

	OFFICE OF MARINE AND AVIATION OPERATIONS National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	POLICY 0303	VERSION 2.0
		EFFECTIVE DATE March 12, 2014	
	AUTHORIZED BY: /s/ RADM David A. Score, NOAA <hr/> RADM David A. Score, NOAA Director, Office of Marine and Aviation Operations	REVIEW DATE February 15, 2015	
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SCIENCE DIVERS PERFORMANCE OF WORKING TASKS

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This provides the policy regarding the performance of working tasks by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Science Divers.
 - 1.2 This version is the triennial review with no content changes.
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2. SCOPE

- 2.1 This policy applies to all NOAA employees as well as contract, reciprocity, and volunteer divers engaged in scientific dives conducted under NOAA auspices.
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3. POLICY

- 3.1 NOAA Science Divers may perform working dives utilizing dive equipment and work techniques listed in the NOAA Scientific Diving Standards and Safety Manual (e.g., small lift-bags, light hand tools, photography), as long as the divers have received proper instruction in the equipment to be used and work to be performed. Such dives must comply with the Office of Safety and Health Administration commercial diving regulations outlined in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) (29 CFR 1910 subpart T).
 - 3.2 Dives requiring equipment and/or work techniques not identified in the NOAA Scientific Diving Standards and Safety Manual cannot be conducted by NOAA Science Divers.
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4. GUIDANCE

Associated procedures, if required, will provide guidance.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

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

6. DEFINITIONS

NOAA Science Divers

Individuals certified to dive by the NOAA Diving Program Manager in support of NOAA's scientific, research, and educational activities. A science diver is an observer and data gatherer who uses scientific expertise to study the underwater environment, its organisms and its dynamic processes.

NOAA Unit Diving Supervisors

NOAA divers appointed by a NOAA Line/Staff Office 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.

7. REFERENCES

NOAA Scientific Diving Standards and Safety Manual, section 1.1 –
http://www.ndc.noaa.gov/pdfs/NSDSSM_rev1.pdf

Code of Federal Regulations (29 CFR § 1910 subpart T)
<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. NOTES

Effect on Other Documents: Supersedes OMAO Policy 0303 – Science Divers Performance of Working Tasks dated February 24, 2010 and all other previous versions.

Distribution:

DOCUMENT HISTORY		
Version	Description of Change	Effective Date
2.0	Triennial review with no content changes	3/12/2014
1.0	Initial Document.	2/24/2010