



Smithsonian Institution

Check-out Dive Procedure

Smithsonian authorized scientific diving may only be conducted by active status scientific divers, pending submission of a dive plan through their Unit's Diving Officer (DO) for approval by the SI-Scientific Diving Officer (SDO) and performance of a check-out dive with the SDO or designee.

- Pre-dive planning, briefing, site orientation;
- Buddy check (S.E.A.B.A.G.);
- Functional scuba equipment check;
- Proper dive buddy contact;
- Monitor cylinder pressure, depth and bottom time;
- Swimming skills:
 - surface dive;
 - demonstrate acceptable level of comfort in water;
 - surface swim without swim aids (400 yards < 12 mins.);
 - underwater swim without swim aids on one breath (25 yards);
 - tread water without swim aids (10 mins.) or without hands (2 mins.);
 - surface transport of a diver without swim aids (25 yards);
- Water entry and exit;
- Buoyancy check;
- Descent/ascent at appropriate ascent rate;
- Mask clearing with and without regulator in mouth;
- Regulator removal, retrieval and clearing;
- Demonstrate neutral buoyancy during dive and at safety stop;
- Remove and replace weightbelt while submerged and at surface;
- Remove and replace scuba unit while submerged and at surface;
- Doff and don scuba gear;
- Buddy breathing with and without mask as donor and recipient;
- Alternate air sharing with and without mask as donor and recipient;
- Simulated emergency swimming ascent;
- Simulated safety stop;
- Dive rescue procedures:
 - Self rescue techniques;
 - Rescue of submerged, non-breathing diver (include eqpt. removal, ascent, simulated rescue breathing, towing and extraction).

Depth certification: _____

Scientific diver

Date

Diving Officer