

26. Underwater Photographer Diver

26.1 Introduction

This course is designed to introduce divers to the equipment, techniques and procedures to take underwater photographs and allow the student to experience and discuss many areas of interest to the underwater photographer

26.2 Who May Teach

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

26.3 Student to Instructor Ratio

Academic

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

26.4 Student Prerequisites

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

26.5 Course Structure and Duration

Open Water Execution

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

26.6 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

26.7 Required Equipment

1. Basic open water equipment as described in section three of this manual
2. Underwater photography equipment applicable to course structure and activities

26.8 Approved Outline

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

1. Underwater Light
 - a. Variation of light under water
 - b. Time for best available light photography
 - c. Color correction filtering for depth
 - d. Strobes vs Video Light
 - e. Selective color absorption of light
 - f. Available light and strobe considerations
 - g. Possible backscatter issues

2. Film Considerations
 - a. Color balance
 - b. Grain
 - c. Resolving power
 - d. Latitude
 - e. Contrast
 - f. Color reversal
3. Digital
 - a. Capture Media
 - b. Memory Technology
 - c. Printing
 - d. Post Dive Review ability
 - e. TV vs Computer vs Camera
4. Camera Use in Association with Scuba
 - a. Types of cameras
 - i. Housed style
 - ii. Integral unit
 - b. Handling of equipment
 - c. Camera settings
 - i. Auto vs Manual
 - ii. Optional settings (as required)
5. Photographic Subjects
 - a. Composition of scene
 - b. Use of light enhancement
 - c. Subject ease
 - d. Use of models
 - e. Marine Conservation awareness.
6. Care of Equipment
 - a. Salt water care
 - b. Fresh water care
 - c. Care of the flooded-housed camera
7. Use of Color Positive Films
 - a. Ease of development (E—6 processing)
 - b. Mounting
8. Digital Software
 - a. Downloading images
 - b. Photo Storage
 - c. Photo Manipulation
 - d. Printing & Mounting

26.9 Required Skill Performance and Graduation Requirements

Students are required to successfully complete the following:

1. Open Water Dive 1
 - a. Local dive site to familiarize the student with the equipment and handling
 - b. Composition to be considered at a beginning point of view
 - c. Plan Dive
 - d. Suitable Entry (care to be taken with camera & additional equipment; these may be passed to diver once in the water in conditions & environment allows it)
 - e. Situational awareness (depth, time, air consumption and buddy awareness)
 - f. Photography of subjects as planned.
 - g. Conservational awareness
 - h. Conduct safe ascent and safety stops
 - i. Exit
 - j. Log dive
2. Open Water Dive 2
 - a. Choose a dive site to give the student more application with
 - i. Marine subjects.
 - ii. Additional light considerations.
 - iii. Wide coloring.
 - b. Stress on safety while within the water environment and attaining good quality subjects.
 - c. Both still and moving life subjects shown if possible
 - d. Conduct dive as per above.

A post-dive session should be scheduled for students to review their photographic images and develop self evaluation techniques.