performing activities for which the diver assumes all risks, consequences and potential liability.

All students and other persons involved with compressed gas diving under University auspices shall execute a release holding the University harmless from any claims which might arise in connection with involvement with compressed gas diving. It is not necessary, however, to require these releases from University employees, either academic or non-academic, who dive in the course of their employment.

Medical Examination

All certified divers shall pass a medical examination (see Section 6)

1.30 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 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.

The Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees has the ultimate authority for the diving program and its related activities.

Chancellor

Maximum authority and operational responsibility for the conduct of the diving safety program is vested in the Chancellor or his designee. He is responsible for providing surveillance of campus diving activities, interpreting University policies, and developing additional campus policies, regulations and standards consistent with University policies.

Diving Control Board

- The Diving Control Board (DCB) is an administrative committee appointed by the Chancellor or his designee. The DCB must consist of a majority of active scientific divers. Voting members include the Diving Safety Officer (DSO), the responsible administrative officer, or his/her designee, and representatives of the campus academic programs active in compressed gas diving.
- Has autonomous and absolute authority over the scientific diving program's operation.
- The DCB:
 - Shall be responsible to the Chancellor or his designee, and shall act as the official representative of the University in matters concerning programs involved in compressed gas diving.
 - Shall be responsible for the setting of all University policies related to diving.
 - Shall approve and monitor diving projects.
 - Shall review and revise the ECU diving manual.
 - Shall assure that the ECU Diving Manual meets at least the minimum standards as prescribed by AAUS to ensure reciprocity.
 - Shall determine the ECU organizational member vote on matters raised by AAUS.
 - Shall recommend changes in policy and amendments to the AAUS and ECU scientific diving manual as the need arises.
 - Shall approve the depth to which a diver has been authorized to dive.
 - Shall act as the official ECU representatives in matters concerning the scientific diving program.
 - Shall assure compliance with the ECU Diving Manual.
 - Shall act as a board of appeal to consider diver related problems.
 - Shall take disciplinary action for unsafe practices.
 - Shall ensure adherence to the buddy system for scientific diving.
 - Shall recommend the issue, reissue, or the revocation of diving authorizations.
 - Shall 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.

- Shall suspend diving operations considered to be unsafe or unwise.
 - Shall establish criteria for equipment selection and use.
 - Shall recommend new equipment or techniques for campus use.
 - Shall establish and/or approve facilities for the inspection and maintenance of diving and associated equipment.
 - Shall ensure that ECU air stations meet air quality standards as described in [Section 3.60](#).
 - Shall sit as a board of investigation to inquire into the nature and cause of diving accidents or violations of the ECU Diving Manual.
 - Shall approve locations where diving may be conducted under University auspices that are outside of the realm of standard operating procedure (SOP), or that may be deemed unusually hazardous.
 - Shall annually review the Diving Safety Officer's performance and the University diving programs and provide a written copy of these reviews to the Chancellor or designee. This review process is scheduled for the spring of the year.
- 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. Shall be a scientific diver, as specified by the ECU Diving Manual, with a wide range of experience, currently certified with at least five years of diving experience, having logged at least four hundred dives, and shall possess a current instructor's certificate issued from an internationally recognized certifying agency.
2. Must be appointed by the Chancellor or his/her 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 ECU, unless he/she has served as a DSO for another current AAUS OM within the last year.

Duties and Responsibilities

1. The Diving Safety Officer is responsible, through the Diving Safety Control Board to the Chancellor, or his/her designee, for the conduct of the diving safety program. The routine operational authority for the diving safety program, including the conducting of

training and certification, approval of dive plans, maintenance of diving records, and ensuring compliance with this manual and all relevant regulations, rests with the Diving Safety Officer. The Diving Safety Officer may permit portions of this program to be carried out by a qualified delegate, although the Diving Safety Officer may not delegate responsibility for the safe conduct of the local diving program.

2. The Diving Safety Officer has the authority to restrict or suspend any University diving activity that is in his/her judgment unwise or unsafe. The Diving Safety Officer shall inform the Diving Safety Control Board of any such restrictive actions. The Board may recommend to the Chancellor/or his designee that the restrictions or suspension be overruled, but such a recommendation shall require the approval by vote of a majority of the members of the Board.
3. The Diving Safety Officer is responsible for the surveillance and coordination of all ECU compressed gas diving programs with special attention to safety. Assuring the implementation of all applicable policies and standards.
4. The Diving Safety Officer is responsible for the establishment and supervision of instruction and evaluation of all training programs. Maintaining certification records, including medical examinations of all personnel involved in diving activities under the auspices of ECU.
5. The Diving Safety Officer is responsible for the approval of Dive Research Plans, maintenance of diving records and insuring compliance with the ECU Diving Manual and all relevant regulations.
6. The Diving Safety Officer is responsible for the evaluation and supervision of the diving safety equipment maintenance programs, including arranging for or conducting tests of breathing gases and the approval and/or certification of University sources of breathing gases.
7. The Diving Safety Officer may permit portions of this program to be carried out by a qualified delegate, although the Diving Safety Officer may not delegate responsibility for the safe conduct of the local compressed gas diving program.
8. Shall be guided in the performance of the required duties by the advice of the Diving Safety Control Board, but operational responsibility for the conduct of the diving safety program will be retained by the Diving Safety Officer.
9. Preparation of recommendations for consideration by the Diving Safety Control Board, such as changes in or additions to campus policy, standards, and regulations to promote diving safety and efficiency; changes in training programs; locations for University sponsored compressed gas diving; new equipment and individuals or organizations qualified to inspect equipment.
10. Shall be a voting member of the Diving Safety Control Board.

Instructional Personnel

Qualifications

All personnel involved in diving instruction under the auspices of the University shall be qualified for the type of instruction being given.

Selection

Instructional personnel will be selected by the Chancellor, or his/her designee, who will

solicit the advice of the DSCB in conducting preliminary screening of applicants for instructional positions.

Dive Master/Lead Diver

For each dive, one individual shall be designated as the Dive Master/Lead Diver who shall be at the dive location during the diving operation. The Dive Master/Lead Diver shall be responsible for:

- Ensuring dives are conducted in accordance with [Section 2.0](#).
- Ensuring all dive team members possess current authorization and are qualified for the type of diving operation.
- Coordination with other known activities in the vicinity that are likely to interfere with diving 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 Supervisor (principle investigator)

Scientific personnel with experience and training to instruct and/or supervise the scientific techniques that are involved in the research operation. The Scientific Supervisor is responsible for the preparation and submission of dive plans for University related scientific projects they conduct. A Scientific Supervisor, cannot act as a Divemaster/Lead Diver on a project where they hold the responsibility for the scientific objectives of the project.

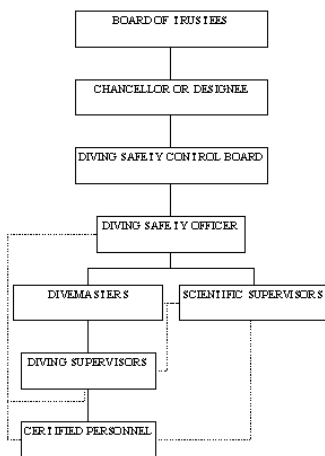
Diving Supervisor

Divers with sufficient experience and demonstrated ability to supervise a new diver under open water conditions for the purpose of completing training or certification dives.

Certified Scientific Personnel

Have successfully completed all entry level training in Section 4 and additional training beyond the diver-in-training permit level for a minimum cumulative time of 100 hours, including classroom, pool and openwater activities.

Organizational Structure



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.
- 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 a document 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 skills for the planned dive.
- 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 ECU DCB and/or the DSO 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.

1.40 Consequence of Violation of Regulations by Scientific Divers

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

1.50 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.

1.60 Record Maintenance

The ECU DSO or his/her designee must maintain consistent records for the 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 University.

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.
- Medical records for diving related injuries for employees of East Carolina University will be released to the Environmental Health and Safety Office if workers compensation benefits are requested.
- Records and documents required by this Manual must be retained by the OM for the following period:
 1. Diving safety manual – Current document only.
 2. Equipment inspection, testing, 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 - 5 years.
8. Reports of disciplinary actions by the DCB – Minimum of 1 year beyond the life of the diver’s program participation.
9. Should all diving operations conducted under the auspices of ECU cease, all applicable records maintained under the requirements of this section shall be transferred to the Chancellor's Office or his designated place for their continued maintenance.

SECTION 2.00 DIVING REGULATIONS

2.10 Introduction

No person shall engage in compressed gas diving activities under the auspices of the East Carolina University unless he/she holds a current certificate issued pursuant to the provisions of this manual, and has filed and received an approved Dive Plan (See appendix 11) with the Diving Safety Office.

2.20 Pre-Dive Procedures

Dive Plans

Dives should be planned around the competency of the least experienced diver. Before conducting any diving operations under the auspices of East Carolina University, the diving supervisor / divemaster for a proposed operation must formulate a dive plan which 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 7)
- 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

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 his/her judgment, conditions are unsafe or unfavorable, or if he/she would be violating the precepts of regulations in this *Manual*.

No dive team member will be required to be exposed to hyperbaric conditions against his/her will.

No dive team member 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 team 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 achieving and 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 on:

- 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.

Decompression Management

- On any given dive, both divers in the buddy pair must follow the most conservative dive profile
- A safety stop performed during the ascent phase of the dive should be conducted on any dive that exceeds 30 feet (9.14m).

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 the dive that he/she considers 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.

Handling of Explosive Materials

No ECU scientific diver may knowingly handle, disturb, or retrieve potentially explosive materials (for example mines, bombs, or torpedoes) without:

1. An approved explosive ordnance disposal course (such as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) course certified by the US military, or other accreditation agency)
2. The prior approval of the ECU diving safety control board.

2.40 Post-Dive Procedures

Post-Dive 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 diving outside the no-decompression limits, the 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 him/her to a hyperbaric chamber if necessary.

2.50 Emergency Procedures

See Appendix 7, 9, 12, and 13.

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 and is encouraged to log all other dives. OM's may allow dives to be logged in any format of OM's choosing. Logs must be submitted per local protocol and must remain in the divers' file. The dive log must include at least the following:

- Name of diver, buddy, and Dive Master
- 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 shall be reported to the Diving Safety Officer, the Diving Safety Control Board and the AAUS. The report will specify the circumstances of the incident and the

extent of any injuries or illnesses. Additional information must meet the following reporting requirements:

- All occupational related injuries or illnesses of East Carolina University employees which require medical attention must be recorded and reported to the Environmental Health and Safety Office using a University "Employee Injury Report". (These are available in the Environmental Health & Safety Office).

- 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.

The Diving Safety Control Board shall investigate and document any incident of pressure-related injury within 45 days of the incident and prepare a report which is to be retained for five years. A copy of this report is to be forwarded to the AAUS during the annual reporting cycle.

A detailed report of any incident which, in the opinion of the diver, divemaster, scientific supervisor or other team member, could have resulted in serious injury or death shall be submitted to the Diving Safety Officer and the Diving Safety Control Board. This information shall be reviewed by the DSO and DSCB, and appropriate recommendations will be made or actions taken.

This report must first be reviewed and released by the ECU 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.

Consequences of Violation of Regulations

Failure to comply with the regulations of this manual may be cause for the revocation or restriction of the diver's University diving certificate.

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 and serviced according to manufacturer recommendations. Equipment that is subjected to extreme usage under adverse conditions should require more frequent testing and maintenance.

3.20 Equipment

Regulators and Gauges

- Scuba regulators and gauges must be inspected and tested prior to each use and serviced, at a minimum, according to manufacturer's recommendations
- Standard open circuit (OC) regulator configuration is:
 - A first stage
 - Primary 2nd stage
 - Back up 2nd stage
 - Submersible Pressure Gauge (SPG)
 - Inflator hose for a Buoyancy Compensator Device
- A Full Face Mask may be used in place of the primary 2nd stage according to manufacturer's recommendations

Equipment for Determination of Decompression Status

- Each member of the buddy team must have an underwater timing device and depth indicator, or dive computer
- If dive tables are being used a set must be available at the dive location
- If a dive computer is used the diver must use the same computer on repetitive dives.

Scuba Cylinders

- 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 and external inspection at intervals not to exceed 12 months.
- Scuba cylinder valves must be functionally tested at intervals not to exceed 12 months.

Buoyancy Compensation Devices (BCD)

- Each diver must have the capability of achieving and maintaining neutral buoyancy underwater and positive buoyancy at the surface.
- BCDs, dry suits, or other variable volume buoyancy compensation devices must be equipped with an exhaust valve.
- These devices must be functionally inspected and tested at intervals not to exceed 12 months.
- BCDs, dry suits, or other variable volume buoyancy compensation devices must not be used as a lifting device in lieu of lift bags.

3.30 Auxiliary Equipment

Handheld Underwater Power Tools

- Power tools and equipment used underwater must be specifically approved for this purpose.

- Tools and equipment supplied with power from the surface must be de-energized before being placed into or retrieved from the water.
- Handheld power tools must not be supplied with power from the dive location until requested by the diver.
- Underwater tools and other equipment utilized for diving that are not specifically covered in this manual but which are utilized in any University approved diving activity must be approved by the Diving Safety Officer and/or the DSCB or their designee.

3.40 Support Equipment

First Aid Supplies

- A first aid kit and emergency oxygen appropriate for the diving being conducted must be available at the dive site.

Diver's Flag

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

Compressor Systems - Organizational Member Controlled

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

- Low-pressure compressors used to supply air to the diver if equipped with a volume tank 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.

Oxygen Systems

- Equipment used with oxygen or mixtures containing over forty percent (40%) by volume oxygen shall be designed and maintained for oxygen service.
- Components exposed to oxygen or mixtures containing over forty percent (40%) by volume oxygen shall be cleaned of flammable materials before being placed into service.
- Oxygen systems over 125 psig shall have slow-opening shut-off valves.
- Oxygen should only be provided in accordance with safe use practices as outlined in an oxygen administration course.

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
- Dry suits
- Scuba cylinders and valves
- Full Face Masks
- Compressors, air filtration systems, gas control panels, and storage banks
- Surface supplied equipment
- Rebreather systems
- Analytical instruments

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 entered in a formal log and be maintained.

A log shall be maintained showing operation, repair, overhaul, filter maintenance, and temperature adjustment for each compressor.

3.60 Air Quality Standards

Breathing Gas

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

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

Remote Operations

For remote site operations using gas sources not controlled by the OM, 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.

SECTION 4.00 SCIENTIFIC DIVER CERTIFICATION AND AUTHORIZATIONS

4.10 Prerequisites

Administrative

The candidate must complete all administrative and legal documentation required by ECU.

Entry Level Diver Certification

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

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

References

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

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

Medical Examination

The candidate must be medically qualified for diving as described in [Section 5.0](#) and [Appendices 1-4](#) 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.

MEDICAL INSURANCE REQUIRED

PERSONS DESIRING TO SECURE ECU CERTIFICATION AS A DIVER ARE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN PERSONAL MEDICAL INSURANCE, EITHER A GENERAL POLICY WHICH COVERS DIVING ACCIDENTS OR A GENERAL POLICY AND A POLICY DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY FOR DIVING RELATED INJURIES, PRIOR TO PARTICIPATION IN ANY ACTIVITY ASSOCIATED WITH DIVING. THE PARTICIPANT MUST PROVIDE PROOF OF THIS (THESE) POLICY(S) TO THE DIVING SAFETY OFFICE PRIOR TO PARTICIPATION IN ANY ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH DIVING AND THAT MUST MAINTAIN THIS (THESE) POLICY(S) THROUGHOUT PARTICIPATION IN ANY ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH DIVING UNDER ECU AUSPICES. THE PURCHASE OF PERSONAL MEDICAL INSURANCE IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PARTICIPANT, AND THE COST FOR ANY MEDICAL TREATMENT REQUIRED AS A RESULT OF OR ARISING OUT OF PARTICIPATION IN ANY ASPECT OF ANY PROGRAM ASSOCIATED WITH EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY IS THE PARTICIPANT'S RESPONSIBILITY.

4.20 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 his/her buddy, may be denied OM scientific diving privileges.

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialized Data Gathering Equipment 	
Required Topics:	Suggested Topics:
Navigation	HazMat Training
HazMat Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HP Cylinders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chemical Hygiene, Laboratory Safety (Use of Chemicals)
Decompression Management Tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dive Tables Dive Computers PC Based Software 	Specialized Diving Equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full face mask Dry Suit Communications Dive Propulsion Vehicle (DPV) SMBs/Lift Bags Line Reels
AAUS Scientific Diving Regulations and History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scientific Dive Planning Coordination with other Agencies Appropriate Governmental Regulations 	
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	

Practical Training / Skill Development	
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"> Enter water fully equipped for diving Clear fully flooded face mask Demonstrate air sharing and ascent using an alternate air source, as both donor and recipient, with and without a face mask Demonstrate buddy breathing as both donor and recipient, with and without a face mask Demonstrate understanding of underwater signs and signals Demonstrate ability to remove and replace equipment while submerged Demonstrate acceptable watermanship skills for anticipated scientific diving conditions
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"> Surface dive to a depth of 10 feet (3 meters) without scuba* Enter and exit water while wearing scuba gear* ^^ Kick on the surface 400 yards (366 meters) while wearing scuba gear, but not breathing from the scuba unit* Demonstrate proficiency in air sharing ascent as both donor and receiver* Demonstrate the ability to maneuver efficiently in the environment, at and below the surface* ^^ Complete a simulated emergency swimming ascent* Demonstrate clearing of mask and regulator while submerged*

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underwater communications^^ • Demonstrate ability to achieve and maintain neutral buoyancy while submerged* • Demonstrate techniques of self-rescue and buddy rescue* • Navigate underwater ^ • Plan and execute a dive^ • Demonstrate judgment adequate for safe scientific diving* ^^
	<p>Rescue Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Demonstrate simulated in-water mouth-to-mouth resuscitation • Removal of victim from water to shore or boat • Stressed and panicked diver scenarios • Recommendations For Rescue Of A Submerged Unresponsive Compressed-Gas Diver – Appendix 9
	<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 100 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>

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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navigation • Diving hazards & mitigations • 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 • Applicable theoretical training and knowledge development from the Required and Suggested Topics (above)
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4.30 Diver Certification 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 his/her way to becoming certified as a scientific diver. While it is recommended for DIT's 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 ECU 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.

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 4.0](#) 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. A diver may exceed his/her depth authorization when accompanied and supervised by a dive buddy holding a depth authorization greater or equal to the intended depth. 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 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 science diver depth authorization, approved upon the successful completion of training listed in [Section 4.00](#). 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 under supervision of a diver authorized by the DCB, for a minimum total 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 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 100 and 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 130 and 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 150 and 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 190 and 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 200 and 250 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. At least one dive must be logged near the maximum depth, as defined by the DCB, of the diver's authorization during each 6-month period. 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 or restriction of authorization by the DSO under procedures established by the DCB.

Requalification of Authorization

Once the initial requirements of [Section 4.00](#) are met, divers whose depth authorization has lapsed due to lack of activity may be requalified by procedures adopted by the DCB.

Medical Examination

All scientific divers must pass a medical examination at the intervals specified in [Section 5.0](#). A medically cleared diver experiencing any Conditions Which May Disqualify Candidates From Diving (Appendix 1) 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

4.60 Revocation of Authorization

An individual's scientific diver certification can be restricted or revoked for cause by the DCB. Authorizations associated with an individual's scientific diver certification may be restricted or suspended for cause 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 this *Manual* must be performed by, or under the direction of, a licensed physician 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 1)
- 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 Conditions Which May Disqualify Candidates From Diving (Appendix 1), 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 Examining Physician

The OM must provide a copy of the medical evaluation requirements of this *Manual* to the examining physician. (Appendices 1, 2, and 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:

1. Diving physical examination ([Appendix 2](#)). 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 ([Appendix 2](#))
3. Medical history ([Appendix 3](#))

5.50 Physician's Written Report

- A Medical Evaluation of Fitness For Scuba Diving Report (or OM equivalent) signed by the examining physician 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.

- 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 for Scientific Diving.

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 ECU 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.

"Recreational diving services- Requirements for training programs on enriched air nitrox (EAN) diving". ISO 11107:2009 - International Organization for Standardization (ISO), 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 (eg.: O₂ and CO₂ 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, pO₂, 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 pO₂ limit and fO₂ 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/m³.
 - 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 his/her scuba cylinder. And acknowledge in writing the following information for each cylinder: fO₂, MOD, cylinder pressure, date of analysis, and user's name.
- Individual dive log reporting forms should report fO₂ 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.

7.10 Prerequisites

All surface supplied and hookah divers must be certified scientific divers or divers in training and have completed system specific training as authorized by the OM.

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 dry suit 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.

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.

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
7. 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.
 8. 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
5. Redundancy in the following components may be required at the discretion of the DCB:
 - a) Decompression Schedules
 - b) Dive Timing Devices
 - c) Depth gauges
 - d) Buoyancy Control Devices
 - e) Cutting devices
 - f) Lift bags and line reels

8.30 Minimum Operational Requirements

1. The maximum pO₂ to be used for planning required decompression dives is 1.6 for open circuit. It is recommended that a pO₂ 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.

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

Certain types of diving, some of which are listed below, require equipment or procedures that require training. Supplementary guidelines for these technologies are in development by the AAUS. OM's using these, must have guidelines established by their Diving Control Board. Divers must comply with all scuba diving procedures in this *Manual* unless specified.

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.

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.

Cavern, Cave, or Flooded Mine Diving see [Section 12](#)

It is the responsibility of the OM's DCB to establish the requirements and protocol under which diving will be safely conducted in overhead environment portions of sunken shipwrecks and other manmade structures.

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.

10.70 Zero Visibility Diving

Divers planning to dive under zero visibility conditions must first complete the ECU zero visibility training module or demonstrate comparable experience.

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

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 shall be met. Diving Control Board 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 shall be qualified for the type of instruction to be provided. Training shall 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 open-circuit 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 (ppO₂). 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 ppO₂ during the dive, regardless of depth.

11.20 Prerequisites for use of any rebreather

A. Active scientific diver status, with depth qualification 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-fsw-depth qualification 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 qualification 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 shall be defined by DCB on a case-by-case basis. Training shall 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 ₂	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 dry suit at the	X	X	X
Bailout gas supply of sufficient volume for planned diving activities	X	X	X
Approved CO ₂ absorbent and other consumables	X	X	X

11.40. Equipment Requirements

A. General

1. Only those models of rebreathers specifically approved by DCB, or its designee, 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

1. In addition to standard dive plan components, as approved by the DSO, 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 CO₂ absorbent material
 - c) Composition and volume(s) of supply gasses
 - d) Bailout procedures
 - f) Particular attention should be paid to using rebreathers under conditions where vibration or pulsating water movement could affect electronics or control switches and systems.
 - g) Particular attention should be paid to using rebreathers under conditions where heavy physical exertion is anticipated.

B. Ideally, respired gas densities should be less than 5 g·L⁻¹, and should not exceed 6 g·L⁻¹ under normal circumstances.

C. User replaceable consumable rebreather components should be replaced per manufacture recommendations or as defined by the DCB.

D. If performed, periodic field validation of oxygen cells should be conducted per manufacturer recommendations.

E. If approved by the DSO, 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.

F. Use and reuse of CO₂ scrubber media should be per manufacture recommendations.

G. Planned oxygen partial pressure in the breathing gas shall not exceed 1.4 atmospheres at depths greater than 30 feet, or 1.6 at depths less than 30feet.

H. Both CNS and Oxygen Tolerance Units (OTUs) should be tracked for each diver. Exposure limits should not exceed those recommended by NOAA.

I. The DCB or their designee will insure:

1. Pre-dive written checklists are used and filed prior to each day of diving. Pre-dive verbal checklists are used on site prior to each dive conducted.
2. Pre- and post-dive equipment checks are performed per manufacturer recommendations.
3. Rebreather units are disinfected per manufacturer recommendations.
4. Duration of pre-breathe should be sufficient to verify control and monitoring system functions, and should be conducted as close to the start of every dive as practicable.
5. Divers performing mixed mode and/or mixed rebreather platform dives are cross-briefed on basic system operations for establishing positive buoyancy, closing a rebreather diver's loop, and procedures for gas sharing

J. Maximum allowable depths for particular rebreather units are determined by manufacturer recommendations.

K. Depth Certifications

Depth Certifications and Progression to Next Depth Level

A CERTIFIED DIVER DIVING UNDER THE AUSPICES OF ECU MAY PROGRESS TO THE NEXT DEPTH LEVEL AFTER SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING THE REQUIRED DIVES FOR THE NEXT LEVEL. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THE DIVER MAY EXCEED THEIR DEPTH LIMIT. DIVES SHALL BE PLANNED AND EXECUTED UNDER CLOSE SUPERVISION OF A DIVER CERTIFIED TO THIS DEPTH, WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND PERMISSION OF THE DSO.

- a) Certification to 100 Foot Depth - A diver holding a 60 foot certificate may be certified to a depth of 100 feet after successfully completing 6 dives to depths between 61 and 100 feet under supervision of a dive buddy authorized by the DCB. The diver shall also demonstrate proficiency in the use of the appropriate Dive Tables.
- b) Certification to 130 Foot Depth - A diver holding a 100 foot certificate may be certified to a depth of 130 feet after successfully completing 6 dives to depths between 100 and 130 feet under supervision of a dive buddy authorized by the DCB. The diver shall also demonstrate proficiency in the use of the appropriate Dive Tables.
- c) Certification to 150 Foot Depth - A diver holding a 130 foot certificate may be certified to a depth of 150 feet after successfully completing, 6 dives to depths between 130 and 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.
- d) Certification to 190 Foot Depth - A diver holding a 150 foot certificate may be certified to a depth of 190 feet after successfully completing, 6 dives to depths between 150 and 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.
- e) 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 dives to depths between 190 and 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.

- f) 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 dives to depths between 200 and 250 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.
- g) 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

L. Pre-operation workup dives

If a period of more than 180 days has elapsed since the last rebreather dive, a series of progressive workup dives to return the diver(s) to proficiency status prior to the start of project diving operations are recommended. Mission specific workup dives are recommended. At minimum demonstrated skills included in the required training elements for the level of rebreather operation must be performed and reevaluated.

M. Maintaining proficiency

The minimum Annual rebreather diving activity should be 12 rebreather dives, with a minimum of 12 h underwater time. At least one dive must be logged near the maximum depth of the diver's certification during each 180 day period. Divers certified to 150 feet or deeper may satisfy these requirements with dives to 130 feet or over. Failure to meet these requirements may be cause for revocation or restriction of certification.

Re-qualification of Depth Certificate

Divers whose depth certification has lapsed due to lack of activity may be re-qualified by procedures adopted by the ECU DSCB.

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

11.60 REBREATHING TRAINING SECTION

Satisfactory completion of a rebreather training program authorized or recommended by the manufacturer of the rebreather to be used, or other training approved by the DCB. 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.

A. Entry Level Training

1. The training area for O2 Rebreather should not exceed 20 feet in depth
2. Entry level CCR and SCR training is limited in depth of 130 feet 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 O2 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 operational procedures for the particular model of rebreather to be 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 being used.

Rebreather Entry Level Training Requirements			
Key: X = include, IA = If Applicable, ISE = If So Equipped			
Required Training Topic	O ₂	SCR	CCR
Academic			
History of technology	X	X	X
Medical & physiological aspects of:			
Oxygen toxicity	X	X	X
Chemical burns & caustic cocktail	X	X	X
Hypoxia – insufficient O ₂	X	X	X
Hypercapnia – excessive CO ₂	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 ₂ retention	X	X	X
Hyperoxia-induced myopia	X	X	X
System design, assembly, and operation, including:			
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, CO ₂ monitor, etc.)	ISE	ISE	ISE
Dive planning:			
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
Problem Recognition & Emergency Procedures:			
Applicable open circuit emergency procedures for common gear elements	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 ₂ warning	ISE	ISE	X
Low O ₂ warning	ISE	ISE	X
High CO ₂ 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 ₂ 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 ₂ 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 ₂ 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
Practical Training and Evaluations			
Demonstrated skills must include, at a minimum:			
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 ascent	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
Bailout and emergency procedures for self and buddy, including:			
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
Proper system maintenance, including:			
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
Written Evaluation	X	X	X
Supervised Rebreather Dives	X	X	X
Entry Level Training – Minimum Underwater Requirements			
	Pool/Confined Water	Open water	Supervised Dives
O2	1 Dive, 90 – 120 minutes	4 dives, 120 minute cumulative	2 Dives, 120 minute cumulative
SCR	1 Dive, 90 – 120 minutes	4 dives, 120 minute cumulative	4 dives, 120 minute cumulative
CCR	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 to be 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 being used

Rebreather Required Decompression, Normoxic & Hypoxic Mix Training Requirements			
Key: X = include, IA = If Applicable, ISE = If So Equipped			
Required Training Topic	Deco	Normoxic	Hypoxic Mixes
Academic			
Review of applicable subject matter from previous training	X	X	X
Medical & physiological aspects of:			
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
System design, assembly, and operation, including:			
Gear considerations and rigging	X	X	X
Gas switching	X	X	X
Dive planning:			
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
Problem Recognition & Emergency Procedures:			
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
Practical Training and Evaluations			
Demonstrated skills must include, at a minimum:			
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
Written Evaluation	X	X	X
Supervised Rebreather Dives	X	X	X
Minimum Underwater Requirements			
	Pool/Confined	Openwater	Supervised Dives**
Deco	1 Dive / 60 min	7 Dives / 420 min	4 Dives / 240 min.
Normoxic	1 Dive / 60 min	7 Dives / 420 min	4 Dives / 240 min.
Deco/Normoxic Combined	1 Dive / 60 min	7 Dives / 420 min 3 Normoxic Dives / 180 min	4 Dives / 240 min.
Hypoxic Mixes		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

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 he/she possesses 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
Academic			
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
Required equipment and equipment configuration			
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
Diving techniques			
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
Dive planning			
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
Practical Training and Evaluation			
Land Drills			
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
In-Water			
Demonstrated skills must include, at a minimum:			
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
Use of Drop/Stage Cylinders			
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
Written Examination			
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

SECTION 13.00 RECREATIONAL DIVING PROGRAMS

13.10 Scope

Employees of the Recreational Diving Program (RDP) and students participating in sanctioned University courses are governed by standards set forth by the national certifying agencies.

Students

- Students under the direct supervision of leadership personnel as defined by the national certifying agencies are considered exempt from both AAUS and ECU compressed gas diving regulations so long as they comply with the standards set forth by the national certifying agency.

Employees

- Individuals employed by the RDP for either instruction or evaluation of students must comply with all standards set forth by the national certifying agencies. In addition, employees of the RDP must meet the following requirements of this manual.
- Employees must have and maintain a current medical as outlined in Section 5.
- Employees must maintain maintenance records for all life support equipment as outlined in section four.
- Employees must maintain current CPR and First Aid ratings.
- Employees must be familiar with the use of Oxygen and related equipment for dive accident management.
- Any newly hired employee will be subject to a swimming and in-water evaluation by the Diving Safety Officer or his designee.
- Employees are required to log all dives made in conjunction with employment at ECU. Training dives must include student names.

13.20 Required Accident Reporting

- All diving accidents requiring recompression or resulting in serious injury shall be reported to the Diving Safety Office. Accident report forms are available from the Diving Safety Office.
- All diving related injuries or illnesses of East Carolina employees which require medical attention must be recorded and reported to the Environmental Health and Safety Office using a University "Employee Injury Report". (These are available in the Environmental Health & Safety Office).

13.30 Oxygen and First Aid Equipment Availability

- Oxygen and first aid equipment must be readily available at all dive sites. Oxygen and first aid equipment will be supplied, upon request, by the Diving Safety Office for any dives made under University auspices.

13.40 New Programs

- In the event that additional diving programs (non-curriculum), which are not currently addressed in this manual, are started at ECU, they must first receive approval from the Diving Safety Officer and the Diving Safety Control Board.

Appendices

APPENDIX 1

DIVING MEDICAL EXAM OVERVIEW FOR THE EXAMINING PHYSICIAN

TO THE EXAMINING PHYSICIAN:

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

Jason Nunn
ECU Dive Safety Officer
(252)328-4041

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

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

CONDITIONS WHICH MAY DISQUALIFY CANDIDATES FROM DIVING

1. Abnormalities of the tympanic membrane, such as perforation, presence of a monomeric membrane, or inability to autoinflate the middle ears. [5 ,7, 8, 9]
2. Vertigo, including Meniere's Disease. [13]
3. Stapedectomy or middle ear reconstructive surgery. [11]
4. Recent ocular surgery. [15, 18, 19]
5. Psychiatric disorders including claustrophobia, suicidal ideation, psychosis, anxiety states, untreated depression. [20 - 23]
6. Substance abuse, including alcohol. [24 - 25]
7. Episodic loss of consciousness. [1, 26, 27]
8. History of seizure. [27, 28]
9. History of stroke or a fixed neurological deficit. [29, 30]
10. Recurring neurologic disorders, including transient ischemic attacks. [29, 30]
11. History of intracranial aneurysm, other vascular malformation or intracranial hemorrhage. [31]
12. History of neurological decompression illness with residual deficit. [29, 30]
13. Head injury with sequelae. [26, 27]
14. Hematologic disorders including coagulopathies. [41, 42]
15. Evidence of coronary artery disease or high risk for coronary artery disease. [33 - 35]
16. Atrial septal defects. [39]
17. Significant valvular heart disease - isolated mitral valve prolapse is not disqualifying. [38]
18. Significant cardiac rhythm or conduction abnormalities. [36 - 37]
19. Implanted cardiac pacemakers and cardiac defibrillators (ICD). [39, 40]
20. Inadequate exercise tolerance. [34]
21. Severe hypertension. [35]
22. History of spontaneous or traumatic pneumothorax. [45]
23. Asthma. [42 - 44]
24. Chronic pulmonary disease, including radiographic evidence of pulmonary blebs, bullae, or cysts. [45,46]
25. Diabetes mellitus. [46 - 47]
26. Pregnancy. [56]

SELECTED REFERENCES IN DIVING MEDICINE

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

- Elliott, D.H. ed. 1996. *Are Asthmatics Fit to Dive?* Kensington, MD: Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society.
- Bove, A.A. 2011. The cardiovascular system and diving risk. *Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine* 38(4): 261-269.
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- 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>
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- Edmonds, C., Lowry, C., Pennefather, J. and Walker, R. 2002. *DIVING AND SUBAQUATIC MEDICINE*, Fourth Edition. London: Hodder Arnold Publishers.
- Bove, A.A. ed. 1998. *MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF SPORT SCUBA DIVERS*, San Antonio, TX: Medical Seminars, Inc.
- NOAA *DIVING MANUAL*, NOAA. Superintendent of Documents. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.
- U.S. *NAVY DIVING MANUAL*. Superintendent of Documents, Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

APPENDIX 2

MEDICAL EVALUATION OF FITNESS FOR SCUBA DIVING REPORT

Name of Applicant (Print or Type)

Birth Date (Mo/Day/Year)

To The PHYSICIAN:

This person is an applicant for training or is presently certified to engage in diving with self-contained underwater breathing apparatus (scuba). This is an activity which puts unusual stress on the individual in several ways. Your opinion on the applicant's medical fitness is requested. Scuba diving requires heavy exertion. The diver must be free of cardiovascular and respiratory disease. An absolute requirement is the ability of the lungs, middle ear and sinuses to equalize pressure. Any condition that risks the loss of consciousness should disqualify the applicant.

TESTS: PLEASE INITIAL THAT THE FOLLOWING TESTS WERE COMPLETED.

Initial Examination

- ____ Medical History
- ____ Complete Physical Exam with emphasis on neurological and otological components
- ____ Chest X-Ray
- ____ Spirometry
- ____ Hematocrit or Hemoglobin
- ____ Urinalysis
- ____ Any further tests deemed necessary by the physician

Additional testing for first exam over age 40

- ____ Resting EKG
- ____ Assessment of coronary artery disease using Multiple Risk Factor Assessment¹ (age, lipid profile, blood pressure, diabetic screening, smoker) Note: Exercise stress testing may be indicated based on risk factor assessment.²

Re-examination (Every 5 years under age 40, every 3 years over age 40, every 2 years over age 60)

- ____ Medical History
- ____ Complete Physical Exam with emphasis on neurological and otological components
- ____ Hematocrit or Hemoglobin
- ____ Urinalysis
- ____ Any further tests deemed necessary by the physician

Additional testing over age 40

- ____ Resting EKG
- ____ Assessment of coronary artery disease using Multiple Risk Factor Assessment¹ (age, lipid profile, blood pressure, diabetic screening, smoker) Note: Exercise stress testing may be indicated based on risk factor assessment.²

¹ "Assessment of Cardiovascular Risk by Use of Multiple-Risk-Factor Assessment Equations." Grundy et. al. 1999. AHA/ACC Scientific Statement. <http://www.acc.org/clinical/consensus/risk/risk1999.pdf>

²Gibbons RJ, et al. ACC/AHA Guidelines for Exercise Testing. A report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Task Force on Practice Guidelines (Committee on Exercise Testing). Journal of the American College of Cardiology. 30:260-311, 1997. <http://www.acc.org/clinical/guidelines/exercise/exercise.pdf>

RECOMMENDATION:

- APPROVAL. I find no medical condition(s) which I consider incompatible with diving.
- RESTRICTED ACTIVITY APPROVAL. The applicant may dive in certain circumstances as described in REMARKS.
- FURTHER TESTING REQUIRED. I have encountered a potential contraindication to diving. Additional medical tests must be performed before a final assessment can be made. See REMARKS.
- REJECT. This applicant has medical condition(s) which, in my opinion, clearly would constitute unacceptable hazards to health and safety in diving

REMARKS:

I have evaluated the above-mentioned individual according to the American Academy of Underwater Sciences medical standards for scientific diving (Section 6.00), and find no conditions that may be disqualifying.

I have discussed the patient's medical condition(s) which would not seriously interfere with diving but which may seriously compromise subsequent health. The patient understands the nature of the hazards and the risks involved in diving with these defects.

Date Signature _____ M.D.

Name (Print or Type)

Address

Telephone Number

My familiarity with applicant is:

- With this exam only
- Regular Physician for _____ years
- Other (describe) _____

My familiarity with diving medicine:

- Training in Hyperbaric Medicine.
- Contact with the Divers Alert Network (919)684-2948
- Other (describe) _____

APPLICANT'S RELEASE OF MEDICAL INFORMATION FORM

I authorize the release of this information and all medical information subsequently acquired in association with my diving to the East Carolina University Diving Safety Officer and Diving Control Board or their designee at ECU Diving Safety Office on (date) _____.

Signature of Applicant _____

Printed Name _____

APPENDIX 3 DIVING MEDICAL HISTORY FORM

(To Be Completed By Applicant-Diver)

Name _____ DOB ____ Age ____ Wt. ____ Ht. ____

Sponsor _____ Date ____/____/____
(Dept./Project/Program/School, etc.) (Mo/Day/Yr)

TO THE APPLICANT:

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 must 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 must 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 in order 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	

	Yes	No	Please indicate whether or not the following apply to you	Comments
23			Take tranquilizers	
24			Perforated ear drums	
25			Hay fever	
26			Frequent sinus trouble, frequent drainage from the nose, post-nasal drip, or stuffy nose	
27			Frequent earaches	
28			Drainage from the ears	
29			Difficulty with your ears in airplanes or on mountains	
30			Ear surgery	
31			Ringling 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	

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

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

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

Signature

Date

APPENDIX 5

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.

Designated Person-In-Charge – 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 1.0](#)).

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 1.0](#)).

DPIC – See Designated Person-In-Charge.

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.

fO₂ - 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 his/her own depth, time, and diving profile.

Hyperbaric Chamber - See Recompression chamber.

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.

Pressure Vessel - See cylinder.

pO₂ - 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 (5-6 meters) 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 FORM VERIFICATION OF DIVER TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

Diver: _____

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 / Diver in Training*) as established by the (*Organizational Member*) Diving Safety Manual, and has demonstrated competency in the indicated areas. (*Organizational Member*) 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

(Date)

_____ Original diving authorization	
_____ Written scientific diving examination	
_____ Last diving medical examination	Medical examination expiration date _____
_____ Most recent checkout dive	
_____ Scuba regulator/equipment service/test	
_____ CPR training (Agency) _____	CPR Exp. _____
_____ Oxygen administration (Agency) _____	O2 Exp. _____
_____ First aid for diving _____	F.A. Exp. _____
_____ Date of last dive _____	Depth _____
Number of dives completed within previous 12 months? _____	Depth Authorization _____ feet
Total number of career dives? _____	

Any restrictions or Waivers of Requirements? (Y/N) _____ if yes, explain:

Please indicate any pertinent authorizations or training:

Emergency Information:

Name: _____ Relationship: _____
Telephone: _____ (work) _____ (home)
Address: _____

This is to verify that the above information is complete and correct

Diving Safety Officer:

_____	_____
(Signature)	(Date)
_____	_____
(Print)	

APPENDIX 8

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 his/her 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

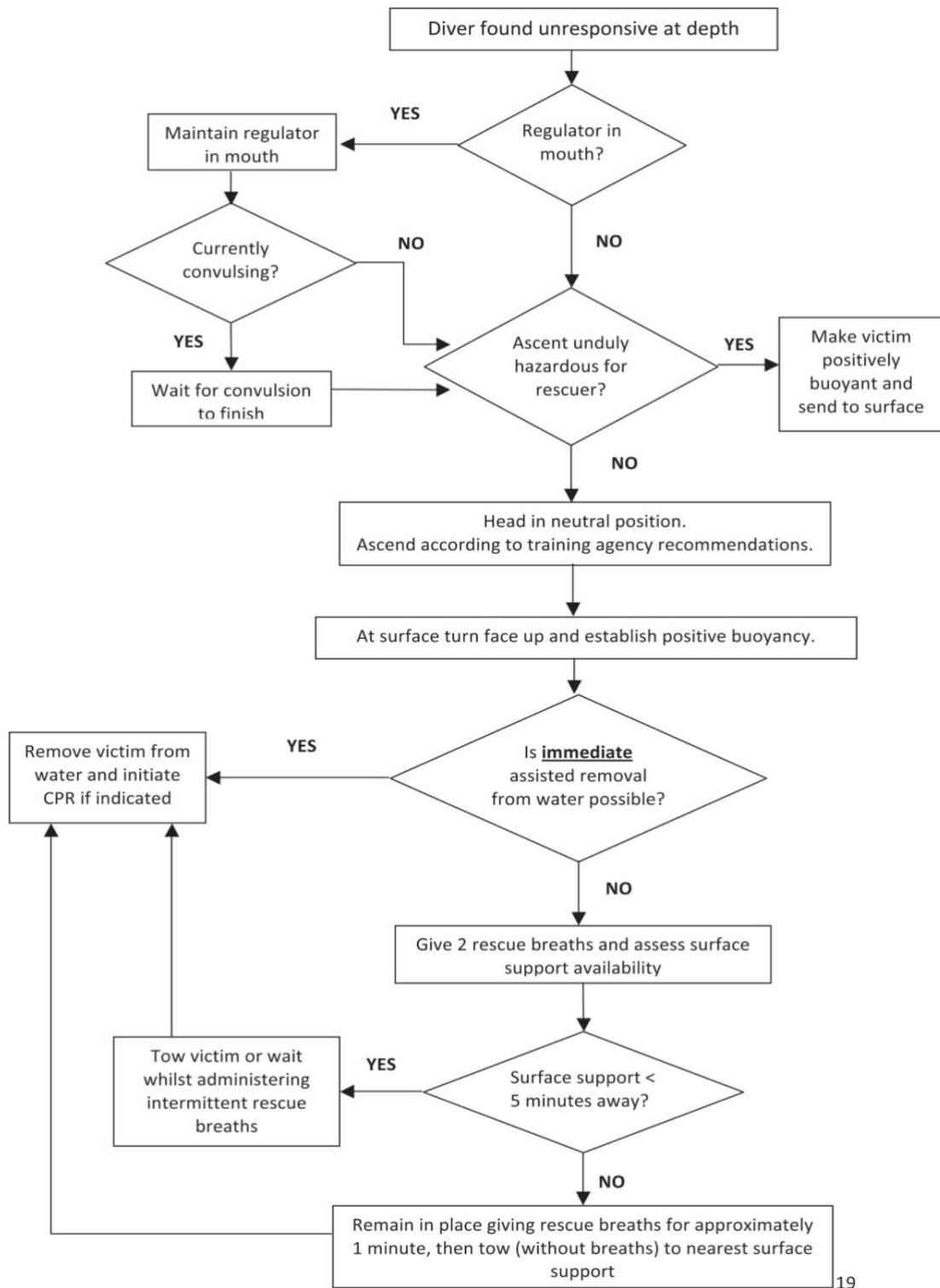
Incident Classification Rating Scale:

- 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.

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

Release and Waiver

EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY (“ECU”) RELEASE AGREEMENT FOR BOATING, DIVING AND RELATED ACTIVITIES (AGE 18 or OVER)

(To be signed by all individual Participants who are age 18 or over, except those Participants who are either (a) ECU employees acting in the course in scope of their ECU work or research; or (b) ECU students who are engaging in the Activities as a required part of an ECU course for credit)

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING

I, _____, (“Participant”) do hereby affirm and acknowledge that I have been fully informed of the inherent hazards and risks associated with boating, diving snorkeling, skin diving, scuba diving, surface-supplied diving, and/or saturation diving, and related activities (collectively, “the Activities”). I understand that the Activities are inherently dangerous. I understand that there are inherent risks associated with the Activities, including, but limited to:

Injury or loss of life as a result of a boat accident, travel to or from Activities, drowning, shark bites, capsizing, rough water conditions, water hazards, diving in unfamiliar waters, use or malfunction of equipment, injuries inflicted by animals, insects, reptiles or plants, or due to the state of physical conditioning and the physical exertion of myself or others engaged in the Activities, accidents or illness in remote places without medical facilities, forces of nature including, but not limited to, lightning, weather changes, ocean level changes and/or man-made objects in the water, including, but not limited to, ropes, bridge pilings, junk or debris.

I fully understand that my participation in the Activities can result in my personal injury, illness, paralysis, permanent disability, death and/or damage to my property.

Despite the potential hazards and inherent risks and dangers associated with the Activities, in consideration of being allowed to participate in the Activities, I voluntarily accept and assume all risks, known and unknown, associated with the Activities, and I voluntarily assume responsibility for all resulting injuries, damages, losses, or costs.

I warrant and represent that I understand the nature of the Activities. I agree no one has a better understanding of my experience, capabilities, and/or limitations than I do. I hereby represent and affirm that I am qualified and able to participate in the Activities. I understand that I may inspect the premises, facilities, and equipment to be used in connection with the Activities.

If I believe anything associated with the Activities is unsafe, I will immediately cease to participate further, and I will immediately warn the person(s) supervising the Activities.

I understand and agree that ECU does not have medical personnel at the location of the Activities. I grant ECU permission to authorize emergency medical treatment and/or transport for me, as deemed

APPENDIX 11 Dive Plan

PROJECT _____ DATES _____

SCIENTIFIC SUPERVISOR _____ DIVE MASTER _____

PURPOSE: Scientific	Proficiency	Training	Recreational
MODE: SCUBA	Surface	Supplied	Other: _____
BREATHING GAS: Air	Nitrox (mix _____)		Other: _____

DIVE SITE(s):

MAXIMUM DEPTH(s) & BOTTOM TIME(s) ANTICIPATED

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF PROPOSED DIVES _____

INDIVIDUAL REPETITIVE DIVE SCHEDULE: Daily: _____

Weekly: _____

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED WORK (List equipment & boats to be employed, a description of site conditions, and details of any hazardous conditions anticipated. Use additional paper as needed.):

REQUIRED CONTACT INFORMATION (List location, telephone number and, if prudent, detailed directions):

Hospital: _____

Ambulance: _____

Law Enforcement: _____

Recompression Chamber: _____

Divers Alert Network: (919)684-9111

EQUIPMENT OR SUPPORT REQUESTED FROM THE DIVING SAFETY OFFICE: _____

PARTICIPANTS: _____

PREPARED BY _____ APPROVED BY: _____ DATE: _____

**APPENDIX 12
DIVING ACCIDENT REPORTING WORKSHEET**

THIS FORM IS DESIGNED TO BE FILLED OUT IN THE FIELD AND ACCOMPANY THE DIVER TO HOSPITAL

NAME AND ADDRESS OF DIVER:

DETAILS OF DIVE: DEPTH _____ BOTTOM TIME _____ DECOMPRESSION TIME _____

EVENTS PRECEDING THE ACCIDENT, e.g. RAPID ASCENT, ILLNESS, ETC.

ACCIDENT DESCRIPTION:

DIVING HISTORY (including depths, times, and surface intervals for the last 48 hours)

PLEASE RECORD ANY SYMPTOMS AND SIGNS AND THE CORRESPONDING ON SET TIMES.

SYMPTOMS AND SIGNS:

TIME FIRST OBSERVED:

- FATIGUE
- RASH OR ITCHING
- JOINT PAIN
- PARALYSIS OR WEAKNESS
- NUMBNESS OR TINGLING
- DIZZINESS OR DISORIENTATION
- NAUSEA
- DECREASED CONSCIOUSNESS
- BREATHING DIFFICULTY
- VISION OR SPEECH DIFFICULTY
- CHEST PAIN
- PERSONALITY CHANGE
- BLOODY FROTH FROM NOSE OR MOUTH
- CONVULSIONS
- UNCONSCIOUSNESS
- STOPPED BREATHING
- NO PULSE

OTHER:

FIRST AID GIVEN:

TIME GIVEN:

PERSON COMPLETING FORM: _____ DATE _____
NAME SIGNATURE

DAN EMERGENCY: (919) 684-9111

APPENDIX 13 EMERGENCY PROCEDURES GUIDELINES

General Policy

In an emergency, personnel must act quickly and effectively to minimize injury and/or prevent death. While it is impossible to anticipate all emergencies, prior planning and proper training are key to dealing with emergency situations. These guidelines provide a planning tool which, when used properly, will allow an Emergency Action Plan to be developed and in place prior to the start of diving operations.

Formulating an emergency Action Plan

When formulating an Emergency Action Plan for an ECU scientific diving project, many factors should be considered. The following is a partial list of information and considerations which deserve forethought as you pull together the Emergency Action Plan for a specific site.

Emergency Numbers and Information

- Number of EMS and nearest hospital phone and location
- Location and contact information for nearest recompression chamber
- Number of poison control
- DAN emergency number (919) 684-8111
- Emergency contact information for divers
- ECU Diving Safety number (919) 328-4041
- Contact list (Diving Safety Officer, Diving Safety Control Board, Environmental Health & Safety, University Risk Manager, etc. This information may vary from project to project and should be updated prior to each operation.)

Equipment Requirements at Location

- Oxygen kit
- First Aid kit
- Pen and paper
- Forms
- Lines for search/recovery
- Backboard, Life rings, Life jackets, etc.
- Communications equipment (VHF radio, cellular phone, pay phone, CB radio, etc.)
- Flares and signaling devices
- Additional site specific equipment

Personnel Considerations

- Team member backgrounds and personalities
- Who will be in charge of what?

Site considerations

- Marine life
- Entrapments or entanglements
- Physical Hazards
- Depth
- Currents

Action Plan

- Emergency Recognition / Activation of Emergency Action Plan
- How to recall divers and alert personnel
- Search for and recover injured / missing diver
 - Spotting Team
 - Search and Recovery Team
 - Transport Team (swimmers or boat)
 - Individual to get help

- In-water evaluation and response (airway & breathing)
- Transport to platform or beach
- Extrication from water
- Evaluation and ABC's
- Activation of EMS (ambulance, Coast Guard. etc.)
- Appropriate first aid (CPR, Oxygen, Shock treatment, etc.)
- Gather information (diver, buddy, equipment, observer, DAN neuro-cue-card, ECU Accident Reporting Worksheet)
- Evacuation procedures
 - Evacuation mode/route
 - Call DAN if appropriate.
 - Send information and a carrier with EMS (ensure understand compressed gas was used)
- Notification protocols
- Follow up and reporting procedures

Obviously, a dive accident plan can vary substantially from project to project. Regardless of the project, the emergency accident plan and contingency plans should be formulated and made clear to the dive team. It often helps to visualize a worst case scenario. On-site accident drills are recommended to illustrate roles, required actions, and potential problems.

HELICOPTER EVACUATION PROCEDURES

- Each helicopter evacuation is different, each one presents its own problems, but knowing what to expect and the procedures to follow can save time, effort, and perhaps a life.
- Try to establish communications with the helicopter. If your boat is unable to furnish the necessary frequency, try to work through another boat.
- Maintain speed of 10 to 15 knots, do not slow down or stop.
- Maintain course into wind about 20 degrees on port bow.
- Put all antennas down if possible, without losing communications.
- Secure all loose objects on/or around decks.
- Always let the lifting device (stretcher) touch the boat before handling it to prevent electric shock.
- Place lift jacket on patient.
- Tie patient in basket, face up.
- If patient cannot communicate, place in the stretcher as much information as you can about him, such as, name, age, address, what happened, and what medication he has been given.
- If the patient is a diving accident victim, ensure flight crew has copy of or is instructed on medical procedures for diving accidents.
- If diving accident victim, ensure flight crew delivers victim to hyperbaric trauma system (recompression chamber complex).
- If patient dies, inform flight crew so that they take no unnecessary risks.

APPENDIX 14 Diving Log Form

ECU Dive Log Forms are available at: <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/diving/DiveForms.cfm>

APPENDIX 15 Shark Diving Guidelines

- 1) Recreational spear fishing should not be conducted in the presence of sharks.
 - a. If sharks appear after spear fishing has begun, spear fishing activities should cease.
 - b. If fish have been speared, then the dive should be terminated as quickly as possible.
 - c. If sharks become aggressive, divers should drop any fish on stringers.
- 2) Recreational divers should not plan spear fishing dives on sites that are known shark aggregation areas.
- 3) Divers who aren't spear fishing may dive with sharks, but should terminate dives when sharks become aggressive.
 - a. Possible signs of aggression include rapid and/or erratic movement, circling, and bumping.
- 4) Scientific divers conducting research may spear fish around sharks.

- a. One member of the buddy team must act as a “guard” as the other member of the buddy team spear fishes.
- b. The “guard” must carry some sort of appropriate implement – such as the blunt end of a pole spear - to ward off sharks.
- c. Sharks should not be stabbed with any sharp implement.
- d. When sharks express interest in the spear fishing team by approaching or showing any signs of aggression, the dive should be terminated.

APPENDIX 16

ECU Diving and Water Safety Office Fill Station Operations

Policies Governing Fill Station Personnel:

Policy: Only persons approved by the Director of Diving and Water Safety or the Diving Safety Officer shall operate the fill stations in the diving safety office dive locker and trailer.

Procedures:

1. The Director of Diving and Water Safety or the Diving Safety Officer will ensure that all persons designated to operate the cylinder fill station are approved for operations.
2. All persons designated to operate the cylinder fill station shall successfully complete an educational module on fill station safety and operations.
3. Persons completing the educational module will seek approval of the Director of Diving and Water Safety or the Diving Safety Officer.
4. The Director of Diving and Water Safety or the Diving Safety Officer will complete a formal operational check of each approved person.

Policies Governing Fill Operations

Policy: Only authorized personnel are permitted in the diving safety office dive locker or trailer during cylinder filling operations.

Procedures:

1. Only approved fill station personnel or personnel in training, as designated in the Fill Station Personnel policy, may be present during the filling of SCUBA air cylinders.
2. All persons not approved must remain outside the door during fill operations.

APPENDIX 17

ECU Recreational Diving Fill Station Operations

Policies Governing Fill Station Personnel:

Policy: Only persons approved by the ECU Diving and Water Safety Office (DSO) or the Director of the EXSS Recreational Diving Program shall operate the fill station in the dive locker in Minges Coliseum.

Procedures:

1. The DSO or Director of the EXSS Recreational diving operations will ensure that all persons designated to operate the cylinder fill station are approved for operations.
2. All persons designated to operate the cylinder fill station shall successfully complete an educational module on fill station safety and operations.

3. Persons completing the educational module will seek approval of the DSO or Director of the EXSS Recreational Diving Program.
4. The DSO or Director of the EXSS Recreational Diving Program will complete a formal operational check of each approved person.

Policies Governing Fill Operations:

Policy: Only authorized personnel are permitted in the fill station dive locker during cylinder filling operations.

Procedures:

1. Only approved fill station personnel or personnel in training, as designated in the Fill Station Personnel policy, may be present during the filling of SCUBA air cylinders.
2. All persons not approved must remain outside the door during fill operations.

APPENDIX 18

Snorkeling and Freediving Guidelines

DEFINITIONS

1. Snorkeling – Floating or swimming at the surface using a mask and snorkel to observe or perform activities below the surface
2. Freediving – Submerging below the water's surface while holding one's breath

Snorkelers or freedivers planning on doing these activities for academic or research purposes must either satisfactorily demonstrate competence equivalent to the task at hand, or provide verification of certification prior to engaging in snorkeling or freediving.

A snorkeling/freediving plan must be submitted to and approved by the DWS office prior to engaging in snorkeling or freediving for research or academic purposes.

SNORKELING

Snorkeling can be a useful means for scientific divers to accomplish in-water tasks with minimal equipment and training. It requires moderate swimming ability and comfort in the aquatic environment.

Recommended Equipment:

- Mask – a properly fitting and adjusted mask allowing the snorkeler to see underwater
- Snorkel – a snorkel that provides for easy clearing
- Fins – a properly fitting set of fins that provide adequate propulsion for the aquatic environment
- Exposure Protection – Exposure suit that provides adequate warmth and protection from aquatic environment
- Supplemental Flotation – Snorkel vest, life jacket or other item used to provide additional flotation as needed.

This may also serve as a marking device to provide visibility at the surface

Prerequisites:

- Swimming proficiency - Snorkelers should be able to demonstrate moderate swimming proficiency and comfort in water
- Mask fitting and clearing - Snorkelers should be able to properly fit and adjust a mask as well as demonstrate skill clearing a mask at the surface
- Ability to clear a snorkel - Snorkelers should be able to demonstrate the capability to clear a snorkel by blast method or other appropriate means
- Swimming with fins – Snorkelers should be able to demonstrate proper fin technique and efficient movement using fins

ECU Guidelines Regarding Snorkeling

- Dive flags should be used to mark the area Snorkeling is taken place (please refer to local laws governing the area snorkeling is being performed).
- Snorkelers are encouraged to consider their own personal comfort and capabilities in relation to environmental conditions when determining whether or not to participate in aquatic activities.

FREEDIVING

Freediving can be a valuable tool when light underwater tasks and short observations are needed. Freedives can be utilized with minimal equipment but require a considerable amount of skill to be performed safely. Special precaution should be undertaken when performing freedives.

Prerequisites

- Snorkeling prerequisites apply
- Demonstrate ability to equalize ears
- Demonstrate ability to clear snorkel without removing head from water after ascent
- Demonstrate ability to perform proper dive

Recommended Equipment

- Same equipment used for snorkeling
- Weight belts – should be used to create neutral buoyancy considering exposure protection etc., but should not be used to create negative buoyancy
- Weight belts should be easily removable in case of emergency

ECU Guidelines regarding freediving

- Freedivers should observe the same guidelines as mentioned in the Snorkeling section as well as:
- Freedives should not be performed without a qualified buddy present and directly observing
 - Qualified Buddy – Freediver whose capabilities match limits of Freedive being executed i.e. If the freediver is performing a dive to 50 feet the qualified buddy should also be capable of performing the same dive
 - Matching Capabilities – If the Freediving buddy team have different capabilities both divers are limited to the capabilities of the least qualified diver
 - Qualified Buddies should be in water, near their buddy, and watching the Freediver as they perform their dives as well as monitor for problems directly after the Freedive
- Surface Rest - Freedives should be performed at a 1:2 submerged to surface ratio, i.e. If a Freediver is submerged for one minute they should have a minimum rest on the surface of two minutes before performing another Freedive
- Visibility – Freedives should only be performed to the limit the Qualified Buddy can visibly see the Freediver regardless of the Freediver and Qualified Buddy's capabilities
- Where qualified buddies cannot observe the freediver from the surface, positive contact must be maintained with the freediver i.e....direct contact, or line tended.

FREEDIVING IS NOT RECOMMENDED FOLLOWING ANY COMPRESSED GAS DIVING

TOWBOARDING

Definition

- A plank attached to a boat that is used to drag Snorkelers through the water for observing large areas

Recommended Equipment

- same equipment used for snorkeling

Tow Boarding Personnel Requirements –

- Should be no less than: 1 Qualified vessel operator, 1 Watch Person observing the person(s) being towed, 1 Towboarder
 - Qualified Vessel Operator – refer to the ECU Boating Safety Manual for qualifications in regards to size etc.
 - Watch Person – Required to observe activities taking place behind the vessel responsible for monitoring the person(s) in the water and can alert the Vessel Operator of any issues