

SCIENTIFIC DIVING – SAFE DIVING PRACTICES

Your signature on this statement is required as proof that you have read the standards for scientific diving established by the Penn State Science Diving Program. Read and discuss this statement with the University Dive Safety Officer, or his/her designee, before signing.

Your signature on this form acknowledges your agreement to adhere to the regulations and procedures for scientific diving detailed in the Penn State Standards for Scientific Diving.

I, _____, understand that as a scientific diver I must:

- 1) Read and understand the Penn State Dive Safety Manual.
- 2) Adhere to the regulations and procedures established for scientific diving at Penn State. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Diving within my certification limits unless on a training dive with an Active diver or instructor authorized to supervise the dive.
 - Refusing to dive, or terminating a dive, if dive conditions become unacceptable.
 - Reporting unsafe practices to the DSO.
 - Reporting any injuries to the DSO and the proper authorities immediately, and seeking appropriate treatment.
 - Abiding by basic safe diving practices: listening carefully to dive briefings, following the dive plan, maintaining proper buoyancy, never holding my breath, being proficient in dive table/computer use.
 - Adhering to the buddy system (two comparably equipped scuba divers in the water in constant communication) on all scuba dives. The buddy system is based upon mutual assistance, especially in the case of an emergency.
 - Carrying the appropriate equipment for every dive including an alternate air source (at least an alternate second stage, and preferably a redundant gas supply).
 - Conducting a functional check of my diving equipment in the presence of my diving buddy or tender.
 - Carrying out a safety stop on every dive below 60 FSW, provided I have sufficient breathing gas to reach the surface safely, and ascending slowly from every dive.
 - Terminating all dives while there is still sufficient tank pressure to permit me to safely reach the surface -- including decompression if necessary.
 - Ensuring that I understand the emergency evacuation procedure for each dive that I undertake, and staying current in CPR, first aid, and emergency oxygen delivery.
- 3) Not engage in dive activities in an underwater environment with an overhead restriction back to the surface without obtaining the appropriate advanced training and the approval of the University Dive Safety Officer.
- 4) Understand that I can deviate from the requirements of the Penn State Dive Safety Manual to the extent necessary to prevent or minimize a situation that is likely to cause death, serious physical harm, or major environmental damage.

Scuba diving is a potentially dangerous activity. The ultimate responsibility for safety rests with the individual diver. It is my responsibility and duty to refuse to dive if, in my judgment, conditions are unsafe or unfavorable, or if I would be violating the precepts of my training or the regulations of the Penn State Dive Safety Manual.

I have read the above statements and have had any questions answered to my satisfaction.

Participant's Signature

Date