



U.S. EPA Diver Training Program

Gulf Ecology Division



Office of Research and Development
National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory, Gulf Ecology Division

History

For over 20 years, EPA has played a significant role in the development and support of scientific diving. The program has conducted over 30,000 dives and its exemplary safety record is attributed to thorough training, adherence to established standards, procedures, and the use of quality, well maintained equipment.



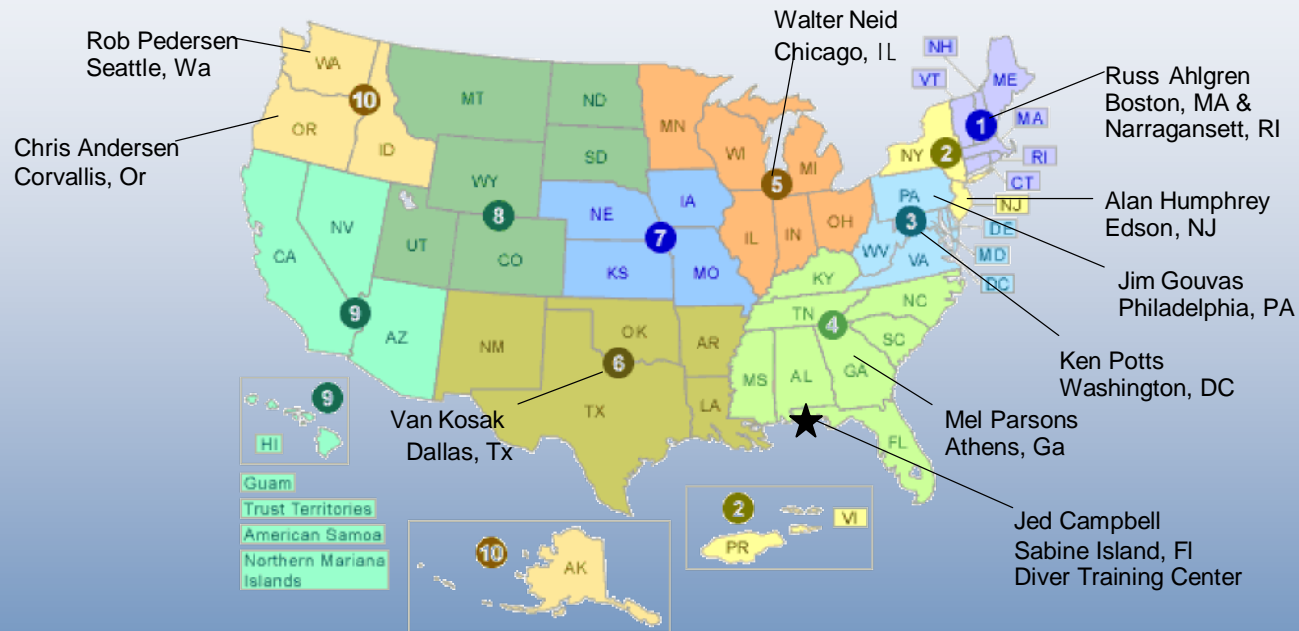


National Diver Training Program

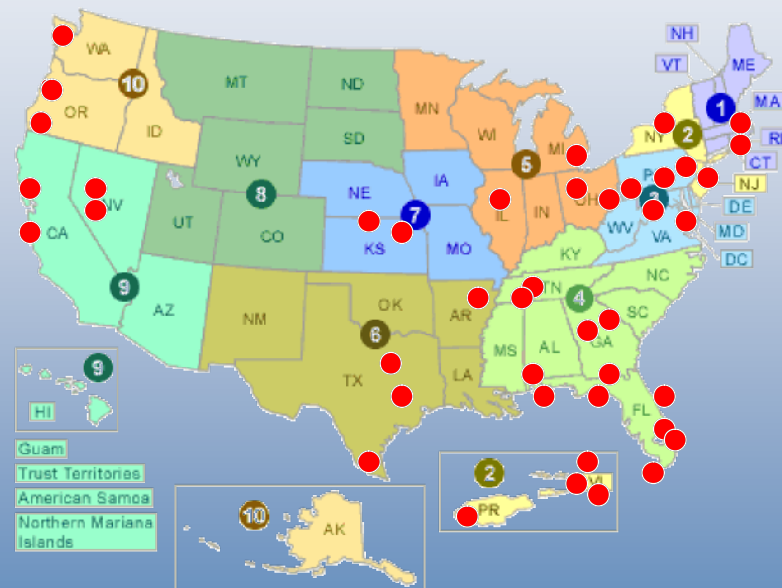
Over 500 divers from EPA, other federal agencies, state, local governmental organizations, and university have been trained and certified at the EPA National Diver Training Facility in Gulf Breeze.

Our program is well respected and mirrored by the diving community around the world.

EPA's National Dive Units



Locations of EPA Qualified Divers



National Diver Training Site Gulf Ecology Division





U.S. EPA DIVER TRAINING MISSION

“We specialize in training scientists with the latest cutting edge diving techniques.”

“We transform them from recreational divers into professional divers.”

Scientific Diver Training



- **Diving Accident Management**
- **Principals in Scientific Diving**
- **Oxygen Enriched Air Diving “Nitrox”**
- **Surface Supply Diving**
- **Polluted Water Diving**
- **Drysuit**
- **Full face aga**
- **Underwater photography**
- **Underwater communications “wireless diver to surface”**
- **Oxygen administration**
- **Compressed gas handling**
- **Divemaster and operations mgmt**

Operations



EPA's Diving Scientists

Support a Wide Variety of Agency Needs

- **Superfund**
- **Coral research**
- **Benthic Habitat Assessments**
- **Survey of dredge disposal sites**
- **Environmental criminal investigations**
- **301 H and other permitted outfalls**
- **Maintenance of Scientific equipment**
- **Scallop restoration**
- **A wide variety of other missions**

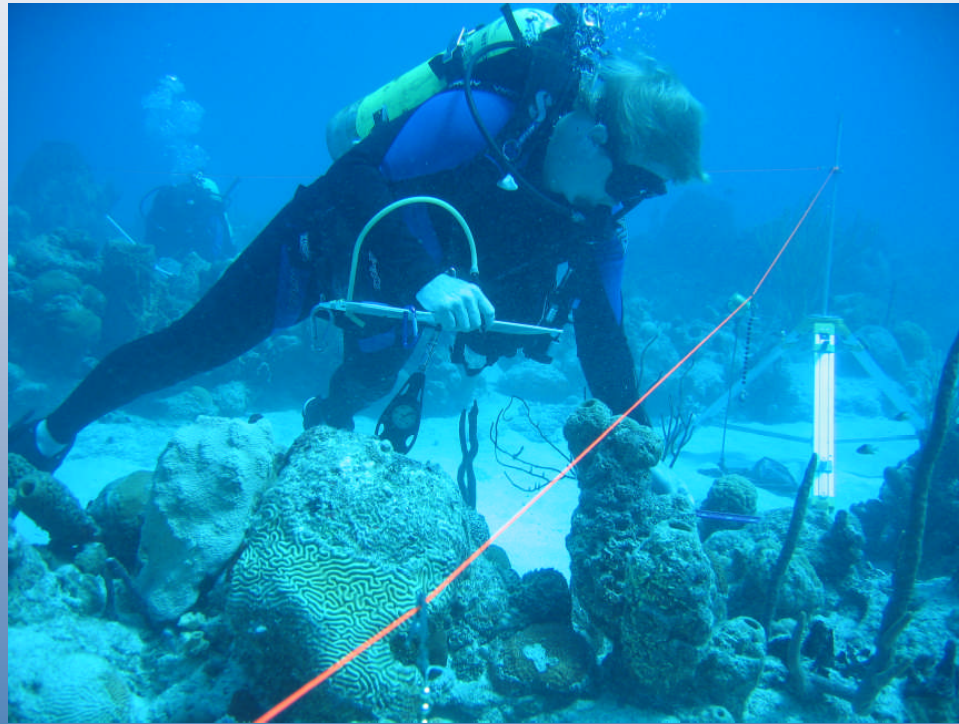


EPA Diving Scientist Sample and Conduct Research

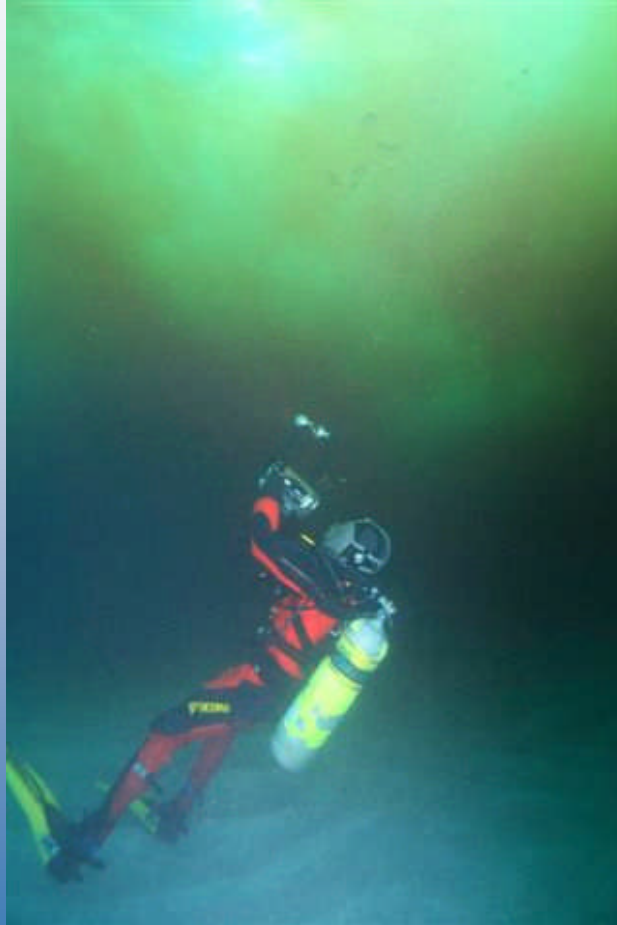
- **Seagrass research**
- **Sample collection in compromised waters**
- **Conduct sediment oxygen demand and nutrient transfer studies.**
- **Conducted in-situ benthic recolonization experiments.**
- **Coral reef research**
- **Sample collection for hypoxia research**



Scientist Collect Coral Condition Data



EPA Divers are Trained in Contaminated-water Diving



- **Divers are trained in polluted water diving techniques.**
- **Over 1200 drums of hazardous waste were located by EPA Divers in an abandoned rock quarry in Kokomo, Indiana.**

Photo: courtesy Charles Lobue

EPA Divers assist in Space Shuttle Columbia's Accident Recovery.





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