

29. Wreck Diver

29.1 Introduction

Wreck diving can be one of the most exciting aspects of sport diving, however every effort must be made to maximize safe diving techniques. This course will discuss the equipment and techniques commonly employed while wreck diving. This course may be taught as a non-penetration, 2 dives required, or as a limited-penetration course, requiring 3 dives. Limited-penetration is defined as a swim through or within the ambient light of entry point.

29.2 Who May Teach

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

29.3 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 8 students per instructor; it is the instructor's discretion to reduce this number as conditions dictate
2. During the penetration portion of the course, the student to instructor ratio drops to 2 to 1

29.4 Student Prerequisites

1. SDI Open Water Scuba Diver, or equivalent
2. Minimum age 18 , 15 for limited penetration course with parental consent
3. Minimum age 10 with parental consent for a non-penetration course
4. Junior Open Water Divers may not participate in any penetration activities or dives deeper than 18 metres / 60 feet
5. Divers must have a deep diver specialty certification or be able to provide proof of experience in order to dive deeper than 18 metres / 60 feet in this course

29.5 Course Structure and Duration

Open Water Execution

1. Two dives are required for the non-penetration course with complete briefs and debriefs by the instructor
2. Dive plan must include surface interval, maximum no-decompression time, etc will be figured and logged
3. One additional dive must be conducted for a limited penetration certification

Course Structure

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

29.6 Administrative Requirements

Administrative Tasks:

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

Upon successful completion of this specialty the instructor must:

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

29.7 Training Material

Required Material:

1. *SDI Wreck, Boat and Drift Diving Student Manual* and I.Q. Review or eLearning
2. *SDI Wreck, Boat and Drift Diving Instructor Guide*

29.8 Required Equipment

1. Basic open water scuba equipment as described in section three of this manual
2. Reel
3. One audible and one visual signaling device

29.9 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 dive
 - 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. The Buddy System
4. Buddy Contact
 - a. Contact with varied visibility
 - b. Buddy lines
 - c. Line signals
 - d. Buddy positioning in close proximity
5. 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
6. Disorientation
 - a. With/without buddy
 - b. Lost buddy
 - c. Light failure
 - d. Emergency procedures
7. Special Equipment
 - a. Lights
 - i. Primary and backup
 - ii. Size
 - iii. Burn time
 - iv. Usage
 - b. Knives and cutting devices

- 8. Limited Visibility Diving
 - a. Silt-out
 - b. Psychological considerations.
- 9. Light usage
 - a. Importance of light and backup
 - b. Dark vision, don't shine light in buddy's eyes
- 10. 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
- 11. 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. Don't enter doors blocked
 - iii. Entrance restrictions
- 12. Mapping the Wreck
 - a. Vertical
 - b. Horizontal
 - c. Feature Identification

29.10 Required Skill Performance and Graduation Requirements

Students are required to successfully complete the following. Dives 1 and 2 are for the non-penetration certification. In addition to dives 1 and 2, dive 3 is required for limited penetration certification; dive 4 is strictly optional for more experience.

1. Open Water Dive 1
 - a. Pre-dive review of dive computers
 - b. Plan dive, to include depth, time and gas consumption
 - c. Test lights
 - d. Familiarization with areas
 - e. Basic charting outside wreck
 - f. Usage of lines outside wreck, optional
 - g. Surface and log dive
2. Open Water Dive 2
 - a. Plan dive, to include depth, time and gas consumption
 - b. Figure surface interval
 - c. Descend
 - d. Team complete mapping
 - e. Usage of lines outside wreck, optional
 - f. Surface and log dive
3. Open Water Dive 3
 - a. Plan dive, to include depth, time and gas consumption
 - b. Descend
 - c. Usage of lines inside wreck, optional
 - d. Surface and log dive
4. Open Water Dive 4 (Optional)
 - a. Plan dive, to include depth, time and gas consumption
 - b. Planned dive explained
 - c. Dive/explore as determined
 - d. Surface and log dive