



# TOPSIDE



**DEC/JAN 04/05**

**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

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## TRAINING SCHEDULE

Diver candidates must submit the following forms to Laurie Barber by March 5th for the April Refresher Class, and April 4th, 2005 for the May Working Diver Class:

- NDP Training and Authorization Request form
- NOAA NDC Standardized Equipment Measurement form
- **Completed** NOAA Diving Physical package, (there are new forms for NOAA Corps officers and Wage Marine employees DD-2808, 2807-1)

Forms are available at the following web address: [www.ndc.noaa.gov/forms.html](http://www.ndc.noaa.gov/forms.html).

Fax or mail completed forms to NDC.

Course schedules through May 2005:

Apr 5 - Apr 8 Refresher (tentative) Seattle

May 9 - May 27 Working Diver Seattle

May 23 - May 27 Divemaster Seattle

Please contact Laurie Barber at 206-526-6695 or via e-mail at

[laurie.barber@noaa.gov](mailto:laurie.barber@noaa.gov) with any questions.



## PERIODIC MEDICAL TESTING

For those divers that require periodic medical testing, the results will be due by January 31. If you have not done so already, please submit these results to Captain Michael Vitich by that time.



## MPIC CLASS

On December 10th, 2004, the NOAA Dive Center graduated 23 people from the first STCW certified Medical Person In Charge (MPIC) class taught at the NDC. Congratulations to all the students who made it through this intensive two week class!



## LIONFISH DECO DIVING

NOAA divers from the Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research, National Marine Fisheries Service supported by NOAA's National Undersea Research Center (NURC) at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington conducted decompression dive operations in the Atlantic Ocean.

The decompression diving was conducted in support of research to document the distribution and abundance of the invasive Indo-Pacific lionfish off the coast of North Carolina. The invasive lionfish, have so far been predominately found in water depths greater than 115 ft. Their inshore distribution appears to be limited by colder winter bottom water temperatures. During the winter the warm, clear waters of the Gulf Stream located approximately 40 to 60 miles off North Carolina, keep bottom temperatures from falling below the lionfish thermal tolerance limits. This explains why lionfish are found primarily offshore in deeper water. Without decompression diving researchers would be severely time limited at these depths and would not be able to carry out such research activities as visual transect surveys, specimen collections and deployment of temperature sensors.

The dive operations and overall mission objectives were a complete success. Researchers made specimen collections and conducted visual surveys at 22 locations from 95 to 149 ft of water. Divers spent approximately 30 minutes on the seafloor. Total decompression time averaged about 30 minutes with the divers breathing 100% oxygen at the 20 and 15 foot decompression stops from a surface-supplied, breathing delivery system. Use of hyperoxic mixtures for decompression reduces the decompression obligation imposed by standard air dive tables. The NOAA Divers used the new, NOAA Air with Oxygen, Decompression Tables prepared by R.W. Hamilton, Ph.D.



Lionfish research divers at one of their final decompression station breathing 100% oxygen from a surface-supplied, breathing delivery system.

## NEW DMT'S

On the 18th of December, 2004, the NOAA NDC graduated 21 new Dive Medical Technicians (DMT) to help add to the numbers of qualified dive support personnel in our fleet. Congratulations to all our new DMT's!

