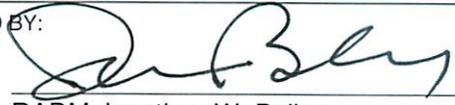


	OFFICE OF MARINE AND AVIATION OPERATIONS National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	POLICY 0306	REV NUM 2.0
		EFFECTIVE DATE November 4, 2009	
	AUTHORIZED BY:  RADM Jonathan W. Bailey Director, Office of Marine and Aviation Operations	REVIEW DATE November 4, 2012	
		RESPONSIBLE POSITION NDP MGR	

NOAA SCIENCE DIVER QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This policy specifies the requirements for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) divers to qualify as a NOAA science diver or scientist-in-training for the purpose of performing operational science dives, or science training and proficiency dives consistent with the NOAA Scientific Diving Standards and Safety Manual.
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2. Scope

- 2.1 This policy applies to all NOAA divers.
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3. Policy

- 3.1 For the purpose of performing operational science dives, or science training and proficiency dives consistent with the NOAA Scientific Diving Standards and Safety Manual, divers must meet the definition of a scientist listed in Section 6.
- 3.2 Individuals not meeting the above requirements may participate in science dives if the individual is appropriately briefed by a science diver as described in Section 3.1, on the specific tasks to be performed during the dive.
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4. Guidance

Associated procedures will provide guidance.

5. Responsibilities

- 5.1 Unit Diving Supervisors are responsible for determining whether or not a dive can be performed under the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Scientific Exemption (29 CFR § 1910.410(a)(2)(iv)) based on review of the dive plan and the credentials of the divers involved.
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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.

Contract Divers	Non-NOAA contracted personnel certified to dive as either NOAA science or working divers by the NOAA Diving Program Manager in support of NOAA's undersea activities.
Reciprocity Divers	Non-NOAA divers, employed by organizations, agencies and institutions with whom NOAA has established reciprocity agreements, for the purpose of conducting collaborative diving operations.
Volunteer Divers	Non-NOAA personnel certified to dive as either NOAA science or working divers by the NOAA Diving Program Manager in support of NOAA's undersea activities. Volunteer divers do not receive financial compensation while diving under NOAA auspices.
NOAA Science Divers	Individuals certified to conduct science dives by the NOAA Diving Program Manager.
Dive Plan	Written details concerning the dive to be performed including personnel and operational information.
Science Dives	Dives performed as a necessary part of a scientific or research activity by individuals whose sole purpose for diving is to perform scientific or research tasks for the advancement of science.
Scientist	Individual who utilizes scientific expertise to perform science dives without direct or indirect supervisions or guidance from a more qualified individual as determined by the on-site Divemaster/Lead Diver and Chief Scientist.
Scientist-in-training	Individual who utilizes scientific expertise to perform science dives under the direct or indirect supervision or guidance from a scientist and approved by the on-site Divemaster or Lead Diver.
Unit Diving Supervisor	NOAA divers appointed by Diving Officers of the respective NOAA Line Office to oversee, direct, and approve all diving activities conducted within the unit and to administer to the needs of assigned dives.

7. References

NOAA Scientific Diving Standards and Safety Manual –
http://www.ndc.noaa.gov/pdfs/NOAA_Scientific_Dive_Manual.pdf

Code of Federal Regulations (29 CFR § 1910.401(a)(2)(iv)) –
<http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/get-cfr.cgi?TITLE=29&PART=1910&SUBPART=T&TYPE=PDF>

8. Authority

OMAO Policy 0301 – Category 0300

9. Effect on Other Documents

None.