

25. Underwater Hunter and Collector Diver

25.1 Introduction

The purpose of this specialty is to actively allow the student to engage in the collection of certain marine objects and to demonstrate and explain the necessary rules of underwater hunting. Stress must be placed on prudent and conservative techniques of both aspects.

25.2 Who May Teach

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

25.3 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.

25.4 Student Prerequisites

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

25.5 Course Structure and Duration

Open Water Execution:

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

2. The 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.

25.6 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.

25.7 Required Equipment

1. Basic open water scuba equipment as described in section three of this manual.
2. Catch bag or stringer.
3. Collecting tools: spear gun, tickle stick, etc.

25.8 Approved Outline

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

The following topics must be covered.

1. Survey of Marine Life:
 - a. Salt water:
 - i. Invertebrate life.
 - ii. Fish.

- b. Fresh water:
 - i. Invertebrate life.
 - ii. Fish.
- 2. Ecology and Conservation:
 - a. Ecology:
 - i. Fresh water: rivers, streams, springs, and lakes.
 - b. Salt water:
 - i. Pollution.
 - ii. Care of environment.
 - c. Conservation:
 - i. Rules of conduct.
 - ii. Public service considerations.
- 3. Collecting Techniques:
 - a. Where to look.
 - b. What to take.
 - c. How much to take.
 - d. How to take it.
 - e. Legal aspects of collecting.
- 4. Spear fishing Techniques:
 - a. Handling of the spear gun.
 - b. What fish may be taken.
 - c. Limits of taking.
 - d. Hazards of spear fishing:
 - i. Size of fish.
 - ii. Blood released.
 - iii. What not to shoot.
 - iv. Legal aspects of spear fishing.
- 5. Spear fishing rules:
 - a. Rules by law.
 - b. Rules by diving courtesy.
- 6. Invertebrate Collecting:

7. Conch, clams, scallops, etc:
 - i. Which kind to take.
 - ii. Local laws.
- b. Lobster:
 - i. What to take.
 - ii. How to catch without getting hurt.
 - iii. Size limits.
 - iv. Bag limits.

25.9 Required Skill Performance and Graduation Requirements

Students are required to successfully complete the following:

1. Open Water Dive 1:
 - a. The first dive must teach the student how the collecting device works; for example, how to load and shoot the spear gun.
 - b. Set up underwater targets for the student to practice shooting and reloading underwater.
 - c. If teaching how to hunt for lobster, show some of the different habitats in which you may find the species.
2. Open Water Dive 2:
 - a. Use the skills from the first dive to attempt to collect a certain species, making sure that all local laws are followed and allowing the student to enjoy their catch.