



Office of the Under Secretary for Science
Scientific Diving Program

Date:

To:

From:

Subject: Scientific Diving Reciprocity

Some scientific divers visiting Smithsonian Institution facilities or research projects are affiliated with current, Organizational Member Programs of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS). These organizational members operate, at a minimum, under the AAUS Standards for Scientific Diving Certification and Operation of Scientific Diving Programs. The Smithsonian Scientific Diving Control Board recognizes that these scientific divers have, therefore, completed certification requirements equivalent to those of the Smithsonian Scientific Diving Safety Manual. The Smithsonian Institution will grant currently certified scientific divers in good standing from these institutions diving reciprocity on the condition that the Diving Officer of the diver's sponsoring organization assumes all responsibility and liability for ensuring diver qualification of the following elements:

- Written scientific diving examination: Date
Diving medical certification: Exam date Expiration date
Most recent check-out dive: Diving Officer date
Scuba regulator, dive computer and BC annual maintenance: date
Diving First Aid training (within 12 months.): date
12 dives completed last year? Yes No Date of last dive:
Dive computer authorization? Yes No Depth certification:
Diving accident insurance coverage:

In addition to the above qualifications, reciprocity shall be based on the following conditions:

- 1. All visiting divers shall comply with the diving regulations of the Smithsonian Scientific Diving Safety Manual and shall file with the Unit Diving Officer a copy of all dive logs for dives conducted in furtherance of this reciprocity agreement. The visiting diver shall not exceed the depth certification issued by the home institution; and,
2. Smithsonian Institution regulations require that all divers be equipped with and trained to use an alternate breathing source (AIRII, SS1 or octopus regulator), an adequate buoyancy compensator for scuba diving, understand and use a Smithsonian-issued ZOOP dive computer, a submersible pressure gauge, a knife, and thermal protection as required for the particular diving activity and environment.

**Indemnification and Responsibility Statement of Parent Organization**

In consideration of the Smithsonian Institution providing the scientific diver named below with the opportunity to engage in scientific diving activities in conjunction with Smithsonian scientific divers, at Smithsonian diving sites or facilities, or using Smithsonian vessels and/or diving equipment,

The \_\_\_\_\_  
(parent organization)

Department of \_\_\_\_\_  
("The Organization") agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Smithsonian Institution, its officers, employees, and agents, from all claims, demands and actions, including but not limited to costs, expenses and legal fees incurred in defending any such claims, demands, or actions, for damage to personal property, personal injury or death arising by reason of the negligent or other acts or omissions of the Organization or the Organization's scientific diver.

The Organization also agrees to assume full responsibility and liability for tort claims and worker's compensation, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable state law and/or statutory limits, and for compliance with the requirements set forth above and assures the Smithsonian Institution that

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Scientific diver's name) (Position)  
is an **EMPLOYEE** and currently certified scientific diver (\_\_\_\_\_ fsw) at this Organization.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scientific Diver Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Diving Officer Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department Chairperson Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
D.O. Phone D.O. Fax D.O. e-mail

**SMITHSONIAN SCIENTIFIC DIVING OFFICER:** Edgardo Ochoa (Acting)  
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**IMPORTANT:** The visiting scientific diver and Diving Officer must complete, sign and submit this form as indicated above **6 weeks prior** to arrival at the Smithsonian Institution. At that time, the visiting scientific diver will receive a brief orientation to the proposed dive site environment and Smithsonian safety procedures, and undergo a check-out dive with the Smithsonian Scientific Diving Officer or authorized designee. The use of dive computers, versus tables, as a means of determining decompression status is required. The visiting scientific diver must have proficiency training in approved dive computers and understand and use a Smithsonian-issued ZOOP dive computer.