

13. Drift Diver

13.1 Introduction

This course is designed to teach divers the skills, knowledge, and necessary techniques to properly conduct drift dives.

13.2 Who May Teach

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

13.3 Student to Instructor Ratio

Academic:

1. Unlimited, so long as adequate facilities, supplies and time are provided to ensure 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. The instructor has the option of adding 2 more students with the assistance of an active Assistant Instructor or Divemaster.
3. The total number of students an instructor may have in the water is 12 with the assistance of 2 active Assistant Instructors or Divemasters.

13.4 Student Prerequisites

1. SDI Open Water Scuba Diver, SDI Junior Open Water Scuba Diver, or equivalent.
2. Minimum age 18, 10 with parental consent.

13.5 Course Structure and Duration

Open Water Execution:

1. Two dives are required with complete briefs and debriefs by the instructor.
2. Both dives must be done as drift dives.

3. Dive plan must include surface interval, maximum no-decompression time, etc. to be figured out and logged.

Course Structure:

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

13.6 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 the course 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.

13.7 Training Material

Required Material:

1. *SDI Wreck, Boat and Drift Diving* Student Manual.
2. *SDI Wreck, Boat and Drift Diving* Scuba I.Q. Review.
3. *SDI Wreck, Boat and Drift Diving* Student Manual

13.8 Required Equipment

Basic open water scuba equipment as described in section three of this manual.

13.9 Approved Outline

Instructors may use any additional text or materials that they feel help present these topics.

The following topics must be covered:

1. The Aquatic Environment: Causes and Effects:

- a. Tides.
- b. Currents.
- c. Waves.
- d. Surge.

2. Equipment:

- a. Floats.
- b. Lines.
- c. Reels.
- d. Compass.

3. Planning and Procedures:

- a. Buddy organization.
- b. Problems and hazards.
- c. Buoyancy control.
- d. Navigation.
- e. Communications.
- f. Safety stop procedures.
- g. Entries and exits.

13.10 Required Skill Performance and Graduation Requirements

Students are required to successfully complete the following:

1. Open Water Dive 1:

- a. The first dive must not be greater than 18 Metres/60 Feet and the instructor must guide it.
- b. The instructor must demonstrate the proper use of a float, lines, and reels.

2. Open Water Dive 2:

- a. The second dive must have the students planning, demonstrating, and executing the skills learned from the first dive.