

To: Incoming Student Diver
From: Christopher Rigaud, Diving Safety Officer
Re: SMS324 Introduction to Research Diving (Summer & Fall 2023)
Date: 08 February 2023

Greetings from the UMaine Scientific Diving Program! It has come to our attention that you wish to register for *SMS324- Introduction to Research Diving*. There is an informational webpage specific to this course on the UMaine Scientific Diving website: <http://umaine.edu/scientificdiving/>, under the Scientific Diver Training tab. Please refer to this website for all course information and updates.

The Summer and Fall sections of this course, while generally the same, have some important scheduling differences; please be certain to review the course syllabus for your specific section. This course also has some unique requirements, including some specialized documentation. Admission to the course will not be granted until this documentation is complete and reviewed by the course instructor (crigaud@maine.edu). Please submit all documents by **03 May** for Summer and **02 Aug.** for Fall term.

Required Documents/Forms

[All documents and forms are posted on the UMaine Scientific Diving website. Submit all forms together as one completed package].

1. **Scientific Diver Information Sheet-** This document provides the Course Instructor/ UMaine DSO with information concerning you as an individual, your dive training and experience, and personally owned equipment. SMS324 is not an entry level scuba course; prior certification as a diver is required. Please provide a copy of your certification card(s). Also note that, when indicated, personally owned equipment must be accompanied by proof of annual service/maintenance. Even newly purchased equipment (i.e. regulators/gauges) must be inspected and tested by a qualified technician prior to use.
2. **UMaine Diver Medical Forms-** A medical exam/physical specific to scientific diving is required. Even if you have had a recent medical exam, UMaine documentation must be completed and signed by a physician. Appointments for medical exams and required tests often take some time so we recommend you schedule this exam as soon as possible. UMaine Cutler Health Center is able to perform these exams.

***NOTE- In addition to standard UMaine Diver Medical Forms, all candidates must also submit a Medical Assessment of Divers Following COVID-Suspected Illness.
3. **UMaine Legal Forms-**
 - a. Diver Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Release
 - b. Diver Medical Consent and Insurability
 - c. Diver Employment Verification (not required if not employed)

Equipment Recommendations

Diving is an equipment intensive activity, especially in Maine; see course syllabus for equipment requirements. As future diving professionals, UMaine encourages all students enrolled in this course to invest in personally owned diving equipment. All equipment must fit properly and be suitable for diving in cold water; lightweight tropical BCs and wetsuits will likely be insufficient. Summer/ Fall water temperatures in Maine range from 40-60°F (4-15°C), with air temperatures from 60-80°F (15-26°C). Cooler temperatures occur during days of inclement weather. Divers must prepare accordingly and insure they possess adequate exposure protection both in and out of the water. A two piece 7mm wetsuit (with cold water booties/hood/gloves) is generally considered the minimum level of exposure protection.

Any reputable scuba dealer will be able to provide information and recommendations on a range of equipment choices and pricing options; the UMaine DSO is also available to assist in this process. To ensure properly fitting equipment and adequate customer service it is recommended that equipment be purchased through a local scuba shop, not through mail-order or internet vendors.