

POLICY

Effective Date: June 5, 2006

Approved By: President's Council

Authority: WAC 296-37

See Also: POL-U5950.01 Environmental Health & Safety

POL-U5950.18 UNDERWATER DIVING

This policy applies to all University departments, including faculty, staff, students, registered volunteers and others who are diving under the auspices of the University.

“Diving” means underwater diving using SCUBA (Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus) equipment, or similar types of breathing apparatus, and snorkeling.

1. University Recognizes the Benefits of Safe Underwater Diving Practices

The University recognizes the benefits of a policy that supports safe underwater diving practices. Diving activities under its auspices shall be conducted in a manner to promote safety and minimize accidental injury or illness.

2. Department Heads Shall Ensure Compliance

Department heads shall be responsible for ensuring that all individuals involved in diving are informed of this policy and that departmental diving activities are conducted in compliance with this policy.

3. Industrial/Commercial Diving Shall Comply with Washington State Rules and Regulations

Industrial/commercial diving shall conform to applicable rules and regulations of the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries when the diving takes place within its jurisdiction. This includes related and supportive work activities having a direct effect on the safety of diving operations. See Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 296-37 – Commercial Diving Operations.

4. Scientific Diving Shall Comply with the Standards of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS) as Specified in the University's Diving Manual

Scientific diving is defined as that involving research and instructional activities and all such activities are subject to this policy. Scientific diving that is specifically exempt from WAC 296-37 shall comply with minimum standards established by the American Academy of Underwater

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Scientists (AAUS). In keeping with the provisions of AAUS, the University has established a Diving Control Board and Diving Safety Officer to apply the provisions of its Diving Manual that will govern all scientific diving activities at the University.

The Provost has designated the Shannon Point Marine Center (SPMC) as the current manager of the University's scientific diving program, subject to periodic review. The SPMC Diving Control Board and Diving Safety Officer are therefore designated to play that role for the University. The approved Diving Manual can be accessed at SPMC.

5. **Recreational Diving Shall Comply with the Standards of Diving Instructor Associations**

Recreational diving shall comply with the minimum standards established by PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors), NAUI (National Association of Underwater Instructors), NASDS (National Association of Scuba Diving Schools) or equivalent governing organization.

“Recreational diving” is performed solely for recreational purposes and does not include diving that in any way supports the individual's occupation, research or academic instruction or training.