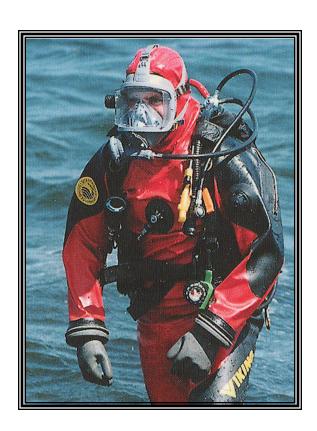


NOAA Diving Program Strategic Plan 2008 - 2013



Updated March 4, 2008

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Mission

The NOAA Diving Program
trains, certifies, and equips
scientists, engineers and technicians
to perform
a variety of underwater tasks
in support of NOAA's mission
and

ensures that all diving operations are conducted safely, efficiently and economically.



Vision

The vision of the NOAA Diving Program is to set the standard for the latest in diving technology, instruction, safety and innovation.



Core Products and Services

- To establish standards and implement procedures for conducting safe diving operations.
- To train and certify scientists, engineers, and technicians in diving and medical-related subjects.
- To provide safe, state-of-the-art, and well maintained dive equipment.
- To provide guidance and expertise to the diving community.
- To investigate and implement new diving technologies and techniques.
- To foster cooperative working relationships with other diving programs.
- To promote NOAA and the NOAA Diving Program through educational outreach.
- To provide equipment, personnel and expertise to NOAA field operations, as needed.
- To promote, facilitate, and implement coordination and communication between private sector and government diving entities.

Program Customers

- DOC
- NOAA Line Offices (NMFS, OAR, NOS, NWS)
- OMAO
- Other government agencies (Federal, state, local)
- General public



Strategic Goals - Overview

Customer Responsiveness

1.0 Enhance the Diving Program's abilities to anticipate and be responsive to customer current and evolving needs and ensure program safety.

Program Viability and Mission Impact

2.0 Position the Diving Program for long-term viability and adequate funding to meet customer mission-critical demands while promoting safety.

Program Efficiencies

3.0 Increase overall efficiencies and eliminate impediments to a seamless and responsive Diving Program experience.

Organization and Supporting Infrastructure

4.0 Strengthen the Diving Program's overall capacities and capabilities to meet current shortfalls and future demands.

Strategic Goals and Objectives

Customer Responsiveness

- 1.0 Enhance the Diving Program's abilities to anticipate and be responsive to customer current and evolving needs and ensure program safety.
 - 1.1 Increase ongoing understanding of customer needs and requirements.
 - 1.1.1 Conduct survey
 - 1.1.2 Strategic planning via annual Safety Board meeting
 - 1.2 Expand support for remote and non-traditional dive operations to increase safety.
 - 1.2.1 Provide staffing, technology and equipment, as needed.
 - 1.2.2 Leverage new technologies and staff to most effectively support missions.
 - 1.3 Expand product and service suite to include:
 - 1.3.1 Flexible training (e.g., off-site, contract supplied)
 - 1.3.2 Training for new technologies
 - 1.3.3 Expedited advanced technology authorizations
 - 1.3.4 Increased field operations support
 - 1.3.5 Increase test and evaluation activities
 - 1.4 Increase Diving Program assistance in providing expertise in the development of regional diving operations and infrastructure efforts.

- 1.5 Explore and implement creative staffing mechanisms to meet changing demands and surge periods emphasizing safety.
 - 1.5.1 Reciprocity agreements
 - 1.5.2 Private sector
 - 1.5.3 Academia
 - 1.5.4 Other government agencies
 - 1.5.5 Retired Program Staff
 - 1.6.6 Volunteers
- 1.6 Enhance information access to customers and partners.
 - 1.6.1 Web site
 - 1.6.2 Annual report
 - 1.6.3 Customer visits
 - 1.6.4 Conferences, workshops, symposia and seminars
 - 1.6.5 NOAA Dive Manual
 - 1.6.6 Computer-based training programs

Program Viability and Mission Impact

- 2.0 Position the Diving Program for long-term viability and adequate funding to meet customer mission critical demands while promoting safety.
 - 2.1 Explore opportunities to achieve continued budget growth to maintain and enhance safety.
 - 2.2 Build Program understanding and advocacy for Diving Program funding throughout NOAA.
 - 2.2.1 Targeted outreach/education
 - 2.2.2 Competitive analyses of NOAA Diving Program versus alternatives
 - 2.2.3 Diving Program representation in NOAA Headquarters
 - 2.3 Increase NOAA Diving Program visibility at NOAA Headquarters. (e.g., Ocean Exploration/NURP; National Marine Sanctuaries; Coral Reef conservation programs; Essential Fish Habitat; Climate change initiatives, etc.)
 - 2.4 Explore alternative funding options to support NOAA Dive Center initiatives.
 - 2.4.1 Other agencies
 - 2.4.2 Private industry
 - 2.4.3 Foundations

Program Efficiencies

- 3.0 Increase overall efficiencies and eliminate impediments to a seamless and responsive Diving Program.
 - 3.1 Streamline regulations and administrative processes. (e.g., Physicals; adoption of new equipment and techniques; Diver certification, etc.)
 - 3.2 Develop and implement federal regulations for NOAA Diving.

Organization and Supporting Infrastructure

- 4.0 Strengthen the Diving Program's overall capacities and capabilities to meet current shortfalls and future demands.
 - 4.1 Procure new technology systems to support field operations.
 - 4.2 Expand workforce capabilities to support new products, services and development activities.
 - 4.3 Increase opportunities for professional development of NOAA divers.
 - 4.4 Pursue leading-edge technology to maintain a national leadership role for Diving Program.
 - 4.5 Identify funding gaps and develop out-year budget and marketing strategies.
 - 4.6 Ensure retention of corporate knowledge and expertise.