

Scientific Diving Training through an Aquarium Diving Program

Roy Houston
Seaver Science Hall
Loyola Marymount University
One LMU Drive
MS 8220
Los Angeles, CA 90045-2659
Rhouston@lmu.edu

Abstract

The Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, California maintains an active and experienced diver program that includes both staff and volunteers. Within the AoP Dive program is the Scientific Diver Course, which is an introduction to basic underwater sampling protocols that are widely used in environmental monitoring. In addition, the student gains a working knowledge of scientific methodology including experimental design, data collection, analysis and interpretation. A research paper is a fundamental requirement for completion of the course. With this training these divers are an asset, which is readily utilized by university research programs. Peter Pehl II, Dive Safety Officer of the Aquarium of the Pacific and Roy S. Houston, Ph.D. of Loyola Marymount University, will give consecutive presentations on the scientific diving program.