



TOPSIDE



October 2007

The NDP Newsletter for NOAA Diving Supervisors and Divers

TRAINING INFORMATION

Please do not wait until the last minute to try and get someone NOAA certified to dive. During the past several weeks the NDC has received urgent calls from NOAA programs trying to get their divers certified prior to a NOAA cruise. The fact is that it takes approximately 2-3 weeks to complete the certification process assuming nothing is out of the ordinary.

Regarding dive physicals, if the candidate for certification has a dive physical from another organization that is less than 1-year old, the NDC will review it and credit all applicable test results. However, any results that are outside the norm per NOAA standards, or any that are missing will have to be obtained. Dive physicals more than 1-year from the date of review will not be considered.

The NDC will do everything in its power to help expedite request for certification, but will not make any promises for requests received less than 2-weeks from the date needed.

Thank you for your understanding.

Events scheduled through January 2008:

Nov 26 - Dec 1	DMT (recert only)	Seattle
Jan 7 - 18	MPIC (tentative)	Seattle
Jan 14 - Feb 1	Working Diver	Key West
Jan 28 - Feb 1	Divemaster	Key West

Please contact Laurie Barber at 206-526-6695 or via e-mail laurie.barber@noaa.gov.

The DMT class is filling up quickly. Please take a look at your rosters and get those names in if you need to add to your dive complement.



FAREWELL, ERIC!

The NDC would like to wish LT Eric Johnson farewell with many thanks for a job well done. His next assignment is as Field Operations Officer, NOAA Ship HI'IALAKAI .



The Reef Doctor Retires

Dr. Harold Hudson, a.k.a. "the Reef Doctor," has retired. Dr. Hudson's expertise and cutting-edge work with coral salvage, reef replacement structures, coral core sampling, and injury assessment techniques have taken him far beyond the boundaries of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. His assistance on similar projects in other marine protected areas have taken him around the globe. Harold has been involved in projects in the Texas Flower Gardens, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, the Bahamas, Enewietok Atoll, the Northwest Hawaiian Islands, Jordan, Belize, and Mexico, among other places. He made great contributions for NOAA and NDC wishes him a healthy and happy retirement.



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NEW FACES

NDC welcomes LT Sean Cimilluca, who takes over the reigns as Executive Officer, NDC. Sean's most recent assignment was as XO, NOAA Ship MILLER FREEMAN.



CAPT Jane Powers is the Acting Director of Health Services for OMAO and is your new Diving Medical Officer.



REMINDER TO NOAA CORPS

Don't forget to renew your Dive Orders. Current orders expired at the end of September.

JOINT USN/NOAA SATFADS PROGRAM UPDATE

Twelve candidates for this exciting saturation diving project are undergoing review of their applications and qualifications. The NOAA SATFADS Candidate Selection Panel, consisting of 9 persons, will be selecting the 8 best-qualified divers who will enter phase II of the selection process and undergo specialized training by the USN in preparation for the mission. All candidates will be notified of their selection status by mid-November. This will be a tough competition as all candidates have much to offer.

FROM THE FIELD

CDR Pickett (right) and ENS LaCour (left) change out a temperature sensor on an equatorial TAO mooring. These sensors provide critical data to scientists monitoring Climate Change and ENSO cycles.



From NOAA Ship KA'IMIMOANA. Photo by Verne Murakami

This month, divers on NOAA Ship ALBATROSS IV conducted their semiannual in-water accident management drills, including backboarding. Good job!

