

	<b>OFFICE OF MARINE AND AVIATION OPERATIONS</b> National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	POLICY 0304	VERSION 1.0
		EFFECTIVE DATE February 24, 2010	
	AUTHORIZED BY:  RADM Jonathan W. Bailey Director, Office of Marine and Aviation Operations	REVIEW DATE February 24, 2013	
		RESPONSIBLE POSITION NDP MGR	

## TETHERED SCUBA DIVING COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENT

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### 1. Purpose

- 1.1 This prescribes policy for the tethered scuba diving communication requirement in operational settings.
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### 2. Scope

- 2.1 This policy applies to all National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) divers engaged in scientific or working dives conducted under NOAA auspices.
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### 3. Policy

- 3.1 The use of tethered scuba diving equipment and techniques for operational diving must include two-way voice communication.
- 3.2 Standby divers may also be outfitted with two-way voice communication, but it is not a mandatory requirement.
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### 4. Guidance

Associated procedures, if required, will provide guidance.

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### 5. Responsibilities

- 5.1 The NOAA Unit Diving Supervisor is responsible for ensuring that NOAA divers are equipped with two-way communications while performing tethered scuba dives.
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### 6. Definitions

#### NOAA Divers

Individuals certified by the NOAA Diving Program Manager to dive and perform work in a hyperbaric environment in support of NOAA's mission. These include NOAA employees (federal full-time and contract employees), reciprocity, and volunteer divers.

<b>NOAA Diving Program Manager</b>	Individual responsible for managing the day-to-day affairs of the NOAA Diving Program and serving as the ranking NOAA diving official for matters relating to the interpretation and application of the NOAA diving regulations, policies, and procedures.
<b>Scientific Dives</b>	Dives performed solely as a necessary part of a scientific, research, or education activity by individuals whose sole purpose for diving is to perform scientific or research tasks for the advancement of science.
<b>Working Dives</b>	Underwater tasks that fall outside the Occupational Safety and Health Administration scientific exemption that do not require scientific expertise, may not lead to the advancement of science and involve tools and techniques beyond those required to perform science dives.
<b>NOAA Unit Diving Supervisors</b>	NOAA divers appointed by a NOAA Line/Staff Office (LO/SO) Diving Officer to oversee, direct, and approve diving activities conducted within their respective LO/SO unit and to administer to the needs of assigned divers.

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**7. References**

No references associated with this policy.

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**8. Authority**

OMAO Policy 0301 – Category 0300

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**9. Effect on Other Documents**

None.