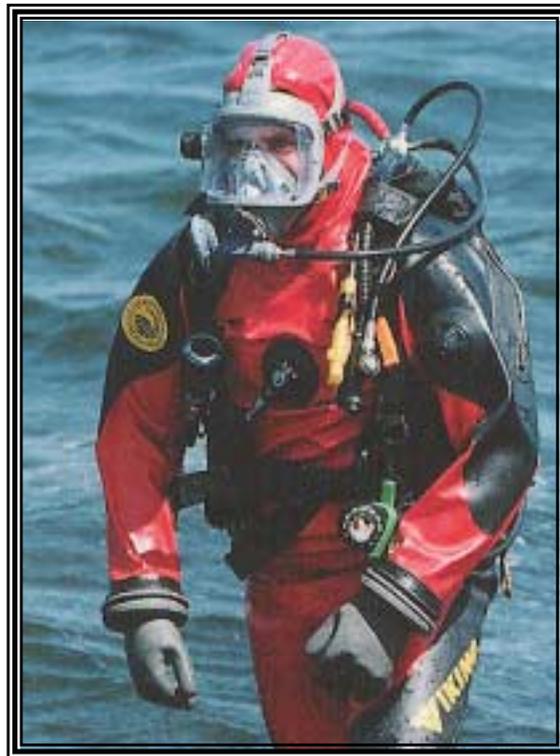




NOAA Diving Program Strategic Plan 2003 - 2008



*Charting a new course for the
NOAA Diving Program*

January 10, 2003

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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

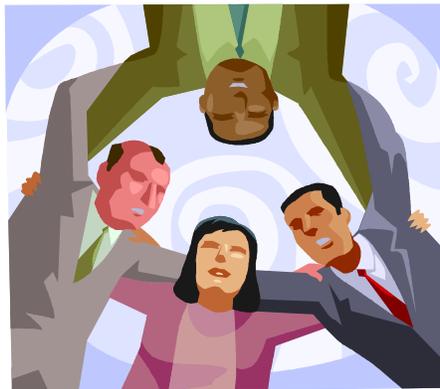
**The vision of the NOAA Diving Program is
to be NOAA's source for all its diving needs.**

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.**

Program Customers

- DOC
- NOAA Line Offices (NMFS, OAR, NOS, NWS)
- NMAO
- Other government agencies (Federal, state, local)
- General public



Strategic Goals

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 Annual survey

1.1.2 Joint strategic/project planning

1.1.3 Rapid response planning

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 Increase test and evaluation activities.

1.2.3 Leverage new technologies and staff to most effectively support missions.

1.3 Expand product and service suite to include:

1.3.1 Increased number of training classes

1.3.2 Flexible training (e.g., off-site, contract supplied)

1.3.3 Training for new technologies

1.3.4 Advanced technology authorizations

1.3.5 Increased field operations support

- 1.4 Strengthen geographic specific program support to align with and increase responsiveness to customer needs.**
 - 1.4.1 Regional Coordinators**
 - 1.4.2 Fiscal support to Line Offices**
- 1.5 Increase Diving Program assistance in providing expertise in the development of diving operations and infrastructure efforts.**
- 1.6 Explore and implement creative staffing mechanisms to meet changing demands and surge periods without sacrificing safety.**
 - 1.6.1 Reciprocity agreements**
 - 1.6.2 Private sector**
 - 1.6.3 Academia**
 - 1.6.4 Other government agencies**
 - 1.6.5 Retired Program Staff**
 - 1.6.6 Volunteers**
- 1.7 Enhance information access to customers and partners.**
 - 1.7.1 Web site**
 - 1.7.2 Annual report**
 - 1.7.3 Customer visits**
 - 1.7.4 Conferences, workshops, symposia and seminars**

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 ensure no degradation in 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 Align with highly visible NOAA programs with diving requirements.

2.3.1 Ocean Exploration

2.3.2 National Marine Sanctuaries

2.3.3 Coral Reef

2.3.4 Homeland Security

2.3.5 Essential fish habitat

2.3.6 Climate

2.3.7 Hazmat response

2.4 Explore alternative revenue streams.

2.4.1 Other agencies

2.4.2 Private industry

Program Efficiencies

3.0 Increase overall efficiencies and eliminate impediments to a seamless and responsive Diving Program experience.

3.1 Reduce bureaucracy and red tape in regulations and administrative processes.

3.1.1 Physicals

3.1.2 Adoption of new equipment and techniques

3.1.3 Diver certification

3.2 Work with OSHA to redefine “compliance” for the scientific diving community.

3.3 Demonstrate Diving Program competitiveness.

3.3.1 Negotiate strategic partnership and contract arrangements, as appropriate.



Organization and Supporting Infrastructure

- 4.0 Strengthen the Diving Program's overall capacities and capabilities to meet current shortfalls and future demands.**
 - 4.1 Expand workforce capabilities in line with new products, services and development activities.**
 - 4.2 Procure new systems to support field operations.**
 - 4.2.1 Portable chamber systems**
 - 4.2.2 Advanced diving systems**
 - 4.2.3 New technology**
 - 4.3 Maintain cutting-edge technology to ensure a national leadership role for Diving Program.**
 - 4.4 Align facilities to meet projected capacity needs.**
 - 4.5 Develop internal budget and marketing strategies and capabilities.**
 - 4.6 Ensure retention of corporate knowledge and expertise.**