

10. Wreck Freediver

10.1 Introduction

Wreck freediving can be one of the most exciting aspects of freediving, however every effort must be made to maximize safer freediving techniques. This course will discuss the equipment and techniques commonly employed while wreck freediving. This course is taught as a non-penetration, 2 dives required.

10.2 Who May Teach

An active PFI Instructor that has been certified to teach this specialty

10.3 Student to Instructor Ratio

Academic

1. Unlimited, so long as adequate facility, supplies and time are provided to insure comprehensive and complete training of subject matter

Confined Water (swimming pool-like conditions)

1. N/A

Open Water (ocean, lake, quarry, spring, river or estuary)

1. A maximum of 6 students per instructor; it is the instructor's discretion to reduce this number as conditions dictate

10.4 Student Prerequisites

1. PFI Freediver, PFI Junior Freediver, or equivalent
2. Minimum age 18, 10 with parental consent
3. Freedivers must have an Intermediate certification in order to dive deeper than 20 meters / 66 feet in this course

10.5 Course Structure and Duration

Open Water Execution

1. Two freedive sessions are required for the course with complete briefs and debriefs by the instructor
2. Freedive plan must include surface interval calculations, direct supervision procedures, etc. will be figured and logged

Course Structure

1. PFI allows instructors to structure courses according to the number of students participating and their skill level

10.6 Administrative Requirements

1. Administrative Tasks:
2. Collect the course fees from all the students
3. Ensure that the students have the required equipment
4. Communicate the schedule to the students
5. Have the students complete the:
 - a. *PFI General Liability Release and Express Assumption of Risk* Form
 - b. *PFI Medical History* Form

Upon successful completion of this specialty the instructor must:

1. Issue the appropriate PFI certification by registering the students online through member's area of the PFI website or submitting the *PFI Student Registration* Form to PFI Headquarters

10.7 Training Material

Required Material:

10.8 Required Equipment

1. Basic freediving equipment as described in section three of this manual
2. Float and line
3. One audible and one visual signaling device

10.9 Approved Outline

Instructors may use any additional text or materials that they feel help present these topics. The following topics must be covered:

1. Motivating Statements
 - a. Why wreck freedive
 - b. Potential benefits
 - c. Beauty
 - d. Mysteriousness
 - e. One man's trash is another man's treasure
 - f. It's fun
2. Down lines and surface supports
 - a. Size
 - b. Material
 - c. Surface supports
 - i. Communications, when and if necessary
 - ii. Back-up procedures
3. Direct Supervision
 - a. Supervision with varied visibility
 - b. Float lines
 - c. Line signals
4. Navigation/Charting
 - a. Usage of the slate
 - i. Larger than normal
 - ii. Pre-dive marking
 - b. Pre-planning the dive using charts, other information
 - c. Directional determination
5. Disorientation
 - a. With/without buddy
 - b. Lost buddy
 - c. Light failure
 - d. Emergency procedures
6. Special Equipment
 - a. Lights
 - i. Primary and backup
 - ii. Size
 - iii. Burn time
 - iv. Usage
 - b. Knives and cutting devices

7. Limited Visibility Diving
 - a. Silt-out
 - b. Psychological considerations.
8. Light usage
 - a. Importance of light and backup
 - b. Dark vision, don't shine light in buddy's eyes
9. Life Lines and Reels
 - a. Type of line
 - b. Tie-offs
 - c. Directional markers
 - d. Line handling and reeling must be practiced on land prior to performing this skill underwater
10. Special Emergency Procedures
 - a. Safe Wreck
 - i. As normal, but with considerations for lack of free access to the surface in some cases
 - b. Hazardous or otherwise unsafe wrecks
 - i. Must avoid
 - ii. Overhead environments
 - iii. Don't enter doors blocked
 - iv. Entrance restrictions
11. Mapping the Wreck
 - a. Vertical
 - b. Horizontal
 - c. Feature Identification

10.10 Required Skill Performance and Graduation Requirements

Students are required to successfully complete the following. Dives 1 and 2 non-penetration are required for certification. In addition to dives 1 and 2, dives 3 is strictly optional for more experience.

1. Open Water Freedive Session 1
 - a. Plan freedive session
 - b. Familiarization with areas
 - c. Basic charting outside wreck
 - d. Usage of lines outside wreck, optional
 - e. Log freedive session

2. Open Water Freedive Session 2
 - a. Plan freedive session
 - b. Team complete mapping
 - c. Usage of lines outside wreck, optional
 - d. Log freedive session
3. Open Water Freedive Session 3 (Optional)
 - a. Plan freedive session
 - b. Review previous skills
 - c. Dive/explore as determined
 - d. Log freedive session