



# TOPSIDE



NOAA Diving Program News - August 2009

## New Dive Center Manager

Congratulations to LCDR Douglas R. Schleiger, NOAA (ret) who was hired as the Dive Center Manager on August 2 after 22 years of service as a NOAA Corps Officer. During this time, he developed his management skills while serving two tours as an Executive Officer; one on NOAA's *Chapman*, and the other on NOAA's *Ka'imimoana*. He also held positions as Chief of Operations, Marine Operation Center - Pacific, Executive Director of the National Marine Mammal Laboratory, and Project Manager for the *Okeanos Explorer* Conversion Project. LCDR Schleiger is also a Certified Federal Instructor with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center where he served three years as a Lead Instructor in the Marine Law Program. He began his diving career with NOAA in 1987 and has served as Diving Officer on four different NOAA vessels and as Unit Diving Supervisor at the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory in Seattle for four years. He is an Advanced Working Diver and has logged over 1000 dives conducting a broad range of tasks for NOAA. 



## Rest in Peace, Ian Workman

NDC is saddened to announce the death of a great friend and diver, Mr. Ian Workman, on July 2, 2009. Ian was an avid environmentalist and fishery biologist who worked for and retired from NOAA after 30 years. He was a NOAA diver for 21 years who logged 3,000 dives and reached the Master Diver level. He served on the NOAA Diving Safety Board as NMFS LODO. Ian began his diving in 1960 with the British Sub Aqua Club in England. He later spent four years in the Navy and then attended F.S.U. in Panama City, Fl. graduating with a Bachelor's degree in marine science. He began instructing in 1975 and held certifications from NAUI, PADI, CMAS, and IANDT for teaching all levels of scuba diving including technical diving. He worked closely with the development of the trawl TED (turtle excluder device) and bycatch reduction in shrimp trawls. He also performed four saturation missions in the Hydrolab habitat in the 1970's and 1980's. In retirement, Ian was a successful artist along with his wife Kim. Their unique type of art Gyotaku (Japanese for fish rubbing) was an instant success. Ian was a member of the Florida Keys Art's Council, Lower Keys Artist's Network and the Nature Printing Society. He will be remembered for his quiet nature, generous smile and his beautiful artwork. Rest in Peace.

~Contributed comments by Jules Craynock 

## Out: Shadow In: Atomic SS1



NDC had received numerous reports that the Sherwood Shadow alternate in-line air source was uncomfortable and not easy to use. In response, the staff researched and tested several alternatives and found a nice piece of equipment: the Atomic SS1. The Atomic breathes easily in all positions and has large buttons. A contract has been awarded to replace all the Shadows in the SEP program. NDC will distribute the regulators during the regular annual replacements, beginning in a couple of months. Shadows are to be returned during the swap. For more information, contact Lisa Glover. 

## Greetings from the DCM

After spending the past 22 years of my life working for NOAA, I am very excited and honored to start my second career as part of the NOAA Diving Program. NDP has been put under the microscope in the past year, as well as the NOAA Dive Center. Many issues have been addressed and there are many more currently in the works. There is no doubt these are changing and challenging times for all of us in the diving community. With the implementation of new regulations, exploration of alternate standards for our Working Divers and the ever increasing requirements for conducting dives coupled with the expansion of NDC, the hiring of new personnel and the review of the SEP and current training program, we have our work cut out for us. Through all of this, I try to keep in mind the necessity of what we do underwater as well as the fun and adventure in accomplishing it. Some of my greatest memories in my NOAA career have occurred underwater and there are plenty more to come. I'm looking forward to working with you in service of our dive community.

~Doug Schleiger 

## Director's Desk

As Doug Schleiger focuses on NDC issues such as organizational restructuring and space reconfiguration, Dave Dinsmore, Director, NDP will be dedicated to NDP programmatic changes. These include pursuing alternate diving regulations with OSHA, producing the Working Diver Standards and Safety Manual and Medical Manual, developing new training and certification procedures, and overseeing the revision of NAO 209-123. Much work has been done on these efforts behind the scenes by the NDC staff and NDCSB. A number of programmatic changes are pending that must still be vetted through NOAA's Office of General Counsel and NOAA senior management.

Later this year, a workshop is being planned to focus on a new NOAA Working Diver training class. In case you have forgotten, the Science Diver certification process and the Working Diver and Divemaster classes are being overhauled to a large degree in order to better meet the needs of the diving community. The intent is to begin a new training program in FY11. Dave is interested in receiving feedback from the field. He asks, "how can NDP be better? What training do you need to get in order to get your work done more safely and effectively." He requests that you provide your input through your UDS. Thank you! 

- ◆ NDC has distributed the first 25 recalls to the field. The next batch will ship within a month.
- ◆ NDC has conducted a survey of oxygen kits in the field. 25 new kits will be purchased to meet the immediate need for more oxygen. In addition, in order to standardize, NDC will work on replacing another 27 oxygen regulators.
- ◆ NDC has acquired 65 AED's and will begin distribution after consultation with SECO.

## Now hiring!

The NOAA Diving Center has openings for three new dive technicians. These individuals will: teach dive classes, help with the SEP program, conduct unit inspections around the country, serve as divemaster and/or chamber supervisor for advanced or remote diving operations, and maintain and operate NDC equipment and facilities. The position is officially called an "Equipment Specialist" and is classified as a ZA-1670-2.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in applying for one of the positions, go to: [USAjobs.gov](http://USAjobs.gov) and enter "NMAO-2009-0080" in the "keyword(s)" search window.

The NOAA Diving Center is expanding our facilities, staff, and scope of operations and we're looking for some good individuals to join us during this exciting expansion. For more information, contact Doug Schleiger at: (206) 526-6476 or email him at: [Doug-Ias.Schleiger@noaa.gov](mailto:Doug-Ias.Schleiger@noaa.gov). 

## Announcements

NDC is offering a Diver Medical Technician course this year. [The dates are November 30—December 5](#). For more information, contact Laurie Barber.

### \*Reminder\*

The required Gas Consumption Calculation training course has been placed on the NDC webpage for those personnel that cannot access the NOAA CLC website. The URL is: [http://www.ndc.noaa.gov/training/gas\\_consumption/player.html](http://www.ndc.noaa.gov/training/gas_consumption/player.html). If going this route, review the lesson, take the quiz at the end and then print-out the page that shows successful completion of the quiz and send it to your UDS. 

## From the Field

Last month, NMFS divers went on a 6-day cruise to Riley's Hump, south of the Dry Tortugas in the Gulf of Mexico, to observe and record spawning aggregations of mutton snapper. 296 dives were conducted by 18 NOAA and reciprocity divers. The group included divers from the NOS/NMFS Beaufort Lab, the Miami and Panama City NMFS Labs, the State of Florida, North Carolina State University, University of California, University of South Florida, Duke University, and the Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF). The project was funded by the NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program.

During the expedition, the team for the first time captured video and stills of the spawning snappers and also got some good photos of other amazing animal encounters, as seen below.

Contributions by Andy David/NMFS LODO 

## The hazards of diving



Photo by Mike Judge/SEFSC