

SCUBA DIVERS

Scientific Diving Information

Diving and Safety Officer – Siobhan Gray

diving@bms.bc.ca 250 728 3301 x 222

It is important that any individual wishing to undertake scientific diving notifies the Diving and Safety Officer, preferable well in advance of the proposed commencement of diving activities, so as to facilitate these undertakings.

Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre is geographically placed to provide excellent opportunities for subtidal research. The diving and boating support allows considerable scope for research, in the biologically rich and diverse waters of the surrounding Barkley Sound.

All diving activities at the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre are undertaken on a voluntary basis. BMSC diving activities are primarily governed by the Canadian Association for Underwater Science (CAUS) Standard of Practice for Scientific Diving as (exempted by the Canadian Standards Agency, CSA Standards Z275.2 and Z275.4) & additionally the WCB Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, Part 24: Diving.

Copies of the WCUMSS (Western Canadian Universities Marine Sciences Society) SCUBA Diving Policy (the BMSC “Dive Safety Manual”) are available from the Diving and Safety Officer. It is the responsibility of every user wishing to SCUBA dive to make themselves familiar with this policy. Diving activities and training at the BMSC are for research or academic purposes. **Sport diving through the BMSC is not permitted.**

Divers are trained and/ or evaluated in accordance with CAUS (Canadian Association for Underwater Science) Standards to meet the criteria for Scientific Diver qualification. Individuals are categorized as to their BMSC scientific diving status:

- CAUS Scientific Diver- In- Training (initial classification prior to scientific diver certification)
- CAUS Scientific Diver 1
- CAUS Scientific Diver 2
- Other (at the discretion of the Diving and Safety Officer this allows for the recognition of reciprocal/ equivalent scientific diving status; and under stipulations imposed by the BMSC Diving and Safety Officer the granting of temporary/ visiting diver status in certain circumstances).

Divers are required to respect imposed graduated depth restrictions- 40ft/12m; 60ft/18m; 80ft/24m; 100ft/30m; 120ft/36m; Other.

Before receiving active BMSC scientific diver status you must submit:

- A nationally recognized SCUBA certification (such as PADI, ACUC, SSI, CMAS, BSAC, SDI, NAUI).
- An appropriate approved diving medical form signed by a licensed physician, prior to commencing any in-water diving activities. This shall be based upon a medical evaluation, attesting to the applicant's physical fitness to undertake scientific diving with SCUBA. The medical required will vary according to the status of the applicant: generally, staff/ paid divers require a WCB Occupational Diver's Medical while individuals conducting unpaid diving activities connected with their research or course of study may complete the medical evaluation sheets for non-employees BMSC SCUBA Diver Medical Examination. It is imperative that all BMSC scientific diving applicants consult with the Diving and Safety Officer so as to ascertain the appropriate medical to meet regulatory requirements. The medical typically expires two years after the date of issue, or sooner if specified (the BMSC Dive Officer reserves the right to request a medical at any time).
- The BMSC waiver and clearance form fully filled out
- Log book as proof of 20 logged dives and 10 hours in water or under water of which 12 dives must be in the last year (copy the 12 dives within the last year on BMSC log sheet)*.
- First Aid and CPR certification (valid for two years from the date of issue)*.
- The CAUS & BMSC written diving examinations completed by the diver in training**.
- A completed BMSC diving project proposal with appropriate signatures**.

All of the above can be completed before arrival.

*in certain instances these requirements can be completed on-site at the BMSC, under the instruction of the Diving and Safety Officer- however **before this consideration is made you must consult with the BMSC Diving and Safety Officer.**

**can be completed upon arrival at the BMSC.

An ocean diving evaluation and rescue scenario (and training if needed) must be completed on site. Also allow for an orientation of the diving facilities, and additional training that may be required- such as oxygen administration, diver rescue, VHF radio use and boat handling, at the Diving and Safety Officer's discretion.

Each SCUBA Diver is required to provide and use the following equipment for every dive:

- Exposure suit suitable for water 45 F Drysuit highly recommended
- Regulator
- Alternate air source
- Weighting system with quick release
- Buoyancy compensator device with low pressure inflator
- Hood
- Boots
- Gloves
- Mask
- Snorkel
- Fins
- Bottom timer or watch
- Submersible pressure gauge
- Depth gauge
- Underwater Compass (minimum of one per buddy team)
- Knife
- Whistle
- Air Cylinder with current VIP & hydrostatic test (BMSC can supply tanks for 3 dives at one time)

Personal dive equipment must be well maintained and kept up to date with service requirements. Regulators must be serviced at least annually and divers should provide evidence of service by a qualified technician (such as a test certificate/ report). All dive equipment is subject to check before commencing diving activities and at any time thereafter. If you are unsure as to the suitability of your equipment please consult with the Diving and Safety Officer.

All diving at the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre is in accordance with the DCIEM Dive Tables. Dive table description is available upon request.

In order to avoid complication follow the above very carefully. If you have any questions about BMSC scientific diving or water related activities please do not hesitate to contact the Boating and Diving Safety Officer. Bamfield is a very remote village with no means of receiving any missing requirements for BMSC scientific diving certification (i.e. medical examination).

The Diving and Safety Officer retains the right to refuse diving and boating privileges at the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre for any individual.

SNORKELING

Much of the marine life in the waters nearby to the marine station and throughout Barkley Sound occurs at shallow depths. Snorkeling can provide an easy way to undertake research and conduct academic study involving many of these organisms and ecosystems. Those wishing to undertake activities involving snorkeling should consult with the Diving and Safety Officer as the requirements for “scientific snorkeling” differ from those of “scientific SCUBA diving”. See BMSC Snorkel Policy.