

6. Reef Spearfishing and Collecting Freediver

6.1 Introduction

The purpose of this specialty is to actively allow the student to engage the collection of certain marine objects and to demonstrate and explain the benefits, skills, techniques, and necessary rules of underwater hunting on or around structure or terrain. Stress must be placed on prudent and conservative techniques of both aspects, as well as safety and problem management.

6.2 Who May Teach

An active PFI Instructor that has been certified at the freediver level in this course and has been certified to teach this specialty

6.3 Student to Instructor Ratio

Academic

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

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
2. The instructor has the option of adding 4 more students with the assistance of an active assistant instructor
3. The total number of students an instructor may have in the water is 10 with the assistance of active assistant instructors

6.4 Student Prerequisites

1. PFI Freediver, PFI Junior Freediver or equivalent
2. Minimum age 18, 10 with parental consent

6.5 Course Structure and Duration

Open Water Execution

1. One freedive session is required with complete briefs and debriefs by the instructor with an optional second session with collection of fish/invertebrates allowed.
2. Freedive plan must include surface interval calculation, direct supervision procedures, etc. to be figured out and logged

Course Structure

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

6.6 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. *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

6.7 Required Equipment

1. Basic freediving equipment as described in section three of this manual

6.8 Approved Outline

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

1. Spearfishing and Collecting Ethics and In-born Hunting
 - a. Laws and spearfishing ethics and trends
 - i. Why do we spearfish
 - ii. Non-spearing lawmakers
 - iii. Public perception
 - iv. Knowing local laws
 - b. Memory recall “the hunt”
2. Safety & Problem Management in Reef Spearfishing
 - a. Freediving direct supervision
 - b. Speargun handling values
 - i. Finger off the trigger
 - ii. Know what is beyond your target
 - iii. Muzzle awareness
 - iv. Gun is always loaded
 - v. Entering and exiting the water with verbal communication
 - c. Location safety and freedive safety plan
 - i. Currents
 - ii. Entry and exit
 - iii. Shore buddy
 - iv. Freedive session plan
 - d. Loss of Motor Control and Blackouts
3. Reef Spearfishing Gear and Rigging
 - a. Types
 - b. Length
 - c. Rigging
 - d. Maintenance
4. Reef Spearfishing and Collecting Techniques
 - a. Types of fish
 - b. Body positioning and body language
 - c. Shore freedives vs. offshore
 - d. Stealth hunting - Aspetto
 - e. Ambush hunting
 - f. Structures – safety and problem management
 - g. Target shot
5. Caring for your catch

6.9 Required Skill Performance and Graduation Requirements

Students are required to successfully complete the following:

In-Water Session (Optional open water session 2 may allow using techniques learned to attempt to collect under the guidance of the instructor)

1. Entering and Exiting the Water
 - a. Muzzle awareness
 - b. Three-point supervision
 - c. Moving with buddy
 - d. LMC & Blackout
2. Loading and Unloading
3. Surface Entries
 - a. Surface breathing and preparation
 - b. Remove snorkel
 - c. Demonstrated adapted entry suitable for type of hunt and environment
4. Simulated Reef Hunt Scenarios
 - a. Target practice where allowable
5. Safety and Problem Management with Spearfishing and Collecting Equipment
6. After freedive session care of equipment and catch
7. Log freedive session