



TOPSIDE



October 2006

The NDP Newsletter for NOAA Diving Supervisors and Divers

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

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NOAA Diving Center
 7600 Sand Point Way NE
 Seattle, WA 98115-0070

TRAINING SCHEDULE

All individuals applying for any dive classes offered by the NDC must submit the following items; NOAA Diving Training Request and Authorization form, completed NOAA diving physical, swim test, dive resume, Standardized Equipment Measurement form, and current First-aid/CPR certificates.

All forms are available online at:
<https://inside.nmao.noaa.gov/dive/index.html>
 . Completed forms can be emailed or faxed to the Diving Center.

Due to current budget issues the Winter training classes may be cancelled. Clarification will be available later this month and those units signed up will be notified ASAP.

Events scheduled through March 2007:

Nov. 27 - Dec. 2	DMT	Seattle
Jan. 8 - 19	MPIC	Seattle
Jan. 8 - 26	Working Diver	Key West
Jan. 22 - 26	Divemaster	Key West
Mar. '07	TBD Tentative WD Refresher	Sea.

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



VADM LAUTENBACHER VISITS THE NDC

The NDC had the honor of hosting both VADM Conrad Lautenbacher and RADM Samuel P. DeBow Jr. for a tour on the 4th of October, 2006. LT Eric Johnson gave them a thorough tour of the Dive Center facilities answering questions on many topics including the NDC facilities, how many authorized divers the NDP currently has, and information on the NDP's training programs. NOAA Dive Program Director Dave Dinsmore presented the VADM with an honorary NOAA Diver Certificate. This is the first visit to the NDC of a NOAA Administrator that our staff can remember. Thanks to both Admirals for taking the time to visit us.



NDP Director Dave Dinsmore welcomes VADM Lautenbacher and RADM DeBow to the NOAA Diving Center.

'GHOST GEAR' REMOVAL

Divers Remove 'Ghost Gear' from a Historic Shipwreck in the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary,

A team of divers from NOAA's Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, the University of Connecticut, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, and NOAA's Office of Marine and Aviation Operations successfully removed a trawl net entangled in the windlass of the historic schooner Paul Palmer in September 2006. The Paul Palmer shipwreck lay in less than 130 feet of water in the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary off the Massachusetts coast. The Paul Palmer was a five-masted coal schooner that became a "Hoodoo" ship after it caught fire and sank off Cape Cod, MA. The schooner began its last voyage on Friday the 13th, 1913.

After two days of in-water training on net disentanglement safety, provided by Ray Boland, the Unit Dive Supervisor from the Hawaiian Islands NMFS, the dive team overcame poor surface and underwater conditions caused by passing hurricane Florence to remove approximately 300 pounds of derelict fishing gear. By cutting away the fishing gear, the team removed a potential entanglement threat to divers and marine life, while protecting the integrity of this historic resource. The project platform was NOAA's new research vessel AUK, based out of the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary.



Ben Cowie-Haskell removing derelict trawl net from the windlass of the Paul Palmer.



NOAA divers at the end of the dive waiting for pickup from the new NMS boat the AUK.



Some of the derelict gear on the deck of the NMS AUK. ALL PHOTOS FROM NOAA/SBNMS