



INTERNATIONAL
GUIDELINES
FOR RESPONSIBLE
DIVER

INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR DIVING CENTER

When adventure calls ! Become the diving ambassadors
of the Third Millennium...

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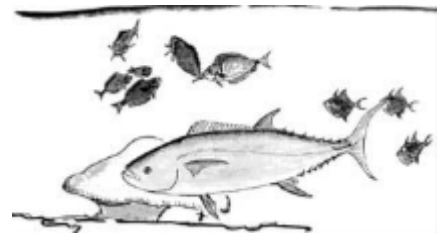
Guidelines for diving centers

*This charter proposes guidelines: and not a list of restrictions!
Apply the suggestions case by case since diving spots, situations change from place to place. The basic idea is to get people to think about how to optimize diving conditions to protect and ensure fair sharing of the Oceans' treasures..*

Diving centers are ideal places for visiting divers to meet the underwater world and learn the lore and language of the host country. Center managers are the ideal people to awake divers' curiosity and provide information about underwater treasures as well as the local cultural heritage

1 - When divers arrive

- **Present the center in its context** : the country, the inhabitants, their traditions and the economy..
- **Present the underwater ecosystem**. In addition to the beauties and uniqueness of the diving spots, explain their fragility (protected, threatened and endemic species), the importance of the relationships between the species and the vulnerability of the smallest and mimetic species.
- **Detail the precautions to take when diving**, the legislation concerning protected species (detention and trade) and regulations inside reserves.
- **List the fish and seafood served in restaurants** and detail the species that can be eaten without endangering the ecosystem and those that should not be eaten to prevent their disappearance.





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2 - Responsible diving instructors

- **Instructors have a marvelous responsibility.** Over and above teaching diving and safety, it is up to you to make divers curious and enthusiastic about respecting and protecting the natural habitat you are helping them to explore.

- **Take every opportunity to remind your visiting divers that the marine environment is fragile** and that it is up to them to protect it.

- **You can also remind them that your center is located in a community** with which it shares the natural resources (fresh water, food, marine life...)

- **Never forget that you are the role model for your divers** and that they will always do as you do.

3 - Understanding diving spots and long-term management

- **Diving spot health inventory and follow-up.** To protect all the marine treasures in diving spots, the first step is to make an inventory of what exists. Team up with other centers working in, the same spots to prepare this list or work with local environmental association or call in consultant biologists who will explain the essential factors to monitor. Regular audits will tell you what is happening and what needs to be done for long term protection. This inventory is a vivid source of information for visiting divers.

- **Mooring buoys should be installed in each diving spot** to prevent the destruction of fixed flora and fauna fixed by random anchoring.

- **Limit the number of divers** to protect marine life from excessive disturbance..

- **Stop diving in over-visited spots** and spots sheltering fragile species during the seasons when they reproduce

- **Promote the creation of protected areas** in agreement with local authorities. Use these areas as control zones to measure what is happening elsewhere. These protected area will replenish populations in damaged areas.



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4 - Ecological diving centers

Your diving center exists to help others discover the beauties of nature. Protect nature with waste management systems and use renewable energies

- **Waste recovery and treatment.** Limit the waste generated by the center (plastic plates, mugs, bottles, etc...). Collect and take spent batteries, used oils and toxic wastes to reprocessing or recycling plants.
- **Fresh water saving and recycling.** Washing diving gear in rinsing tanks, fitting controlled flow showers, building rainwater catchment systems and recycling of used sanitary water in toilets are all good ideas,
- **Renewable energies.** Wind and solar power are the best.

5 - Fair shares In an interdependent economy

- **Train and use local inhabitants in the diving team.**
- **Share fresh water fairly with local inhabitants,** particularly farmers, in countries where water is rare.
- **Select the fish served in restaurants.** Diving center managers, fishermen and local authorities should jointly decide on the authorized fishing quotas for the most fragile species (lobsters, groupers, etc.). Consumers are quite happy to eat less fragile species if they are told why. Center restaurants should never serve fish or seafood fished with destructive methods, gravid crustacean shellfish or undersized fish and fry.
- **Finance local development projects** using a percentage of your income from diving (a dollar or two). Projects can include schools, irrigation systems, water saving systems, solar energy and the organization of fishing to ensure sustained development