	OFFICE OF MARINE AND AVIATION OPERATIONS	POLICY 0314	VERSION 1.0
		EFFECTIVE DATE May 4, 2011	
	AUTHORIZED BY: RADM Jonathan W. Bailey, NOAA Director, Office of Marine and Aviation Operations	REVIEW DATE May 4, 2014	
		RESPONSIBLE POSITION NOAA Diving Program Manager	

NOAA DIVING ANNUAL WATERMANSHIP ASSESSMENT

1. PURPOSE

1.1 This policy specifies the annual watermanship assessment requirements for maintaining active dive status in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Diving Program (NDP).

2. SCOPE

2.1 This policy applies to all divers within the NDP.

3. POLICY

3.1 General

3.1.1 In order to maintain active dive status, NOAA Scientific, Working, Advanced Working, and Master Divers must complete the requirements outlined below. Failure to do so may result in temporary suspension of diving privileges.

3.2 Annual Watermanship Assessment

3.2.1 NOAA divers must pass the NOAA Diving Watermanship Assessment on an annual basis.

3.2.2 The minimum requirements are:

- Swim 550 yards (500 meters) without stopping using mask, fins, and snorkel in less than 10 minutes.
- If using a wetsuit covering any part of the torso, the test must be completed in less than 12 minutes.

3.2.3 Completion of this requirement is to be documented on the NDP Annual Watermanship Assessment form (available at: www.ndc.noaa.gov) by the Unit Diving Supervisor (UDS), or designee, and filed on site.

3.2.4 Failure to meet the minimum watermanship assessment standards, or submit the form by the deadline, is cause for temporary suspension from diving.

4. GUIDANCE

Associated procedures will provide guidance.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1 Divers

5.1.1 All NOAA Divers must pass the NOAA Diving Watermanship Assessment on an annual basis.

5.2 Unit Diving Supervisors

5.2.1 Monitor administration of the NOAA Diving Watermanship Assessment on an annual basis.

5.2.2 Suspend diving authorization of assigned divers not passing the NOAA Diving Watermanship Assessment.

5.2.3 Advise the respective Line or Staff Office Diving Officer (LODO/SODO) of assigned divers who have not passed the NOAA Diving Watermanship Assessment.

5.2.4 May delegate administration of the NOAA Diving Watermanship Assessment to divemasters or lead divers.

5.3 NOAA Line or Staff Office Diving Officers

5.3.1 Advise the NDP Manager of assigned divers who have not passed the NOAA Diving Watermanship Assessment.

5.4 NOAA Diving Program Manager

5.4.1 Update the on-line NOAA Dive Log to reflect the current diving status of all divers after notification by LODOs/SODO of assigned divers who have not passed the NOAA Diving Watermanship Assessment.

6. DEFINITIONS

Divemaster	NOAA divers assigned by the NOAA Line or Staff Offices (LO/SO) UDS to oversee and direct all aspects of a dive operation affecting the safety and health of the dive team members at the dive site.
Lead Diver	Certified diver with experience and training to conduct a diving operation. In the absence of a Divemaster, oversees dive operations at the discretion of a UDS.
NOAA Diving Program Manager	Individual responsible for managing the day-to-day affairs of the NDP and serving as the ranking NOAA diving official for matters relating to the interpretation and application of the NOAA Diving regulations, policies, and procedures.
NOAA Line/Staff Office Diving Officers	Individuals who oversee and direct diving activities within specific LO/SO.
Unit Diving Supervisors	Individuals assigned throughout the agency to provide administrative oversight of divers at the facility level within their respective LO/SO.

7. REFERENCES

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

NOAA Working Diving Standards and Safety Manual (in press)

8. AUTHORITY

OMAO Policy 0301 – Category 0300

9. NOTES

Effect on Other Documents: None

Distribution: NOAA Divers

Document History:

Version	Effective Date	Brief Description of Changes
1.0	May 4, 2011	Initial Document