

**Use of Scientific Diving in the Coastal Ocean Research Monitoring Program (CORMP): Onslow Bay, North Carolina**

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**Abstract**

The Coastal Ocean Research Monitoring Program (CORMP) is a NOAA-funded research initiative aimed at better understanding the physical, chemical, and geological processes which shape the nearshore and offshore coastal ocean environment of Onslow Bay, North Carolina. Currently, CORMP consists of seven mooring sites (OB1-4, LB5-6, OB27). Each site is fitted with a bottom-mounted ADCP (acoustic doppler current profiler) and CT (conductivity/temperature) logger and mid-water CT loggers mounted on a taut-wire mooring which are diver-serviced every 3 months. The primary research site (OB27) employs additional instrumentation including a SCUFA and PC-ADP (pulse-coherent acoustic doppler profiler), which are all mounted on a stationary quadpod. Instruments at the OB27 site are diver-serviced every five to six weeks. Divers also take a number of different sediment samples for biological and geological research. Due to the nature of the project, CORMP investigators rely heavily on scientific diving. The varied scientific objectives coupled with the depths (60-140 FSW) and seasonal fluctuations in water temperature (40-82° F) require divers to utilize various techniques in completing their missions. We give a detailed summary of the scientific diving methods employed in the various aspects of the CORMP project.