

Charter – Diving Control Board, University of Maine System January 1, 2020

Authorization, Purpose, and Scope

The University of Maine System (UMS) hereby establishes and recognizes the UMaine Diving Control Board (DCB). The purpose of the DCB is to promulgate and administer policies and procedures to ensure adequate safety of all UMS related occupational and scientific diving. In support of this role, the DCB shall also serve to promote the availability and accessibility of diving education and training opportunities, in alignment with the academic and research missions of the University.

Responsibilities of the University

Duties and responsibilities of UMS include:

- Authorize and empower the DCB to oversee occupational and scientific diving at all UMS campuses and units.
- Recognize the “*absolute and autonomous authority of the DCB over the operation of the scientific diving program*” as required by OSHA.

Responsibilities of the DCB

The DCB shall ensure all occupational diving is conducted as required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration [29 CFR 1910.401(2)(iv)]. As described in Appendix B to Subpart T of this regulation, UMaine will operate as exempt from this regulation for scientific diving activities. Scientific diving activities shall be conducted in accordance with the standards of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS).

Duties and responsibilities of the DCB are outlined in the UMaine Scientific Diving Standards. These include:

- Manage and monitor all UMS occupational and scientific diving activities.
- Review, revise, and approve UMS diving standards in accordance with OSHA regulations and AAUS Standards.
- Initiate and manage disciplinary processes for unsafe diving practices or violation of University diving standards.
- Advise and delegate responsibilities to the Diving Safety Officer (DSO) as the coordinator/manager of the program.

NOTE: as described, the DCB may delegate portions of its roles and responsibilities to qualified individuals or subcommittees; however, the DCB may not relinquish oversight and accountability for these responsibilities.

Responsibilities of DCB Members

Duties and responsibilities of DCB members include:

- Regularly attend meetings and participate in DCB and associated sub-committee business.
- Maintain status as an active Scientific Diver (pertains to diving members only).

- Meet membership requirements as required by AAUS.

Membership

Membership in the DCB shall be open to UMS faculty, researchers, staff, and students with applicable diving expertise. The Board must be comprised of a majority of active scientific divers and should be representative of current scientific diving activities. Non-diving members of the DCB may include appropriate administrative or other personnel, including medical advisors, and legal or risk management representatives, however, a majority of active scientific divers must be maintained.

All DCB members have an equal vote in DCB business. Members of the DCB shall nominate and vote on new members; a DCB Chair will also be appointed to direct DCB activities and serve as a primary point of contact. The minimum number of DCB members shall be three, two of which must be active scientific divers; this minimum shall also constitute a quorum for the conduct of any essential business and/or votes.

In the event the number of inactive scientific divers (or non-divers) exceeds the number of active scientific divers, offsetting the requirement for a majority of active scientific divers, a separate DCB Advisory Board shall be established. The Advisory Board shall be comprised of inactive Scientific Divers (or non-divers) whose expertise is valued but whose presence on the DCB offsets the necessary majority of active scientific divers. Advisory Board members may participate in DCB discussions, but may not vote in DCB business.

DCB and/or Advisory Board members may excuse themselves from service at any time.