

# SDSC News

Spring 2013



The Newsletter of the Scientific Diving Supervisory Committee

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Aquatic Survey and Monitoring Ltd

BAS

English Heritage

Hampshire and Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology

Heriot Watt

JNCC

Marine Ecological Solutions

Marine Scotland (formerly FRS, Marine Lab)

MSDS Marine

National Marine Aquarium

National Oceanography Centre, Liverpool (formerly POL)

Natural England

Natural History Museum, Liverpool

Natural Resources Wales

NERC

Queens University Belfast

SAMS

South Hams District Council, Devon

SULA

University Marine Biological Station Millport

University of Hull

University of Plymouth

University of Southampton

**None Voting Members**

Archaeological Divers Association

Nautical Archaeology Society

Scottish Trust for Underwater Archaeology

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## EDITORIAL

Alison James

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Welcome to the first edition of the SDSC News: The Newsletter of the Scientific Diving Supervisory Committee. For those of you who do not know me already I am a maritime archaeologist at English Heritage with responsibility for sites protected under the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973. I also represent English Heritage at SDSC meetings.

I would like to thank everyone who has provided copy for this first edition. It is hoped that the newsletter will grow but that relies on its readers submitting interesting items to include in future issues. If you can provide any of the following, or anything else you think may be of interest, then I would love to hear from you:

- Project News or Reports
- Forthcoming Event and Conference Information
- Industry News
- Project Opportunities for Students and Volunteers

You can contact me at [alison.james@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:alison.james@english-heritage.org.uk) or on 07770 736095.

# News from the Scientific Diving Supervisory Committee

## European Diving

Martin Sayer has been confirmed as the SDSC representative on the European Scientific Diving Panel. To find out more about the panel visit [www.scientific-diving.eu](http://www.scientific-diving.eu)

## New for Members

Following the November meeting of the SDSC diving rules and example project plans will be made available on the SDSC website in the members area (accessible to all members by password only).

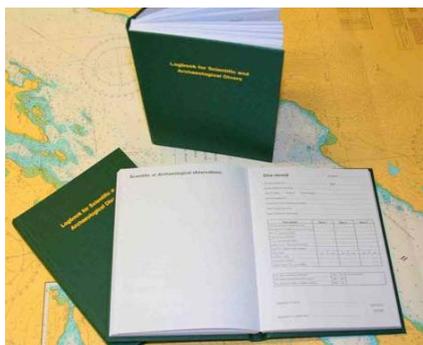
## Proposals to review HSE's Approved Codes of Practice (ACOPs)

In 2012 the HSE undertook a consultation setting out HSE's proposals to review its Approved Codes of Practice (ACOPs) as recommended by Professor Löfstedt's independent review of health and safety legislation 'Reclaiming health and safety for all'. The consultation sought views on proposals for the revision, consolidation or withdrawal of 15 ACOPs which are to be delivered by end-2013 and on proposals for minor revisions, or no changes, to a further 15 ACOPs which are to be delivered by 2014.

The consultation began on 25th June and ended on 14th September 2012. An analysis of the responses to the public consultation is now available online via the HSE website at: [www.hse.gov.uk/consult/condocs/cd241.htm?eban=rss-diving](http://www.hse.gov.uk/consult/condocs/cd241.htm?eban=rss-diving)

## FOR SALE: Scientific and Archaeological Diving Logbooks

The SDSC has produced a logbook to meet the specific needs of scientific and archaeological divers who are conducting at work diving operations. The books are A5 sized (mm 160w x 215h x 18d) and are hard bound. Inside the front cover there are pages to store personal data as well as guidance on how to comply with maintaining a dive log under the 1997 UK Diving at Work Regulations. Each double page opens to give a blank page for noting scientific or archaeological observations and a page to log the details of up to three different dives. In total there are 88 dive log pages so each logbook can record the details of up to 264 dives. The dive log is broken down into sections designed to ensure that all the relevant information required under DWR97 is logged. In addition, at the back of the book there is useful information relating to wind and fog scales and there is also a plastic wallet attached inside the back cover for easy storage of current certificates. Books can only be ordered in packs of 1, 5 or 20 books.



Costs are inclusive of package and posting within the UK and are:

1 book	£12.50
5 books	£61.25
20 books	£225.25

To order visit: [www.uk-sdsc.com/logbooks](http://www.uk-sdsc.com/logbooks)

Please allow up to 28 days for delivery.

## Membership of the SDSC

Membership of the SDSC is open to any employer of staff who dive at work or self-employed person who dives at work in support of research, development or education in any field of science, technology or archaeology. Membership is through application to the Committee by the following process:

1. A letter of application must be submitted to the Chairman or Secretary of the SDSC no less than 28 days prior to the next meeting of the Committee.
2. The letter must provide the following details:
  - a. the name of the organisation to be represented, or the name of an individual in the case of self-employed persons;
  - b. the name of the representative, in the case of organizations;
  - c. the role of the representative within their organisation, if applicable;
  - d. the management structure as relevant to diving at work operations, including named individuals where possible;
  - e. the type of diving operations undertaken at work under the Scientific and Archaeological Approved Code of Practice.
  - f. an electronic copy of Diving Rules, an example Project Plan and an example risk assessment .
3. The application for membership is discussed at the next SDSC meeting.

Please see the SDSC website for further information: [www.uk-sdsc.com/member.htm](http://www.uk-sdsc.com/member.htm)

## New Members Profile - MSDS Marine Mark James



MSDS Marine was established in 2010 to provide support to the scientific diving and geophysical/hydrographic survey sectors. This can range from the provision of our main support vessel *Shogun* to the integration of a diver or supervisor into an existing team and everything in between. With our staff being primarily maritime archaeologists our key interests lie in the investigation of submerged archaeology using both diving and geophysical techniques. Commercially, MSDS largely focuses on the archaeological interpretation of geophysical data in advance of offshore development and the provision of *Shogun* for diving and survey operations.



The support vessel *Shogun* is an MCA Cat 2 vessel that has been specifically configured for diving and survey operations, she has been involved in a number of operations over the last year including SSDE diving support on historic wreck sites, geophysical survey and more recently the Multibeam survey of a number of wreck sites and a prehistoric submerged settlement. More information can be found at [www.msdsmarine.co.uk](http://www.msdsmarine.co.uk) or please contact Mark [mark@msdsmarine.co.uk](mailto:mark@msdsmarine.co.uk)

# Student Reports from the 3rd International Symposium for Research in Shallow Marine and Fresh Water Systems

Lucy Martin

I am writing this on my return journey from Bremen, Germany, following funding from the SDSC to allow me to present my undergraduate-masters-integrated (MSci) project at 'The Third International Symposium for Research in Shallow Marine and Fresh Water Systems'. This was my first conference to speak at and partake in and it was an opportunity I feel not many of my peers have experienced, so thank you. It was very interesting to see the perspective of scientific diving in the international community; there were just four other English attendees. Some of the projects described throughout the two days used techniques parallel to my own and many used similar data analysis approaches, even giving me some new ideas to add to my work. The most interesting piece of information that I am pleased to bring home is of the freely available PhotoQuad software that I feel may be of use in projects conducted by the National Oceanographic Centre Scientific Divers with whom I dive.

In contrast to those similarities I realised how different scientific diving work is in the UK than elsewhere. What seemed quite normal dive planning to me was quite strange to many of the participants who dive without tidal considerations in the Mediterranean. In addition, I was approached at some point by nearly everyone there in excited apprehension about the demanding conditions for the dive surveys of my thesis; all but one of the other research projects presented were conducted in clear blue waters and on sunny days. I think I contributed a very different approach to diving for science from the UK where we are overloaded with extra equipment for cold temperatures as well as the scientific diving instruments and are under tidal time restraints. I feel it was much appreciated to have a representative of this kind of diving at the international workshop.

For my first ever formal presentation I received great feedback in question time and throughout the two days. I was lucky (!) to go first and so had lots of time to network and further discuss my research. Most conversations revolved around three topics which were somewhat unfamiliar to the conference participants; UK marine conservation zones, the EUNIS biotope classification system and techniques to geo-reference scuba divers. There was one other research group that I was very excited to meet as I had actually referenced them in my presentation. On another more personal note I have made some connections that may have opened opportunities for postgraduate work or study after completion of my masters for which I am very grateful.

I thank the SDSC for providing me this opportunity to represent UK scientific diving at an international conference and hope that both I and the broader community benefited from it.

## Would you benefit from an SDSC Travel Support Grant?

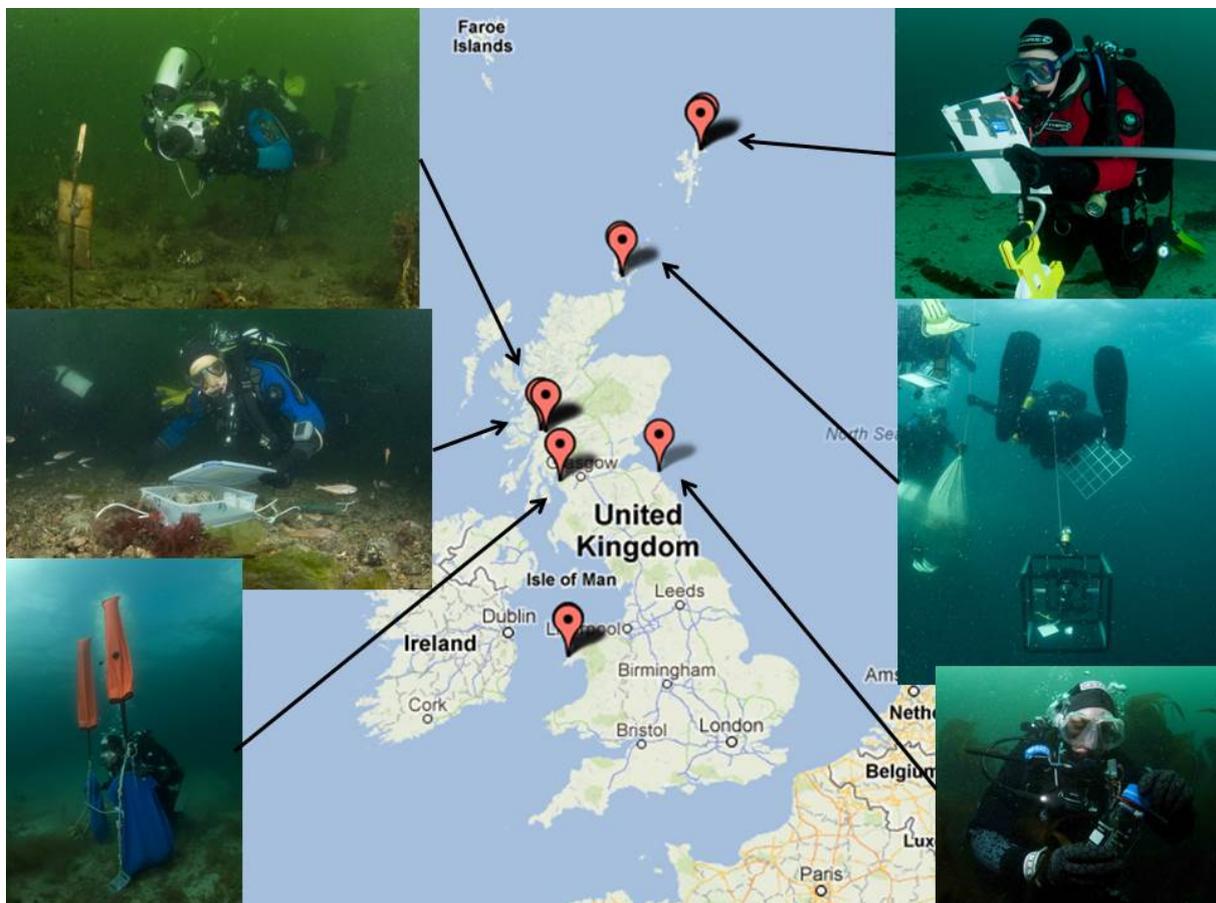
The SDSC has a limited number of grants available to support students and early stage scientists travel to attend conferences. To apply for a SDSC travel support grant you will need to complete a application form and if successful provide a report on the trip for inclusion in SDSC News. Grants are considered twice a year, normally in April and November. For more information, or to request an application form, contact the Chair.

# Student Reports from the 3rd International Symposium for Research in Shallow Marine and Fresh Water Systems contd.

Sally Rouse and Flora Kent

Funding from the SDSC allowed Sally Rouse and Flora Kent to attend the 'Third International Workshop on Research in Shallow Marine and Fresh Water Systems'. The two-day workshop involved a mixture of presentations, discussions and poster sessions on the use of SCUBA diving to aid scientific research. Overall, the workshop was very interesting and engaging, and allowed us to appreciate the variety of research that is supported by diving, from physiology to ecology and paleontology to chemistry. It was also useful to be able to pick up some tips and tricks for sampling the marine environment and familiarise ourselves with the challenges that scientific diving presents. Insights were gained into the legal aspects and complications of diving in many European countries, and a reoccurring theme of the workshop was the issue of scientific diving education and qualifications. It was apparent that the requirements varied greatly between, as well as within, countries, but that a European-wide standard would be desirable.

As part of the workshop, we presented a poster on "Scientific diving for *in-situ* ecological research at Heriot Watt University", which included an interactive map of current UK research by our team. Presenting the poster was a good opportunity to publicise underwater research in the UK, and to talk about our work with some very experienced divers. The informal "Ice Breaker" session at the beginning of the conference was also a great way for PhD students like us to discuss our research with the other delegates and learn about potential scientific diving career paths that we may choose to follow. We would like to thank Ken Collins for bringing the workshop to our attention and the SDSC for facilitating our attendance.



# European Archaeological Association Annual Meeting, Helsinki, August - September 2012

Garry Momber, Hampshire & Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology

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The European Archaeological Association is the largest meeting of terrestrial and maritime archaeologists in Europe. Despite the economic downturn over 600 delegates attended the conference.

In September 2012 the conference was held in Helsinki over a 5 day session and Garry Momber was supported by the SDSC to submit 3 papers on maritime archaeology over the course of the event. Presentations to the conference facilitated promotion of scientific diving.

The talks presented at the conference were titled:

- *Atlas of the 2 Seas – A European Maritime Utopia*
- *Archaeology, Art and Coastal Heritage – Tools to support coastal management and climate change planning across the Channel Regional Sea*
- *The Story of the Solent, Changing Landscapes and Human Adaptation*

The talks demonstrated the broad range of maritime archaeological activities that take place in the UK. It should be noted that British archaeological diving is now held up as an exemplar in many countries across Europe. This contrasts with the situation 10 years ago when the British maritime archaeological community was seen to be lagging behind its European counterparts. A primary reason for this is the increased investment in maritime archaeology but without promotion through organisations like the SDSC, the necessary level of dissemination would not have been possible.



The intangible benefits that result from presentations by experts are seldom recognised in the UK, but beyond our boundaries, many nations are competing to prove superiority in highly skilled disciplines of which scientific diving is one. It should also be noted that only a select number of nations have the capacity or foresight to support 'soft' promotion policies. However, these are the ones that can have the greatest influence and help win the projects for the sector. If we value our skill base and want to see of discipline flourish in the UK, we need to be mindful of such overseas opportunities.

## Forthcoming Conferences and Events

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### Reunion 2013 Tri-continental Scientific Meeting on Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine

23rd—28th September 2013, Réunion Island

The European Underwater and Baromedical Society, the South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society and the Southern African Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Association are proud to announce their first ever, joint, Tri-continental Annual Scientific Meeting. We invite you to attend a full week of science, scuba and social interaction on the exotic French island of Réunion. Réunion lies 500 miles east of Madagascar, close to Mauritius, in the Indian Ocean.

The meeting format will be a meld from all three societies, designed to satisfy the needs of all. To cater for variable flight availability, pre- and post-conference workshops and diving packages will be offered. The Organising Committee intends to publish all accepted abstracts as conference proceedings and will encourage all speakers to submit full papers for consideration in Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine.

For more information please see [www.reunion2013.org](http://www.reunion2013.org)

### AAUS/ESDP 2013 Curaçao Joint International Scientific Diving Symposium

23rd October—27th October 2013, Santa Barbara Beach and Golf Resort, Curaçao

The American Academy of Underwater Sciences and the European Scientific Diving Panel are pleased to announce the 2013 Curaçao Joint International Scientific Diving Symposium, October 23-27, 2013. We welcome diving scientists, students and diving safety officers to participate in this unique event and connect with colleagues from Europe, Central and South America and the United States. The AAUS has previously convened successful joint symposia in 1985 at Scripps Institution of Oceanography with the Scientific Committee of the Confédération Mondiale d'Activités Subaquatiques, and in 1998 at Simon Fraser University with the Canadian Association for Underwater Science.

Science is a global endeavour. This symposium is interdisciplinary in nature and international in scope allowing for exchange of information on new scientific findings, methods and techniques of underwater research, and diving safety. The venue in Curaçao allows for a compelling program that maximizes utilization of the facilities and setting of the Santa Barbara Golf and Beach Resort to their fullest. In addition to the scientific program an in-water diving safety officer workshop is planned, along with several half-days of Curaçao reef diving led by coral reef experts, CURASUB deep reef submersible dives, an evening event at the Curaçao Seaquarium and a number of social events that allow for interaction with international colleagues. A post-symposium field trip to Bonaire has also been organised.

For more information please see [www.aaus.org/annual\\_symposium](http://www.aaus.org/annual_symposium)

### Nautical Archaeology Society Annual Conference 2013

2nd November 2013, Portsmouth

The NAS Annual conference, held in Portsmouth, UK offers the opportunity to meet members and speakers from around the world.

For more information please see [www.nauticalarchaeologysociety.org](http://www.nauticalarchaeologysociety.org)



The Scientific Diving Supervisory Committee (SDSC) is the recognised representative body for the Scientific and Archaeological sector in the United Kingdom.

In the UK, the Diving at Work Industry is regulated through the 1997 Diving at Work Regulations. These regulations are implemented through Approved Codes of Practice (ACoPs) for the main sectors of the industry. In order to maintain an active dialogue with all the diving sectors the UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE), who are charged with implementing the regulations, recognise one professional body to represent each diving sector. The SDSC is the recognised body for the Scientific and Archaeological Sector.

The SDSC is funded by and reports to the Natural Environment Research Council.

[www.uk-sdsc.com](http://www.uk-sdsc.com)

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