



TOPSIDE



OCT 2005

The NDP Newsletter for NOAA Diving Supervisors and Divers

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Fax - 206-526-6506

Web Site Address -

<http://www.ndc.noaa.gov>

Mailing Address -

NOAA Diving Center

7600 Sand Point Way NE

Seattle, WA 98115-0070

TRAINING SCHEDULE

All Dive Supervisors are asked to take a look at your current rosters and see if you need to get people into the January class, the slots go fast in Key West. All paperwork must be submitted at least 2 weeks prior to the start of training to avoid last minute complications.

The following are the forms required for an applicant to the Working diver classes.

- NDP Training and Authorization Request form
- NOAA NDC Standardized Equipment Measurement form
- **Completed** NOAA Diving Physical package, (there are new forms for NOAA Corps officers and Wage Marine employees DD-2808, 2807-1)

These forms are available at the following web address: www.ndc.noaa.gov/forms.html. Fax (206-526-6506) or mail completed forms to NDC.

Course schedules through April 2006:

Nov 28 - Dec 9	MPIC	Seattle
Dec 12 - Dec 17	DMT-Advanced	Seattle
Jan 9 - Jan 27	Working Diver	Key West
Jan 23 - Jan 27	Divemaster	Key West

Please contact Laurie Barber at 206-526-6695 or via e-mail at laurie.barber@noaa.gov with any questions.



TRAINING UPDATES

All NOAA divers are responsible for maintaining current certifications including CPR, First Aid, and an Emergency Oxygen administration course. All divers can see dates for training the NDC has on file in your online dive profile. Please take a moment to see if we have the most current dates for any training that you have completed. If you are not current in these please make sure to update your training file. If you do not have current certifications, it can have an impact on requests for letters of reciprocity, or recertification processes.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact LTJG Eric Johnson, eric.t.johnson@noaa.gov, or by phone at 206-526-6460



SEP ASSESSMENT LETTERS

Initial SEP Assessments for FY 2005 have been mailed to all Unit Diving Supervisors. Please check your letters against your current roster and let the NDC know if there are any corrections necessary by the 1st of Nov. Units will be assessed for divers in possession of equipment and/or submitting dive logs for FY 2005. The final assessment charges will be submitted in November so now is the time to get your rosters corrected. Once the letters are sent to the finance office, no changes can be made. If you have any questions please contact LTJG Eric Johnson at 206-526-6460, or eric.t.johnson@noaa.gov.



NEW LETTER OF RECIPROCITY PROCEDURES

More and more institutions (including NOAA) accepting reciprocity divers are starting to require liability coverage verification.

To address this, divers from other institutions with whom the NDP has established diving reciprocity, will have to submit verification of liability coverage. This coverage includes, but is not limited to: emergency transportation (e.g., MEDIVAC), hyperbaric or other medical treatment, hospitalization, and compensation for lost wages associated with extended absence due to work-related medical emergencies (e.g., workers' compensation).

A fillable pdf form, titled "Verification of Coverage," has been developed to facilitate gathering of this information. The form is available in the 'Forms' section of the NDC website.

A new letter of reciprocity (LOR) has been developed for NOAA employees who will be diving with other agencies. This new letter includes liability coverage verification. As in the past, NOAA divers can request a LOR to be sent to any organization with whom we have reciprocity by contacting Ms. Sondra Huber – or Ms. Sharon Choy beginning November 1, 2005.

NOAA-contract employees who need to dive with other agencies under a NOAA reciprocity agreement, will be required to have their employers complete the same Verification of Coverage form used by non-NOAA divers. Once completed, the form will be attached to a LOR provided by the NDC and sent to the appropriate person.

Please contact Dave Dinsmore at 206-526-6705 or at dave.dinsmore@noaa.gov if you have any questions concerning these new procedures.



NDC STAFF RETIREMENT

The NDC will be saying goodbye to one of our employees.

Sondra Huber, who has been working for the NDC since 1994, will be taking a much earned retirement on the 31st of October! Sondra has been working for the federal government since 1958 when she began work for the Dept. of Agriculture in New Orleans, LA. She changed employers in 1961 when she began working for the Dept. of the Navy in New Orleans. She continued with the Navy in Louisiana until 1972 when she moved to Seattle to work for the USN at Sand Point NAS. This span of her employment lasted until 1993 when she joined NOAA and took a job at the National Marine Fisheries Service here at Sand Point. Only one year later, in 1994, she accepted a position at the Dive Center. Thanks for everything you've done for NOAA in your tenure here, you will be missed.

Please join us in wishing Sondra a happy new life without the daily grind. She will now have plenty of time to indulge in all the pursuits that she enjoys. She plans on putting her new skis to the test, hiking the many trails in the area, and getting in some much earned travel. Have fun Sondra and thanks again for 35 years of federal service!

