



27. Underwater Video Diver

27.1 Introduction

Most divers have a desire to bring home the sights and sounds of being underwater. Underwater video makes it possible to save our underwater experiences and share them with others. Shooting underwater video is fun, exciting, and easy to learn. This course is designed to introduce divers to the equipment, techniques, and procedures needed to plan and shoot underwater video with maximum safety.

27.2 Who May Teach

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

27.3 Student to Instructor Ratio

Academic

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

27.4 Student Prerequisites

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

27.5 Course Structure and Duration

Open Water Execution

1. Two dives are required with complete briefs and debriefs by the instructor
2. Plan dive 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



27.6 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

27.7 Required Equipment

1. Basic open water scuba equipment as described in section three of this manual
2. Video camera and underwater housing equipped for the video camera; optional equipment, underwater lighting system

27.8 Approved Outline

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

1. Video Equipment
 - a. Video systems
 - b. Types of video formats
 - c. Video cameras
 - d. Video controls
 - e. Accessories
2. Underwater Video Housings
 - a. Types of housings
 - b. Housing controls
 - c. Features and benefits
 - d. Selecting housing
3. Recording Underwater
 - a. Dive planning
 - b. Setting the video and dive objective
 - c. Creating a storyboard
 - d. Safety concerns
4. Pre-dive Equipment Assembly
 - a. Setting the camera controls
 - b. Assembling the system



- c. Checking for leaks
- 5. Video Camera Handling Techniques
 - a. Using the viewfinder
 - b. Point and shoot
 - c. Using a tripod
- 6. Basic Techniques
 - a. Shot selection
 - b. Shot times
 - c. Putting shots in sequence
 - d. Approaching marine life
 - e. Cutting video shots
 - f. Surface water shots
 - g. Above water shots
- 7. Underwater Video Lighting
 - a. Natural light
 - b. Artificial light
 - c. Light systems and power supplies
 - d. Lights and filters
- 8. Shooting Video at Night
 - a. Safety concerns
 - b. Entries and exits
 - c. Operating the camcorder and housing controls
 - d. Approaching marine life at night
- 9. Editing
 - a. Fundamentals of editing
 - b. Required equipment
 - c. Editing equipment configurations
 - d. Editing techniques
 - e. In-camera editing
- 10. Care and Maintenance
 - a. After each dive
 - b. Regular maintenance
 - c. Periodic maintenance
 - d. Storing underwater video systems
 - e. Caring for a flooded video camera / housing
- 11. Traveling with Underwater Equipment
 - a. Deciding what equipment to bring
 - b. Packing the equipment
 - c. Bringing underwater video equipment on boats
 - d. Flying with underwater video equipment



- e. Renting equipment

27.9 Required Skill Performance and Graduation Requirements

Students are required to successfully complete the following:

1. Open Water Dive 1
 - a. Plan dive
 - b. Set the video objective
 - c. Plan the sequence of shots
 - d. Review of procedures
 - e. Entry
 - f. Diving procedures
 - g. Exit
 - h. Log dive
2. Open Water Dive 2
 - a. Plan dive
 - b. Review procedures
 - c. Entry
 - d. Planned dive
 - e. Exit
 - f. Log dive
 - g. Care of equipment
 - h. Edit footage to follow story
 - i. Log Dive
3. Care of equipment