



E-SLATE

American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS)

EDITORIAL NOTE – September 2015

Welcome to the September E-Slate. In this issue we unveil the 2015 Kathy English AAUS print, review several potential standards changes, wrap up registration for the annual symposium and much more. We welcome news, announcements, job postings, program highlights and images of underwater work at aaus@disl.org. Current and past issues of the E-Slate are available at www.aaus.org.

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

2015 AAUS Symposium Print Raffle

The 2015 AAUS Symposium Print entitled *Key West Paradise* is now complete. Visit the annual fundraiser tab in the online store at www.aausfoundation.org to buy a raffle ticket (\$10) to win this beautiful Kathy English print! The drawing will occur at the 2015 AAUS Awards banquet but you **do not** have to be present to win. All proceeds support the AAUS scholarship fund.



Rebreather Standards Update

In response to discussion at The Scientific Diver and Rebreather workshop held in Feb 2015, and in conjunction with the Board's plan to update our standards manual, AAUS is in the process of reviewing and revising Section 12 (rebreather). Rebreather systems have changed quite a bit in the 10 years since our standard was written, and rebreather technologies have been changing at a rapid rate.

One of several examples of how the standards manual may be out of date is this: "CCRs shall incorporate a minimum of three independent oxygen sensors." Our proposed

changes may look like this: "CCRs must have gas sensing systems demonstrated to be reliable through empirical testing, and validated by a recognized independent testing authority." We are looking for input from membership into this and other appropriate updates and changes.

We are mid-way through a 60-Day comment period (01 August to 01 October) for the above proposed change and any other suggestions for updates to Section 12 in the AAUS manual. We have several AAUS members with rebreather expertise working on this update and they will discuss their findings, along with the membership-suggested changes, at the annual symposium. Your suggestions and comments can be submitted at aaus.org/2015_rebreather_standards_update. If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact the standards chair, Liz Kintzing (ek@unh.edu)

AAUS Standards Change 2013-Required Adoption

In October of 2013, AAUS implemented a change to Sections 4.0 and 5.0 of the AAUS Standards. These changes coincided with the launch of the AAUS Certification Program, and adoption of the new format was initially required only for OMs who chose to participate in the program. Having two manual templates that are essentially the same, but written in different formats, has caused some issues and confusion. Thus, as of January 2016, all AAUS OMs will be required to adopt and incorporate the new material into their manuals. This should not affect how AAUS OMs conduct their diver training programs, as the standards and procedures have not changed. Please also note that this does not mean that all OMs are required to offer the AAUS/ITI certification program. This is a step towards streamlining and simplifying the AAUS manual. Questions regarding these changes should be directed to Liz Kintzing (ek@cisunix.unh.edu), AAUS Standards Chair; questions regarding the AAUS Certification Program should be directed to Christopher Rigaud (crigaud@maine.edu).

UPCOMING EVENTS

2015 AAUS Symposium

Don't miss out! Final registration is taking place for the 2015 AAUS Diving for Science symposium is coming to a close. **Some workshops have a few spaces left.** If you are planning to attend, please register immediately! The room

block at the Marriott Key West Beachside is now closed. A full schedule and registration information are available [here](#).

National Diving Safety Officers Meeting 2015

Please submit any agenda items for the 2015 Diving Safety Officers' meeting to Jim Hayward (ucbdiver@berkeley.edu) by **September 15, 2015**.

DEMA 2015

The Diving Equipment and Marketing Association will hold its annual show November 04-07 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida. More information at www.demashow.com.

Heritage Awareness Diving Seminar

The Florida Public Archaeology Network, Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research, and the St. Augustine Lighthouse and Museum are hosting another Heritage Awareness Diving Seminar (HADS) on October 15 -16, 2015, in St. Augustine, Florida. This seminar provides scuba professionals with information and skills to proactively protect shipwrecks, artificial reefs, and other underwater cultural sites as part of the marine environment. Participants will leave the seminar with all of the tools necessary to teach the Heritage Awareness Diving Specialty through PADI, NAUI, and SDI. More <http://flpublicarchaeology.org/workshops/HADS.php>.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Full information and application instructions for the following jobs can be found at www.aaus.org/job_board

California Academy of Science

Diving Safety Officer

Center for Marine Resource Studies

Turks & Caicos Islands

Diving Safety Officer

Next Generation of Data Collection

The University of California, Santa Cruz scientific diving program is working with iDive and DiveNav to develop the next generation of underwater data collection tools. Making use of the power and versatility of an iPad, enclosed in a robust iDive housing and running apps and devices developed by DiveNav, we are currently testing an electronic data entry system for fish surveys. This data entry system consists of an iPad, the iDive housing for iPad, the Smart

Dive Buddy sensor and the Scientific Diver (SD) app for iPad.

The Scientific Diver app can include photos to help in species ID and allows the user to tabulate the number and size of each species encountered as well as do photo documentation and take notes, all with your fingertip. While diving, the Smart Dive Buddy sensor sends real time depth and temperature information to the Scientific Diver app. The SD app then incorporates this data into an electronic data sheet while also providing an electronic compass, nitrox capable dive computer, stopwatch for timing transects, thermometer, clock, still camera, video camera and underwater topographic charts (if available for your dive site). This combined package not only allows a researcher to collect species abundance/size information but also at what temperature, depth and where on the transect each species was seen (when used with the u/w charts). And as mentioned above, unknown species can be photographed and notes added to the entry for later identification.

The true elegance of this system is that all of this data can be immediately exported in a csv file or even uploaded to the researcher's database, ending transcription errors and the time consuming process of interpreting and entering paper data sheets. Additionally, this new system automatically creates the log of the dive, which could be uploaded to your online log system similarly to what we are currently doing with our Webdiver and the Bluebuddy data loggers.

Instead of having a separate compass, dive computer, data logger, camera system and data slate you can now use an iDive housed iPad equipped with the Smart Dive Buddy sensor and the Scientific Diver app and have all these tools on one screen in the palm of your hand. The possibilities of what other underwater sampling tools can be incorporated into this system are only limited by the imagination of researchers and app developers. Please contact me (Steve Clabuesch; srclabue@ucsc.edu) if you need more information about how we are using this new technology.

Editorial Note: Mention of any specific brand or manufacturer does not constitute endorsement by AAUS. We encourage all our members to share innovations, technical or otherwise, in scientific diving operations and techniques.

The mission of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences is to facilitate the development of safe and productive scientific divers through education, research, advocacy, and the advancement of standards for scientific diving practices, certifications, & operations.

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