



E-SLATE

American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS)

EDITORIAL NOTE –August 2018

Welcome to the August E-Slate. In this edition we have AAUS BOD election results, announce a planned website outage, continue symposium registration and much more. Check out the Spotlight feature and don't forget to submit your article for future E-Slates. We welcome news, announcements, job postings, and images of underwater work at aaus@disl.org. Current and past issues of the E-Slate are available at www.aaus.org.

President's Message

As noted in last month's E-Slate, the AAUS convened a workshop of federal and NGO partner agencies in Denver, CO June 25th-26th. All participants agreed a more united scientific diving community that facilitates greater working relationships amongst partner agencies (likely to include more international partnerships in the coming years) should be a common goal moving forward. While the primary purpose of this workshop was to examine the OSHA Scientific Diving Exemption relative to the evolution of underwater research, the group also discussed mechanisms to increase inter-agency communications and enhance reciprocity.

With respect to medical standards, all agencies agree that scientific divers should be subject to medical/fitness review and, in addition to the required exam, physicians can perform additional testing as warranted. Nonetheless, there are currently significant differences between the medical requirements of all partner agencies that have resulted in constraints to reciprocity. There was consensus among all partner agencies that a re-evaluation of medical standards is warranted to ensure safety within and between scientific diving programs. To address this issue, AAUS and our partner agencies plan to convene an expert medical panel in the near future (note: it has been ~7 years since the last expert panel examined medical standards). The mandate of this panel will be to provide a comprehensive assessment of scientific diving medical standards based on current diving physiology data and medical recommendations. All partner agencies have committed their DMOs to this meeting, and all are optimistic that consensual standards will further inter-agency reciprocity and cooperation. We hope to have more information on the status of this medical panel by the Annual Symposium. If you have questions or concerns about any of this information, please do not hesitate to contact me (slattery@olemiss.edu).

In other business, I would like to congratulate Ross Whippo who was elected to the AAUS Director-at-Large position; he will serve a three-year term on the Board of Directors beginning 01 January 2019.

Marc Slattery
University of Mississippi

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

AAUS Website Outage

The main AAUS website (www.aaus.org) is getting a much-anticipated upgrade! To facilitate the movement of data from the current site to the new site, **the backend of the current site will be unavailable starting August 1st** for approximately 30 days. This includes any information that members must log in to see. No profile updates, renewals or job board submissions will be available during the outage. Any job postings will be placed on social media and any renewals will need to be held until the new site is up. The public site will be unaffected at this time. Symposium information and registration will **NOT** be affected! You may still view that information and link to register at www.aaus.org/annual_symposium. Should you have issues or concerns that need immediate attention, please contact the AAUS office. Please bear with us during this transition phase as we build a better online experience for our members.

BOD Election Results

The 2018 AAUS Board of Directors (BOD) election results are tallied and the Board congratulates the new Director-at-Large, Ross Whippo. Ross will begin his elected term on January 01, 2019. On behalf of the Academy, we thank all the candidates for participating in the election; all are highly qualified individuals committed to the success of the AAUS. Finally, a reminder to membership--if you are interested in serving there are many committees that would welcome your help; contact BOD members for information.

Huish Outdoors Recall

Huish Outdoors has recalled approximately 4500 Oceanic and Hollis scuba diving regulators. The scuba diving regulators can restrict airflow at low tank pressures (below 500 psi), posing a drowning hazard to divers. Customer should contact Huish Outdoors toll-free at 888-270-



8595 (ext 4) from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. MT Monday through Friday or online at www.Hollis.com and <http://www.OceanicWorldwide.com> and click on recall at top of page, or <https://recall.hollis.com> and <http://recall.oceanicworldwide.com> for more information.

2018 Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Recipients

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries has selected three graduate students as recipients of the Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship, representing graduate-level areas of study such as marine biology, oceanography and maritime archaeology. The scholarship recognizes outstanding graduate students and encourages independent research, particularly by female and minority students. "This highly competitive scholarship program allows the next generation of NOAA scientists to grow intellectually while promoting the work and mission of the National Marine Sanctuary System," said John Armor, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries director.

The scholarship recipients for 2018 are; Kathryn Hewett, University of California, Davis, Grace Casselberry, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and Carina Fish, University of California, Davis. Find out more about these recipients and the scholarship at <https://fosterscholars.noaa.gov/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

2018 AAUS Diving for Science Symposium

Registration is underway for the 2018 AAUS Diving for Science Symposium hosted by the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of California, Davis, in Tahoe City, CA from October 09-13, 2018. **Late fees will be incurred for registrations after September 22nd.**

Our venue for this year handles groups a little differently than in past years. **All participants need to review the information on the website thoroughly and contact the AAUS office with any questions. Rooming block closes on September 07th.**

Also, this year, in addition to science posters, we would like to celebrate achievements of scientific diving programs with a display of programmatic posters. Join your colleagues in this event by highlighting your programs activities and advancements in underwater science. A suggested template is available [here](#). However, please feel free to format your poster as you wish, adhering to a standard size of 48"x36". Please notify the AAUS office by September 15 if you will be participating.

Registration, a full schedule and a link to lodging reservations are available at www.aaus.org/annual_symposium

Tuesday, October 9

Maritime Heritage Archaeology (Diving Workshop)
Altitude Diving (Diving Workshop)
DAN Pro IQC (2 day workshop)
PSI Visual Cylinder Inspection Workshop
New Boating Safety Officer Orientation (Hosted by SBSA)
Shore Diving - Tuesday

Wednesday, October 10

Maritime Heritage Archaeology (Diving Workshop)
Altitude Diving (Diving Workshop)
Tethered SCUBA for Science (Diving Workshop)
AAUS DSO Orientation
AUP Equipment Repair
Oxygen Cylinder Cleaning Technician Workshop
Lake Tahoe Topside Science
Valve Repair Technician
Vendor In-Water Demo
VCI Update (PSI - evening workshop)

Thursday, October 11

AAUS Business Meeting and National Diving Safety Officers Meeting
Lake Tahoe Topside Science

Friday, October 12

Science Symposium (All day)
2018 Bubblebreaker (evening)

Saturday, October 13

Science Symposium (All day)
2018 AAUS Annual Awards Banquet (evening)



This beautiful watercolor created by Jessica Kendall-Bar (<https://www.jessiekb.com>) will be raffled off to support the AAUS Foundation scholarship program on October 13th.

You do NOT have to be present to win! **For every \$10 donation made at www.aausfoundation.org between August 1st and October 13th, you will receive one entry.** Contact the AAUS office or purchase tickets at the event.

International Symposium for Anchialine Ecosystems

The fourth international symposium for Anchialine Ecosystems will be held October 01-07 in Lanzarote, Canarias. The meeting aims at gathering scientists and students from throughout the world who dedicate their studies to any aspect concerning anchialine environments. Our multidisciplinary gathering will integrate fields of Biology, Systematics and Evolution, Biogeography, Geomicrobiology, Ecology, Geology, Hydrology, Paleontology, and Archaeology. More information at <https://www.4isae.es/>

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

University of Alaska Southeast Dive Semester

Students interested in fisheries, diving, and marine biology can round out their studies with a field-based program in Sitka, Alaska in the Spring of 2019 (January 14 - May 03). Students will have the opportunity to work with UAS faculty and become accomplished research divers. Over the semester, students will learn everything from basic dive skills, to underwater rescue procedures, to underwater data collection techniques and will become familiar with local fish and invertebrate species while participating in new and ongoing marine-related research projects. Additionally, students will develop skills in basic skiff handling and small engine maintenance techniques. For more information, visit <http://divesemester.alaska.edu/> or contact Dr. Reid Brewer at 907-747-7799.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Full information and application instructions for the following jobs can be found at www.aaus.org/job_board. Due to the website closure, we have included contact info for these open positions this month.

Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium

Diving Safety Officer

jmalbrough@lumcon.edu

Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk

Diving Safety Officer

<https://www.maritimeaquarium.org/careers>

University of California, Berkeley

Research Associate II (job # 25245, 25160)

<http://jobs.berkeley.edu/job-listings.html>.

Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Asst Diving Safety Officer

<https://jobs.wm.edu/postings/search>, keywords 00227V

SPOTLIGHT

Welcome to a new initiative by the AAUS to spotlight organizational member projects and divers. Articles will not only be featured in the E-Slate but also on the website and AAUS social media. To join us in spotlighting our community, please complete the form at <https://secure.aaus.org/spotlight> or send your articles and photos to aaus@disl.org. Please be sure that all photos/articles have credits if required.

Together for continuity into the second century of a coral transect

By Charles Birkeland

Over a decade before the Great Barrier Reef Expedition of 1928-1929, Alfred Mayor of the Carnegie Institute did a number of studies from 1917 to 1920 of the growth, ecology and distribution of corals in American Samoa. One of his studies in Spring 1917 was to quantify the distribution and diversity of corals along a 267-m transect off the village of Aua in Pago Pago Harbor. His accurate description of the transect included photographs and a map which allowed locating the transect in the future. The U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey placed permanent markers at the two ends of the transect which has been resurveyed 9 times over the past century. A summary of the first 90 years can be found online at http://micronesica.org/sites/default/files/2013-06_birkeland_et_al_aua_transects_screen_res.pdf

When Charles Birkeland and Alison Green came to American Samoa to repeat the survey on the 100th year, Alice Lawrence and her colleagues at the American Samoa Governor's Coral Reef Advisory Group (CRAG), in collaboration with the NOAA Pacific Island Regional Office, took advantage of this event to reach out to the American Samoan students and public by organizing events to develop their awareness of the value and their concern for the health of their coral reefs. They arranged for visiting scientists to give talks at two elementary schools and one high school and to a public gathering to highlight the importance of coral reefs to their standard of living and things that can be done locally to keep them healthy enough to persevere in the face of global changes. They arranged for a science fair in the village of Aua at which the government groups involved with managing coral reefs (American Samoa Community College (ASCC) Marine Science Program; University of Hawaii (UH) Sea Grant program; National Park Service of American Samoa; Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources; National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa; NOAA Pacific Island Regional Office; American Samoa Coastal Zone Management Program; ASCC Land Grant, and the American Samoa NRCS office) maintained information booths. A student symposium on coral reefs took place at the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa Ocean Center. The

visiting scientist spoke at a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) congress on how Samoan women were also needed to fill positions at American Samoan agencies that worked to manage the island resources wisely, and students should consider getting the training to follow such careers. All the above, including taking data along the transect, took place within one week.

For continuity into the future, Alice also arranged for three local scientists, Motusaga Vaeoso of CRAG, Mareike Sudek of National Marine Sanctuaries, and Kelley Anderson Tagarino of UH Sea Grant, to participate in taking data along the transect.

In American Samoa, the coral reefs are under the jurisdiction of the local village leaders. To obtain permission to resurvey the Aua transect, we got up at 4:30 am in order to be at Aua village before dawn and take part in the village council. The Chiefs gave short talks and then each of us drank a small bowl of kava in turn. It was an interesting experience and it is good because local authority probably provides more diligent management than open access.



Chiefs, representatives of government agencies, teachers and students come together to celebrate the science and management of their coral reefs

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- De Brauwer, M., Burton, M. (2018). Known unknowns: Conservation and research priorities for soft sediment fauna that supports a valuable SCUBA diving industry. *Ocean and Coastal Management*, 160: 30-37.
- Haggerty, M.B., Anderson, T.W., Long, J.D. (2018). Fish predators reduce kelp frond loss via a trait-mediated trophic cascade. *Ecology*, 99 (7): 1574-1583.
- Livingstone, D.M., Lange, B. (2018). Rhinologic and oral-maxillofacial complications from scuba diving: a systematic review with recommendations. *Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine*, 48 (2): 79-83.
- Norro, A. (2016). The closed circuit rebreather (CCR): is it the safest device for deep scientific diving? *Underwater Technology*, 34 (1): 31-38.
- Olvera, U., Hernandez, O., Sanchez, C., Gomez-Gutierrez, J. (2018). Two new endemic species of Gorgoniidae (Cnidaria, Anthozoa, Octocorallia) from Revillagigedo Archipelago, Mexico. *Zootaxa*, 4442 (4): 523-538.
- Omar, A.R., Ibrahim, M., Hussein, A. (2018). Acute ophthalmic artery occlusion in decompression illness with underlying anterior cerebral artery A1 segment hypoplasia. *Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine*, 48 (2): 112-113.
- Smith, J.G., Malone, D., Baetscher, D.S., Carr, M.H. (2018). Evaluation and application of BIPOLE, a biopsy device for in situ non-lethal tissue extraction for fishes. *Marine Ecology Progress Series*, 595: 149-156.
- Thanopoulou, Z., Sini, M., Vatikiotis, K., Katsoupi, C., Dimitrakopoulos, P.G., Katsanevakis, S. (2018). How many fish? Comparison of two underwater visual sampling methods for monitoring fish communities. *PEERJ*, 6.
- Williamson, M.J., Dudgeon, C., Slade, R. (2018). Tonic immobility in the zebra shark, *Stegostoma fasciatum*, and its use for capture methodology. *Environmental Biology of Fishes*, 101(5): 741-748.

The mission of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences is to facilitate the development of safe and productive scientific divers through education, research, advocacy, and the advancement of standards for scientific diving practices, certifications, & operations.

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