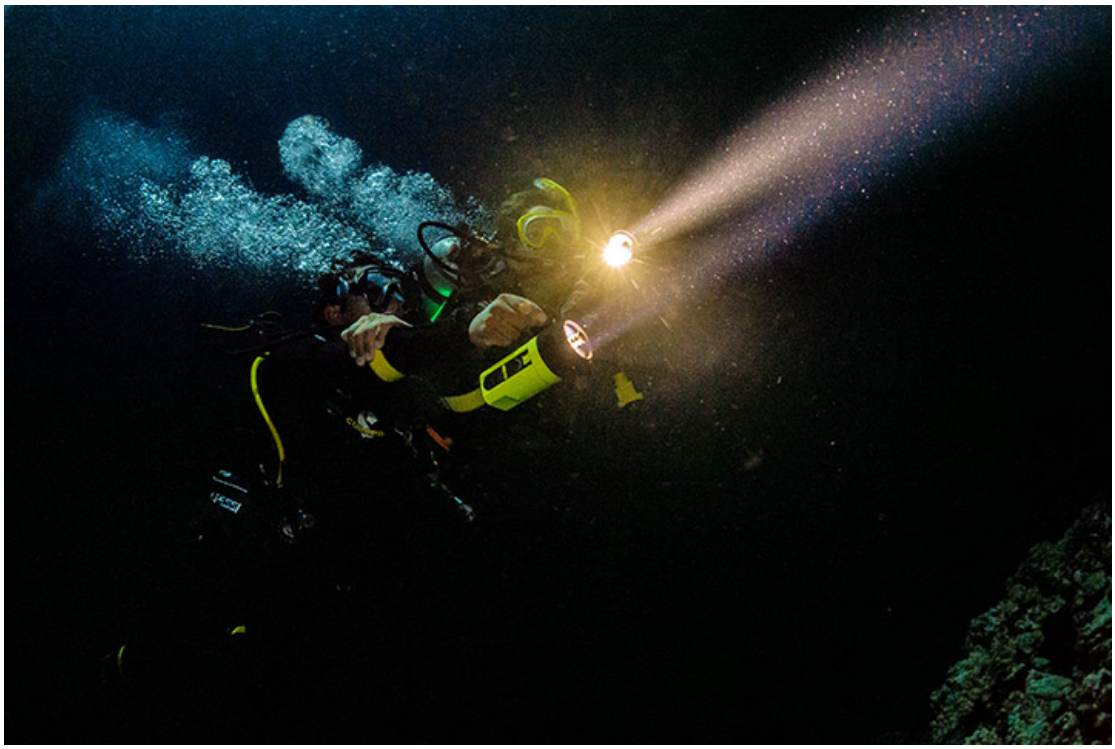
The Two-Year Diver Distinctive Specialty Course Outline



This course provides an opportunity to start a dive in one year and finish in another! It can only occur twice a year – think about it!

1. Course Objectives and Standards

A. Course Goals

The goals of the Two-Year Diver course are to:

a) Perform a unique dive that can start only once a year and finish only once in the next.

b) Prepare for the event [could be a first night dive]

c) Review of environmental concerns

d) How to promote increased involvement

B. Two–Year Dive Course Requirements

1. Minimum prerequisite certification: PADI Junior Open Water Diver (or equivalent)

2. Minimum age of 12

3. Student to Instructor ratio: 8:1

4. Maximum depth 12 meters

5. One (1) Open water dive

6. Minimum course duration is dependent on class size and prior experience/training. As a guideline – a nominal duration for a class size of eight (8) students would be two (2) hours for theory; two (2) hours for practical exercises.

7. Minimum Instructor rating: Open Water Scuba Instructor and Specialty Instructor in Night Diving and the Distinctive Specialty of Two-

Year Diver Instructor.

C. Student and Instructor Equipment Requirements

(i) Equipment requirements

1. Student equipment

a. All standard diving equipment

b. Underwater light

c. Back-up light

d. Chemical light stick

e. Compass

(ii) References

a. https://www.padi.com/padi-courses/night-diver
b. https://www.padi.com/padi-courses/public-safety-diver

D. Knowledge Development Topics

1. Course overview

a. Classroom presentations.

b. Open water training dives.

c. Performance assessment.

d. Certification: Upon successful completion of the course, you will be awarded the PADI Distinctive Specialty Diver Certification as a Two-Year Diver.

e. Class requirements: Course costs, equipment needs, and materials used during the course and attendance requirements.

f. Administration: Collect course fees, enrolment forms, [Continuing

Education Administrative Document or Standard Safe Diving Practices Statement of Understanding, PADI Medical Statement, Liability Release and Express Assumption of Risk, Special Event Liability Release]

3. *Why Two-Year diving?*

This is an event that can only start once a year and in most parts of the World (with the exception of some countries in the Northern Hemisphere) it will be nighttime. This also could be a first experience for some divers requiring special training in night diving.

This then affords both the double opportunity of both novelty and further continuing education: the latter of which being the base (first dive) towards completion of the night diver specialty; useful all year round.

4. *Equipment to use*

Not much different than what you would usually use but more often than not, it will be quite dark so use of appropriate underwater lights is required. The recommendation is for one main light, back-up light, compass and a chemical, 6-12 hour lasting light stick.

5. Hazards

Those commonly associated with night diving are – light failure, miscommunication and buddy separation. These situations should be briefed even for those who already have night diving experience.

At this time of year it is also common for late night mischief by many who party and use excessive alcohol. Although unlikely to occur on board a dive vessel, at land-based venues, these persons could become unwanted spectators and nuisances. For this reason, remote, unpopulated dive sites would be preferred for the event and plans made to avoid unwanted

interference. A shore-watch or deck watch is mandatory.

6. Planning and organizing dives

This should be performed as per normal but with consideration for the possible hazards mentioned earlier. If it is a first night dive, knowledge reviewed should follow standard night diving protocols. These should include:

- special equipment (underwater lights, chemical light sticks)
- dive site choice
- environmental conditions to avoid and fish and animal life to be careful of and caring for.
- night dive planning considerations
- what to do if experiencing stress, light failure, buddy separation or disorientation
- how to enter and exit the water
- communication
- navigation techniques

7. Promotion

For current, and up and coming trainers this is an ideal chance for recruitment and introduction of new divers to many different aspects of diving knowledge: Night, Equipment, AWARE Fish ID, U/W Naturalist, Divers against Debris (DAD), Master Scuba Diver, to mention but a few.

As unique and apparently brief as this course appears, it could provide future dive buddies and students for many months and years ahead.

7. Open Water Dive

1. Open Water Training Dive One

- ***By the end of this dive, you will be able to:***

- **Execute a descent using a line or sloping bottom as a reference.**
- **Demonstrate how to communicate with hand signals and dive lights while night diving.**
- **Demonstrate the proper use of a personal dive light, submersible pressure gauge, compass, timing device and depth gauge at night.**
- **Navigate to a predetermined location using a compass/natural features and return to within 8 metres/25 feet of the starting point, surfacing for orientation only if necessary.**
- **Demonstrate proper buddy procedures by maintaining buddy contact throughout the night dive.**
- **Perform an ascent using a line or sloping bottom as a reference.**

a. Briefing

- Evaluate conditions
- Facilities at dive site
- Entry technique to be used-location
- Exit technique to be used-location
- Bottom composition, expected features and points of interest
- Depth range
- Planned air supply limit
- Review communication
- What to do if separated from class/buddy
- What to do if an emergency arises
- Buddy assignments

b. Plan Dive

• Assign depth; have students determine theoretical depth (if dive site at altitude and/or using enriched air) and no-decompression limit [Instructor note: you should check these]

• Record no-decompression limit, maximum actual depth and maximum theoretical depth on slates

• Review depth gauges and instrumentation; each student should know how to account for behaviour of his/her instrument while diving

• Assign maximum planned dive time

c. Predive [during daylight hours]

• Prepare personal equipment including lights, accessories and all extra emergency equipment

• Don equipment

• Predive safety check

• Proper entry

• Weight adjustment for neutral buoyancy

• Maintain buddy contact

d. Open Water Training Dive One

• Descend in buddy teams

• Perform requisite night diving skills (if first night dive)

• Ascent not to exceed 18 metres/minute with a three-minute safety stop at depth of 5 metres.

e. Post dive

• Proper exit

• Remove and stow equipment

f. Debrief

• Assess performance, make suggestions, give positive reinforcement

• Students calculate their ending pressure groups—review for correct calculation

• Log dive (Instructor signs log)

Wish everyone a happy New Year!

8. KNOWLEDGE REVIEW

1. State the recommendation regarding the use of new or unfamiliar equipment on a night dive.

2. List three uses for marker lights and where they are attached for those uses.

3. Describe what you will want to consider and evaluate in choosing a potential dive site for night diving.

4. What are the six environmental conditions you should avoid when night diving?

5. What are four general night diving planning considerations?

6. Briefly describe what you should do if you experience stress, light failure, buddy separation or disorientation while night diving.

7. Briefly describe the procedures for entering the water at night from a boat and from shore.

8. Describe the proper techniques for descending and ascending at night so as to avoid disorientation and undue stress.

9. List the methods of communication while night diving.

10. Briefly describe the navigational techniques used to avoid disorientation and loss of direction while night diving.

I have had explained to me and I understand the questions I missed.
Student Signature _____ Date _____

9. ANSWER KEY KNOWLEDGE REVIEW

1. State the recommendation regarding the use of new or unfamiliar equipment on a night dive.

When possible, avoid using unfamiliar equipment on night dives.

2. List three uses for marker lights and where they are attached for those uses.

To mark each diver – attach the marker light to your snorkel or cylinder valve.

To mark dive boat or surface float – attach the marker light about one metre up on the flagstaff.

To mark ascent/descent line or anchor line – attach several marker lights along the length of the line, with a different color at 5 meters to mark the safety stop depth.

3. Describe what you will want to consider and evaluate in choosing a potential dive site for night diving.

Dive familiar sites; try to dive the site the day before the night dive. Night dive when conditions are good in a type of environment you're familiar with.

4. What are the six environmental conditions you should avoid when night diving?

Moderate to high surf, Moderate to strong currents,

Poor visibility, Thick kelp – or other entanglements

Heavy surge, Overhead environments

5. What are four general night diving planning considerations?

Prepare your equipment ahead of time in daylight.

Eat a proper meal a few hours before the dive, Dive with familiar buddies, Bring a nondiver friend.

6. Briefly describe what you should do if you experience stress, light failure, buddy separation or disorientation while night diving.

Stress: Stop, breathe, think and then act; breathe slow, deep and regular.

Light failure: Switch to backup light and signal your buddy.

Buddy separation: Look for glow of buddy's light; search for one minute, then surface.

Disorientation: Without a reference line, hold on to your buddy, hug yourself, watch your bubbles or look for the bottom if the visibility allows.

7. Briefly describe the procedures for entering the water at night from a boat and from shore.

Predive safety check: check lights and backups.

From boat: check entry area, turn on light, enter water, signal "okay," clear entry area.

From shore: check entry area with light, stay close to buddy, move quickly through surf, be cautious where you step. Swim when water is deep enough.

8. Describe the proper techniques for descending and ascending at night so as to avoid disorientation and undue stress.

Use a reference line for both descent and ascent. Descend feet-first, pointing light downward to watch for bottom. During ascent, point light upward, watching above, swim slowly (18 meters per minute or slower –ascend no faster your smallest bubbles).

9. List the methods of communication while night diving.

Rapping on your tank, waving your light or moving your light in a predetermined pattern, gently touch your buddy, shining your light on hand signals at waist level, using a slate, and by using a whistle on the surface.

10. Briefly describe the navigational techniques used to avoid disorientation and loss of direction while night diving.

Dive site during the day. Before descent, take a compass heading to shore or back to boat. Keep navigation patterns simple. Don't stray far from entry/exit and reference line.