



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA SYSTEM POLICY

Number	Subject of Policy Statement	Date of Origin	Last Amended Date	Last Review Date
0-312	Scientific Diving	Proposed New		

I. INTRODUCTION (Purpose and Intent)

The University of South Florida system (USF system) is committed to incorporating health and safety practices in research and teaching activities using scientific diving at any USF system facility or property or by USF system or USF system-affiliated faculty, staff, or students. Scientific diving is defined as diving performed solely as a necessary part of a scientific, research, or educational activity by individuals whose sole purpose for diving is to perform scientific research tasks. The USF system has established a systematic and comprehensive scientific diving Program designed to ensure safe, effective diving practices; to educate researchers in new technological advances; and to provide support for the underwater researcher.

The Scientific Diving Program is managed in accordance with the following guidelines: the USF system Standards for Scientific Diving; the American Academy of Underwater Sciences Standards for Scientific Diving; and federal regulations governing Scientific Diving as specified in [29CFR1910, Subpart T, Appendix B](#).

II. STATEMENT OF POLICY

The USF Scientific Diving Program provides administrative, educational training, and hands-on support to the USF researcher utilizing scientific diving. All research and teaching activities

performed by USF system or USF system-affiliated faculty, staff, or students utilizing scientific diving must receive approval prior to initiation of such activities and must be performed in accordance the USF system Scientific Diving Program's policies and procedures as specified in the USF system Standards for Scientific Diving manual.

III. INSTITUTIONAL OFFICIAL

The University has delegated authority and responsibility for the Scientific Diving Program to the Vice President for Research & Innovation. The Vice President for Research & Innovation has appointed an autonomous Diving Control Board (DCB) that is responsible for oversight and evaluation of the Scientific Diving Program. The Vice President for Research & Innovation has delegated authority and responsibility for the Scientific Diving Program to the USF system Institutional Scientific Diving Officer, who serves as the Responsible Official (RO) and is responsible for the oversight and compliant operation of the USF system Scientific Diving Program.

IV. DIVING CONTROL BOARD (DCB)

The USF DCB has autonomous and absolute authority over the USF Scientific Diving Program. The responsibilities of the DCB are outlined in the USF system Standards for Scientific Diving.

V. DIVISION OF RESEARCH INTEGRITY AND COMPLIANCE

The Division of Research Integrity and Compliance assists the DCB with oversight and evaluation functions by providing administrative support services to the Scientific Diving Program.

VI. SANCTIONS

Failure to comply with the policies and procedures of the USF system Scientific Diving Program, State of Florida law, or federal regulations regarding the use of scientific diving in research or teaching activities within the USF system or by agents or affiliates of the USF system may result in suspension of such research and teaching activities. In addition, the Institutional Official has the authority to terminate current awards, and the investigator may become ineligible to receive future awards or perform research within the USF system. Any research data gathered during situations of noncompliance would be considered invalid.

VII. REFERENCES

- [American Academy of Underwater Sciences, *Standards for Scientific Diving Certification and Operation of Scientific Diving Programs.*](#)
- [29 CFR 1910 Subpart T, *Guidelines for scientific diving – 1910 Subpart T App B.*](#)

Karen A. Holbrook, Vice President for Research & Innovation
Judy Genshaft, President