



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA

SCIENTIFIC DIVING PROGRAM

ABOUT

The UA Scientific Diving Program began in 1988 under the auspices of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences. Through multiple courses in scientific diving and various sub-tidal research projects, the program trains and educates divers from UA campuses in Fairbanks (UAF), Southeast (UAS) and Anchorage (UAA). More than 90 active divers participate in the program each year.

The first scientific diving course was offered in 2000 by the UAF College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, and the course has now trained more than 500 divers. Today, this and other dive-related courses are taught through UAF and UAS.

Diving courses and projects are mostly cold-water drysuit diving and take place across Alaska and the Antarctic. Many of the dives focus on essential research such as sensor and hydrophone maintenance, biological sampling, and environmental monitoring.

“To have such a high-caliber training program is really important, especially given the cold water and remote field sites that characterize marine research in Alaska.”

- Lauren Bell, UAF and Scientific Diving Program alum



The spring 2022 dive class at Kasistna Bay Laboratory. Photo courtesy of Brenda Konar.



Photo by Brenda Konar.

DIVE COURSES

Scientific Diving teaches students the basic cold water diving and research skills needed to conduct dive-related fieldwork in high latitudes. Trained scientific divers can enroll in other dive-related courses in subsequent years, and are eligible to dive on UA-sanctioned diving projects. Graduates of the diving program are now doing diving-related work across Alaska, the nation, and the world.

UAF courses include:

- Scientific Diving
- Advanced AAUS Skills
- Kelp Forest Ecology
- Field Topics in Subtidal Ecology

UAS courses include:

- Scientific Diving
- Diving Intensive

RESEARCH

We have diving facilities at the Kasistna Bay laboratory in Kachemak Bay, Lena Point Fisheries Facility in Juneau, and the UAS Sitka campus. In remote locations, diving from shore, small skiffs and large research vessels occur.

Dive-related research topics include:

- Antarctica kelp studies
- Impacts of glacial melt on coastal ecosystems
- Kelp forests along the Aleutian Archipelago
- Ocean acidification
- Gulf of Alaska long-term monitoring
- Sea ice studies in the Arctic



Photo courtesy of UA Dive Program.



Photo by Carter Johnson.

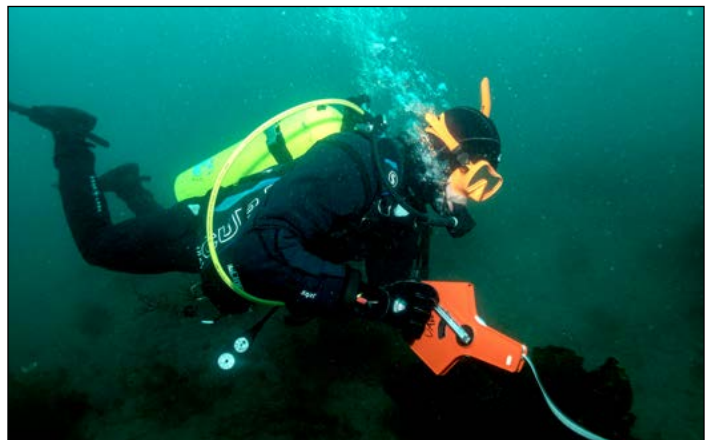


Photo by Carter Johnson.

For more information, please contact Brenda Konar at bhkonar@alaska.edu or visit the UA Scientific Diving Program website at www.uaf.edu/dive.



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