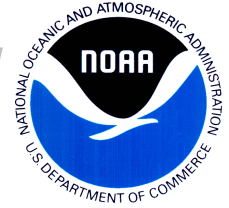




TOPSIDE



Volume 3, Number 27

The NDP Newsletter for NOAA Diving Supervisors and Divers

February 2003

Director - Dave Dinsmore, (206) 526-6705, dave.dinsmore@noaa.gov

Operations Manager - Bill Cobb, (206) 526-6460, bill.cobb@noaa.gov

Equipment Coordinator - Steve Urick, (206) 526-6223, steve.urick@noaa.gov

SEP Technician - Bill Gordon, (206) 526-6450, bill.j.gordon@noaa.gov

SEP Technician - Lisa Glover, (206) 526-6446, lisa.glover@noaa.gov

Budget/Program Analyst - Laurie Barber, (206) 526-6695, laurie.barber@noaa.gov

Office Automation Secretary - Sondra Huber, (206) 526-6623, sondra.huber@noaa.gov

Fax - 206-526-6506

Web site address -

<http://www.ndc.noaa.gov>

Mailing Address -

NOAA Diving Center

7600 Sand Point Way NE

Seattle, WA 98115-0070

NEW NMFS LODO

The NOAA Diving Program would like to welcome **Frank Parrish** to the position of NOAA Fisheries Line Office Diving Officer (LODO) as of January 01, 2003. In this position Frank will oversee all NOAA Fisheries diving units and associated diving supervisors and divers. He will also serve on the NOAA Diving Safety Board as the NMFS representative and assist in shaping the NOAA Diving Program's direction, policies, procedures, and regulations.


Frank is a Fishery Biologist for the NMFS Honolulu laboratory focusing primarily on marine benthic and demersal ecology. He also served as the lab's Unit Diving Supervisor since 1990. He has extensive experience as Chief Scientist on many research cruises involving diving, submarine missions, and ROVs. He has also published numerous research articles that involved diving for data collection. He has a B.A. in Zoology, a M.A. in Geography, and is presently working on his PhD, also from the University of Hawaii.

Frank began his diving career at age 11 in Puerto Rico under the direction of his marine scientist father. By age 14 he had relocated to Hawaii and continued to grow as a diver while collecting for his aquarium.

Since 1986 he has been working for the Honolulu laboratory promoting the advantages of diving research approaches the entire way. Since that time the Honolulu lab's complement of divers has expanded from two divers focusing on turtle work to today's complement of 25 divers working on turtles, lobster habitat, deepwater corals, bottom fish, coral

reefs, monk seal forage habitat, advanced diving methodologies, and marine debris removal.

Frank holds several advanced scuba certifications including in-water recompression, advanced deep air, technical Nitrox, Trimix, and chamber operator. He is one of NOAA's few divers who actively conduct Trimix decompression diving in support of his research. Recreational diving also remains a big part of Frank's life and, along with his wife Deb, he has traveled to different parts of the Pacific, Caribbean, and Indian Ocean on diving adventures.

Frank's experience, expertise, training, and love of diving make him very well qualified for the LODO position and an excellent addition to the Safety Board membership. Welcome aboard, Frank. 




New NOAA Fisheries LODO Frank Parrish
(I don't know what to tell you about the bird!)

TRAINING SCHEDULE

A **Diver Refresher** course is scheduled for April 29 - May 02, 2003. This course can be used to re-certify NOAA Working Divers who's proficiency has lapsed for a year or more. It can also be used by active NOAA divers (Scientific or Working) to certify in the use of a NOAA dry suit or for NOAA employees to complete their Scientific Diver certification.

Training requests are being accepted for the **May/June Working Diver and Divemaster** courses.


Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and Diver Medical Technician (DMT) courses have been scheduled for 2003.

Please contact Laurie Barber if you would like to enroll in any of the above courses. 


The following classes are scheduled for 2003:

Apr 29 - May 02	Diver Refresher	Seattle, WA
May 19 - Jun 06	Working Diver	Seattle, WA
Jun 02 - Jun 06	Divemaster	Seattle, WA
Sep 15 - Oct 03	Working Diver	Seattle, WA
Sep 29 - Oct 03	Divemaster	Seattle, WA
Dec 1 - 12	EMT	Seattle, WA
Dec 15 - 20	Diver Medic	Seattle, WA


TRI TEST KITS

Dive compressor air test kits were mailed the week of January 21, 2003. Compressor testing should already have been completed and the kits returned to TRI. Please complete this testing as soon as possible if this is not the case! Contact Laurie Barber if you have any questions about this semi-annual testing procedure. 


UNIT DIVING INSPECTIONS

Unit Diving Inspection Checklists were due from all diving units, sub-units, and ships to their LODO/FDO by January 15. This inspection is designed so that UDSs and ship Divemasters can conduct a diving self-inspection to identify safety concerns or areas needing attention. If your ship/unit has not completed this **required annual inspection**, please do so immediately and submit it to your LODO/FDO. Thank you to all units who have completed and submitted this inspection. 


ANNUAL MEDICAL HISTORY

Annual Medical History Report forms (**NOAA Form 56-59**) are due from all NOAA divers age 59 and younger by March 01 of each new calendar year. Forms may be faxed or mailed directly to the NOAA Diving Center, and are available online from the NDC web site or by request from NDC. Divers should note any health changes from their last medical history form submitted to NDC. These forms do not require the signature of a physician nor anyone else besides the diver. **Failure to submit this form by March 01 will result in the suspension of the diver's NOAA certification.** 

SLATE ARTICLE

The January 2003 issue of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS) publication *The Slate* includes a front page article on NDC's **Drager Duo-com portable recompression chamber** written by Dave Dinsmore and Jim McCarthy. This chamber is available to NOAA diving units to support remote or advanced diving operations. A copy of this informative article will be included in the TOPSIDE mailing to all ships/units. 

UI CONFERENCE

The Director of the NOAA Diving Program attended the **Underwater Intervention** conference in New Orleans. This three-day conference is the "World's premier conference for commercial diving, ROVs, AUVs, and marine technology." At the conference he served as a panelist for a technical session on "Advancements in wet diving for science." 

JANUARY DIVE CLASS

Seventeen diver candidates successfully completed Working Diver training in Key West Florida on January 31. An additional ten Divemaster candidates successfully completed Divemaster training during the third week of Working Diver training. Footage for a NOAA Diving Program promotional video was also shot during the class (**The video producers are still looking for additions of high quality video to this effort. Please contact Dave Dinsmore if you can contribute video footage**). Congratulations to all new Working Divers and Dive-masters for a job well done!! 