

Coral Reefs (SMS 531) Scuba Diving and Snorkeling Procedures Summary

Scientific Diving Overview

The University of Maine is a member of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences and follows all AAUS guidelines for the conduct of scientific diving operations. A complete description of UMAINE diving requirements can be found in our diving safety manual, *Guidelines for Scientific Diver Certification and Operation of Scientific Diving Programs*. Diving activities that occur in conjunction with academic coursework are considered scientific in nature because they involve the educational goals of students, who are considered "scientists in training".

All scuba diving activities conducted during the duration of the Coral Reefs field trip are to be considered to be scientific diving in support of academic goals. As such, any and all individuals who wish to participate in scuba diving activities associated with the course must be qualified under the UMAINE Scientific Diving Program.

Scientific Diving Requirements

Divers are not permitted to engage in scientific diving activities without permission of the Diving Safety Officer. Minimum requirements for entry level divers are listed below and summarized on the UMAINE Scientific Diving Application. Required documents can be found on the UMAINE Diving Safety Webpage: <http://www2.umaine.edu/SEM/Training/DiveSafety/divesafety.htm>

- 1) Proof of entry level certification
- 2) Diving Medical Exam for Scientific Diving
- 3) Scientific Diver Information Sheet
- 4) Proof of equipment service
- 5) UMAINE Scientific Diving Orientation Session (*)
- 6) Skills Review/ Checkout dive (*)
- 7) Medical Insurance specific to scuba diving (ie. Diver's Alert Network, DAN)

* **NOTE:** Orientation session and skills review/checkout dives will require time outside of regularly scheduled class time. Dates/times for these sessions will be announced at the beginning of the Spring semester. Students who do not attend these sessions or complete all administrative requirements will not be permitted to participate in course related diving activities.

Extracurricular Diving

Since UMAINE does not regulate the extracurricular activities of its students or employees, any individual who arrives prior to or stays after the conclusion of the course, may choose to participate in recreational diving activities, free from the oversight of the UMAINE Scientific Diving Program. Any UMAINE student or employee using this time to conduct Scientific Diving (scientific observations, collections, or data gathering for use toward an academic or research goal) is required to be qualified under the UMAINE Scientific Diving Program.

Snorkeling Activities

Snorkeling activities are not covered by the UMAINE Scientific Diving Program, however, snorkelers should follow the procedures in the University of Maine Snorkeling Guidelines and any and all procedures developed by the responsible faculty as well as all applicable local laws and regulations.