



# TOPSIDE



March 2007

The NDP Newsletter for NOAA Diving Supervisors and Divers

## TRAINING SCHEDULE

All individuals applying for any dive classes offered by the NDC must submit the following items: NOAA Diving Training Request and Authorization form, completed NOAA diving physical, physical readiness test, swim test, dive resume, equipment measurement 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.

XO's/CO's, please check your rosters and plan accordingly for rotations and their impact to your dive complements. Dive training is considered essential training.

Events scheduled through December 2007:

Mar. 27 - 30	WD Refresher	Seattle
May 7 - 25	Working Diver	Seattle
May 21 - 25	Divemaster	Seattle
Sept 10 - 28	Working Diver	Seattle
Sept 24 - 28	Divemaster	Seattle
Nov 26 - Dec 1	DMT	Seattle
Dec 3 - 14	MPIC	Seattle

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

## ANNUAL MEDICAL HISTORY FORMS

Hello all NOAA divers.

Please remember that your Annual Medical History forms were due on the 1st of March. These forms should be filled out with updated information regarding any medical changes you may have had over the last year.

These forms can be sent to CAPT Al Exner here at the NOAA Dive Center, but don't forget to notify your UDS's that you have fulfilled your obligation and submitted the form.

If these forms are not received, a diver may be suspended until the information is received at the NDC.

If you have any questions, please contact your UDS or CAPT Al Exner, 206-526-6474 or [albert.exner@noaa.gov](mailto:albert.exner@noaa.gov).

If you have already submitted the form, thank you for complying. 

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

Budget/Program Analyst - Laurie Barber, (206) 526-6695  
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 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle,WA 98115-0070

# NDSB BULLETIN RE: USCG HEALY REPORT

## NOAA DIVING SAFETY BOARD RECOMMENDED ACTIONS RELATED TO THE USCGC HEALY DIVING INCIDENT

1. NDC should begin developing comprehensive written standards and procedures for blue-water and line-tended diving, diving in overhead and confined-space environments, and cold water diving environments. **Until such standards are developed, anyone desiring to perform such activities must submit a dive plan to the NOAA Diving Center (NDC) for review and approval prior to the start of dive operations. \***
2. Revise the NOAA diving regulations (NAO 209-123) to require **a topside person, capable and ready to render immediate assistance, to be on-site for all diving operations unless otherwise authorized by the Unit Diving Supervisor or their designee.**
3. NDC to create a training module on diving regulations and operations and present it at the bi-annual command officer's refresher training session in Kings Point, NY.
4. NDC will purchase and issue DUI weighting systems to all drysuit divers.\*\*
5. **Require the use of buoyancy compensators and DUI weighting systems when diving drysuits. \*\*\***
6. **Limit the maximum amount of weight authorized to be used in weight-integrated buoyancy compensators to 16 pounds.**
7. **Prohibit the use of split fins for diving when heavy loads or high currents may be encountered or when wearing a drysuit.**
8. Personnel from the NDC will conduct an on-site dive locker inspection of all 18 NOAA ships beginning immediately and then every 3-years thereafter. \*\*
9. NDC complete replacement of all Scubapro regulators with new Oceanic model for all NOAA divers diving in <50° F water temperature.\*\*
10. Allow NOAA Corps Officers to remain on dive orders and perform proficiency dives during shore assignments. \*\*
11. Request that the Director, NOAA Marine and Aviation Operations Centers reinforce the need and requirement for NMAO ships to provide time for divers to maintain diving proficiency per NAO 209-123.
12. **Dive plans be mandatory for all “working dives” on all NMAO ships. The plans are to be written and filed with the Field Operations Officer (FOO) or Dive Officer prior to diving.**
13. NDC to work with Commissioned Personnel Center to identify gaps in vessel dive complements.

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**Items 1,2,5,6,7,12 are effective immediately and all NOAA divers are expected to comply as written.**

\* Form can be found on the NDC website with the title “Special Ops Dive Plan Sheet”

\*\* Funding dependent

\*\*\* Mandatory for all NOAA divers that have been issued DUI weighting systems and received training in their use with drysuits and BCDs

If there are any questions on these issues, please contact LT Eric Johnson at [eric.t.johnson@noaa.gov](mailto:eric.t.johnson@noaa.gov). Thank you .