



Office of the Under Secretary for Science
Scientific Diving Program

Date
To
From
Subject Temporary Smithsonian Diving Authorization

Some scientific divers visiting Smithsonian Institution facilities or research projects are not affiliated with current, **Organizational Member** institutions of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS) that operate, at a minimum, under the AAUS *Standards for Scientific Diving Certification and Operation of Scientific Diving Programs*. The SI-Scientific Diving Control Board does not recognize that these scientific divers have, therefore, completed certification requirements equivalent to those of the SI-Scientific Diving Safety Manual. The Smithsonian Institution may grant scientific divers from these institutions the authorization to dive on the condition that the diver's sponsoring organization assumes all responsibility and liability for ensuring the diving qualifications outlined below:

Temporary scientific diving authorization at the Smithsonian Institution will be considered by the SI-SDO upon receipt of documentation of the following completed qualifications.

1. SI-Scientific Diver Application;
2. Smithsonian Assumption of Risk and Release from Liability;
3. SCUBA certification card;
4. SI-Diving Log Sheet;
5. CPR training (current, within one year);
6. Oxygen administration training for diving accidents;
7. SI-Scientific Diving Medical Certification - signed by physician;
8. Scuba regulator, gauges and buoyancy compensator annual maintenance;
9. Smithsonian Dive Plan; and,
10. Diving Accident Insurance Coverage.

The following scientific diving requirements shall be completed in coordination with the SI-SDO:

11. Written SI-Scientific Diver examination (approximately 2 hours)
12. Performance of a satisfactory check-out dive with SI-SDO or his designee

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 SI-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 authorized by the SDO; and,
2. Smithsonian Institution regulations require that all divers be equipped with and trained to use an alternate breathing source (AIRII or octopus regulator), an adequate buoyancy compensator for scuba diving, a **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 SI-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** at this Organization.

Scientific Diver Date

Diving Officer Date

Department Chairperson Date

() ()
Phone Fax e-mail

IMPORTANT: The visiting scientific diver, Diving Officer and Department Chairperson must complete, sign and submit this form as indicated above **4 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 SI safety procedures, and undergo a check-out dive with the SI-Scientific Diving Officer or authorized designee.

The use of dive computers, versus tables, as a means of determining decompression status is required and the visiting scientific diver must have proficiency training in approved dive computer use.

SI-SCIENTIFIC DIVING OFFICER: Edgardo Ochoa (Acting)
Smithsonian Institution
Office of the Under Secretary for Science
PO Box 37012,
Washington, DC 20013-7012
tel: (507) 212-8726, fax: (202) 633-6956; ochoae@si.edu