

	OFFICE OF MARINE AND AVIATION OPERATIONS	POLICY	VERSION
		0318	1.0
	AUTHORIZED BY: /s/ RADM Michael S. Devany, NOAA <hr/> RADM Michael S. Devany, NOAA Director, Office of Marine and Aviation Operations	EFFECTIVE DATE	
		June 26, 2013	
		REVIEW DATE	
		June 26, 2016	
		RESPONSIBLE POSITION	
		Manager, NOAA Dive Program	

DIVING FROM NOAA OWNED OR CONTRACTED VESSELS

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This policy outlines the requirements for conducting dives in support of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) missions from NOAA owned or contracted vessels.
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2. SCOPE

- 2.1 This policy applies to all divers conducting dives in support of NOAA missions from NOAA owned or contracted vessels.
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3. POLICY

3.1 NOAA Owned Vessels

- A. Diving operations from NOAA-owned vessels conducted under NOAA supervision or involving NOAA divers must be conducted in accordance with NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 209-123 and associated NOAA Working and Scientific Diving Standards and Safety Manuals.
- B. Diving operations from NOAA-owned vessels conducted under supervision of visiting organization must be conducted in accordance with NAO 209-123 and associated NOAA Working and Scientific Diving Standards and Safety Manuals unless otherwise allowed in an official, duly authorized agreement (e.g. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), Grants Terms of Agreement) between NOAA and the collaborating organization.

3.2 NOAA Contracted Vessels

- A. Diving operations from NOAA contracted vessels supervised or conducted by NOAA divers must be conducted in accordance with NAO 209-123 and associated NOAA Working and Scientific Diving Standards and Safety Manuals.
 - B. Diving operations from NOAA contracted vessels conducted by and/or under supervision of other organizations, including operations conducted simultaneously from the same vessel with NOAA and non-NOAA divers and/or topside supervisors, must be conducted in accordance with NAO 209-123 and associated NOAA Working and Scientific Diving Standards and Safety Manuals unless otherwise allowed in an official, duly authorized agreement (e.g. MOU, MOA, Grants Terms of Agreement) between NOAA and the collaborating organization.
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4. RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 Unit Diving Supervisors

- 4.1.1 Must review and approve all dive plans for dives to be performed by NOAA divers.
- 4.1.2 Must review and approve all dive plans for Non-NOAA divers that will be directly supervised by NOAA Divemasters and Lead Divers regardless of the dive location or platform.

4.2 NOAA Diving Control and Safety Board (NDCSB)

- 4.2.1 During the promulgation of official, duly authorized agreements involving diving operations by non-NOAA divers on NOAA owned or contracted vessels, the NDCSB must review dive plans and make recommendations on the diving operations.

5. DEFINITIONS

NOAA Vessels	Watercraft used, or capable of being used, as a means of transportation on water and owned by NOAA.
NOAA Contracted Vessels	Watercraft used, or capable of being used, as a means of transportation on water and contracted, leased, or rented, either wholly or in-part, by NOAA, and including vessels provided by reciprocity organizations.
NOAA Divemaster	NOAA divers assigned by the NOAA Line Office Unit Diving Supervisors (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.
Simultaneous Dives	Diving operations conducted concurrently from the same vessel or other vessels engaged in the same mission by NOAA and Non-NOAA divers, in the water at the same time, even if under local control of separate Divemasters or Lead Divers.
Unit Diving Supervisor	NOAA divers appointed by a NOAA Line Office to oversee, direct, and approve diving activities conducted within their respective unit and to administer to the needs of assigned divers.

6. AUTHORITY

- Document Management System
<http://10.49.29.4/WebDesktop/Binders.aspx>
- OMAO 0300, NOAA Diving

7. NOTES

Effect on Other Documents: None.

Distribution: All NOAA divers

Document History:

DOCUMENT HISTORY		
Version	Description of Change	Effective Date
1.0	Initial Document.	6/26/2013