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# NOAA Diving Program Strategic Plan 2008 - 2013

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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.**