



# TOPSIDE



May 2007

The NDP Newsletter for NOAA Diving Supervisors and Divers

## TRAINING SCHEDULE

All individuals applying for 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, Minimum physical fitness standards form, and current First-aid/CPR certificates.

All forms are available online at: [www.ndc.noaa.gov/forms.html](http://www.ndc.noaa.gov/forms.html). Completed forms can be mailed or faxed to the Diving Center.

Events scheduled through January 2008:

May 21 - 25	Divemaster	Seattle
August '07	Tentative WD Refresher	
Sept 10 - 28	Working Diver	Seattle
Sept 24 - 28	Divemaster	Seattle
Nov 26 - Dec 1	DMT	Seattle
Dec 3 - 14	MPIC	Seattle
Jan 14 - Feb 1	Working Diver	Key West
Jan 25 - Feb 1	Divemaster	Key West

Please contact Laurie Barber at 206-526-6695 or via e-mail [laurie.barber@noaa.gov](mailto:laurie.barber@noaa.gov).



Director - David Dinsmore, (206) 526-6705  
 Operations Manager - LT Eric Johnson, (206) 526-6460  
 Equipment Manager - Steve Urick, (206) 526-6223  
 NDP Dive Medical Officer - Capt Al Exner, (206) 526-6474  
 SEP Technician - Bill Gordon, (206) 526-6450  
 Chamber Supervisor- Jim Bostick, (206) 526-6450  
 SEP Technician - Lisa Glover, (206) 526-6446

## DIVE PHYSICALS

All current NOAA Divers are responsible for monitoring the status of their individual dive physicals, which are required to be current and up-to-date at all times in order to maintain authorization to dive.

Physicals are required on the following schedule for all divers:

AGE - 0 - 49	Every 5 years
AGE - 50 - 59	Every 2 years
AGE - 60+	Annually

Should your dive physical lapse, on the day it expires you are immediately "Not-Authorized" to dive until a new physical has been completed and submitted to the NDC for approval. This is not only for the safety of the diver as there can be physical changes over a several year period, but also for the protection of the NDP. If something were to happen to a diver who does not have a current physical there are liability issues that would come into play.

Please take the time to check your profiles for the status of you dive physical and take appropriate measures to keep your dive status current!



Budget/Program Analyst - Laurie Barber, (206) 526-6695  
 Office Automation Secretary - vacant, (206) 526-6623  
 Fax - 206-526-6506  
 E-fax numbers: LT Eric Johnson (206)529-2759  
 Lisa Glover (206)529-2757, Steve Urick (206) 529-2758  
 Mailing Address NOAA Diving Center  
 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115-0070

# NOAA - US NAVY SATURATION DIVING

The US Navy is currently constructing a six-person saturation diving system that is scheduled to be completed and ready for operation in late 2007. The system, designated the USN *Saturation Fly Away Diving System*, or SATFADS, will be highly mobile and able to be transported anywhere in the world.

In order to exercise the system and keep personnel proficient in its operation, the USN has communicated its interest in partnering with other agencies to conduct additional non-military operations on an as available basis.

The first such mission will be a joint USN - NOAA research project tentatively planned for late 2008 in the Flower Garden Banks NMS in the Gulf of Mexico. The NOAA Diving Program is trying to determine interest within the NOAA diving community for participation in the mission as a diver. NOAA will be selecting 6-8 individuals to undergo dive training by NOAA and the USN in early 2008 in preparation for the mission. Two of these individuals will be selected to participate in the week to 10-day mission with one or more NOAA divers standing by as alternates. Depending on mission objectives, it may be possible to reduce the length of the mission and conduct a second saturation dive that would involve two additional NOAA divers.

## ***What are the requirements to participate in the mission as a diver?***

Candidacy for the program is open to all NOAA or NOAA-sponsored (e.g., contract employees, grant programs, etc.) divers who are certified to dive by the NOAA Diving Program or any organizational member of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences. Selection of candidates will be based on:

- Diving credentials (training and experience)
- Science credentials (primarily experience in marine science research, but certifications/degrees in same is desirable)
- Ability to dedicate up to 11 weeks of time for training and the actual mission

Diving credentials will be the primary determining factor in the selection process. The dive training is anticipated to take up to nine weeks, one with NOAA and eight with the USN, conducted in two-week segments over a six-month timeframe. The mission itself will involve approximately two additional weeks of time.

Candidates must be very experienced divers who are extremely comfortable diving in varying water conditions (e.g., low visibility, current, etc.). Training and experience in surface-supplied diving, saturation diving, technical diving (open or closed circuit scuba) deep diving are desirable, but not mandatory. All divers must also pass the US Navy diving medical and physical fitness examinations.

## ***How can I learn more about this unique opportunity?***

Additional information on saturation diving, research objectives of the mission, medical and physical fitness requirements, how to apply for one of the diver positions, how will the divers be selected, and what to expect during dive training is available on the NOAA Diving Center website at: [http://www.ndc.noaa.gov/pdfs/Saturation\\_diving\\_project\\_description.pdf](http://www.ndc.noaa.gov/pdfs/Saturation_diving_project_description.pdf)

To speak to someone directly about this opportunity, please contact Dave Dinsmore, Director, NOAA Diving Program at: (206) 526-6705 or email at: [Dave.Dinsmore@noaa.gov](mailto:Dave.Dinsmore@noaa.gov).

**Deadline for applications is COB 1 August 2007.**

