



# TOPSIDE



NOAA Diving Program News - December 2007

## SEASONS GREETINGS

Hello again and Happy Holidays to all divers from the entire staff at NDC. We have just completed our Annual Report for 2007. It's not off the press yet, but in the near future, each diving unit and ship will receive a copy. It will also be available on our website. In it, you will find highlights of this year's diving achievements throughout the agency, new diving statistics and a summary of NDC's own accomplishments. We thank our Line Office Diving Officers, Unit Diving Supervisors and ship Diving Officers for submitting their summaries of unit activities. There is a lot of fascinating diving work going on in NOAA. Many thanks to those persons who have shared their photos and project information.  
~ LT Sean Cimilluca



NOAA divers preparing for a heritage resource survey in Midway Atoll's historic Welles Harbor area, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. (Tane Casserley/NOAA NMSP)

## SATFADS Update

NDC congratulates these experienced divers who were selected by the Candidate Selection Panel to continue in the Joint USN/NOAA Saturation Diving Project: Greg McFall, NOS, Gray's Reef NMS; Thor Dunmire, NURC/UNCW; Tane Casserley, NOS, Monitor NMS; Kelly Gleason, NOS, Papahānaumokuākea National Monument; Andy David, NMFS, SEFSC Panama City, FL and Bill J. Gordon, NDC. Next, these intrepid souls must pass USN medical and physical readiness tests. Regrettably, this exciting project is on hold pending the availability of travel funds. All parties involved hope to commence with training as soon as possible and NDC will keep you posted.



## SEP: "Closing the Loop"

NDC has completed its FY07 assessments for the Standardized Equipment Program. This year's charges will be \$400 per diver. In this process, NDC identified every diver who had SEP gear and determined where the dives were conducted during the year. Summaries were then sent to each UDS for confirmation. What we discovered is that many divers switched units or rotated assignments which were not recorded in our diver database. In the end, with the help of the UDS' and the ship XO's or diving officers, NDC sorted out the assessments. However, the large task of ensuring our database is up-to-date is still ongoing. What happens next is that Line Office Chief Financial Officers will receive the bill and contact the unit's responsible party for collection. Those persons should anticipate the charges since UDS' have verified authorizations from each diver's supervisor and ensured the local unit is informed of NOAA Diving Program policy. Thanks UDS'!

## Changing Dive Units?

To help facilitate our SEP billing process and general database management, NDC has made a change to the diver log-in page. On April 1 and October 1, or on the first date thereafter, when a diver attempts to log a dive they will be asked to confirm or update their current diving unit information. A Change of Address form has also been posted on the NDC website for use throughout the year. NDC requests that all divers and/or UDS' submit this fillable form to NDC when changing locations. This will also help ensure that UDS' and XO's receive accurate unit reports from NDC.

## Dive training requirement

Throughout the year NDC has been spreading the word that there would be a new training requirement for our Working Diver classes which would take effect in May 2008. The plan was to require that applicants already be certified to dive. **This will not be implemented for the May class.**

## NOAA Diving Safety Board

This March, the NOAA Diving Safety Board (NDSB), consisting of the Director, NDP, the Diving Medical Officer and the Line Office Diving Officers will hold its annual meeting. If you have ideas or concerns, this is a good venue for your voice to be heard. Provide your feedback and make recommendations to the LODO through your UDS.

## Policy review

The following is intended to clear up a few questions regarding the use of SEP gear.

A contractor who is not on our SEP is able to use their own gear without the need to show a divemaster maintenance records. Essentially, NOAA is not responsible for them. Their own agency assumes liability in the event of an accident. Anyone on SEP, whether it is a NOAA employee by requirement or a contractor by choice and supervisor approval, must use NOAA-supplied regulators (primary and alternate), buoyancy compensators, depth and cylinder pressure gauges. A diver must request from the Director, NDP to use an octopus or alternate BC, if for some reason they do not wish to use our tested and approved equipment. A convincing rationale must be provided and it will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Use of an octopus will typically not be granted. Other equipment may be changed out as desired without approval.

***Unit Diving Supervisors* have the authority to impose additional safety measures for their units.**

## Training Update

Congratulations to the December Diving Medical Technician course graduates! NDC thanks you for volunteering and providing a valuable service to NOAA.

NDC is holding 3 full classes this January:  
Working Diver Jan 10 - Feb 1 (Key West)  
Divemaster Jan 28 - Feb 1 (Key West)  
MPIC Jan 07 - Jan 18 (Seattle)



A diver with the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research conducts CTD maintenance on a Coral Reef Early Warning System/Integrated Coral Reef Observation Network (CREWS/ICON) station in the Bahamas. These stations provide real-time data used to predict coral bleaching as well as a data transmission link for add-on instrumentation tailored to each remote site.  
~Jules Craynock, OAR LODO

## Dave Dinsmore, Director, NDP - Profile



Dave Dinsmore started diving in 1967. He attended Morehead State University in Kentucky and received a B.A. in education and an officer's commission in the United States Army. He served in the US Army from 1972 to 1976 in a variety of positions including Office-In-Charge of the US Army Salvage Diving School, Diving Officer at Ft. Eustis, VA (497th Engineer Port Construction Company), and Liaison Officer at the US Navy Diving School. In 1976, he left military service for a position at the Florida Institute of Technology (FIT), teaching commercial diving in their two year Associate Degree program in Undersea Technology. While at FIT, he obtained a M.Ed. Degree in Guidance and Counseling from Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida. He also worked for Taylor Diving and Salvage in Belle Chase, Louisiana, during one summer break to gain commercial diving experience. Eight years later, he accepted a position with the NOAA National Undersea Research Center at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, supervising air and mixed-gas scuba and surface-supplied research diving operations. Later the position evolved from diving supervision to operational management with responsibility for all personnel, equipment & facilities, and activities utilizing scuba diving, ROV's, submersibles, and the Aquarius seafloor habitat. In October, 1996, he was selected as the new Director of the NOAA Diving Program in Seattle, Washington. Since assuming command of the NDP, he has obtained instructor ratings from NAUI and IANTD for diver training and NBDHMT for diving medical technician training.