

8. Boat Diver

8.1 *Introduction*

Scuba diving from boats is an everyday occurrence. Whether on a private vessel or one of the many charter dive boats available worldwide, divers are frequently not aware of the special procedures and etiquette used when boat diving. This course is designed to introduce divers to different types of boat diving and the skills needed to plan and conduct a boat dive with maximum safety.

8.2 *Who May Teach*

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

8.3 *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.

8.4 *Student Prerequisites*

1. SDI Open Water Scuba Diver, SDI Junior Open Water Scuba Diver, or equivalent or current enrollment in one of those courses.
2. Minimum age 18, 10 with parental consent.

8.5 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.
3. All dives must be completed from a boat.

Course Structure:

1. SDI allows instructors to structure courses according to the number of students participating and their skill level.

8.6 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.

8.7 Training Material

Required Material:

1. *SDI Wreck, Boat, and Drift Diving* Manual.
2. *SDI Wreck, Boat, and Drift Diving* Scuba I.Q.
3. *SDI Wreck, Boat, and Drift Diving* Instructor Guide.

8.8 Required Equipment

1. Boat equipped with proper safety equipment, including but not limited to oxygen and first aid kit.
2. Basic open water scuba equipment as described in section three of this manual.

8.9 Approved Outline

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

The following topics must be covered:

1. Types of Boats and Features of Those Boats:
 - a. Live-aboard.
 - b. Charter boat.
 - c. Private boat.
2. Safety Features:
 - a. Life preservers.
 - b. Lifeboats.
 - c. Flares.
 - d. Radio.
 - e. Throw rings.
 - f. US Coast Guard requirements.
 - g. First aid kit.
 - h. Oxygen kit.
3. Exiting and Boarding the Boat:
 - a. Type of ladder.
 - b. How to use ladder.
 - c. Entries.
4. Planning Boat Trips:
 - a. Types and sizes of boats.
 - b. Location.
 - c. Degree of difficulty of dives.
 - d. Air availability on boat.

- e. Food/beverages available.
 - f. Sleeping equipment necessary.
 - g. Weather.
 - h. Dive planning.
5. Determining Necessary Equipment:
- a. Use of a checklist.
 - b. C-card and logbook.
 - c. Extra cylinder.
 - d. All open water equipment.
 - e. Spare parts kit.
 - f. Camera/photo equipment.
 - g. Game equipment.
6. Boat Procedures:
- a. Loading.
 - b. Captain and crew briefs of special procedures.
 - c. Special rules.
 - d. Crowded area procedures.
7. Lines:
- a. Anchor line.
 - b. Descent lines.
 - c. Tag line.
 - d. Stern safety line.
 - e. Decompression bar.
8. Underwater Navigation from a Boat:
- a. Natural navigation.
 - b. Anchored:
 - i. No current.
 - ii. Current.
 - c. Drift diving.

8.10 Required Skill Performance and Graduation Requirements

Students are required to successfully complete the following:

1. Open Water Dive 1:
 - a. Plan dive.
 - b. Shore briefing.
 - c. Review of procedures.
 - d. Captain's brief and travel to dive destination.
 - e. Entry.
 - f. Diving procedures.
 - g. Exit.
 - h. Log dive.
 - i. Care of equipment.
2. Open Water Dive 2:
 - a. Attempt to use a different type of boat or, at least, use a different entry point from the boat.
 - b. Plan dive.
 - c. Pre-dive briefing.
 - d. Review procedures.
 - e. Boat briefing and travel to dive destination.
 - f. Entry.
 - g. Planned dive.
 - h. Exit.
 - i. Log dive.
 - j. Care of equipment.