



E-SLATE

American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS)

EDITORIAL NOTE –June 2016

Welcome to the June E-Slate. In this edition we continue polls for our BOD elections, continue calls for registration and abstracts for the 2016 AAUS Diving for Science symposium, applications for AAUS student scholarships, and introduce the 2016 Lee H. Somers Scientific Diving intern. 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

AAUS 2016 ELECTION

The 2016 AAUS election opens May 01 and closes **June 30**. This year the academy will elect a Director-at-Large whose three-year term will start on January 01, 2017. The election is open to Full Voting Members (individual and OM Reps) in good standing (dues paid, etc.). Ballots are accessed via the AAUS website, www.aaus.org, by logging into your **individual account** and selecting 'Voting and Polling.' To write in a candidate, send an email with the name of the candidate for which you are voting to two of the election committee members: Amy Moran, Chair (morana@hawaii.edu), Pema Kitaeff (pema@uw.edu), George Peterson (gpeterson@mbayaq.org), Jeff Godfrey (jeff.godfrey@uconn.edu), Lora Pride (Lora.Pride@ch2m.com)

2016 AAUS BOD Slate of Candidates

Director-at-Large

Jim Hayward

Ross Whippo

Candidates' biographical sketches and answers to election questions are available at

https://www.aaus.org/2016_aaus_bod_election

2016 Lee H. Somers Scientific Diving Intern

Allie Sifrit, University of Hawaii, has been awarded the 2016 Lee H. Somers Scientific diving internship. The University of Georgia and UGA DSO Scott Noakes will host this year's intern.



Allie graduated from the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM) with a BS in Marine Biology

and a BA in Spanish. Allie began diving in October of 2012. In October of 2015, she completed the PADI Dive Master course. She will be beginning a Master of Marine Affairs at the University of Washington in the School of Marine and Environmental Affairs in September 2016. Find out more about Allie and keep up with her summer adventures at http://www.aaus.org/2016_lee_somers_intern.

Our World Underwater Scholarship Society held their 42nd annual awards program in New York City April 15-16, 2016. The 2015 and 2016 Lee Sommers Scientific Diving Interns, Catie Mitchell (unable to attend) and Allie Sifrit, as well as Heather Fletcher, Chris Rigaud and Christian McDonald were invited to represent AAUS.



Left to Right: Christopher Rigaud (2015 AAUS Intern host), Heather Fletcher (AAUS), Jenna Walker (OWUSS Internship Coordinator), Michael H. "Pike" Spector (2015 NPS Intern), Dr. David L. Conlin (NPS Submerged Resources Center), Robert A. Myers (2015 Bonnier Intern), Kara B. Hall (2015 REEF intern), Lad Akins (REEF), Stephanie F. Roach (OWUSS VP-Internships), Christian McDonald (Scripps Institution of Oceanography) and George W. Wozencraft (OWUSS past VP-Internships).

Do You Shop at Amazon?

If so, you now have an opportunity to help fund the AAUS scholarships. AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers. Simply indicate that you would like the AAUS Foundation to be the recipient of the donation. **There is no**

cost to charitable organizations or to AmazonSmile customers. The shopping experience is identical to Amazon.com with the added benefit that the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate to the charitable organizations selected by customers. There is no charge to participate and no fees are deducted.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITES

AAUS Student Scholarships 2016

The AAUS Foundation awards scholarships to graduate students engaged in, or planning to begin, research projects in which diving is used as an important research tool or studying diving science. The Kevin Gurr Scholarship awards \$3000 to a Master program student. The Kathy Johnston Scholarship awards \$3000 to a Doctoral student. AAUS may also award additional \$1500 scholarships to the second ranked proposals in each category. The Foundation also grants the Kevin Flanagan Travel Award providing up to \$800 for undergraduate/graduate students to attend an AAUS scientific meeting and the Hollis Gear Award that provides up to two recipients with an award valued at \$1250, good towards Hollis dive gear and travel monies. Applications are submitted electronically and **all proposals are due June 30**. For more information and application instructions, visit www.aausfoundation.org, or send questions to the Scholarship Committee Chair at aaus@disl.org

REEF Summer Fish Field Methodology Course

REEF will hold a hands-on field course, August 07-13 in Key Largo, FL. The course is designed for college undergraduates and recent graduates focusing on marine biology or related fields. The course covers commonly used tools and techniques for visual assessments of reef fishes. Classroom and field experiences will expose students to Tropical Western Atlantic reef fish identification, size estimations underwater, surveying reef fishes using transect, roving and stationery visual techniques, benthic assessments using photo quadrats and rugosity, and management of survey data. For more information and to apply: Visit <http://www.REEF.org/fieldcourse> or contact Amy Lee at (305) 588-5869 or trips@REEF.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2016 AAUS Diving for Science Symposium

Registration is now open for the 2016 AAUS Scientific Diving Symposium, hosted by The University of Rhode Island, Narragansett Bay campus from September 20-24th. We welcome diving scientists, students, diving safety officers and anyone with an interest in diving science to participate in this event.

Tuesday, September 20

Seabass Workshop
Reefball Workshop
DAN Pro IQC (continues on Wed)
Oceanic/Hollis/AUP Repair Clinic
DAN ITW (continues on Wed)
Drysuit Repair Clinic
Visual Inspection Procedure Basic Course
VCI Update (PSI)

Wednesday, September 21

VIP Instructor (must attend basic course on Tues)
AAUS New DSO Orientation
Rebreather Demo
DUI Drysuit and Sidemount Demo

Thursday, September 22

AAUS Business Meeting
National Diving Safety Officers Meeting
DUI Drysuit Course
2016 AAUS Foundation Bubblebreaker and Poster Session

Friday and Saturday, September 23-24

All day science symposium

Saturday, September 24

Matunuck Oyster Farm Tour
2016 Annual Awards Banquet

There will also be shark, wreck and shore diving available Monday through Thursday. For complete workshop details, pricing, lodging, local information, and to register, please visit www.aaus.org/annual_symposium.

Call for Abstracts

AAUS is now accepting abstract submissions for the 2016 AAUS Diving for Science Symposium.

This year AAUS will accept short abstracts (less than 800 words), extended abstracts (800-1200 words) or full manuscripts. Abstracts should be submitted electronically to aaus@disl.org by **June 17, 2016**. Please put "2016 AAUS symposium abstract" followed by your name in the message line to facilitate tracking. Notification on the disposition of submitted abstracts will be returned to the first author electronically by July 15. The deadline for final abstract/manuscript submission is August 5 to allow the published proceedings to be available at the fall meeting. No presentation will be allowed unless the final abstract or manuscript has been cleared for publication in the proceedings.

All submissions **MUST** use the template, which includes formatting instructions. Templates can be found at www.aaus.org/annual_symposium

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

National Parks Service – American Samoa
Marine Assistant

Smithsonian Institution
Biological Science Technician

The magnitude of severe box jellyfish cases on Koh Samui and Koh Pha-ngan in the Gulf of Thailand

Lakkana Thaikruea and Potjaman Siriariyaporn

Background

Despite recent deaths caused by box jellyfish envenomation occurring on the islands of Samui and Pha-ngan in the Gulf of Thailand, many people do not believe box jellyfish can kill humans and many people dismiss the problem as insignificant. More evidence has been requested from the communities in order to evaluate the need for and the implementation of sustainable prevention measures. We aimed to determine the magnitude of cases of severe stinging by box jellyfish and describe the characteristics of these cases on the islands of Samui and Pha-ngan in Surat Thani Province from 1997 to 2015.

Methods

Various strategies were integrated prospectively. Toxic jellyfish networks and surveillance system were established. Outbreak investigations were conducted retrospectively and prospectively from 2008 to 2015.

Results

There were 15 box jellyfish cases. A small majority of them were women (60.0) with a median age of 26.0 years (range 5.0–45.0 years). The highest incidence by month were August (33.3 %), September and October (20.0 %), and July (13.3 %). Eight cases occurred on Samui (53.3 %), 6 cases on Pha-ngan island (40.0 %), and one case on the boat. All cases developed symptoms and signs immediately after being stung. More than half of the cases were unconscious. There were six fatal cases (46.7 %). The wound characteristics had an appearance similar to caterpillar tracks or step ladder-like burn marks. Almost all cases involved Chirodripidae. One fatal case received fresh water and ice packs applied to the wounds (16.7 %). Among the cases with known first aid, only one out of six fatal cases had vinegar applied to the wounds

(16.7 %), while half of six surviving cases received the vinegar treatment.

Conclusions

The islands of Samui and Pha-ngan have the highest incidence of fatal and near fatal box jellyfish cases in Thailand. There is an urgent need for informed pre-clinical emergent care. Optimal pre-clinical care is an area of active research.

Full Paper at

<http://bmcresnotes.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13104-016-1931-8>

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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