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COMPACT SKILLS:
Maria Munn shooting in the shallows

KEEPING THE TECH COSTS DOWN
CDWS 120 DIVER CLEAN-UP REPORT
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Photo: Tom Osborn

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Front cover image: Alex Mustard

BLUE



Letter from the Editor

Wow...well, many thought last year was a classic for underwater action in the Red Sea, but summer 2009 seems to have raised the encounter stakes to a higher level. Life is extremely healthy out there with vibrant reefs, a mass of creatures and regular big animal sightings – perfectly illustrated in this issue by stunning photographs and tales of Ras Mohammed by Alex Mustard (page 14).

Sadly, we have also seen over these summer months the release of more reports by scientists on the problems faced by marine life in less protected waters around the world. The most shocking is the updated list on endangered species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) revealing that a third of the globe's shark species are threatened with extinction (see news page 10). The finger of blame can be firmly pointed at over-fishing by an industry feeding a monstrous demand for shark products, notably fins.

It's hard to stomach the footage of fishermen mercilessly slicing off the fins off sharks and discarding their dying bodies overboard. Complete destruction of one of the most important species on the planet for bowls of tasteless fin soup – it's senseless. Sharks were the reason I learned to dive and each lucky encounter I've valued. After ten years of underwater searches, I finally experienced my first hammerhead meeting this summer. Eight in one day off Jackson Reef. One from a school of six came so close, I could've have touched him. Hammerheads are the most gracious and beautiful of the many sharks I have seen. I'm totally smitten. I felt mixed emotions that dive, however, as just the day before I read the IUCN report listing hammerheads among those threatened with global extinction.

It is not a time to admit defeat though. As the experts say, the fight isn't over. Turn to page 11 where the Shark Trust's dedicated and highly active director Ali Hood highlights what each of us can do to help ensure future generations of divers continue to enjoy unforgettable shark experiences in the wild.

Elsewhere in Issue Two of BLUE, are lots more features, including a fly-on-the-wall look at CDWS audits, top photography tips, tackling the dangers of dehydration, news and your views. A perfect surface time read between action-packed summer dives.

So...while there's still a few weeks of summer and the life continues to thrive out there...I say adieu for now...I'm off diving.

Charlotte

Charlotte Boan
Editor, BLUE



Letter from the Chairman...



Dear readers

I would like to thank all those volunteers, dive centres and individuals, who donated their time and effort the Ras Mohammed clean-up in July (see the full report on page 12).

CDWS has been working closely with environmental organisations such as the National Parks of Egypt on projects to help to protect our marine environment. Such high-profile events as the Ras Mohammed clean-up help to highlight the damage done by the fishing industry to the reefs. It is not only the environment which is threatened by damaging fishing techniques, but also the diving industry and beach tourism.

Illegal fishing in the Red Sea is an issue I have always been passionate about and something in my time as CDWS chairman I want to push as much as possible to combat. In December 2008, CDWS hosted the first ever conference to tackle illegal fishing, attended by the Governor of South Sinai, the Minister of Tourism, the Minister of Agriculture, the head of the Egyptian Fisheries Agency the Deputy Minister of the Environment, the head of South Sinai Parks, HEPCA, SSDM, representatives of the Fisherman Association and the head of the Oceanographic Institute. This represented the first time these people were gathered in the same room to discuss this major issue. A second meeting was held in Hurghada in May this year organised by HEPCA and attended once again by all of these representatives.

The July clean-up armed us with even more documented evidence and raised awareness to help us fight against this threat. There are many more such clean-ups planned for the future throughout Egypt, organised and supported by CDWS, as well as other schemes to improve safety throughout the industry. All of this work is heavily reliant on your contribution as volunteers.

We will continue to inform you of such projects and how each of you can help. In Dahab in August, to make the lagoon area safe as a diver training site, we are working with CDWS members to install and secure safety buoys and lines. This is all part of CDWS' commitment to continue to help improve the standards of safety and raise the level of quality of service within the industry.

Looking at recent CDWS achievements, 91 per cent of diving operators have now succeeded in complying with EUF standards. It is only the beginning and we will continue to monitor that standards are being maintained via a system of spot checks and the annual auditing procedure.

Funded pilot training schemes of boat skippers and the fully-subsidised snorkel guide courses this year have also been very successful. We are now looking at further courses for Egyptian workers in other areas, including tank boys and drivers. The plan will be presented to the Minister of Tourism for approval in September 2009 for implementation in 2010 and 2011.

We continue to strive to make the watersports and diving industry in the Red Sea one of the safest and most environmentally active. Many thanks for your support.

Hesham Gabr
Chairman of the Chamber of Diving and Watersports

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Chamber of Diving and Watersports (Egypt)

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Alex Mustard

Multi award-winning underwater photographer Alex Mustard has been fascinated with the ocean since a very young age. He took his first underwater photographs at the age of nine and at 11-years-old decided he was going to go to university to get a PhD in marine biology. The 34-year-old marine biologist travels the world using his knowledge of the sea to capture unique animal behaviour on camera. One of the places he has returned every year for more than a decade is the Ras Mohammed National Park. He has taken many stunning shots here, including an image that won him a British Wildlife Photographer award and a meeting with the Queen. Read about his special relationship with Ras Mohammed on page 32



Dr Anke Fabian

Health Matters columnist Dr Anke Fabian, 46, explores the issues and dangers of dehydration as the hottest part of summer arrives here in Egypt (see page 30). A Diving and hyperbaric medicine specialist for more than ten years and herself a PADI Divemaster, Dr Anke is highly respected in her field. She currently works as a doctor for Deco International, an Egyptian/German company specialising in medical emergencies in Egypt. Founded in November 1998 in El Gouna, Deco International has set up three additional chambers in Safaga, Marsa Alam and Dahab (www.deco-international.com). The busy mother-of-two regularly travels between Germany and Egypt and also regularly writes articles for the German diving press.



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EU funds national park technology

Sinai Protectorates National Park hopes its new state-of-the-art boat tracking system will help to more closely monitor activities in the Ras Mohammed area and the impact they have on marine life habitats. The national park's EU-funded computer system allows the national park authorities to instantly see the identity and movements of boats within the area and has an alarm to warn of zoning violations.

A proposal to legally make all boats used for diving and snorkelling in the area carry a transmitter has been put forward to government ministers. The national park said the small device, which costs from 50 Euros, transmits location details to the main database. If it is disconnected a warning alarm is sent to park headquarters in Hadaba, Sharm el Sheikh.

'We have some areas that are closed as these are nesting turtle areas. If a snorkel or dive boat with a sensor device enters these areas, it sets off an alarm,' explained Waleed Hassan, a leading marine biologist at the South Sinai Protectorates office. 'We are building a database on how many boats go to particular dive sites, with this information we may make the decision to rest the area for a while.'

It is expected that information for search and rescues and violations would also be provided by the tracking system.

The national park headquarters has also seen the delivery of a new weather station, which provides extremely accurate localised weather and water condition information. Another EU-funded computer, the weather station will assist scientists in accurately monitoring the marine eco-system.

CDWS attends EUF conference

The head of the CDWS technical committee Zeyad Bassel joined an international delegation of diving industry representatives to develop new standards for dive and snorkel training. At a European Underwater Federation (EUF) meeting held in Denmark in June 2009, delegates discussed the changes and implementation of a number of new and updated ISO standards.

CDWS was instrumental in submitting the final proposal for the ISO standards for snorkelling guides training and the ISO standards for snorkelling service provision. Both standards are required to be implemented in Egypt as well as in the rest of the EUF destinations.



'The two sets of standards for snorkel guide training programmes and for the snorkelling service provision were proposed by CDWS and they were discussed and analyzed extensively during the meetings of the technical committee,' said Zeyad Bassel. 'They are expected to be published during the second half of 2010.'

It was also announced at the meeting that the standard ISOs for Enriched Air Nitrox (EAN) training and introductory dives were ready to be applied, both of which CDWS participated in preparing.

Florida scientists explore Red Sea

Scientists from the US plan to survey Egypt's deep water coral reefs as part of a new project agreed by the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education and Florida Atlantic University (FAU). The FAU's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute (HBOI) has deep-sea submersibles that can dive many hundreds of metres to previously unreachable marine study areas in search of previously unknown life forms.

Other oceanographic projects being discussed by the FAU and the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education include the development of state-of-the-art laboratories for research in aquaculture, coral reef biodiversity and conservation, and marine biotechnology at the National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (NIOF) Marine Research Center in Hurghada, Egypt.

Proposals have also been put forward for the scientists to search for chemicals in marine organisms in the Red Sea that might be used by pharmaceutical companies. Scientists say coral reef plants and animals are important sources of new medicines being developed to treat cancer, arthritis, human bacterial infections, heart disease, viruses, and other diseases.

The projects will be paid for in part by the 14-year-old U.S.-Egypt Science and Technology Cooperation Fund. Under the agreement, each nation contributes money annually for joint research projects.

Dr. Shirley A. Pomponi, executive director of Ocean Science, Technology, and Development who is leading the collaboration for HBOI, said: 'This is an exciting opportunity for FAU scientists and students to explore the Red Sea, to develop scientist and student exchange programs, and to conduct research projects that complement what we're doing in Florida and the Caribbean.'



Dahab's reef rangers

The Dahab Environmental Support Centre (DESC) says it aims to educate all dive guides and instructors in the Sinai resort of Dahab about the marine environment and conservation protection. In the last two years, DESC has trained 226 dive guides in environmental awareness and local law. This represents 90 per cent of dive centres.

The group also trains Volunteer Rangers of Dahab who educate divers about the reef as well as reporting violations of the national park's regulations and biological damage such as crown of thorn invasions and algal blooms.

Under the supervision of Ayman Mabrouk, manager of the Nabq Protected Area, the Volunteer Rangers of Dahab organise regular underwater surveys to assess recovery of local reefs which have been exposed to damage by tourism and construction.

'Most of you already have good knowledge about environmental practices while diving,' said Jessica Bouweester, a marine biologist volunteer ranger trainee, dive instructor and executive manager at DESC, said. 'Our training aims to remind you of proper environmental behaviour and especially go through the main points to be shared with your diving customers before they enter the water for their dive. We also talk about local laws and regulations and the procedure to follow in case of witnessing someone breaking these laws. Finally, we will give you a few educational brochures to take home with you and you will receive a bit later, a certificate that you attended our course.'

Bouweester said courses are aimed at dive guides and dive guide trainees, however, anyone concerned about the marine environment in Dahab is welcome to take part.

For more information on courses and DESC, email volunteer.rangers@gmail.com or see the group's website www.dahab-info.com/vr.

Caverns open to Marsa Alam divers

A team of technical divers in Marsa Alam has explored and permanently lined 130m of underwater caverns which are now open to visiting divers. Local guides had reported for many years that there were caverns in the Ghalib area where a few experienced divers had explored.

Divers from Emperor Divers' technical wing, Tekstreme, spent long dives this year researching and mapping the cavern systems. Up to 130m of cavern has been permanently lined, although there are a number of networks still to be done by the team.

Aaron Bruce of Tekstreme, said: 'These caverns are beautiful and are a unique feature for the Ghalib area, but divers need to be very well trained to enter them and enjoy part of the Red Sea only seen by a handful of divers.'

One of the sites has been named after Emperor dive guide Mo who was the first in the team to locate the caverns and begin the process of mapping. Mo's Cavern (also a homage to Mo's Tavern in The Simpsons TV series) is among many of the sites which will now be open to PADI cavern diving students.

www.emperordivers.com



Dolphin delight

Regular Red Sea diving visitor Nicole Preuss jumped for joy in the water after enjoying a 45 minute dive with a pod of ten dolphins at the Fanous West dive site off Hurghada [see picture]. 'After diving with us the last four years twice per year she was extremely happy, as you can see,' said Martina Aziz, a spokesperson for Ilios Dive Club in Hurghada.



Blue movies

Sharm el Sheikh-based videographer Tom Osborn of Camel Dive Club captured rare footage of turtles mating in the blue off Yolanda Reef in the Ras Mohammed National Park. When mating, the male turtle 'clings on' to the female who controls the buoyancy and takes both to the surface for air. 'I spotted them in the first 5m,' explained Osborn. 'They can mate for hours apparently. However, I only managed to film them for about five minutes before snorkellers arrived, which seemed to disturb the turtles. They separated and swam away.' www.cameldive.com

Photo: Tom Osborn



Sea Queen makeover

Sea Queen Fleet safari boats South Moon and Golden Emperor 1 have seen a complete makeover of cabins, salons, as well as sun and dive decks. www.seaqueens.com



Plastic bag ban

Plastic bags have been banned in all shops by both the South Sinai and Red Sea Governorates. It is hoped the ban, which came into force on 1 August, will reduce plastic bag waste problems in the sea and the desert.

A representative of the conservation volunteer resident group Clean Sharm said a few weeks 'grace' will be given to allow Egyptians and tourists to get used to plastic bag-free shopping.

www.cleansharm.org



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HEPCA slams shark hunt rumours

Red Sea environmental group HEPCA has issued a statement slamming shark hunting rumours that followed the high profile fatal attack by an oceanic white tip shark on a snorkeller in the Southern Red Sea. HEPCA said rumours that the Egyptian Government had granted permission for fishing boats to break the no shark fishing ban in response to the June attack were wholly untrue.

Amr Ali, managing director of HEPCA also dismissed claims that dive sites were closed around the St John's area and that investigations were ongoing to prosecute operators found guilty of illegally chumming and feeding sharks.

Amr Ali said in a statement: 'It was brought to our attention from different sources that there is a rumor saying that the Egyptian Government has appointed and gave permission to some fishing boats to hunt the sharks in the southern red sea area. Please note that all these reports are simply glaring falsehood.'

'The shark population is highly protected in the Red Sea by many laws and decrees. On the other hand which makes it very ironic that all fishing activities in the Red Sea region are on hold because of the new fishing regulations, which we hope that it will have a great positive impact on the fish stock and the reefs condition, accordingly there are even no fishing vessels in the area.'

www.hepca.com



Photo: Simon Rogerson

Third of all sharks endangered

A third of all the world's sharks and rays are under serious threat of extinction according to the latest International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) report. Over fishing led by a continued demand for shark fin has been highlighted as the major threat by the IUCN, which has now 64 species of shark on its latest Red List.

Of the 64 species labelled under serious threat, 32 per cent face possible extinction. A further 24 species have been classified as near threatened in the IUCN Red List.

Hammerhead sharks, common in Red Sea waters, rate high on the extinction list as the species has become a favoured target for shark finners.

IUCN experts classify the great hammerhead (*Sphyrna mokarran*) and scalloped hammerhead (*Sphyrna lewini*) sharks, as well as giant devil rays (*Mobula mobular*), as globally endangered. Smooth hammerheads (*Sphyrna zygaena*), great white (*Carcharodon carcharias*), basking (*Cetorhinus maximus*) and oceanic whitetip (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) sharks are classed as globally vulnerable to extinction, along with two species of makos (*Isurus spp.*) and three species of thresher (*Alopias spp.*).

Sharks are particularly sensitive to over-fishing due to their tendency to take many years to mature and have relatively few young. In most cases, pelagic shark catches are unregulated or unsustainable.

Sonja Fordham, deputy chair of the IUCN Shark Specialist Group and Policy Director for the Shark Alliance, said: 'The vulnerability and lengthy migrations of most open ocean sharks mean they need coordinated, international conservation plans. Our report documents serious over fishing of these species, in national and international waters, and demonstrates a clear need for immediate action on a global scale.'

The Egyptian Red Sea is one of the few places where a complete ban on shark fishing has been introduced.

This summer divers in Hurgada and Sharm el Sheikh have been reporting nearly-daily encounters with sharks and rays, including hammerheads, whale sharks and manta rays. Save Our Seas (www.saveourseas.com) and the Shark Trust (www.sharktrust.org) collect data submitted online for such research programmes.

Submitted reports of such encounters offer researchers valuable information on global populations. The Shark Specialist Group is expected to publish a complete report, outlining the status of all 400 species of shark, and closely related skates and rays later this year.



Photo: Simon Rogerson

What you can do in the Red Sea

By Shark Trust director Ali Hood

Making an impact on shark conservation is not only achievable by politicians and formal conservation organisations like the Shark Trust – in fact, whether you are out for a week's holiday or the entire season with a little bit of enthusiasm you can make a big difference.

The first step is to arm yourself with knowledge. There are many threats, both global and regional, facing sharks and so it is essential that you remain informed on these issues and their consequences in order to best approach their solution.

Good places to start are the Shark Trust (www.sharktrust.org) and Shark Alliance (www.sharkalliance.org) websites. Each one is bursting with information on sharks and their threats and details of international measures protecting sharks.

To get a more local understanding of what is happening talk to the folks at your dive centre, they should have a good idea of the regional or country-wide laws protecting sharks. Local government officials will also be able to provide you with details of further legislative and management measures (at least on paper) in place to preserve sharks.

As a diver you are in a prime position to record what you see in the water and to report changes in your marine environment. Recording your sightings is the perfect place to start and over time will provide a vast amount of data about the sharks seen, and not seen, in your local waters.

If you are out for the season, recording other information such as seasonal presence/absence of sharks, important juvenile areas or any other interesting behavioural observations can all feed into Marine Protected Area designation and other management and conservation measures.

Don't forget, a picture can often be a more powerful tool than words. Take pictures of the effects of overfishing, finning, habitat destruction or just to demonstrate the beauty of sharks – these will always come in handy when making your case.

Once you have a clear picture, educating and informing others is a vital route for shark conservation. Whether talking to your fellow divers or contacting government bodies to express your concern for the future of sharks and indicating the problems they are facing it is important that you don't remain quiet.

5 Minute Actions!

- Don't buy shark fin soup – the trade in shark's fin is one of the most detrimental problems affecting sharks populations worldwide.
- Add your voice to the latest Shark Trust petition: www.sharktrust.org/petition
- Be aware of the provenance of shark curios – if you want to buy teeth or jaws ask a few questions as to where they came from – it is quite unlikely that they came from a sustainable source. Fossil teeth are less of a problem however there are some rogue traders out there, investigate their credentials before buying.
- Always dive with companies that have respectful and conservation minded codes of practice for sharks – companies that don't feed, antagonise or encourage touching of sharks are a good start.
- Email your local government official and ask them what they are doing to support shark conservation.
- Record your sightings at www.sharktrust.org/sd

PADI award for Sharmar

PADI has awarded a prestigious Contributions to Diver Education Award to Emperor's Sharm el Sheikh-based course director Steve Prior. Prior was awarded PADI Platinum Course Director status in 2008 for the high number of successful instructor candidates he has qualified.



PADI said his latest award is one of the highest awarded to course directors.

'This special Contributions to Diver Education Award recognises the high quality and excellence of Steve Prior's teaching,' said PADI area representative Terry Johnson. 'It's not just the quantity of good instructors that he produces but also the extra service over and beyond the requirements.'

Prior qualified as an instructor in 1991 in the UK and moved to Egypt in 1996 where he also completed his course director training. Following many years running dive centres in the UK, Indonesia and Egypt, Prior and his wife Janet now schedule and run five PADI Instructor Development Courses (IDC) each year.

'It's always good when your efforts are recognised. Our aim has always been to create enthusiastic and effective instructors,' Prior said. 'I have to thank Janet, my wife, for constantly looking for ways to improve our courses.'

www.stevepriorcd.co.uk





carefully cutting line from the reef



volunteers received a certificate for their help..



guests were carefully briefed on clean-up techniques



Cleaning up Ras Mohammed

Volunteer divers took part in a mass underwater clean-up at Ras Mohammed as the first in a series of projects organised by the CDWS and National Parks of Egypt. Charlotte Boan joined the 120 divers to find out why such volunteer work is vital to help to tackle illegal and destructive fishing in the Red Sea.

images: Sinai Divers

As our team arrived at the site, the distinctive blue and white National Park patrol boats promptly directed us to buoy two for the descent. Day boats and safari boats from CDWS member centres across Sharm el Sheikh lined up across a 1km stretch of reef. Zodiacs buzzed from one boat to the next to ensure all 120 volunteer clean-up divers were suitably equipped for the job ahead.

Our group descended to 20m away from the bustle above, mesh bags in hand and cutters carefully stored for use. We scoured the area. A dive site we were all very familiar with, but against our natural diver instincts we did not go there to look for the life. The mission was to seek out any items that did not belong to the natural makeup of Jackfish Alley, a key dive site in the world-celebrated marine park of Ras Mohammed.

It must have been two minutes before the first pair spotted the fishing line draped like thin spaghetti around the coral reef. Carefully ensuring no damage or distress was caused to the surrounding marine life, each of us cut away then wrapped the lines around our hands and fed these clumps into our bags. Hooks gently handled and placed together with the line inside the bag, my buddy and I also recovered fishing weights and a plastic snorkel mouthpiece.

All dive guides were fully briefed by National Park rangers before the dive on what to tell divers to take, what to leave and how to cut away fishing line in the safest and most environmentally friendly way.

For a whole hour the current gently carried us through the sandy channel, each buddy pair pausing at various coral heads to cut away line with a look of concentration similar to that of tailors in a suit shop.

Once the eye is trained for fishing debris, it's hard to notice the passing life, which our guide, Bianca from Camel Dive Club told us later that day, included a large manta ray.

When we all surfaced the bags were quickly taken by zodiac to the National Park boats. The bags joined the collection of recovered items to be recorded and photograph as evidence by the National Park marine experts to help them try to tackle illegal and destructive fishing in these waters. Most of the bags handed in were filled with fishing lines.

Also among the 150kg of rubbish splayed out on the National Park boat was a pile of small rocks salvaged by a select team of technical divers from depths of between 30m and 50m. The rocks were evidence, I was told by the park authorities, of a destructive technique used by fishermen to catch jackfish.

Jackfish will only attack a moving target and so the use of dead bait on a hook will not work to lure them. Fishermen use a system where bait is tied to a line, then attached to a small rock. The rock is held in place by a quick-release knot. When jackfish are in the area, the rope is pulled, the rock drops to the coral below and the bait (usually squid) is carried by the current. The bait is then perceived by jackfish as moving prey. As well as impacting on jackfish populations, such techniques cause serious damage to the coral.

The July clean-up was the first in a series of projects run by the CDWS and National Parks of Egypt to enable the dive community throughout the region to help to protect ecologically important areas and to highlight the problems of illegal and destructive fishing.

CDWS member operations clean-up participants included Anthias Divers (www.anthiasdivers.com), Camel Dive Club (www.cameldive.com), Colona (www.colona.com), King Snefro Fleet (www.kingsnefro.com),

Nexus (www.nexusdiving.com), Oonas (www.oonasdiveclub.com), Red Sea Diving College (www.redseacollege.com), Sea Queen Fleet (www.seaqueens.com) and Sinai Divers (www.sinaidivers.com). A total of 12 divers from the Sharm resident volunteer environment group Clean Sharm (www.cleansharm.org) also took part.

By collecting photographic and salvaged evidence of such destruction, the National Parks hope to raise awareness of the damage being done to world-class dive sites and build up a strong case for what should be done. Although fishing is strictly banned at Ras Mohammed, it is hard for the National Parks to actively stop boats operating at night in the area. Around 40 illegal fishing boats were caught by the National Parks patrol boats during the three-month spawning season in 2009.

Dr Mohammed Salem, the director of the National Park South Sinai Protectorates office said: 'This [Ras Mohammed National Park] is one of the most important coral reef areas for spawning of many species. Spawning depends on the health of the reef, as there is a relationship between feeding habitats and spawning events. Once destroyed, the spawning event is affected.'

'[The clean-up] was a great start. From what we have seen the biggest problem is in the deep water where the rocks and anchors are found. I think it will raise awareness – we plan to send to fishing authorities pictures and documentation to show the impact of illegal fishing in Ras Mohammed and the rest of the South Sinai region.'

Dr Mohammed joined the HEPCA-organised conference in Hurghada in May 2009 to discuss the problems of illegal fishing. The first of the conferences planned was held in Sharm and organised by the CDWS.

Among the recommendations put forward at both conferences were: the identification of fishermen; a ban on issuing new fishing licences to those with another job; and redistribution of fishermen according to the origin of their licence, which forbids them from catching in other areas.

Dr Mohammed said he wants to come up with a realistic plan where traditional and sustainable fishing continues in waters around South Sinai, but stop the destructive and unsustainable techniques often used by fishermen coming in from other parts of Egypt.

'We are not against fishing, we are against destructive fishing,' Dr Mohammed explained. 'South Sinai, particularly the Ras Mohammed National Park is still one of the most attractive areas for divers, which also means it is important in terms of tourist revenue.'

Dr Mohammed said his immediate concern is to change the closing period of fishing to coincide with the spawning season – mid-April to the end of July. Currently the no-take months are from 1 June to 1 August. During this time fishermen are forbidden and actively stopped from leaving harbours.

He believes that by working closely with the CDWS, a lot can be done. Clean-ups will continue with the on-going support of CDWS members and staff.

As well as the visible impact of such projects, the publicity will see this issue become of greater importance to the Egyptian government.

'We hope to see many more such clean-ups across the whole of the South Sinai,' Dr Mohammed added.

Summer School

In the summer months the waters fringing the tip of the Sinai Peninsula offer spectacular underwater scenes which continue to be a pull for prominent photographers and film-makers. Renowned underwater photographer and marine biologist **Alex Mustard** shares the story of his 20-year love affair with Ras Mohammed National Park.

The school forms a ball out in the blue. Taken in 2007
Image: Alex Mustard



Wall to wall snappers, taken in 2004.
Image: Alex Mustard

“Each year, in June and July, Ras Mohammed at the tip of the Sinai, is the scene of one of the world’s great wildlife spectacles below or above the waves. The dive site is already one of the best there is, but visit during the early summer and you can experience it on steroids.”



It is June 1988, I am 13-years-old and sitting in the back of the car en route to my grandmother’s house in the Midlands of England. I am not happy. I am looking forward to seeing Gran, but all week I have been counting down the days, waiting for a program to come on the TV. Now it is the weekend I am worried I am going to miss it. A tantrum or two later and a deal is struck. Her TV is small, but I am allowed to watch the instalments as the show was broadcast at intervals during the day. I sit just a couple of feet from the screen, transfixed.

The program was a BBC production called *Reefwatch*. Beamed live from underwater in the Red Sea it introduced me to diving wonders I never dreamed existed. The wow as presenter Martha Holmes swam over the drop off and the amazing spectacle of impenetrable walls of schooling fish filmed by cameraman Peter Scoones. The dive site, referred to with due reverence, was called Ras Mohammed. The name

lodged firmly in my mind. I wondered if I would ever be lucky enough to dive there.

Spin on ten years to June 1998. I am now 23 and a marine biology PhD student, getting increasingly serious about my underwater photography. I have begun to win some competitions and this has led to my invite for a special Red Sea trip. It is a big step up for me and my excitement is mixed with nerves. It is my first time in Sharm El Sheikh and my first time on a liveaboard. But this was no ordinary safari. This charter has been organised by Peter Scoones to film for the coral reefs episode of a new BBC series that is going to be called *Blue Planet*.

We arrive late at night and I collapse into my bunk. The next morning I am woken by the engines start as we leave Travco and I stagger out into the bright light on the dive deck. Scoones is there, foot on bench,

elbow on knee, hand on chin, staring out over the water at the cliffs of Shark Observatory. ‘Have you heard about Ras Mohammed?’ he asks. I stumbled a reply.

That trip totally changed my approach to underwater photography. The way I dived, prepared for dives, looked after my camera. I soaked up as much as I could. Scoones’s photographic knowledge of the Red Sea sites is encyclopaedic, built up over thousands of dives since the Sixties. There was a time in the UK that lionfish were called the Scoones-fish, because he was the only one to have photographed them. He enthused about the wonders of Ras Mohammed and explained why it was so special at precisely this time.

Each year, in June and July, Ras Mohammed at the tip of the Sinai, is the scene of one of the world’s great wildlife spectacles below or

above the waves. The dive site is already one of the best there is, but visit during the early summer and you can experience it on steroids. At this time, great schools of fish aggregate there, including bohar snappers, barracuda, unicornfish, batfish, blueline emperors, black snappers, bigeye jacks and giant trevallies. Perhaps what is most amazing about this wildlife spectacular is that it is so easy to get up close and personal with the creatures. There is no need to spend days trekking in the bush, or hours waiting silently in a hide, you just need to go diving. This is a world-class wildlife encounter from the comfort of your vacation.

I have been back at exactly the same week each year, without fail, since the *Blue Planet* trip, logging at least half my dives at Shark and Yolanda. As a general rule the schools are mating aggregations. Small reef fish tend to follow the little-but-often reproductive strategy

“As a general rule the schools are mating aggregations. Small reef fish tend to follow the little-but-often reproductive strategy spawning every day, while larger species tend to save it up for one big bang each year.”



The school of snappers hanging off Shark Reef, taken in 2006. Image: Alex Mustard

a manta swooping through the snappers in 1999 Image: Alex Mustard



spawning every day, while larger species tend to save it up for one big bang each year. As a result mating aggregations of thousands of large fish can be one of the most spectacular sights in the underwater world; some fish migrating hundreds of kilometres to get involved. This is why protecting these aggregations is so important. They represent the entire adult population from a large area and also the future of the species in the region.

In this regard, Ras Mohammed has become a real conservation success story. Many fish species all around the world aggregate to spawn, but usually as soon as people find out about it, someone

comes along with a big net and in a few years the population is gone. The Ras Mohammed National Park deserves a lot of credit for protecting the aggregations from fishing and also for allowing so many people to experience the spectacle year after year. I have enjoyed spreading this good news story to whoever will listen, from school children to Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh. The schools of Ras Mohammed have had me in their addictive grasp for much of my life. Thanks to the efforts of the National Park, I know I will be able to enjoy diving with them for years to come.

A pair of snappers taken in 1998. Image: Alex Mustard



Inspecting the Inspectors



This year will see the completion of the first phase of audits across Egypt of all diving and watersports centres and safari boats. Photojournalist Brendan O'Brien followed the CDWS auditors for three days to find out what it takes to meet the grade.

Orca Dive Club in El Gouna - an impromptu observation of an Open Water Course

'What gets measured gets done' is an old but proven principle. But is there room in the diving world for a compulsory inspection process in what some might argue is an already over regulated industry? The Egyptian Government thinks so and through the CDWS the European Underwater Federation standards for recreational diving services (EN 14467 / ISO 24803) are in the final stages of being rolled out across all Egyptian dive centres and safari boats.

But what does this mean for those who work in the industry - an additional layer of annoying and costly bureaucracy or help to improve standards?

A few months ago I spent four days with the CDWS inspectors as they carried out inspections of dive centres and safari boats in the Hurgada area. I was allowed an unprecedented level of access, which enabled me to observe the inspectors in action.

The CDWS was established in mid 2007 under the auspices of the Egyptian Tourist Federation to achieve a number of objectives. Without doubt its biggest challenge was to ensure all 320 dive centres and 80 safari boats operating in the Red Sea met the newly adopted standards. At the time of its launch the new chairman of the CDWS board, Hesham Gabr, said: 'I look at the audit process as one of quality improvement.' However, some dive centre and safari boat owners weren't initially as optimistic. Laurenz from Mena Dive in Safaga remembers the meeting when Hazem, one of the inspectors, announced the introduction of the standards. 'There was lots of arguing about whether this was needed or not; I can still remember Hazem saying how this wasn't something up for discussion, the standards were coming and they were compulsory,' Laurenz told me.

Before a dive centre or safari boat can achieve its 'ISO' certification they have to go through a two to four day audit over what may be a period

of several months. Each inspector, selected for their qualifications and experience in the diving industry, is allocated a number of dive centres and safari boats to inspect, where they will see the process through from start to finish.

During one of the first visits I observed I asked Hazem about the ethos behind the inspections, are they there simply to make judgements against the criteria or is there more to their role? 'We're not just here to inspect,' said Hazem. 'We want to advise and support and will make as many visits as we think are necessary before we have to make a judgement.' This was an attitude I found common among all the inspectors.

I also found the inspectors to be very open about the process - they didn't hold back on providing helpful information or in finding the time to spend with a dive operator to help them put systems in place to help them meet the standards.

Prior to a first visit, dive centres or safari boats are provided with documents and guidance as to how the audit process will be conducted and what areas will be covered. These are primarily: information about the diving service; risk assessments; emergency procedures; diving equipment; documentation; training; and the provision of diving and the rental of equipment. Unfortunately I missed the opportunity to join the inspectors for an initial visit, but I did get to join them in the latter stages of inspection, from those almost ready to achieve certification to those that were really struggling.

The biggest issue many dive operators had was with their diving equipment and the records required to demonstrate they were safe to use. Each inspector I observed appeared to have inbuilt radar for faults that needed rectifying with common themes of missing dustcaps on

regulators and missing depth gauges. But their inspection wouldn't stop when these issues were spotted. A missing dustcap would prompt a series of questions about who rinses the regulator and when it was last serviced, together with guidance on why it was so important not to let water into the first stage (the build up of rust can cause it to suddenly malfunction). When it came to depth gauges inspectors like Hussein knew all the tricks in the book - at one centre he was presented with several boxes of gauges as proof they were being used. Hussein proceeded to lick each one of them and when he could taste no salt the centre's management knew their ruse had been rumbled.

However, equipment inspections weren't always about uncovering what may well have been deceitful intentions, for the most part the inspectors would look for the small things that might have been inadvertently missed. On a safari boat inspection Hazem was about to pass the boat with flying colours until he found the facemask for the oxygen equipment to be in a non-sterile unsealed bag. Fortunately the boat owner had a set of spares and immediately replaced it and as such passed the compliance criteria for 'sufficient quantity of emergency equipment.' I was impressed with this level of thoroughness. The inspections weren't just about having the equipment - it had to be maintained to such a standard that it could be used as per its operating guidelines.

The standard of training was another major concern for the inspectors. Over the years I've witnessed plenty of practices that have made me wince; instructor to student ratios being exceeded, depth limitations ignored, poor standards of instruction and the use of inappropriate equipment. All of these errors in training can be potentially fatal and in the past Egypt was by no means exempt. As one instructor told me: 'Previously [before the CDWS] there was no-where to go if you witnessed unsafe practices - you just kept quiet and hoped nothing happened.'

The inspectors tended to ensure training was conducted properly by observing and evaluating the instructors in action - they would even go as far as checking the trainee's dive computer to ensure they had not gone beyond their depth limits.

Communication wasn't a problem for the inspectors who could speak a range of languages, however, for some of the diving instructors they observed it was. At one centre the instructor was trying to train a woman who only spoke German by using her partner to translate what he said. However, as her partner's main language was Italian and the instructor only spoke English it soon became clear that she would end up with a PADI Open Water qualification having understood little of what had been taught.



Amr reads the comments book at Calypso Dive

The observation of training wasn't just confined to the classroom and pool sessions though; sometimes the inspectors would join the trainees on the dive boat. Hussein explained how this enables them to witness how the trainees are taken through their open water dives as well as to observe the briefings and see how the centre's risk assessments are put into practice.

While most of the centres I visited with the inspectors were keen to achieve the standards, it was clear a minority weren't. I joined Amr to visit what he described as a 'very slippery customer.' One who on his initial visit appeared to be flouting just about all of the standards including poorly kept records, old equipment with no service records and no risk assessments. As we arrived we found the dive centre empty but on talking to staff at the hotel where it was based we were told they were out diving.

Before long one of the centre's associates turned up with the message that they were no longer running any diving services. But Amr suspected otherwise and it wasn't long before he found the evidence he was looking for in a customer feedback book, which showed how clients had been diving from the centre only a few days before. On the way out Amr told me: 'Closure is almost certain for this centre.' I asked Amr what the consequences would be if the owner chose to remain open following the withdrawal of his licence. 'He will be led away in handcuffs under arrest,' came his stern reply.

For those dive operators who are spending the time, effort and money to ensure their standards reach and exceed those expected by the CDWS the promise of action by the authorities against the 'Red Sea Cowboys' is most welcome. More than 30 operations in the Red Sea have already lost their licence including some of those I visited with the inspectors. In my opinion their cost cutting short cuts did nothing to enhance the reputation of legitimate Egyptian dive operators and they deserved to be put out of business.

Those who have achieved the 'ISO' certificate should feel proud of their achievement as the CDWS have set the bar impressively high. By measuring dive operators against these standards the levels of service and safety in Egypt have without doubt been enhanced.

As one customer at an 'ISO' certificated centre told me: 'I feel confident diving here as I know the centre has achieved a set of standards which will ensure my diving experience is a safe one.'

For more information on the standards and for a list of dive centres and safari boats that have achieved certification see the CDWS web site: www.cdws.travel



Inspecting the boat lists at Orca Dive Club, El Gouna

How Green Is Your Team?



Hurghada-based Emperor Divers actively encourages its guests to attend marine life lectures and join underwater clean-ups. Following the success of its recent eco-week trip for divers, dive centre manager **Chris Gooda** shares his views on what operations can do to help protect the environment.

It would be a major achievement if every guest that undertook a dive trip or course in the Red Sea left knowing a little more about the underwater ecosystem and their impacts upon it.

As divers and dive centres we all rely on marine ecosystems for our enjoyment and the success of our businesses (without even considering the wider environmental implications of their destruction). At Emperor Divers our environmental aim is to do three things: educate, reduce and reclaim.

Educate

Education is a dive centres' primary tool for influencing the environmental impact of divers. By educating staff and guests we can ensure that our direct impact on the reefs is minimised and guests can take home and share their knowledge and experience.

We offer regular ecological talks for guests in both Hurghada and Marsa Alam. We've had weeks of lectures by professionals such as Danish marine ecologist Bent Christensen and staff members. There are also one-off talks about subjects as broad ranging as dugongs and coral reef preservation by dive centre staff and guest speakers.

The Emperor Divers Centre in Hurghada is one of two dive centres on mainland Egypt to offer the PADI National Geographic diver courses. This offers another way to broaden awareness and improve diving skills.

Reduce

A dive centre's biggest greenhouse gas contribution comes from its boats, unless, of course, the centre only offers shore diving. By reducing boat movements within the liveboard fleet when planning itineraries for the season, the company saves money and reduces unnecessary emissions.

On a more local level, the installation of diesel particulate filters on boats reduces the amount of carcinogenic carbon micro-particulates being released into the water.

In a less direct way we offer guests our carbon offset programme, which encourages guests to offset their carbon footprint. For less than ten Euros guests can offset one tonne of carbon dioxide. This is more than the amount released during a week of normal daily diving (including boat trips, transfers and cylinder fills).

Reclaim

Dive centres have an obligation to recover the litter that has found its way into the sea from the rapidly expanding Red Sea tourist industry.

There is a saying that if you bring back a plastic bag from a dive, on the next dive you will see a turtle. Diver karma maybe. It may or may not work, but the sentiment stands – if the bag is not collected it may be mistaken for a jellyfish by a turtle and the turtle may die.

Our neighbours Emperor Divers in Marsa Alam organised a massive



At Emperor Divers our environmental aim is to do three things: educate, reduce and reclaim.

in-water clean-up over a period of weeks after the completion of a new beach-front resort in the area and recovered more than a tonne of debris. From paint pots to steel girders, oil drums to paintbrushes, all items disposed of into the sea by irresponsible builders.

By getting involved and working together dive centre staff, guests and suppliers alike can have a huge influence on the environmental impact and sustainability of the Red Sea diving industry.

www.emperordivers.com



How green is your team? **BLUE** is keen to hear about what your centre is doing to help protect and preserve the environment both underwater and topside. If you are a Green Team candidate email your eco-credentials at charlotte.boan@cdws.travel.

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Deep Under Covered?

Insurance liability for dive operations is complex when mixed with training agency recommendations and no set law for diving. In a **BLUE** special report, we look at why it's vital to check the small print before unknowingly getting into deep water with no cover. By Charlotte Boan



Even to the most logical mind, insurance can be a dense forest of small print, sub-clauses, ambiguous conditions and grey zones where it's easy to get lost. Diving is an industry which requires each diver to have insurance, either in a professional or recreational type, and for the dive centre, operation and boat to hold its own cover too for guests and employees. And that's not to mention the centre's standard business insurance.

Insurance is essential. We all need cover, whether we are a professional or someone in the hands of one. Particularly in an activity where there is a risk, no matter how small, of injury or worse. However, as diving activities are so diverse and complex, do we really know where our insurance cover begins and ends?

A real insurance confusion lies in the depth issue. On each early stage of training, no matter what agency, there is a depth limit for the course. This is the case for all technical dive training as well. But what about those divers wishing to gradually extend their depth once qualified? There is no rule, law or regulation, for example, that says a PADI Open Water diver cannot dive deeper than 18m following his or her course.

A centre/operation basically could be seen as negligent for taking these divers below 18m.

The worry of dive centres and operations is that some open water divers are more than capable of diving below 18m, however, trade liability insurance may become null and void if something were to happen to the diver even if depth was not causal factor in an incident. A centre/operation basically could be seen as negligent for taking these divers below 18m. This is not the case in all insurance, as some dive centres are covered for all diving activities no matter the qualification to recreational dive limits of up to 50m.

With major insurers where depth is an issue which could affect liability, even these policy conditions are open to interpretation. It's a minefield, and one that businesses supplying diving services need to be clear on before unintentionally breaking their insurance cover.

Many centre managers in the diving industry feel insurance should take into account experience of divers, not what depth they have

reached in initial training. And also, not be based on one agency's recommendations alone. Then there has to be a clear distinction they say between an agency scuba standard and a recommendation.

'How can you tell a PADI open water qualified diver with 500 logged dives and years of experience that they are not allowed to dive deeper than 18m, when an Advanced Open Water with ten dives can?'

'How can you tell a PADI Open Water qualified diver with 500 logged dives and years of experience that they are not allowed to dive deeper than 18m, when an Advanced Open Water with ten dives can?' a Red Sea-based dive operation manager explained. 'PADI does not stipulate a maximum depth for a qualified open water diver other than that of the recognised recreational limit.'

Camel Dive Club centre manager Simone Pelucchi said he contacted DAN Europe insurance head office to be told there was maximum depth coverage of 18m for qualified PADI Open Water divers. It was also explained to him that if the open water divers failed to follow a briefing from the dive centre guide about a maximum depth of 18m while diving with them, then the dive centre would certainly not be at fault.

However, when **BLUE** approached DAN Europe to find out the exact depth conditions, a spokesman told us – after a number of attempts to get a clear answer – that 'basically, no, DAN's insurance doesn't have depth limits counted in meters.'

'Negligence here applies as a concept,' the DAN Europe spokesman explained. 'In this case a dive centre would be considered negligent only if the centre was aware that by taking divers to below 18m the centre would be exposing its clients to a degree of reasonable danger, which is above the norm. Hence there would be an element of recklessness. This does not, however, mean that centres would be negligent if they took their clients to below 18m as the same principle would apply even for dives above the 18m mark. In any case, it is important to keep in mind that negligence is insurable. It

is gross negligence which is never covered by any insurance company.'

He added that all policy holders must fully observe 'the law, the rules and regulations laid down by the authorities' and that DAN Europe announced its decision this year to form its own specialised insurance company: International Diving Assurance Ltd. The organisation, however, could not supply any further details on its new cover and whether it would stipulate entry level qualification depths above internationally recognised recreational depth limit recommendations. 'International Diving Assurance Ltd would adapt the cover and its' interpretation to the particular need of divers,' its spokesman said. 'This means better control on the quality of service and claim management procedures.'



medical expenses were not covered; nevertheless, the case did start a serious debate. It highlighted how non-specialist insurance companies did not cover beyond training depth, while specialist scuba insurers announced they would have paid up, as depth was not an issue in this particular case of DCI.

To get round the confusion with regards to trade cover, there are many dive centres looking to

insurance cover by independent scuba specialist insurance companies away from the traditional big company insurers. As diving is so specialised, particularly with the increased diversity in services offered such as technical activities, insurance has to be specialist.

Bob Archell, managing director of independent scuba insurer Dive Master Insurance said: 'Sadly when you have insurance that locks the trade into following only one association's recommendations you will get gaps in coverage and possible loop holes for the insurers to deny coverage for technical breach of conditions. If the policy isn't constructed in the right way, your coverage could be denied because you were negligent even though that negligence didn't cause the claim.'

He added that there are cases where association based insurances will void a policy because of a non causative breach of recommendation, however, he said this was rare in Europe as EU courts tend to see this as unworkable.

'Dive associations have been very careful in separating out a standard from a recommendation in their training materials. A breach of a scuba standard leading to a liability claim may end up voiding your instructor liability policy, or even your dive centre liability policy because it would be difficult to explain away such a failure of the duty of care, but a breach of a scuba recommendation that has occurred because of a mistake or error or simply because in your own judgment the breach was an acceptable risk to take given the circumstances, should not in my view lead to an automatic withdrawal of coverage.'

'In the case of the breach of a recommendation like taking and experienced and competent open water diver past the 18m recommended depth limit should only end up an issue with the insurer if it was directly 'causative' of the claim and can be demonstrated as the sole cause. Otherwise the insurer, if they are a responsible insurer should deal with the claim.'

Without clearly defined boundaries, dive businesses must look through every part of the small print and raise questions of insurers if there is any ambiguity on cover. Archell said the most important thing for businesses is to make sure the insurance policy covers the legal liability as a result of negligence and to look out for conditions where cover may be denied.

'Choosing the right insurance cover could mean the difference between remaining in business after a claim or folding your business and losing all your personal assets,' he warned.

So, while there are so many uncertainties, the one thing that is extremely clear is that diving operations have to push insurers on what exactly they are covered for to protect their businesses but not short-change on the service to their customers.

'divers may wish to extend their experience by diving deeper on future expeditions, and although there would be nobody stopping them from doing so, however, it may expose a dive centre or instructor to increased legal risk should they do so without formal guidance or training.'

Interpreting what exactly constitutes exposing clients to what DAN's describes as a 'degree of reasonable danger' below 18m is not something you are likely to get an answer on outside a specific case. There are many interpretations. Training agencies do not have a definitive answer to the problem either, it seems.

'PADI divers may wish to extend their experience by diving deeper on future expeditions, and although there would be nobody stopping them from doing so, however, it may expose a dive centre or instructor to increased legal risk should they do so without formal guidance or training,' Richard Howes, PADI training and quality management consultant told **BLUE**. 'Therefore, we would always recommend that a student extends their experience under the direct supervision of a PADI Professional, and preferably through a formalised PADI Training Course. Each individual business has its own responsibility to manage legal risk, and to require appropriate prerequisites be met prior to training. What these prerequisites are would be determined by the dive centre themselves.'

While it is difficult to pinpoint a case in the diving trade where the insurance was not paid out over depth alone, there have been high profile cases in personal dive insurance where divers have been forced to fork out for hefty hyperbaric chamber bills for going too deep.

In 2005, diver Anthony Allen from Solihull in the UK was forced to pay around £40,000 for his chamber treatment following a 49m dive in Marsa Alam. Despite medical diving doctors saying his case of decompression illness was down to dehydration, not depth, Allen's insurer Lloyds TSB failed to pay out. Lloyds TSB said the PADI Advanced Open Water diver's cover excluded scuba diving beyond a depth of 30m. There was no negotiation.

Many commentators immediately said Allen had failed to comply with depth recommendations of PADI and it was clear why his



Snapping in the shallows

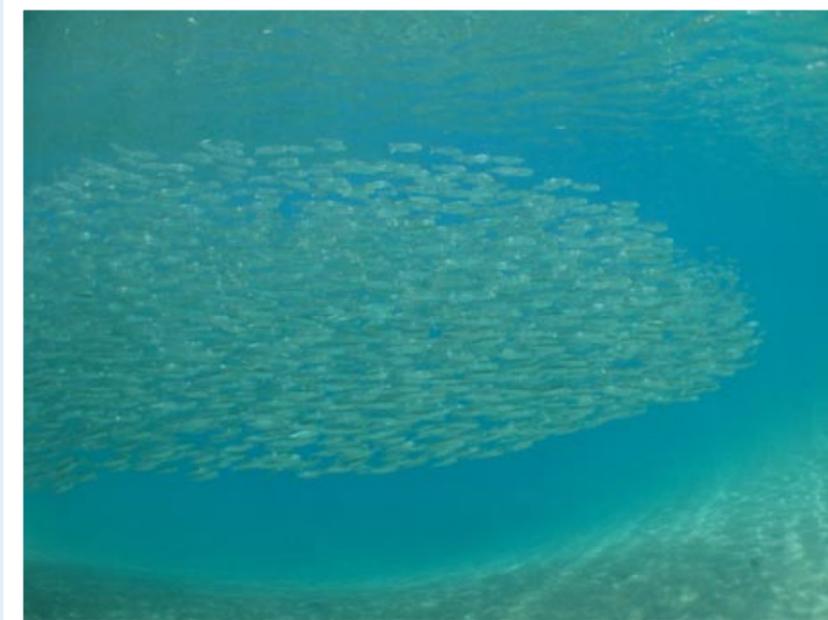
Taking shots from the surface is one of the easiest ways to better your underwater photography skills and can produce some dramatic images. [Maria Munn](#) offers her advice on making the most of natural light in shallow water.

The Red Sea is a perfect environment for all levels of underwater photographers. Even snorkeling visitors have wonderful opportunities to take home beautiful ocean images with the simple and highly affordable point-and-shoot compact cameras. The clear waters and generally calm conditions provide perfect opportunities to capture all manner of underwater subjects from the surface or in the shallows.

The camera's semi-automatic setting, where you can adjust some of the controls such as film speed and exposure value, is the best choice for a snorkeller. On most compacts this is the P/Programme mode but on others such as the Canon Ixus or Fuji Finepix range is called the M mode. For most subjects at the surface, a film speed of 200 will ensure sharp photographs. If the subject is completely static, however, opting for 100 will give you richer, punchier colours.

Reflections

Reflections at the ocean's surface can be used to take stunning photographs. The dappled light dancing over a sandy shallow bottom is a fabulous background and beginners can capture excellent underwater shots. To capture these, simply leave your camera in P/Programme mode and keep the flash switched off. Opt for a film speed of either 100 or 200. Then using the Function Menu on your camera, choose the Exposure Value mode (this is disguised as a 0+/- in Canon's range of cameras), and decrease this to a minus one to ensure the dappled light really stands out. This is also a really useful tool when snapping schools of baitfish near the surface. Their silver scales often reflect light. By increasing the shutter speed of the camera through this simple control, the colours of the fish are darkened, as is the dappled light beneath them. This is shown in this photograph taken at the surface of the pier at the Coral Hilton in Nuweiba (picture top right).



Shallow dwellers

You will often find some of the seas shyest creatures hiding in the shallows. Little sea-moths scuttle around in pairs in just a couple of metres of water, as well as cuttlefish (see picture bottom right). I found this particular cuttlefish in just two metres of water. By simply holding my breath and ducking down, I used the built-in flash on my camera to add just a little kiss of light to the subject. Remaining as quiet and still as possible in the water is paramount to ensure the best and least threatening interaction with any marine creature.



The big stuff

Dolphins, of course, are among the main stars of the sea. They are frequently seen when out and about on boats around the Red Sea. Again, simply leave your camera on Programme or Semi-Automatic mode where the camera chooses the correct aperture and shutter speed. Remember to choose a film speed of 400 for fast moving subjects, such as dolphins to ensure that the photos are sharp and not blurred.

Finally, a wide-angle lens can be a great benefit when photographing large subjects such as these, enabling you to get as close as possible to your favourite subjects. Wide-angles are also great for nurturing your creative streak while shooting split-level shots of the sea and surrounding beaches or mountains. Keep as still as possible, gently turn the wide-angle lens a quarter turn to let out any trapped air, and shoot with the camera's lens half above and half underwater at the same time. Choose an EV (exposure value) of minus one again to darken the colours.

Maria runs tailor-made Underwater Photography Trips for Digital Compact Cameras for all levels in Nuweiba, Egypt with Emperor Divers.

Find out more: www.oceanvisions.co.uk

SHARM TOP THREE

Sharm el Sheikh dive site locations such as the Ras Mohammed National Park and the Strait of Tiran continue to feature as some of the best places for divers to explore. But what does the tip of the Sinai peninsula offer snorkellers? We take a look at the pick of Sharm's best guided snorkel tours.



Jackson Reef, Tiran

Often exposed to current, Jackson Reef is a hotspot for Sharm-based divers. However, the back of the reef also offers equally fantastic experiences to snorkellers. Generally guided as a semi-drift snorkel, the excursion starts from the mid-point in the reef, where there is a beautiful sandy drop from depth of 2m to 9m. Cornetfish gather here all year, as do big eye emperor fish, twin-spotted snapper and in the sandy areas crocodilefish. A blue-spotted stingray with no tail has been spotted consistently by snorkellers in this area for the last two years. Other life includes pipefish, lionfish and clownfish. During the summer when there is less current, snorkellers may see barracuda, eagle rays and turtles.

Special thanks to Camel Dive Club (www.cameldive.com) in Sharm el Sheikh for its help with this feature.

Jackfish Alley, Ras Mohammed National Park

The guided snorkel starts at the sandy area before the caves at 6m. Here you will find stunning table corals, hundreds of anthias and cleaning stations, where barracuda often are found. Moving off to the shallow sandy areas, away from the usual diver route, snorkellers have the chance to see grey snapper, white tip and black tip reef sharks hanging near the cleaning station, particularly in the winter months.

Near Garden, Naama Bay

As there is empty land around this site, there are generally very few snorkellers who visit this area. Keeping close to the reef at all times, this is often guided as a semi-drift to Near Garden. Depths range from 7m to deep blue water near the corner. In summer it is

not unusual to come across some of Sharm's big underwater visitors, such as turtles, eagle and manta rays, as well as the whale shark.

CDWS recommends that snorkelling in these sites should only be carried out under the supervision of a suitably qualified guide. All sites are accessible by boat.

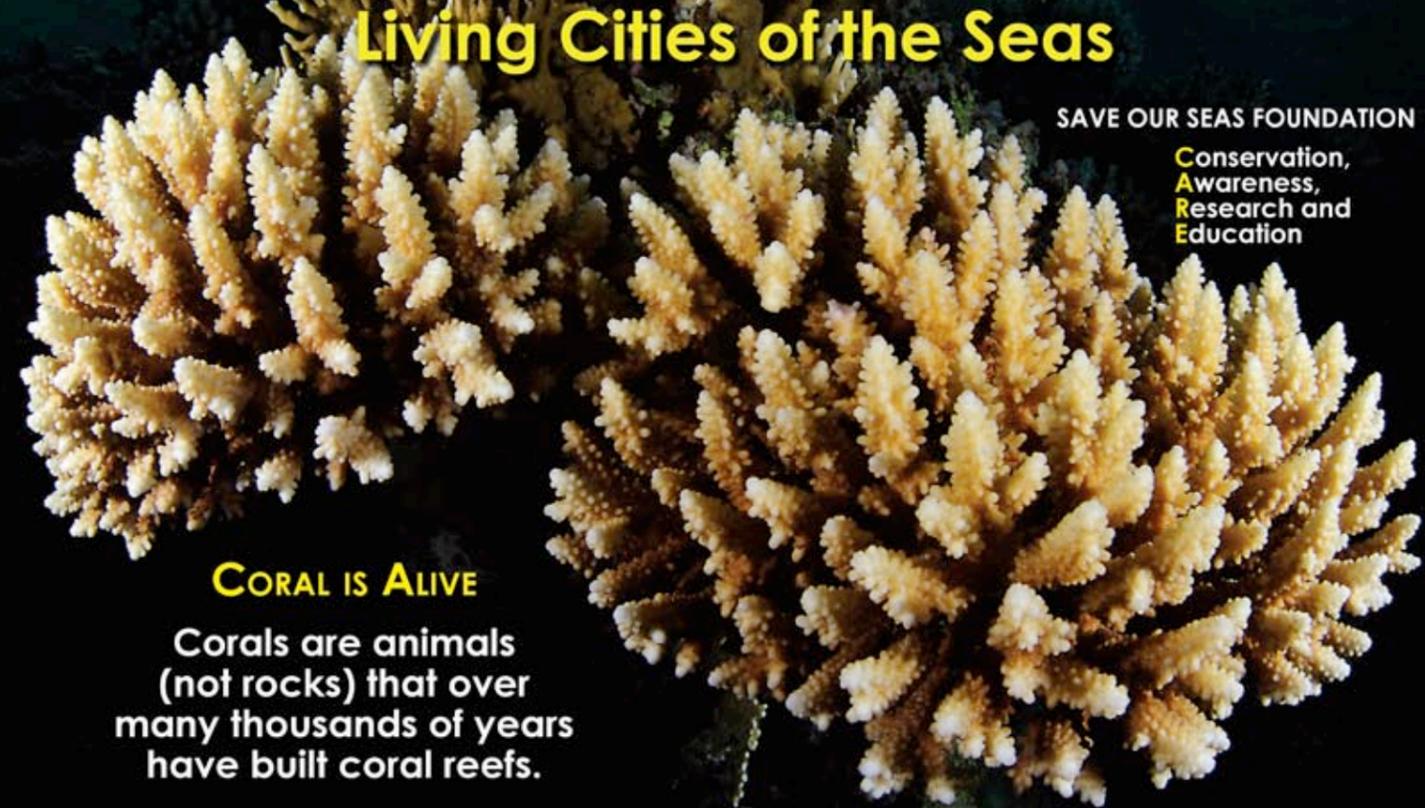


CORAL REEFS

Living Cities of the Seas

SAVE OUR SEAS FOUNDATION

Conservation,
Awareness,
Research and
Education



CORAL IS ALIVE

Corals are animals (not rocks) that over many thousands of years have built coral reefs.

WARNING - CORAL UNDER THREAT

60% of reefs have been destroyed or damaged by the effects of man.

YOU CAN HELP - SHOW SOME CORAL SENSE.

NEVER STAND ON, WALK OVER OR TOUCH CORALS. DIVERS KEEP YOUR DISTANCE - MAINTAIN NEUTRAL BUOYANCY. SNORKELLERS WATCH YOUR FINS - AVOID KICKING CORAL OR STIRRING UP SAND. DO NOT DISTURB OR HARASS MARINE LIFE. DO NOT COLLECT OR BUY CORALS OR OTHER MARINE LIFE; IN MOST COUNTRIES EXPORTING OR IMPORTING CORALS IS ILLEGAL. SUPPORT QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS AND ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY HOTELS. CARE FOR CORALS BY HELPING TO REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS SO AS TO HELP REDUCE GLOBAL WARMING. TAKE AWAY ALL LITTER FOR PROPER DISPOSAL ON LAND.

Dehydration Dangers



Dr Anke Fabian looks at the risks of dehydration this summer and offers her advice on what divers can do to stay wet.

Summer is the best time to go diving in the Egyptian Red Sea and resorts attracts millions of scuba tourists over this period from June through to September. Ironically, even while surrounded by a whole ocean, a diver is always at risk of running out of water. Dehydration cases are naturally at their highest at this time.

Dehydration (hypohydration) is defined as excessive loss of body water. It can be caused by losing too much fluid, not drinking enough liquids, or both. Not having enough fluid in the system can cause major problems, as water is crucial for the functioning of our biophysical systems and biochemical processes.

In physiological terms, it entails a relative deficiency of water molecules in relation to other dissolved solutes (blood cells). The viscosity is increased - the blood is literally getting 'thicker'. This is detrimental to the haemodynamic flow characteristics of the blood circulation.

In the blood cell count, we would see an increased "hematocrit (the volume of red blood cells in the blood). Some definitions even require a rise in blood sodium concentration (normal range 135-147 mmol/l), but in reality a loss of body water usually accompanies a loss of solutes as well.

Hypovolemia is specifically a decrease in the volume of blood plasma. Furthermore, hypovolemia defines water deficiency only in terms of volume rather than specifically water. The hematocrit would be normal. Nevertheless, the conditions usually appear simultaneously.

Children divers are more susceptible to dehydration than adults because they have smaller body weights and higher turnover of water and electrolytes. The elderly and those with illnesses are also at higher risk.



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• Diuresis means an increased production of urine by the kidneys. Every diver has probably experienced the effect of water pressure on the functioning (or over-functioning) of the kidneys causing the urge to urinate underwater. The so called 'immersion diuresis' is caused by immersion of the body in water and mainly triggered by lower temperature and by pressure. It is independent of the depth. Both factors cause a centralisation of the main blood circulation from the periphery of the limbs to the core, in differently mechanisms. This means the body detects a rise in blood pressure and inhibits the release of a certain hormone (vasopressin), causing an increase in the production of urine.

Causes of dehydration:

• Summer in Egypt means high air temperatures, warm water, sun-exposure. This intensifies perspiration and sweating topside and underwater, especially while handling heavy equipment in a full wetsuit or direct sun exposure.

• Fluid loss through breathing compressed air from a scuba cylinder is also a major factor. A scuba diver loses the most fluids this way. Moisture tends to flow from wet to dry areas. As the cylinder contain air (or other gas mixes), which is drier than at the surface, our exhaled air underwater contains a lot of moisture.

• Gastroenteritis: the widespread tourist disease' normally leads to diarrhoea and/or vomiting. If water is being lost through those abnormal mechanisms, an imbalance of electrolytes can develop very quickly into a medical emergency.

• Certain medical conditions such as diabetes can cause severe loss of fluids leading to dehydration or even hypovolemia (osmolar diuresis due to glucosuria). Other: diuretic medication taken for high blood pressure.

• Insufficient or inadequate fluid uptake is a common cause. Drinking does not automatically mean you are providing enough fluids for the body. Diuretic drinks, such as alcohol, coffee and black tea can cause a negative fluid balance through enhanced kidney function. We also have to put into consideration that Ramadan 2009 starts in August - the hottest month of the year. It means that the local Muslim dive-guides, who might fast from sunrise to sunset, are deficient in fluids of any kind. The average adult needs to consume at least 2.5litres of water over 24 hours - without consideration of physical exercise. Hot weather, diving and the accompanying activities raise the daily needs for liquids considerably - even up to 6 litres per day.

Symptoms of dehydration

Dehydration is classified as mild, moderate, or severe based on how much of the body's fluid is lost or not replenished and also how much the electrolyte balance is affected. When severe, dehydration is a life-threatening emergency. It is a known hazard to divers by increasing the risk of decompression illness.

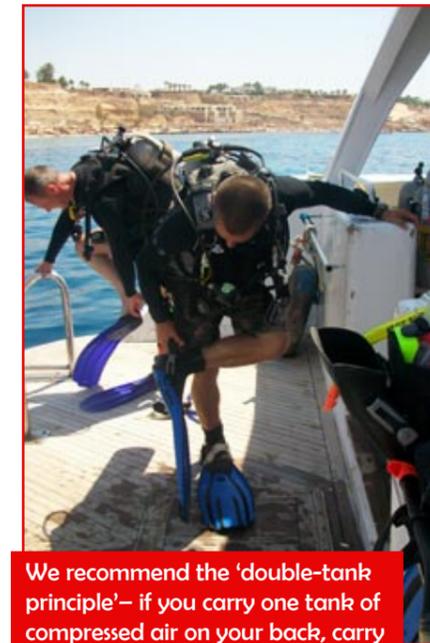
• Mild dehydration: thirst, dry mouth, headache, decreased urine volume, abnormally dark urine, unexplained tiredness, irritability, dizziness when standing due to orthostatic hypotension.

• Moderate to severe dehydration: possibly no urination, lethargy or extreme sleepiness, seizures, fainting, increased heart and respiration rate, drop of blood pressure and a lack of tears when crying

• Severe dehydration: rise of body temperature, cardiac arrhythmia, unconsciousness, delirium and even death if there is kidney failure. At around five to six percent water loss, one may become groggy or sleepy, experience headaches or nausea, and may feel tingling in the limbs (paresthesia). With ten per cent to 15 per cent fluid loss, muscles may become spastic, skin may shrivel and wrinkle, vision may dim, urination will be greatly reduced and may become painful, and delirium may begin. Losses greater than 15 per cent are usually fatal.

Dehydration and decompression sickness

The increased risk of decompression sickness (DCS) caused by dehydration has been extensively studied and explored by scientists. In swine and rat models it was documented that dehydration significantly increases the overall risk of severe DCS and death. Specifically, it increased the risk of cardiopulmonary DCS (arterial gas embolism), and showed a trend toward increased CNS (central nervous system) symptoms in DCS II with neurological symptoms). In addition, dehydrated subjects manifested cardiopulmonary DCS sooner and showed a trend of more rapid death.



We recommend the 'double-tank principle' - if you carry one tank of compressed air on your back, carry one tank of water in your hand.

If a diver is dehydrated the heart and respiration rates increase and the nitrogen uptake of the body tissues increases accordingly. On the other hand, the tissues will receive a reduced blood flow due to the increased viscosity. This negatively affects the ability of the tissues to release nitrogen during the decompression time. Scientific studies in rats have revealed that pre-dive oral hydration decreases circulatory bubbles, offering a relatively easy means of reducing decompression sickness risk. Additionally, if dehydrated, the diver will fatigue more rapidly and is more likely to suffer muscle cramps.

Half of the cases managed by Divers Alert Network (DAN) during the past years have not been related to an obvious violation of decompression procedures - they have been 'unpredictable' or 'undeserved'. But - have they been really undeserved? In cases of "unpredicted" decompression sickness dehydration is usually the most frequent cause.

Recommendations

It is not difficult to achieve the proper level of hydration before and while scuba diving. Before setting off, drink lots water or a sports drink which does not contain too much sugar. In warmer weather and for longer dives, you will need to drink more fluids. Drink BEFORE you get thirsty. If you are thirsty, your body already has a lack of fluids. Remember to avoid caffeinated drinks such as coffee and colas or any alcoholic beverages for many hours before the dive.

Excess alcohol the night before will lead to dehydration. A decent pre-hydration condition before the dive might increase the urgency to urinate underwater, however it decreases diving induced dehydration and hypovolaemia. Urinating in a wet or even drysuit is more favourable than the best case of DCS.

We recommend the 'double-tank principle' - if you carry one tank of compressed air on your back, carry one tank of water in your hand. Avoid the bright sun, especially when already dressed in a wetsuit and put on a hat or wear a cap to cover your head.

If you feel dehydrated underwater, ascend at a slower rate than normal (less than 30 feet per minute) and also make longer stops on the way up. If you regularly feel thirsty underwater, you may use a SCUDA (underwater drinking bag) to substitute fluids during the dive (highly recommended for diabetic divers!).

Once you have surfaced, re-hydrate slowly, best with plain water or sugar reduced - or sugar free sport-drinks. Latest research has proven that the intake of an oral rehydration solution (ORS, such as Rehydran, Elotrans or Paedoral) with reduced osmolality (sodium 40-50mmol/L) has more positive effects on the body than plain water. The fluids will remain longer in the body and are not 'washed out' through the kidneys as fast as plain water. They also reduce the stool frequency and vomiting in case of gastroenteritis. If ORS are on hand, it is advisable to have them once a day during the time of strenuous physical exercise in hot weather and every couple of days in calmer times in between to restore the fluid balance.

Strict fasting without any intake of fluids whatsoever during the day excludes diving and ultimately working as a dive guide or instructor during Ramadan.

Breathing Life into Corals



Complex and fragile ecosystems, coral reefs are essential to the health and life of the world's oceans. **Save Our Seas** cameraman **Owen Bruce** explores the life of coral and what each of us can do to help keep it healthy. Photos by Tuula Metcalf and Abbie Hime.

Coral reefs are an essential part of the world's oceans, particularly so in the Red Sea. They support an entire ecosystem of related fish and invertebrate species and are an essential source of economic wealth for the countries that border the Red Sea's clear, warm waters. This flourishing marine environment with its teeming abundance of life is what makes the Red Sea so attractive to tourists from all over the world.

The Red Sea's natural wealth has been the subject of scientific exploration and research for 4,000 years. 'Modern' scientific studies began in 1772 with the ill-fated Arabia-Felix expedition – six scientists embarked on a voyage of discovery through the Red Sea, however, the hardships of the terrain and extreme temperatures killed all but one of them. Peter Forsskål was at the time a renowned young Swedish biologist, and after succumbing to malaria on the remote Yemeni coast, he left a legacy of pioneering early marine science. He is remembered today in the Latin name for the common Red Sea goatfish *Parupeneus forsskali*.

Red Sea coral reefs are vibrant marine ecosystems that seem to pulse with a constant beat of action and intensity. Clear water and bright sunlight make the inhabitants of the reef dazzle with colour and every single crack and crevice seems to house a different weird or wonderful critter. All of this life depends on the existence of the coral animals and although at first glance coral may look dull and lifeless, it is anything but. Coral is a complicated and dynamic organism that shows much unique and fascinating behaviour while keeping time to a slower beat than the faster paced inhabitants of the reef.

The Red Sea is not only home to some of the most spectacular reefs, but also the most northerly reefs in the world. They in turn support other essential ecosystems such as sea grass beds and mangroves, which are essential as nursery areas for the fish that live on the reefs. The reefs of the

Red Sea provide shelter for a vast number of associated species from turtles to minute invertebrates such as the colourful nudibranchs and shrimps. Larger pelagic species such as manta rays and hammerhead sharks make use of the reefs where they come to be cleaned by the resident cleaner fish. Although extremely rare, even giant humpback whales have been known to enter the Red Sea's clear blue waters. The key to this great diversity is a single minute animal: the coral polyp.



Coral is alive – not rocks or plants as some people may think but in fact minute animals. They have a mouth for feeding and small tentacles that catch their planktonic prey: they are voracious predators. Corals breed both asexually and sexually. Sexual reproduction occurs when an exact combination of current, temperature and lunar cycle trigger the releasing of eggs and sperm from the corals which mix and fertilise in the water column. The fertilised coral larvae then drift on the current until they reach a solid substrate and it's here that the miracle of coral reef construction begins.

The minute larva settles on a solid substrate where it immediately starts to replicate. The coral replicates in a similar way to cell division and in doing so a colony of identical coral polyps is formed. As these polyps grow they absorb calcium from the surrounding seawater and secrete a limestone rock protective skeleton. The energy for this miraculous process comes from minute plant-like algae called Zooxanthellae that grow within the coral's flesh. The algae use photosynthesis to convert sunlight into sugars which is part of the corals' food. Each structure, be it tabulate, branching, massive (smooth rock-like) or any of the numerous other structures common on the reef originates from one single coral polyp.

This rock formation by the coral polyps is what builds the reefs we see today. Each colony lays down a layer of rock onto the previous generations handiwork and this constant

expansion of coralline rock has shaped the Red Sea and it's surrounding area over the millennia. Some of the largest of these enormous coral structures are in the South Pacific where coral atolls rise 4km from the sea floor, but the largest coral structure on earth is the Great Barrier Reef which stretches 2600km along Australia's north east coast. The entire Red Sea coastline is a great basin of coralline rock formed by the actions of coral polyps.

Growing slowly at about the same rate as your fingernails, corals are constantly expanding their ranks of colonies and great stone structures. A constant battle for real estate ensues in slow motion on a microscopic scale. Individual colonies battle and compete against others for room to grow in a physical and chemical war. Some corals secrete venom into the surrounding water to deter the advances of rival colonies whereas some will simply extrude their gut onto the surface of their victims to dissolve the rival colony's flesh leaving a bare rock skeleton onto which the victorious colony can expand.

The spectacular colours of coral come in part from minute pigments within the corals flesh. These pigments act as a sunscreen for the delicate polyps and help some species survive completely out of the water during extremely low spring tides.

Threats

Corals face natural threats from predators such as the crown of thorns starfish. This large colourful starfish is a powerful predator of corals and has wreaked havoc on coral populations in some areas of the Red Sea.

Corals also fall victim to various diseases, such as the white or black band disease, which attacks the coral's flesh leaving distinct bleached dead colonies. Although the corals build fortresses of solid rock and can endure the tropical sun far better than Forsskal and his men, corals can be very delicate and are prone to changes in their environment. Increasing water temperature can result in coral bleaching; this is where the essential algae within the coral's tissues leave the colonies and results in death for the coral polyps.

The great El Nino event of 1998 was the result of un-naturally high water temperatures in the Indian Ocean and decimated coral populations in the Maldives and Seychelles. A similar event in the Red Sea would be catastrophic. Many of the fish and invertebrate species found in the Red Sea are endemic species, meaning they are found nowhere else.

As increased sea temperatures leave corals vulnerable to the devastating effects of coral bleaching, increased ocean acidification affect corals in a far more discreet way. The world's oceans absorb CO2 gas and have been subject to a serious increase in dissolved CO2 levels since the industrial revolution. This fall in PH affects the process of calcium fixation by the corals and furthermore makes the surrounding water more favourable to the invasive algae species.

By far the biggest threat to coral reefs is man. Around 60 per cent of coral reefs in the world have been damaged or destroyed by human activity including: development and sedimentation; over-fishing and destructive fishing practices; increased sea temperature through global warming; and ocean acidification

Development and sedimentation affect coral by choking the minute polyp's mouths and blocking out the sunlight required by Zooxanthellae to produce sugars and oxygen through photosynthesis. Strict laws are enforced by the Ras Mohammed National Park that limit the development of hotels in the Sharm el Sheikh area to help preserve the reefs in this area which are vulnerable to the effects of development.

Over-fishing affects the delicate balance of species higher up the food chain supported by coral. Essential apex predators, the sharks, are being annihilated on an industrial scale throughout the world's oceans and this has a direct effect on all the world's reefs. Although illegal throughout the Red Sea shark fishing still occurs, with the greatest incidence of shark fishing in Yemeni waters. Sharks that move in and out of the Red Sea are killed for their fins which are sold to the Far East and their absence has a serious impact on all Red Sea reefs, including those of Egypt. Destructive fishing practices include blast fishing that destroy huge tracts of reef and cyanide fishing which poison areas of live coral. Industrial fishing damages reefs by taking huge quantities of by-catch that would be essential inhabitants of a healthy reef system. Turtles, sharks and dolphins all fall victim to by-catch and are often noticeable only by their absence in many areas of Egyptian reefs.

Corals' arch enemies are the algae. When coral colonies die their bleached white skeleton is soon covered with rampant algae and entire areas of damaged coral reef can quickly be lost to algae. Once the numbers of algae grazers on the reef such as parrotfish are reduced through overfishing the algae starts to proliferate and out compete the corals resulting in a dramatic reduction in biodiversity in tropical reef ecosystems.

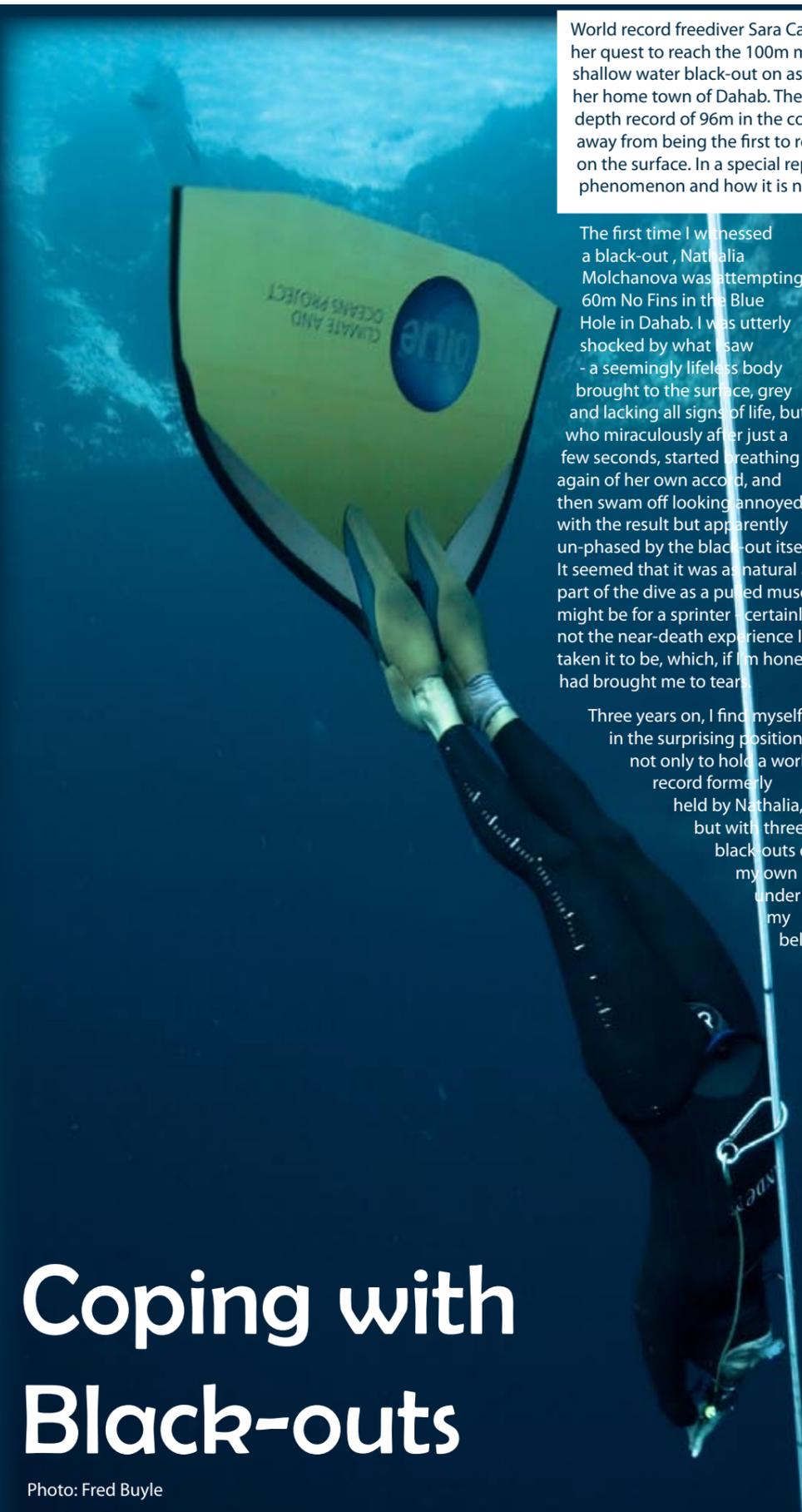
You can play your part in helping to protect the coral reefs of the Red Sea directly by understanding and respecting coral.

- » Never touch coral. A single strike with a wayward fin or hand can damage the coral's essential protective mucus layer and result in death for the entire coral colony from disease.
- » Never deliberately break coral for a souvenir or buy coral curios. In Egypt the export of coral products is illegal.
- » Never drop litter. Litter on the reef can smother and kill corals while plastic bags are often mistaken for jellyfish by turtles. The average piece of plastic takes 4,500 years to break down.
- » Never drop cigarette ends. Experiments have shown that just one cigarette filter is toxic enough to kill water fleas in eight litres of water. In an annual global survey in September 2006, over 1.9 million cigarette butts were recorded from beaches around the world. The filters are packed with tar and chemicals such as cadmium, lead and arsenic and they leach into surrounding seawater. The ends are often mistaken for food by fish, birds, turtles and marine mammals where they leach toxic chemicals, block the digestive tract or even cause death.
- » Do not anchor on coral and never use an operator who does. Always use a mooring and never exceed the limit of boats on a mooring.
- » Never feed fish.
- » Help to reduce the effects of global warming.

Save Our Seas Foundation (SOSF) is a non-profit organization that implements and supports



scientific research and educational projects focused on the marine environment. It aims to learn more about the role that marine species, particularly sharks and rays, play in maintaining a healthy ecosystem. It hopes to educate the public about the need to save our seas, especially the consequences of removing sharks and rays from the world's oceans, to support natural marine resource preservation and to conserve the marine realm. For more information on SOSF and the issues relevant to this article please visit www.saveourseas.com



World record freediver Sara Campbell suffered another blow to her quest to reach the 100m mark when again she experienced a shallow water black-out on ascent in the latest competition held in her home town of Dahab. The 37-year-old, who currently holds the depth record of 96m in the constant weight discipline, was seconds away from being the first to reach 100m before losing consciousness on the surface. In a special report, [Sara Campbell](#) explains the phenomenon and how it is not as threatening as many believe.

The first time I witnessed a black-out, Nathalia Molchanova was attempting 60m No Fins in the Blue Hole in Dahab. I was utterly shocked by what I saw - a seemingly lifeless body brought to the surface, grey and lacking all signs of life, but who miraculously after just a few seconds, started breathing again of her own accord, and then swam off looking annoyed with the result but apparently un-phased by the black-out itself. It seemed that it was as natural a part of the dive as a pulled muscle might be for a sprinter - certainly not the near-death experience I'd taken it to be, which, if I'm honest, had brought me to tears.

Three years on, I find myself in the surprising position not only to hold a world record formerly held by Nathalia, but with three black-outs of my own under my belt,

none of which were in the least bit painful, traumatic or uncomfortable. So what is that strange physiological phenomenon that causes us to look dead, but wake up smiling just seconds later? And is it safe?

Firstly, noone has died from competitive freediving. Not a single person, not one. The reason for this being is that we NEVER dive alone. The deaths that you may have read about are predominantly spear-fishermen, who prefer to fish alone in order to not have a buddy flapping around on the surface scaring away all the fish. Due to the lengths of time they have to stalk a fish, their focus on the target rather than their physical responses, and often a struggle to bring a fish to the surface, black-outs do occur. And without a buddy around to ensure they reach the surface and their airways are clear of the water, drownings happen. However, it is the drowning and not the black-out that is fatal.

The black-out itself is actually a natural response of our body - yours as much as mine - to survive. The mammalian dive response is a series of physiological changes that occur to ensure our survival beneath the water. It starts the minute our face - and to be precise, the nerve-endings in our cheeks - are submerged in water. The colder the better. This sends a message to the brain to slow the metabolism, lower the heart rate and basically conserve oxygen having registered the fact that breathing air is not possible. When you first ever tried scuba you probably found it totally counterintuitive to breathe under water and found those first breaths really hard - because your brain was receiving messages from the nerve sensors in your cheeks that it was perilous to do so.

The dive response continues to shut down our system in stages in order to maximise our chances of survival; peripheral vasoconstriction pushes the blood from our arms and legs into our core to centre O2 provision around the vital organs (heart, lungs and brain); after a while the spleen contracts and releases O2-rich blood into the system; as the lungs continue to constrict under pressure, the blood vessels surrounding the airspaces swell and fill with more blood. Our most vital organ is undeniably the brain. Our body's final job, it's most pressing priority, is to protect the brain, which is what the black-out is all about.

"noone has died from competitive freediving. Not a single person, not one. The reason for this being is that we NEVER dive alone."

Also known as 'shallow-water black-outs' they occur in the final part of the ascent, mostly within 5m of the surface, although they have been known to occur as deep as 20m. As the pressure reduces on the body, with increasing speed as we near the surface, our lungs are rapidly expanding again, and in order to do so, will draw gasses from the blood stream back into them - some of this may well be O2, with already severely depleted O2 saturation levels. The brain monitors the oxygen saturation levels in the blood, and when it detects the levels are approaching those where the brain may suffer damage, it takes a seemingly drastic action of shutting down the body - this brilliant shut-off prevents us from working and using any more oxygen, thereby protecting our most vital organ. Providing we are quickly brought to the surface with our airways clear of the water, the nerve endings in our cheeks, which started the whole amazing process off, will detect we are back and we start to breathe entirely naturally once more. If you ever watch a black-out, you may see the safety divers blowing and tapping on the divers face - this is to provide additional stimulation to those nerve endings to stimulate breathing in the most natural and gentle way. Resuscitation is rarely needed.

So much for the physiology... what does it feel like? Well, I can only speak for myself, but it is a wholly pleasant and not in the least bit frightening experience. As I reach the end of my dive, gradually getting weaker and light-headed, I start to drift off mentally and all three times have had very pleasant, vivid dreams. I never have any panic to breathe or stress about not reaching the surface. All my black-outs have happened at either 2m from, or even - most frustratingly - ON the surface. The first sense to return is hearing, so I become aware of the voices of my safety divers around me. Then, I realise that people are holding my upper body and head, and at that stage, I begin to realise what has happened - I didn't make the dive, but I'm safe. In every single video of my black-outs, I have a huge grin on my face the moment I open my eyes. I'm doing what I love, I've attempted a dive and for some reason, not quite made it. I don't see a black-out as a failure, more like vital feedback on what I need to work on or change for next time. The support I receive is always so heart-warming and whether I black-out or not, a competitive dive and the whole environment and experience is something that I have grown to absolutely love.

Of course a black-out is not something I wish to do ever again if possible, but knowing that it is not dangerous, and not unpleasant, it is also not something that will hold me back from continuing to strive, from getting back in the water and attempting 100m again. I am now working with a fabulous Olympic coach, Jon Pitts (www.jonpitts.co.uk), courtesy of my newest sponsor, Taming Tigers (www.tamingtigers.com - which is run by the man I have recently got engaged to!) and together I feel confident that we will find the elements we need to work on to make my third attempt at 100m the lucky one.

www.sarafreediver.com.

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Coping with Black-outs

Photo: Fred Buyle

WIN!



Win a liveaboard trip for two worth 350 Euros

BLUE has teamed up with Sharm el Sheikh based liveaboard operator **Sea Queen Fleet** to offer a lucky reader a three or four day safari to the Northern Red Sea sites of Ras Mohammed and Tiran or the wrecks of the Suez.

The prize, worth around 350 Euros, includes accommodation in a fully air-conditioned double cabin, all dives (up to three in the day and one night dive), cylinders, weights, dive guide, full board meal plan, plus soft drinks. Subject to availability, prize winners can choose the safari on board either Sea Queen 1, South Moon or Golden Emperor 1. For more details about the Sea Queen liveaboard fleet see its website www.seaqueens.com/our-fleet.html.

To enter: simply visit www.seaqueens.com and tell us what year Sea Queen Fleet started operating in the Red Sea.

Send your answer by email to blue@cdws.travel.

Closing date: 30 September 2009

**prize does not include flights, Ras Mohammed National Park entry fees, dive equipment or tips for the crew.*



ISLAND GETAWAY

Egypt's resident watersports professionals report on their favourite short breaks.

Long term Hurghada-based resident Martina Aziz travels to Mahmeya on her days off with Ilios Dive Club (www.iliosdiveclub.de)



image: www.mahmya.com

Imagine turquoise water, white and sandy beach, lovely chill out music on an island in the middle of the Red Sea. If you add really good food, cold drinks and all this in an absolutely clean surrounding, then you are on Mahmeya. The Mahmeya Beach Club on Giftun Island is by far my favourite place to spend a great day off and to relax. Mahmeya boats leave at 9am from Hurghada Marina to take you over to the island. At 3.30 pm (or latest an hour before sun set) one has to leave from the island again. For me there is nothing better than chilling out for a day on the beach over there.

Martina Aziz

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By John Kean

SS Thistlegorm - The True Story of the Red Sea's Greatest Ship Wreck



available at Beyond Limits €29 & online at

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Photo By Yann Vautrin



Protect the reef

Cheap flights and package holiday deals have led to a huge growth in the number of non-diving tourists flocking to major Red Sea destinations. While it is great for the tourism economy and an opportunity for diving and watersports centres to bring in more punters, there is an increasing need to educate people about care of the reefs and marine environment as a whole.

Education is key. When tourists have an understanding of the marine world, there are less likely to be incidences where people walk on the reefs and discard rubbish into the sea. That's why a number of dive centres are supporting projects aimed at increasing awareness among the non-marine savvy tourist about important information such as what damage walking on a reef can do. Simply shouting at a reef walking offender has little impact when compared to educating and making someone understand why they shouldn't kill marine life.

'It is interesting issue that needs more publicity,' says Dr Constanze Conrad a marine biologist at the Marine Biology College (MBC). 'Especially snorkellers and beach tourists are not informed that the reef top is a living and important eco-system and by walking on the reef to access the Red Sea they are destroying it piece by piece.'

The MBC (www.blueheavenholidays.com) is affiliated to Blue Heaven Holidays diving center at Tondoba Bay, 14 km south of Marsa Alam. It has been working for many years on environmental protection projects, scientific research and public awareness.

'We are offering special courses and seminars not only for divers, but also for snorkellers and beach walks for beach tourists,' Dr Conrad explains. 'In these programs participants learn more about the fragile eco-system coral reef and their inhabitants. They also can join scientific projects and talks with marine scientists. 'Only what you know you can protect' is our saying.'

If your centre cannot run courses, but you are keen to get involved in educating tourists about the marine environment, there are other options available. Project AWARE will send out free information pack, with brochures including its Living Reef and Go Eco leaflets (also available in Arabic and Russian). A donation is requested for multiple amounts of materials. To find out more email info@projectaware.org.

For divers courses are available through organisations such as the international marine conservation group Reef Check (www.reefcheck.org). Reef Check's EcoDiver programme encourages divers and snorkellers to take part in half-day to three-day courses to learn techniques used for monitoring coral reefs and learn more about best practices. There are three Reef Check Training Facilities in Egypt. In the Sinai: Red Sea Environmental Center in Dahab www.redsea-ec.org and Sinai Divers www.sinaidivers.com. In Hurghada and Safaga, courses are run by Magic Divers www.magicdivers.at

Your views

What is the best way to educate tourists about the serious impact they cause by walking on the reef or littering?

'Tour Operators could be more responsible by providing their clients with valuable information about the underwater environment when arriving to Egypt – they have a captive audience. Once the client arrives to their hotel it is often too late,' Andrew Day, dive centre manager, Taba.

'The hotels need to educate guests on reef awareness and should police the beach to stop visitors walking on the reef. If any guest is found walking on the reef, then there should be a system where the hotel is fined,' Jaimi McLean, dive instructor, Sharm el Sheikh.

This is your Red Sea watersports community magazine and we want to hear from you. Share your views with others in the industry, email: blue.magazine@cdws.travel. Letters should be no more than 200 words. Letters may be edited for reasons of space or clarity.

I Heard a Rumour That...

Rumours, rumours, rumours, you'd have to have your head buried in the sand underwater not to hear a few rumours when living Egypt's hot spot diving destinations. And, it seems, sometimes too much desert sun and salt water in the ears can make you believe the craziest of things. To help us filter out some of the best and funniest community rumour stories, our Sharm el Sheikh resident gossip guru reports in their own unique style straight from the divers' mouth



'I heard that if you wear shoes, you won't damage the coral! That's the rumour some guys and gals were telling their mates in a hotel. Then they had a pretty good discussion on which shoes to buy, where from, how much to haggle them for, whether the pink or the blue was best, or have the ones with go faster stripes. They were a bit big for their boots, so I didn't want to shoe them off, but I'd love to have put my foot in their mouth. At the end of the day, maybe it's not their fault. They don't know they can go 'to sea in a beautiful pea-green boat', or white, or blue and they have the sea right on their hotel doorstep, so who needs a boat?

It's going to be a bit difficult to tell the shoe sellers that these boots ain't made for walking on coral. Putting signs up 'Don't walk on coral' doesn't really help either, cos they can't always see the coral and some would not always know the difference between a rock and a hard coral place. And would argue if it's hard then why can't I walk on it? I wish we could float them out to the outside of the reef like good angels. We could also do with more bins for their ice cream wrappers. A few more life guards wouldn't go amiss, then they can sell them the ice creams and fish and coral slates, so that they can identify what they are looking at in the masks and snorkels they hired to them.

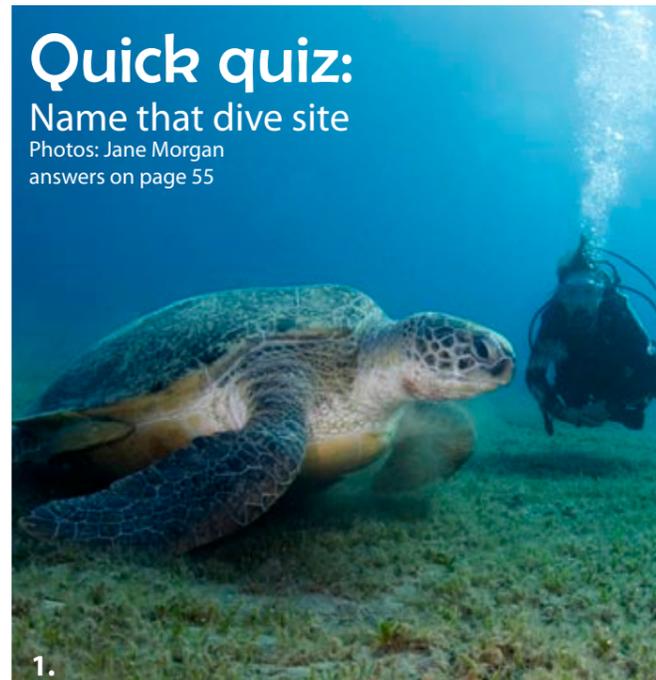
Mmm sounds like a good business on top of the good business this great environment has given us over the years.

Anyone got an ice cream van for sale?

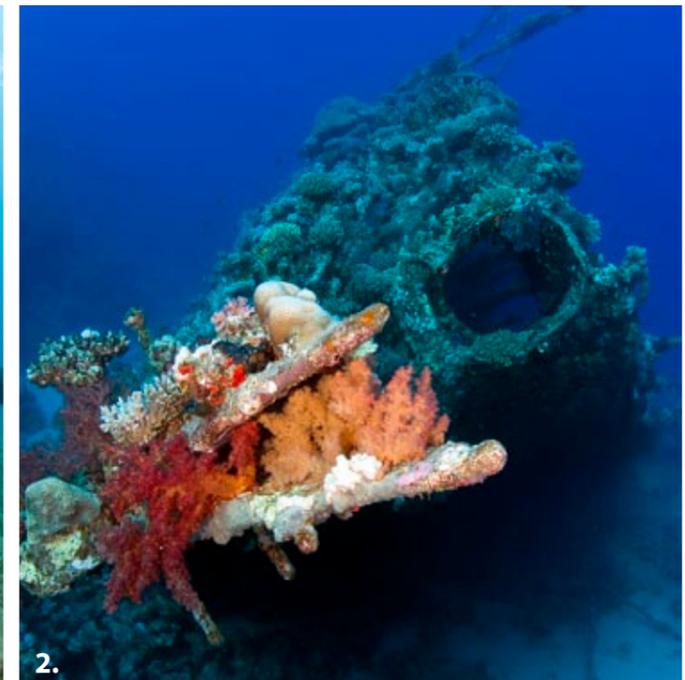
[Ed's note: shocked about how many songs and poems and phrases have been written about shoes and how many our gossip columnist managed to fit in their column.]

Quick quiz:
Name that dive site

Photos: Jane Morgan
answers on page 55



1.



2.



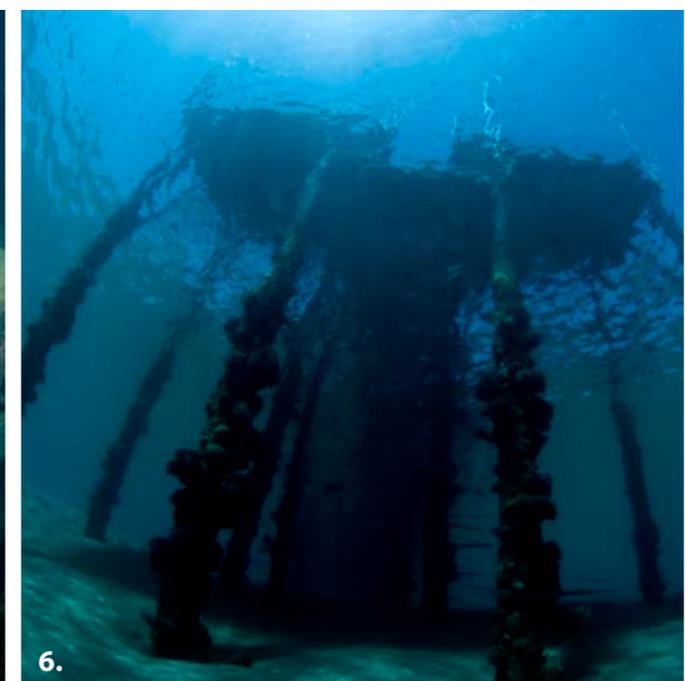
3.



4.



5.



6.

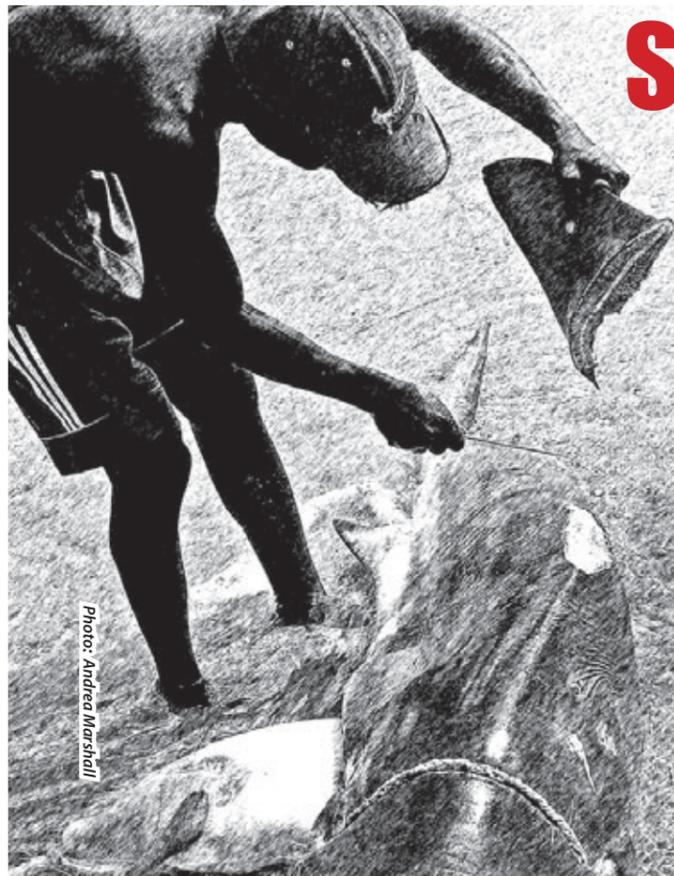


Photo: Andrew Marshall

SHARK FINNING

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Discount Tech Diving?

Technical diving can be costly, but there are ways to cut your budget without compromising safety. **John Kean** shares his thoughts.

In the Nineties there was a great series of TV adverts for Stella beer. Stella being the Artois Belgian brand that sponsors a lawn tennis tournament in West London. The idea behind the adverts was that despite costing a bit more than other brands Stella Artois was indeed worth the extra. A clever sales pitch.

Technical diving is sometimes perceived as being costly when compared to ordinary recreational diving. The reason you pay more is that there is much more equipment involved and specialist skills required. You also have to opt for high performance gear, which often costs a lot more than the basics required by the recreational diver.

One of the larger technical gas blending facilities in Sharm el Sheikh, for instance, was founded with an investment of 250,000 Euros. A senior instructor teaching up to trimix level will more than likely have invested close to 20,000 Euros in diving education, equipment, yearly renewals and insurances to obtain that rating over several years. His or her expertise will not just be limited to retailing a standardised product.

Reaching 100m on mixed gas will involve an instructor wearing 4,000 Euros worth of personal dive equipment, not to mention the helium and the attitude and experience that goes with it. Very few, however, actually go out and buy all their gear at once. A 'tech rig' generally evolves over several months or years. Much of what a recreational diver wears can be used for technical diving such as suits, masks, fins, computers, slates, reels and surface marker buoys (SMB's). Good quality regulators and some wings and plates may also make the crossover.

Many technical divers begin by renting equipment on their early courses and most clubs include it in the price. Divers simply add items, perhaps renting a few additional pieces until they have their own.

It is possible to start technical diving training for little more than it takes to start an open water course using much of your own favourite gear. This will allow you to see if you like it and where you might go in putting it to use. Technical dive operators generally don't opt for the same discount methods as for other type of diving and snorkelling activities on offer; nonetheless, you should avoid spending more than you bargain for.

Let's not pretend that anything in this world is for free, especially life-support equipment and the training that goes with it. Technical diving requires equipment, gas, tuition and logistics. There is nothing worse than making a booking and then at the end of the week you receive a bill for additional extras. To help you, here is a list of things you will need to complete an entry-level technical diving course in the Red Sea by boat:

- 1) Technical diving scuba equipment. It is often assumed you own the suit, mask, dive computers, fins and belt etc leaving technical regulators, wing, harness, plate and accessories. You can also rent the former if necessary.
- 2) The training agency instructional manual for your course.
- 3) A certification document for when you pass.
- 4) Technical diving cylinders and the gas that goes inside them.
- 5) Tuition, boat and transport to and from your hotel.

Normal extras may be lunch, and in areas such as Sharm, a visitor fee of about five Euros to marine national parks and a day diver fee towards the upkeep of the hyperbaric chamber facility.

There are many websites and pricelists but make sure you know what's included and what is not. They don't always state this; nevertheless, you certainly need these extras. Low quality gear and inexperience have no place in technical diving but you can help yourself by planning and asking the right questions.

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Next issue: October / November 2009

A well-known name in technical diving in the Red Sea, John Kean is a long-term resident of the Sinai and has worked in the diving industry for 11 years. Both a PADI Master Instructor and a TDI Trimix Instructor, he still actively teaches and guides at all levels of diving. John has more than 1,000 student certifications and over 4,000 Red Sea dives to his name. He is the author of *SS Thistle: The True Story of the Red Sea's Greatest Shipwreck* and also writes regularly for European-based diving magazines.



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- Nuweiba
- Dahab
- Sharm el Sheikh
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- El Gouna
- Hurghada
- Makadi Bay
- Soma Bay
- Safaga
- El Quseir
- Marsa Alam
- Hamata
- Berenice

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Destination: NUWEIBA

NUWEIBA: DESERTED TRANQUILITY



For a list of EUF certified diving centres in Nuweiba [click here](#)

Expansive fine-sand beaches peppered with Bedouin beach tourist camps; Nuweiba offers something completely different from most other Egyptian Sinai Peninsula diving resorts. Situated just 70km south of Taba and 150km north of Sharm el Sheikh, Nuweiba has few tourists' shops and bazaars and much like the typical visitor here, prefers the quieter, understated approach.

The town, which lies on a flood plain measuring about 40km², was built in 1971 in an area inhabited by two different Bedouin tribes: the Tarabin in the north and the Maizena in the south.

Its main port sees many thousands of people and vehicles making the short 90-minute trip across the Gulf of Aqaba to Jordan. For tourists, there are two main areas from which to choose to stay. Between the main town and port there is a strip along the beachfront where you will find modern hotel complexes, such as the Hilton Nuweiba Coral Resort and the Swiss Care Nuweiba Resort Hotel. Further North towards Taba, there are many Bedouin-styled and owned camps along the vast beaches where guests can stay at a very cheap rate in beach huts and basic rooms. Most of which are comfortable and have air conditioning.

The diving here is all accessed by shore by either jeep or camel. Much like its neighbouring towns of Dahab and Taba, there is little in the way of current here, so you are unlikely to encounter much in the way of big animals. Nevertheless, there is a lot of variety in the diving sites accessible here and the stunning Abu Glau National Park is an underwater area not-to-be-missed. Ras Mamlach is an hour jeep ride away and is the classic site in the national park. The beautiful coral garden reef begins at around 12m, sloping gently to a sheer wall, which drops to depths of around 70m. The reef wall is encrusted in hard and soft coral and the deeper water here often attracts schools of jacks, barracuda and grouper.

A more unusual site is the MFO (Multi-National Force and Observers) Pipeline. Two sunken pipelines run parallel 5m apart and descend



©Etudes et Cartographie, Lille

from 5m to depths of 12m and 20m. Placed in the waters in the 1970s, the pipes are covered in a healthy crust of hard and soft corals and are a haven for frogfish and shrimps. You will find fish galore around the pipes, particularly at the small coral pinnacles to the north in depths of around 15m to 20m.

If you prefer to stay close to your resort, enjoy diving with small critters and have a camera, then the house reefs are where you may prefer to spend most of your time.

From the Coral Hilton, you will find the fabulous Abu Lou Lou house reef, a favourite with many top underwater photographers. Swimming over the seagrass to the start of the reef, you are likely to spot

ghost pipefish, moray eels and crocodile snake eels. At the reef itself you are met by a vast array of life, including frogfish, glassfish, coral groupers, octopus and moray eels. In the sandy areas, look out for night stargazers and passing sharks. The whole area is covered in lionfish. At night you will find many of them stalking your torchlight to catch prey.

The Sinkers site is where a mooring buoy was dropped into water too deep to make it of any use. This mistake, however, has created a fantastic dive, starting at the end of the soft coral encrusted chain at 35m. Slowly circling the chain, you will eventually reach the suspended buoy at a depth of around 10m. A great subject for underwater photography, you will find glassfish all around the buoy and damselfish and fusiliers swimming in and around the chain.

Getting there: The simplest way to get to Nuweiba is to fly to the southern Sinai resort of Sharm el Sheikh and be transferred by road 150km. The transfer takes between two to three hours. Taxis can be arranged through the dive centre at a cost of approximately 350LE (Egyptian Pounds) each way. Alternatively the tour operator can arrange the transfers if you opt for a holiday package with accommodation, flights and diving included.



Kitesurfing is the new kid on the block as far as the windsurfing fraternity is concerned, with the competition between the two camps now very much akin to that between skiers and snowboarders. And as snowboarding edged passed skiing on the slopes for beginners, kitesurfing it seems is breezing ahead of windsurfing in the up-take rate.

But is the choice about ease, adrenaline, cost or simply kudos? **BLUE** puts the two major watersports head-to-head.

LEARNING CURVE

Windsurfing: The basics of windsurfing take very little time to master. Following a few pointers from an instructor, you are straight on the board and likely to be up and running on the first day. However, it takes a long time to master more advanced moves and improve your technique.

Kitesurfing: It is highly unlikely you will be able to kitesurf in one day. On most courses, you will spend the first day mastering the kite on land, next day in the water, then the third day you combine both board and kite skills in the water. But once you master the basics, the learning curve in kitesurfing is very quick and with the right training, you will be able to learn your first jump in a matter of weeks.

Verdict: If you're happy to commit a bit of

hard work in the beginning, kitesurfing will have you buzzing and jumping in very little time compared to windsurfing. What can take a matter of weeks to master in kitesurfing can take years to master in windsurfing. But if you want to get your thrills in the first day, windsurfing may be more your thing.

TRICKS

Windsurfing: Freestyle, carved jibes, jumping, wave-riding, front looping, double-forward loops, pushing loops, there are many windsurfing tricks to be learned. Mastering these tricks, however, takes a lot of time and dedication.

Kitesurfing: Speed, freestyle kite loops and un-hooked tricks, but the coolest has to be the mighty jumps in the air. You Tube search kitesurfing tricks for a taster.

Verdict: A controversial call, but flying many metres up in the air and twisting 360 degrees on the power of a kite is tough one to beat. Totally cool dude!

ADRENALINE BUZZ

Windsurfing: Once you've learned to 'plane' on top of the surface of the water, it's possible to reach whopping speeds - the fastest record held being a jaw-wrenching 49knots. Once you learn loops and riding or jumping the waves, the adrenaline will surely be pumping big time.

Kitesurfing: Kitesurfers have reached similar speeds, some even reporting to have pushed the 50 knot barrier. But add to this the chance to jump as high as 10m in the air and hang there for many seconds, then your heart is in for a massive dose of adrenaline.

Verdict: Two words: air jumping. No contest.

BODY STRENGTH

Windsurfing: Full body, more work on the arms and upper body used to control the sail and adjust its angle. When learning, however, you only need a breeze to learn the basics, so less strength is needed.

Kitesurfing: Full body, but more work on the legs, spine, lower back and core to control the speed and direction of the board.

Verdict: Both work the core strength of the body, although windsurfing has the edge as far as upper body strength goes.

FITNESS

Windsurfing: Consistently moving up and down wind (tacking and jibing) demands a reasonable level of fitness. Add strong winds and your body is likely to get a very good workout.

Kitesurfing: Learning to fly a large power kite without a harness can test your fitness levels, however, once you are up and running on the board, your harness takes most of the strain. The exertion level really does depend

on the demands of the wind and the water conditions.

Verdict: highly dependent on wind-strength and tricks. Windsurfing may demand a little more from frequent tacking and jibing.

COST

Windsurfing: The board for windsurfing is relatively expensive, while the sails are generally inexpensive. However, you may need to invest in a number of sails to meet the range of wind conditions. Taking the board on a flight can also lead to excess baggage fees.

Kitesurfing: Kites can be pretty pricey, although just a few kites will cover a range of wind conditions. Boards are fairly good value, as are harnesses. Being so compact once packed up, kitesurfing gear is a lot easier to transport and unlikely to lead to costly transport bills.

Verdict: Courses are relatively similar in cost as is equipment hire. Between costs of kites and windsurf boards and the number of sails versus kite sizes needed, both sports are also even. But if you plan to travel with your equipment, kitesurfing doesn't require a car or a hefty airline excess baggage bill.

ACCESSIBILITY

Windsurfing: Rigging is equipment is relatively straightforward and quick, although

transporting the equipment requires heavy board lifting and car transport. However, launching is possible even in restricted beach space.

Kitesurfing: Kitesurfing in onshore or cross-on wind is dangerous. Best wind directions are crossshore wind or a kite lagoon with shallow (knee-deep) water. Setting up the equipment requires large amounts of space. However, the equipment can be transported with relative ease, as the kite and pump can be carried on a backpack and the board is easy to carry by hand.

Verdict: Windsurfing takes the edge.

RISK OF INJURY

Windsurfing: The most serious risk of injury, although rare, is hitting the head on the board. Colliding with board or rig can cause cuts and bruises. Twisting of ankles and knees is possible.

Kitesurfing: The kite is around 25m away from the rider, so there is a serious risk of being pulled on to obstacles or dealing with an uncontrolled landing. However, there are good release systems built in to kitesurfing systems and it is advised to stay clear of reefs, power lines and low water, as well as onshore and cross-off winds.

Verdict: when you look at extreme dangers possible, although rare, in kitesurfing then

windsurfing certainly seems the safest sport.

KUDOS:

Windsurfing: Pretty cool in retro-style way compared to kitesurfing. Fantastic tricks on waves.

Kitesurfing: Kitesurfing is up there with surfing in the cool stakes and the kites and board look very cool.

Verdict: A quick **BLUE** poll and we've decided in the kudos stakes, kitesurfing is a tough sport to beat.

THE WINNER

It's a tough one as it really is down to personal preference. So we at **BLUE**, shamefully sitting on the fence, would have to agree with Bob Dylan on this: the answer my friends is blowin' in the wind.

[Ed's note: sorry, we just couldn't resist the obvious pun]

For a full list of CDWS member watersports centres see the CDWS website: www.cdws.travel

Special thanks to Harry Nass watersports centre in Dahab for its help with this feature www.harry-nass.com

DIVING CENTRES:

Name	Address	CDWS No.	Website Address	Email Address	Telephone
Taba					
Aqua Sport	Taba Hilton Hotel	SSDC 0001 T	www.aqua-sport.com	info@aqua-sport.com	(20) 1 016 354440
Aqua Sport	Movenpick Hotel	SSDC 0006 T	www.aqua-sport.com	info@aqua-sport.com	(20) 1 016 354440
Red Sea Waterworld	Taba Heights	SSDC 0003 T	www.redseawaterworld.com	info@redseawaterworld.com	(20) 69 3580099
Werner Lau	Morgana Beach Hotel	SSDC 0005 T	www.wernerlau.com	taba@wernerlau.com	(20) 10 5054076
Nuweiba					
Emperor Divers	Hilton Hotel	SSDC 0002 N	www.emperordivers.com	info.neweiba@emperordivers.com	(20) 69 3520695
Scuba College	Nuweiba Village Resort	SSDC 003 N	www.scuba-college.com	info@scuba-college.com	(20) 12 2496002
Sinai Dolphin Divers	Nakhil Inn Hotel	SSDC 0004 N	www.nakhil-inn.com	sinaidolphin@yahoo.com	(20) 12 3341064
Dahab					
Adventure Spot Dahab	El Mashraba	SSDC 0001 D	www.adventurespot-dahab.com	badnrsr@yahoo.com	(20) 69 3642036
Aqua Divers Dahab	Diarna El Mashraba	SSDC 0002 D	www.aqua-divers.com	info@aqua-divers.com	(20) 69 3641547
Bedouin Divers	Bedouin Lodge	SSDC 0004 D	www.bedouin-lodge-dahab.com	mail@bedouin-lodge-dahab.com	(20) 69 3641 125
Big Blue	Paradise Hotel	SSDC 0050 D	www.bigbluedahab.com	Dive@bigbluedahab.com	(20) 069 3640045
Big Blue Mashraba	El Mashraba Star of Sinai	SSDC 0005 D	www.bigbluedahab.com	Dive@bigbluedahab.com	(20) 069 3640045
Black Rock Coralia	Coralia Hotel	SSDC 0049 D	www.blackrockdivecentre.com	Blackrock@cytanet.com.cy	(20) 161 439420
Blue Beach Dive Club	Blue Beach Club	SSDC 0006 D	www.bluebeachdiveclub.com	info@bluerealmdiving.com	(20) 69 3641413
Blue Ocean Dive	MTO Dahab Resort	SSDC 0048 D	www.blueoceandive.com	dahab@blueoceandive.com	(20) 12 476 46 54
Club Red Sea	Mashraba	SSDC 0008 D	www.club-red.com	clubredsea@sinainet.com.eg	(20) 69 3640380
Dahab Dive Paradise	La Reine hotel	SSDC 0051 D	www.dahab-diveparadise.com	info@dahab-diveparadise.com	(20) 11 368368
Dahab Divers	Dahab Divers Hotel	SSDC 0009 D	www.dahabdive.com	info@dahabdive.com	(20) 69 3640381
Daniela Diving Centre	Blue Hole Road	SSDC 0010 D	www.daniela-diving.com	reservation@daniela-diving.com	(20) 12 2253999
Deep Blue Divers	Masbat Beach	SSDC 0011 D	www.divedahab.com	info@divedahab.com	(20) 69 3640416
Desert Divers	Masbat Beach	SSDC 0012 D	www.desert-divers.com	info@desert-divers.com	(20) 69 3640500
Dive In	Laguna	SSDC 0013 D	www.diveincompany.com	contact@diveincompany.com	(20) 69 3640646
Dive Urge	Dive Urge Hotel	SSDC 0014 D	www.dive-urge.com	info@dive-urge.com	(20) 10 715 1459
Divers Down Under	Seven Heaven Hotel	SSDC 0015 D	www.7heavenhotel.com	samir@7heavenhotel.com	(20) 69 3640080
Divers House	Divers House Hotel	SSDC 0016 D	www.divershouse.com	divershouse@gmx.de	(20) 69 3640885
Extra Divers	Swiss Inn Hotel	SSDC 0017 D	www.extradivers.info	dahab@extradivers.info	(20) 69 3640472
Fantasea Red Sea	Coral Coast Hotel	SSDC 0018 D	www.fantasearedsea.com	info@fantasearedsea.com	(20) 69 3641195
Fish and Friends	Masbat Beach	SSDC 0019 D	www.fishandfriendsdahab.com	info@fishandfriendsdahab.com	(20) 69 3640720
Fun by the Sea Lagona Divers	Tropitel Hotel	SSDC 0020 D	www.lagona-divers.com		
Inmo Divers	Inmo Hotel	SSDC 0022 D	www.inmodivers.de	inmo@inmodivers.de	(20) 69 3640370
Light House	The Lighthouse	SSDC 0023 D	www.dahabdive.com	info@dahabdive.com	(20) 12 2541442
Mirage Divers	El Melil	SSDC 0025 D	www.miragedivers.com	info@miragedivers.com	(20) 69 3641 476
Nesima Divers	Nesima Hotel	SSDC 0026 D	www.nesima-resort.com	reservation@nesima-resort.com	(20) 69 3640320
Octopus World	Lighthouse	SS00125	www.octopusdivers.net	info@octopusdivers.net	(20) 69 3642370
Octopus World	Masbat, Dahab	SSDC 0053 D	www.octopusdivers.net	info@octopusdivers.net	(20) 69 364 2370
OK Club	ELMasbat Beach	SSDC 0029 D	www.okclubdahab.com	info@okclubdahab.com	(20) 69 3642042
Orca Dive Centre	Masbat Beach	SSDC 0031 D	www.orcadivecentre.com	info@orcadivecentre.com	(20) 69 364 0020
Orca Dive Club Dahab	Happy Life Hotel	SSDC 0030 D	www.orca-diveclub-dahab.com	info@orca-diveclub-dahab.com	(20) 10 6466692
Oricana	Oricana Hotel	SSDC 0032 D	www.orcadivecentre.com	info@orcadivecentre.com	(20) 69 3640020
Penguin Divers	Penguin Village	SSDC 0033 D	www.penguindivers.com	info@penguindivers.com	(20) 69 3641047
Planet Divers	Planet Oasis Hotel	SSDC 0034D	dahab@planetdivers.com	www.planetdivers.com	(20) 69 364 1090
Poseidon (Mashraba)	Mashraba	SSDC 0035 D	www.poseidondivers.com	info@poseidondivers.com	(20) 69 3640091
Poseidon (Meridien)	Meridien Hotel	SSDC 0036 D	www.poseidondivers.com	info@poseidondivers.com	(20) 69 3640091

Name	Address	CDWS No.	Website Address	Email Address	Telephone
Red Sea Relax	Masbat Beach	SSDC 0037 D	www.red-sea-relax.com	info@red-sea-relax.com	(20) 69 3641309
Reef 2000	Bedouin Moon Hotel	SSDC 0038 S	www.reef2000.com	info@reef2000.com	(20) 69 3640 087
Sea Dancer	Masbat Beach	SSDC 0040 D	www.seadancerdivecenter.com	mail@seadancerdivecenter.com	(20) 69 3640887
Sinai Divers Backpackers	Masbat Beach	SSDC 0041 D	www.sinaidivers.com	dahab@sinaidivers.com	
Sinai Divers Dahab	Hilton Dahab Hotel	SSDC 0042 D	www.sinaidivers.com	dahab@sinaidivers.com	
Sub Aqua Dahabia	Dahabia Hotel	SSDC 0046 D	www.subaqua-divecenter.com	dahabeya@subaqua-divecenter.com	(49) 89 384 7690
Sun Splash	Mashraba	SSDC 0044 D	www.sunsplash-divers.com	sunsplash.divers@gmail.com	(20) 69 640932

Sharm					
African Diver Sharm	Luna Sharm Hotel	SSDC 0093 S	www.africandiverssharm.com	info@africandiverssharm.com	(20) 016 55 24601
Albatros Top Diving	Coral Beach Montazah	SSDC 0002 S		albatrosredsea@yahoo.it	
Anar Dive Center	Royal Paradise	SSDC 0003 S		anardive@yahoo.com	
Anthias Divers	Sonesta Beach	SSDC 0004 S	www.anthiasdivers.com	info@anthiasdivers.com	(20) 69 3601420
Aquamarine	Rehana Hotel	SSDC 0005 S	www.aquamarineclub.com	info@aquamarineclub.com	(20) 18 2070605
Aqua Sharm Diving College	Charming Inn Solymar Hotel	SSDC 0007 S	www.aquasharm.com	info@aquasharm.com	(20) 12 2403998
Aquarius Coral Sea	Coral Sea Hotel	SSDC 0008 SM01	www.aquariusredsea.com	coralsea@aquariusredsea.com	(20) 10 692 6126
Aquarius Diving Club	Sheraton Hotel	SSDC 0009 S	www.aquariusredsea.com	sheraton@aquariusredsea.com	(20) 69 3602099
Below 100	Ibrotel Lido Hotel	SSDC 0010 S		hsanyeldin@yahoo.com	(20) 69 3602608
Blue Lagoon	La Perla Hotel	SSDC 0011 S	www.bluelagoonsharm.com	info@bluelagoonsharm.com	(20) 69 3663180
C Fun Divers	Iberotel Palace Hotel	SSDC 0012 S	www.cfundivers.com	info@cfundivers.de	(20) 69 3663393
Cali International	Cali Building	SSDC 0013 S		calidivingcenter@yahoo.com	(20) 69 3660805
Camel Dive Club at Grand Rotana Resort	Grand Rotana Resort	SSDC 0015 SM01	www.cameldive.com	info@cameldive.com	(20) 69 3600700
Camel Dive Club Royal Grand Sharm	Royal Grand Sharm	SSDC 0015 S	www.cameldive.com	info@cameldive.com	(20) 69 3600700
Camel Dive Club	Camel Hotel	SSDC 0014 S	www.cameldive.com	info@cameldive.com	(20) 69 3600700
Camel Dive Club Laguna Vista	Laguna Vista Resort	SSDC 0016 S	www.cameldive.com	info@cameldive.com	(20) 69 3600700
Colona Dive Club	Amar Sina Hotel	SSDC 0018 S	www.colona.com	sharm@colona.com	(20) 69 366 3670
Coral Dive Club	Mexicana Hotel	SSDC 0019 S	www.coraldivingclub.com	info@coraldivingclub.com	(20) 69 3660740
Deep Vibration	Nesco	SSDC 0020 S	www.deepvibration.com	info@deepvibration.com	
Desert Rose	Dolphin Country Club	SSDC 0095 S		desertrose@mail.ru	
Diamond Dive Club	Kiroseiz Beach Hotel	SSDC 0021 S	www.diamonddiveclub.com	info@diamonddiveclub.com	(20) 69 3666758
Dive Africa Water Sports	Sharm Holiday Hotel	SSDC 0022 S	www.diveafrica.com	redsea@diveafrica.com	(20) 3601 388
Dive For Fun	Sharm Amarein	SSDC 0023 S	www.diveforfunsharm.com	info@diveforfunsharm.com	(20) 107 175 117
Dive In	Renaissance Golden View	SSDC 0024 S	www.divein.net	sharm@divein.net	
Dive In	Grand Plaza Hotel	SSDC 0024 SM01	www.divein.net	sharm@divein.net	(20) 69 371 0510
Diver Professional	Regency Plaza Hotel	SSDC 0025 S		ahmeddiver@yahoo.com	
Divers Dreams	Lodge Hotel	SSDC 0026 S		diversdreams@mail.ru	
Divers International	Softel Hotel	SSDC 0027 S	www.diversintl.com	info@diversintl.com	(20) 69 3600865

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www.orca-diveclubs.com info@orca-diveclubs.com

Name	Address	CDWS No.	Website Address	Email Address	Telephone
Divers United	Coral Hills	SSDC 0103 S	www.diversunited.com	diver.united@gmail.com	(20) 127 445 833
Diving & Discovery	Iberotel Fanara Hotel	SSDC 0028 S	www.divingdiscovery.it	ddiscovery@sinainet.com.eg	
Divers' Land	Naama Inn Hotel	SSDC 0105 S	www.diversland.co.uk	info@diversland.co.uk	(20) 12 359 5212
Diving Ocean New Project	Sea Club Hotel	SSDC 0029 S	www.divingocean.com	info@divingocean.com	(20) 10 1754356
Diving World	The Rock Hotel	SSDC 0030 S	www.divingworldredsea.com	sharm@divingworldredsea.com	(20) 69 3660065
Dolphin	Kahramana Hotel	SSDC 0031 S		dive@dolphin_diving.ru	
Egyptian Divers	Blue Reef Hotel	SSDC 0032 S	www.egyptiandivers.com	info@egyptiandivers.com	(20) 69 3600289
Emperor Divers	Bay View Hotel	SSDC 0033 S	www.emperordivers.com	info.sharm@emperordivers.com	(20) 69 360 1734
Extra Divers	Melia Sina	SSDC 0034 S	www.extradivers.info	rasnasrani@extradivers.info	(20) 69 36700002
Grand Blue	Amphoras Hotel	SSDC 0037 S	www.grandblue.it	info@grandblue.it	
Grand Blue (Tamra)	Tamra Hotel	SSDC 0097 S	www.grandblue.net	info@grandblue.it	
Grand Blue	Aloha Hotel	SSDC 0096 S	www.grandblue.it	info@grandblue.it	
Holiday Services	Hilton Dreams	SSDC 0038 S	www.holidaydiving.org	info@holidaydiving.org	
International Diving Travel	Novotel Hotel	SSDC 0039 SM01	www.only-six.com	info@only-six.com	(20) 69 366 3688
Lucky Divers	El Khan Mall, Hadaba,	SSDC 0098 S	www.luckydiverssharm.com	info@luckydiverssharm.com	
Magic Divers	Magic Life Hotel	SSDC 0040 S	www.magicdivers.at	sharm@magicdivers.at	(20) 12 7334509
Marina Divers	Concord El Salam Hotel	SSDC 0041 S	www.marinadiverssharm.com	info@marinadiverssharm.com	(20) 69 3603370
Millennium Divers	Crowne Plaza Hotel	SSDC 0042 S	www.millennium-divers.com	info@millenium-divers.com	(20) 69 3604266
Moon Divers	Falcon Inn Hotel	SSDC 0043 S	www.moondivers.com	info@moondivers.com	(20) 69 3663298
Mr Diver (Belvedere)	Belvedere Hotel	SSDC 0049 S	www.misterdiver.com	info@misterdiver.com	
Mr Diver	Mariott Hotel	SSDC 0044 S	www.misterdiver.com	mariott@misterdiver.com	
Mr Diver	Nubian Village Hotel	SSDC 0046 S	www.misterdiver.com	info@misterdiver.com	
Mr Diver	Pyramisa Hotel	SSDC 0045 S	www.misterdiver.com	pyramisa@misterdiver.com	
New Tower	New Tower Hotel	SSDC 0050 S	www.sprindiving.it	info@sprindiving.it	(20) 69 3664490
Ocean College Club	Ocean Club Hotel	SSDC 0052 S	www.ocean-college.com	info@ocean-college.com	(20) 693664305
Ocean College	Hilton Waterfalls Hotel	SSDC 0054 S	www.ocean-college.com	info@ocean-college.com	(20) 693664305
Ocean College	Whitehouse	SSDC 0053 S	www.ocean-college.com	info@ocean-college.com	(20) 693664305
Octopus Divers	Noria Beach Hotel	SSDC 0055 S		info@sharmoctopus.com	
Only Six	Turquoise Hotel	SSDC 0039 S	www.only-six.com	info@only-six.com	(20) 12 796 3155
Oonas Dive Club	Oonas Hotel	SSDC 0056 S	www.oonasdiveclub.com	info@oonasdiveclub.com	(20) 69 360 0581
Orbit Divers	Dive Inn Hotel	SSDC 0104 S	www.orbit-divers.net	orbit-divers@hotmail.com	(43) 664 3354878
Pirates Dive Club	Sol Verginia Hotel	SSDC 0059 S	www.piratesdiveclub.com	moody@piratesdiveclub.com	(20) 12 2442148
Pharaoh Divers	Palermo Hotel	SSDC 0058 S	www.pharaohdivers.com	Info@pharaohdivers.com	
Pyramid	Gardenia Plaza Hotel	SSDC 0102 S		m_bange@yahoo.com	
Rasta Divers	Rasta House	SSDC 0060 S	www.rastadivers.com	info@rastadivers.com	
Red Sea Diving College	Naama Bay	SSDC 0061 S	www.redseacollege.com	info@redseacollege.com	(20) 69 3600 145
Red Sea Waterworld	Hyatt Hotel	SSDC 0062 S	www.redseawaterworld.com	reservations@redseawaterworld.com	(20) 69 3620315
Red Sea Waterworld	Ritz Carlton	SSDC 0062 S	www.redseawaterworld.com	rzinfo@redseawaterworld.com	(20) 69 3620533
Scuba Divers Red Sea	Plaza Hotel	SSDC 0063 S	www.scubadivers-redsea.com	sharm@scubadivers-redsea.com	(20) 69 366 44 43
Scuba Dreamer	Dreams Beach Hotel	SSDC 0064 S	www.scubadreamer.com	info@scubadreamer.com	(20) 69 3663992
Sea Soul	Badawia Hotel	SSDC 0065 S	www.seasoul.net	info@seasoul.net	(20) 69 3660316
Sharks Bay	Sharks Bay	SSDC 0067 S	www.sharksbay.com	reservations@sharksbay.com	(20) 69 3600942
Sharm Divers	Halomy Hotel	SSDC 0068 S	www.sharm-divers.com	contact@sharmdivers.com	(20) 10 5533853
Sharm Scuba Service	Sonesta Club Hotel	SSDC 0069 S	www.sharmscubaservice.com	info@sharmscubaservice.com	(20) 012 405 7239
Sharm Scuba Service	Coral Beach Tiran Hotel	SSDC 0069 SM01	www.sharmscubaservice.com	info@sharmscubaservice.com	(20) 012 405 7239
Sheikh Coast	Domina Hotel	SSDC 0070S	www.sheikhcoast.com	info@sheikhcoast.com	(20) 69 3601713
Shiekh Coast Savoy	Savoy Hotel	SSDC 0071 S	www.sheikhcoast.com	info@sheikhcoast.com	(20) 69 3601713
Sinai Blues	Four Seasons Resort	SSDC0072 S	www.sinaiblues.com	info@sinaiblues.com	(20) 69 3603555

Name	Address	CDWS No.	Website Address	Email Address	Telephone
Sinai College	Falcon Hills	SSDC 0073 S	www.sinaicollege.com	info@sinaicollege.com	
Sinai Dive Club	Hilton Fayrouz Hotel	SSDC 0074 S	www.dive-club.com	reservations@dive-club.com	(20) 12 2815210
Sinai Dive Club	Hilton Shark Bay Hotel	SSDC 0075 S	www.dive-club.com	reservations@dive-club.com	(20) 12 2815210
Sinai Divers	Ghazala Hotel	SSDC 0076 S	www.sinaidivers.com	info@sinaidivers.com	
Sinai Divers El Baron	El Baron Hotel	SSDC 0077 S	www.sinaidivers.com	info@sinaidivers.com	
Sinai Rose	Sun Rise Hotel	SSDC 0078 S		moh_zarzur@hotmail.com	
Sinai Scuba	Sun Set Hotel	SSDC 0079 S	www.sinaiscuba.com	info@sinaiscuba.com	(20) 12 2887398
Spirit Divers	Regency Hotel	SSDC 0080 S	www.nautica.pl/egipt/index.php	david@nautica.pl	
Subex Golf Maritim	Maritim Golf Hotel	SSDC 0082 S	www.subex.org	sharm@subex.org	(20) 693 600122
Subex	Maritim Jolie Ville Resort	SSDC 0081 S	www.subex.org	sharm@subex.org	(20) 69 3600122
Sun Shine Divers	Sun Shine Club	SSDC 0083 S	www.sunshine-divers.de	Klaus@sunshine-divers.com	(20) 12 7831388
TGI Diving	Sol Sharm hotel	SSDC 0000 D	www.tgidiving.com	sharm@tgidiving.com	
Tower	Tower Hotel	SSDC 0085 S	www.sprindiving.it	infosub@sprindiving.it	(20) 69 3664490
Vera Sub Queen Sharm	Queen Sharm Hotel	SSDC 0088 S		verasubsharm@tiscali.it	(20) 12 2334240
Viaggio nel Blu	Club Reef	SSDC 0089 S	www.viaggionelblu.com	sharm@viaggionelblu.com	(20) 16 5384700
Werner Lau	Helnan Marina Hotel	SSDC 0091 S	www.wernerlau.com	redsea@wernerlau.com	(20) 69 3600456

Ain Soukhna

Stella Di Mare	Stella Di Mare Resort	RSDC 0179	www.stelladimare.com	diving@stelladimare.com	(20) 62 3250100
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El Gouna

Colona Divers	Three Corners Rihana	RSDC 56	www.colona.com	elgouna@colona.com	(20) 65 3580113
Dive Trek	Sultan Bay Hotel	RSDC 0020	www.dive-trek.com	info@dive-trek.com	
Easy Divers	3 Corners Rehana	RSDC 61	www.easydivers-academy.com	elgouna@easydivers-academy.com	
Euro Divers Gouna	Club Med Resort	RSDC 19	www.euro-divers.com	cmelgouna@euro-divers.com	
New Blue Brothers	Ocean View	RSDC 33	www.bluebrothersdiving.de	info@bluebrothersdiving.de	(20) 12 3459362
Orca	Turtles Inn, Abu Tig Mar.	RSDC 83	www.orca-diveclub-elgouna.com	info@orca-diveclub-elgouna.com	(20) 12 2480460
TGI	Sheraton Miramar	RSDC 72	www.tgidiving.com	khaled@TGIdiving.com	(20) 12 2242025
The Dive Connection	Panorama Hotel	RSDC 48	www.diveconnection.com	info@diveconnection.com	(20) 65 3580052
The Dive Tribe	Movenpick Resort	RSDC 27	www.divetribe.com	info@divetribe.com	(20) 65 3580120

Hurghada

Adventurer	Hurghada Marine Club	RSDC 0168	www.adventurer.pl	biuro@adventurer.pl	(20) 12 7407847
Al Mashrabiya	Mashrabiya Resort	RSDC 0121	www.swdf.de	redsea@swdf.de	(20) 065 344 2375
Al Prince	Sayed Kareem St Dahar	RSDC 0142	www.prince-diving.com	info@prince-diving.com	(20) 12 248 4015
Annette & Jurgen Red Sea Divers	Zahabia Resort	RSDC 85	www.redsea-divers.com	info@redsea-divers.com	(20) 12 2300483
Aquanaut Blue Heaven	Regina Resort	RSDC 0009	www.aquanaut.net	info@aquanaut.net	(20) 65 3440892
Aquarius Diving Club	Royal Azur Makadi Bay	RSDC 0031	www.aquariusredsea.com	makadi@aquariusredsea.com	(20) 65 3590308 ext 5810
Aquarius Diving Club	Palm Beach Resort	RSDC 0049	www.aquariusredsea.com	palmbeach@aquariusredsea.com	(20) 65 3500035
Aquarius Diving	Marriott Resort	RSDC 0045	www.aquariusredsea.com	marriott@aquariusredsea.com	(20) 65 3446950



Name	Address	CDWS No.	Website Address	Email Address	Telephone
Barakuda (JAMES & MAC)	Giftun Resort	RSDC 22	www.james-mac.com	info@james-mac.com	(20) 12 3118923
Black Shark	Ali Baba Palace Resort	RSDC 76	info@blackshark-dc.com	www.blackshark-dc.com	(20) 12 21 82 352
Blue Paradise	14 El Kornesh St	RSDC 0039	www.blueparadise.be	bluepar@hurghada.ie-eg.com	(20) 65 354 4354
Blue Water-Arabia Dive Resort	Azur Arabia Beach Hotel	RSDC 26	www.blue-water-dive.com	info@blue-water-dive.com	(20) 65 3555420
Bubbles Diving College	Villa 17 Hadaba	RSDC 0173	www.bubblesworldwide.com	yehia@bubblesworldwide.com	
Colona Divers	Magawish Resort	RSDC 32	www.colona.com	hurghada@colona.com	(20) 65 3464631
Deep Blue Divers	Sunrise Garden Resort	RSDC 0183	www.deepblue-divers.com	info@deepblue-divers.com	(20) 16 552 0763
Deep Blue Divers	Calimera Golden Beach	RSDC 0163	www.deepblue-divers.com	info@deepblue-divers.com	(20) 16 552 0763
Deep Divers	Sunny Days El Palacio	RSDC 0071	www.deep-divers.com	info@deep-divers.com	(20) 18 912 5125
Deep Dream Diving Club	Public Beach Hurghada	RSDC 0011	www.deepdreams.hu	info@deepdreams.hu	
Dinos	Hospital Street	RSDC 0028	www.dinosdiving.com	info@dinosdiving.com	(20) 65 3545050
Dive In	Sonesta Pharoah	RSDC 0061	www.diveintravel.it	hurghada@divein.net	
Dive Point	Rotana Coral Beach Resort	RSDC 155	www.dive-point.com	hurghada@dive-point.com	(20) 12 3255483
Dive Too	Seagull Resort	RSDC 0153	www.divetoo.net	magdy@divetoo.net	
Dive Training Egypt	Coral Beach Resort	RSDC 155	www.dive-point.com	hurghada@dive-point.com	(20) 12 3255483
Divers Lodge	Intercontinental Resort	RSDC 16	www.divers-lodge.com	office@divers-lodge.com	(20) 65 3465100
Diving World	Le Meridien Hotel	RSDC 0050	www.divingworldredsea.com	hurghada@divingworldredsea.com	(20) 65 3443582
Divers International	Sofitel Coralia	RSDC 0052	www.diversintl.com	info@diversintl.com	(20) 69 3600865
Divers International	Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh	RSDC 0051	www.diversintl.com	info@diversintl.com	(20) 69 3600865
Eagle Ray Divers	Sun & Sea Hotel	RSDC 0014	www.eagleraydivers-redsea.de	info@eagleraydivers-redsea.de	(20) 12 7374129
Easy Divers	Hilton Plaza	RSDC 0021	www.easydivers-redsea.com	info@easydivers-redsea.com	(20) 12 230 5202
El Gaysoom	El Gaysoom Resort	RSDC 0147		ucpaegypt@menanet.net	
El Ghoniemy	Abu Ramada St	RSDC 0052		Ashrafdivervip@hotmail.com	
El Samaka	El Samaka Resort	RSDC 0015	www.el-samaka.de	info@el-samaka.com	(20) 65 465153
Emperor Divers	Hurghada Touristic Marina	RSDC 98	www.emperordivers.com	info.hurghada@emperordivers.com	(20) 12 7372125
Etape Nouvelle	Hawai Resort	RSDC 0095		bluelagoonhrg@yahoo.com	
Euro Divers	Grand Hotel	RSDC 18	www.euro-divers.com	Egypt@euro-divers.com	
Frogman	Lagouna Beach	RSDC 0105		frogmandiving@yahoo.com	
Funny Divers	In front of Empire	RSDC 0143	www.funnydivers.com	info@funnydivers.com	(20) 12 4193164
Geli & Ute	Le Pacha Resort	RSDC 0129	www.tauchenunterfreunden.de	kontakt@tauchenunterfreunden.de	(20) 65 3 444 150
Golden Dolphin	Shell Ghada Beach	RSDC 0062	www.gdolph.com	info@gdolph.com	(20) 12 3134902
Gulf Divers	Beirut Hotel	RSDC 0069	www.gulfdivers.com	info@gulfdivers.com	(20) 65 3550130
Happy Diving	Seyed Korayem St	RSDC 0128	www.happydivingcenter.com	happydivingcenter@yahoo.com	(20) 65 3541807
Hor Palace	Hor Palace Resort	RSDC 0092		pd290761@aol.com	(20) 653 443710
Ilios Dive Club	Steigenberger Al Dau Resort	RSDC 109	www.iliosdiveclub.com	info@iliosdiveclub.com	(20) 65 3465442
Jasmin Diving Sports Center	Grand Seas Resort	RSDC 108	www.jasmin-diving.com	info@jasmin-diving.com	(20) 65 3460334
King Tut	In front of Hilton Plaza	RSDC 0115	www.ktdc.org	kingtutdivers@yahoo.com	(20) 12 2665187
Magic Divers Kalawy	Magic Life Resort	RSDC 70	www.magicdivers.at	kalawy@magicdivers.at	(20) 12 733 4509
Manta Divers	Church St, El Dahar	RSDC 0124	www.mantataucher.com	info@mantadivers.net	(20) 065 3548628
Marine Scuba Diving	Mirette Hotel, Villa n°1	RSDC 0127	www.marinescubadiving.com	info@marinescubadiving.com	(20) 65 3551340
Masters Club	Royal Palace Hotel	RSDC 0068	www.masters-redsea.com	info@masters-redsea.com	(20) 12 7326721
New Dino	El Keyadat El Dahar	RSDC 0131		new_dino@hotmail.com	
Oxygene Red Sea	Hilton Plaza	RSDC 0021	www.oxygenediving.com	redsea@oxygenediving.com	(20) 12 7372125
Ozone O3	Shedwan Resort	RSDC 0096	www.ozone-o3.com	ozonediving@yahoo.com	(20) 123 919 423
Panorama Divers	Tabia Hotel	RSDC 0132	www.panoramadivers.com	info@panoramadivers.com	

Name	Address	CDWS No.	Website Address	Email Address	Telephone
Picasso Water Sport	Desert Rose Resort	RSDC 0106	www.picassodiving.com	info@picassodiving.com	(20) 65 3460615
Pirates Diving Network	Beach Albatros Resort	RSDC 0013	www.piratesdiving.com	albatrosresort@piratesdiving.com	(20) 065 346 1500
PSI	Domina Makadi Bay	RSDC 0064	www.psidiveclub.com	info@psidiveclub.com	(20) 65 359 0356
Red Sea For Tourism Activity & Diving	Sonesta Pharoah	RSDC 0061	www.diveintravel.it	hurghada@divein.net	
Sadko	Infront of Aqua Fun Hotel	RSDC 0112	www.sadko.de	sadko@mtu-net.ru	(20) 12 1384632
Sahara Diving	Sahara Hotel	RSDC 0075	www.dahabdiver.com	hurghada@dahabdiver.com	(20) 10 3436998
Sara Divers	El Amal St, Dahar	RSDC 0111	www.saradivers.com	sara_d@hurghada.ie-eg.com	(20) 65 3549672
Scuba Blue	King Tut Hotel	RSDC 0130	www.sevadivers.com	info@sevadivers.com	(20) 12 9280869
Seafari	Safir Hotel	RSDC 0097	www.seafari-int.com	info@seafari-int.com	(20) 10 1013816
Sea Horse	Corniche, Hilton Plaza	RSDC 35		redseahorse@gmail.com	
Sea Wolf Diving Safari	Anemon Beach Resort	RSDC 0038	www.seawolf-safari.com	info@seawolf-diving.de	(20) 12 7461076
Sharks	Reemyvera Beach Resort	RSDC 0150		info@sharksdivingcenter.com	
Shehab Dive Center	Birgitte Hotel	RSDC 0080		Aladdinsafy@hurghada.ie-eg.com	
Son Bijou	Beside Panorama Hotel	RSDC 0140	www.bijou-diving.com	info@bijou-diving.com	
Stingray	Sinbad Resort	RSDC 0113		stingray_redsea@yahoo.com	
Subex Red Sea	Dahar	RSDC 82	www.subex.org	hurghada@subex.org	(20) 65 3547593
Swiss Stingray	Riviera Village	RSDC 0126	www.swisswellness.net	info@swisswellness.net	
Titanic Diving	Titanic Beach Resort	RSDC 0122	www.titanicdivingcenter.com	info@titanicdivingcenter.com	
Twin Dolphin	Sea Star Beurivage	RSDC 0138	www.diving-redsea.com	info@diving-redsea.com	(20) 120240508
Voodoo Divers International	Bella Vista Resort	RSDC 0099	www.voodooivers.com	info@voodooivers.com	(20) 12 3345766
White Dolphin	South Hadaba beside La Perla	RSDC 0118	www.whitedolphindc.com	info@whitedolphindc.com	

Makadi Bay

Extra Divers	Madinet Makadi	RSDC 141	www.extradivers.info	makadibay@extradivers.info	(20) 10 1276108
I Dive	Fourt Arabisc Vil.	RSDC 46	www.idive.it	forta@idive.it	(20) 65 3590213
SADC	Sun Rise Royal Makadi	RSDC 0094	www.subaqua-divecenter.com	sunrise-makadi@subaqua-diving-center.com	(20) 65 3590600
Undersea Adventure	LTI Dana Beach Resort	RSDC 0017	www.undersea-adventures.co.uk	team@undersea.co.uk	(44) 1736 75 1066

Soma Bay

Barakuda DC	Intercontinental Hotel	RSDC 102	www.barakuda-diving.com	interconti@barakuda-diving.com	(20) 12 1159527
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Club Ras Soma Robinson	Club Ras Soma Hotel	RSDC 0088	www.somabay.com	tauchen.somabay@robinson.de	
Orca Dive Club	Abu Soma	RSDC 147	www.orca-diveclub-somabay.com	info@orca-diveclub-somabay.com	(20) 65 3545004

Safaga					
ABC Dream Divers	El Okby Resort	RSDC 0141	www.abcdreamdivers.com	info@abcdreamdivers.com	
Barakuda Lotus Bay	Lotus Bay Resort	RSDC 0040	www.barakuda-diving.com	safaga@barakuda-diving.com	(20) 65 3253911
Ducks Dive Center	Holiday Inn	RSDC 34		ddcenter@web.de	(20) 653 260100
Dune	Aluminium Marina	RSDC 77	www.duneredsea.com	info@duneredsea.com	
El Yasmin	El Yasmin	RSDC 37	www.3turtles-red-sea.com	info@3turtles-red-sea.com	
Freedom Divers	Tobia Hotel	RSDC 0152	www.freedom-divers.de	office@freedom-divers.de	(20) 12 4369878
Mena Dive	Mena Ville Resort	RSDC 6	www.menadive.com	Center@menadive.com	(20) 65 3 26 00 60
Orca Red Sea	Sun Beach Resort	RSDC 90	www.orca-diveclub-safaga.com	info@orca-diveclub-safaga.com	(20) 65 3260111
Orca Dive Club	Coral Garden Village	RSDC 0090 SM01	www.orca-diveclub-safaga.com	info@orca-diveclub-safaga.com	(20) 653 260111
Sharm El Naga	Sharm El Naga Resort	RSDC 0084	www.sharmelnaga.com	ifo@sharmelnaga.com	
Shams Safaga DC	Shams Safaga Resort	RSDC 5	www.shams-dive.com	shamsdive@hotmail.com	(20) 65 3260044
Toms Diver House	Behind Youth Center	RSDC 0044	www.toms-diver-house.ch	info@toms-diver-house.ch	(20) 12 4222181
United Divers	City Council St	RSDC 0086	www.united-divers-safaga.net	info@united-divers.net	
Volkert	Paradise Safaga Hotel	RSDC 0054		info@enjoy-diving.de	

Quseir					
Ducks DC Mangrove	Mangrove Resort	RSDC 91	www.ducks-dive-center.de	quesier@ducks-diving.com	(20) 65 3395029
Extra Divers	Radisson SAS Resort	RSDC 74	www.extra-divers.de	elqusier@extra-divers.info	(20) 10 6026099
Nemos Water World	Carnelia Resort	RSDC 175	www.divingcarnelia.de	info@divingcarnelia.de	(20) 12 1617120
Pharaoh Dive Club	Fanadir Hotel	RSDC 119	www.pharaohdiveclub.com	elquseir@pharaohdiveclub.com	(20) 65 3331414
Rocky Valley	KM 14	RSDC 0089	www.rockyvalleydiverscamp.com	info@rockyvalleydiverscamp.com	
Sadc Utopia	Utopia Resort	RSDC 1	www.subaqua-divecenter.com	UTOPIA@subaqua-divecenter.com	(20) 65 3390 014
Subex Red Sea	Movenpick Hotel	RSDC 0007	www.subex.org	elquseir@subex.org	(20) 653 332 100
TGI	Helio Land Resort	RSDC 0181	www.tgidiving.com	info@tgidiving.com	
TGI	Gorgonia Hotel	RSDC Temp	www.tgidiving.com	khaled@TGIdiving.com	
Water World	Akassia Resort	RSDC 25	www.divingakassia.de	info@divingakassia.de	(20) 122416739
Water World	Flamenco Hotel	RSDC 0196	www.divingflamenco.de	info@divingflamenco.de	(20) 12 1165152

Marsa Alam					
3 Will	Badaweya Resort	RSDC 185	www.3will.eu	Milosz@3will.eu	(20) 12 2348330
Awlad Baraka	Awlad Baraka Lodge	RSDC 0078	www.aquariusredsea.com	baraka@aquariusredsea.com	(20) 12 2488062
Barakuda Diving	Lahami Bay Resort	RSDC 134	www.barakuda-diving.com	lahamibay@barakuda-diving.com	(20) 12 2242527
Beach Safari	Beach Safari Resort Marsa Alam	RSDC 0012	www.beachsafari.de	hassanadroub@yahoo.com	(49) 5921 3082711
Blue Heaven Holidays	Marsa Alam Tonduba Bay	RSDC 0049	www.blueheavenholidays.com	info@blueheavenholidays.com	(20) 12 3131157
Coraya Divers	Coraya Resort	RSDC 23	www.coraya-divers.com	info@coraya-divers.com	(20) 65 3750000
Coraya Reef Divers	Resta Reef Resort	RSDC 137	www.corayareefdivers.com	corayareefdivers@gmx.net	(20)16 1854294
Deep South Diving	Awlad Baraka	RSDC 0133	www.deep-south-diving.com	info@Deep-South-Diving.com	(20) 12 3258869
Dive In Sports	Sentido Oriental Resort	RSDC 0190	www.diveinsports.com	info@diveinsports.com	
Diving Ocean New Project	Marsa Alam Tulip Hotel	RSDC 0123	www.divingocean.com	marsa@divingocean.com	(20) 10 1754354
Diving Ocean New Project	solimar Abu Dabbab	RSDC 0194	www.divingocean.com	marsa@divingocean.com	(20) 10 175 4354
Emperor Divers	Marina Lodge	RSDC 81	www.emperordivers.com	marsa.alam@emperordivers.com	(20) 12 7372126
Equinox Divers	Equinox Resort	RSDC 42	www.equinoxdivers.com	info@ELNABAA.com	(20) 12 2353475

Name	Address	CDWS No.	Website Address	Email Address	Telephone
Extra Divers	El Fayrouz Resort	RSDC 0191	www.extradivers.info	marsa2@extradivers.info	
Extra Divers	Brayka Bay Resort	RSDC 24	www.extradivers.info	marsa@extra_divers.il	(20) 10 3071247
Flora Diving Center	Flora Resort	RSDC 0162	www.floramarsaalam.com	info@floramarsaalam.com	(20) 65 3380083
Global Divers	Solymar Solitaire Resort	RSDC 0057	www.global-divers-egypt.info	info@global-divers-egypt.info	
Grand Blue	Blue Reef Resort	RSDC	www.grandblue.it	info@grandblue.it	
Grand Blue	Blue Lagoon Resort	RSDC 0029	www.grandblue.it	info@grandblue.it	
Grand Blue Cataract	Cataract Resort	RSDC 0178	www.grandblue.it	info@grandblue.it	
Marsa Alam Divers	Awlad Baraka	RSDC 0157		southrd@starnet.com.eg	(20) 12 2181427
Nakari Divers	Marsa Nakari	RSDC 65	www.redsea-divingsafari.com	info@redsea-divingsafari.com	(20) 122 461656
Oasis Dive Club	Wadi Sabbara Hotel	RSDC 0047	www.wernerlau.com	theoasis@wernerlau.com	(20) 10 1573889
Orca Dive Club	Zabaraged Vil	RSDC 0079	www.orca-diveclub-hamata.com	info@orca-diveclub-hamata.com	(20) 12 7468823
Orca Dive Club	Abu Dabbab Hotel- Diving Lodge	RSDC 0043	www.orca-diveclub-abudabab.com	info@orca-diveclub-abudabab.com	(20) 10 1415059
Pioneer Divers	Kahramana	RSDC 66	www.redsea-divingsafari.com	info@redsea_divingsafari.com	(20) 122 461656
RSDS Shagara	Ecolodge Shagra Village	RSDC 3	www.redsea-divingsafari.com	info@redsea-divingsafari.com	(20) 12 2461656
Samak Marsa Alam	Villa Abd. Aty Abu Zeid	RSDC 0008	www.riff-villa.ch	info@riff-villa.ch	(20) 12 4624 933
Sea World	Holiday Inn	RSDC 0100	www.seaworld-diving.it	info@seaworld-diving.it	(20) 12 7747018
Sprin Diving	Dream Beach	RSDC 180	www.sprindiving.it	dreams@sprindiving.it	(20) 69 3664490
Vera Sub	Alfa Stone Resort	RSDC 0010		verasub@sinainet.com.eg	
Wadi Gimal	Marsa Alam - Shams Alam	RSDC 0004	www.shams-dive.com	wadigimal@shamshotels.com	(20) 12 2444931
Wadi Lahami Divers	Wadi Lahami	RSDC 67	www.redsea-divingsafari.com	info@redsea-divingsafari.com	(20) 122 461656

Hamata					
Orca Dive Club Wadi Lahmy	Wadi Lahmy Azur Resort	RSDC 198	www.orca-diveclub-wadilahmy.com	info@orca-diveclub-wadilahmy.com	(20) 12 241 7020

LIVEBOARD BOATS:

Name	Address	CDWS No.	Website Address	Email Address	Telephone
Sharm el Sheikh					
M/Y Angelina 2	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0019 S	www.dive-club.com	info@dive-club.com	(20) 12 2815210
M/Y Carlton	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0001 S		elmeesh@yahoo.com	
M/Y Carlton Queen	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0040 S		elmeesh@yahoo.com	
M/Y Cyclone	Sharm El Sheikh	SSSB 0012 S			
M/Y Dive Runner	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0035 S	www.diverunner.com	office@diverunner.co.uk	(20) 10 1147141
M/Y Freedom 4	Sharks Bay	SSSB 0022 S	www.sharksbay.com	reservations@sharksbay.com	(20) 69 3600942
M/Y Freedom 5	Sharks Bay	SSSB 0023 S	www.sharksbay.com	reservations@sharksbay.com	(20) 69 3600942
M/Y Freedom 8	Sharks Bay	SSSB 0024 S	www.sharksbay.com	reservations@sharksbay.com	(20) 69 3600942
M/Y Ghazala 1	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0018 S	www.sinaidivers.com	info@sinaidivers.com	
M/Y Ghazala 2	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0041 S	www.sinaidivers.com	info@sinaidivers.com	
M/Y Golden Emperor 1	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0032 S	www.seaqueens.com	info@seaqueens.com	(20) 12 2186669
M/Y Hyatt	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0003 S		dive@redsea.cc	



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M/Y Juliet	Sharm El Sheikh	SSSB 0004 S	www.julietdivers.com	juliet@julietdivers.com	(20) 10 1217030
M/Y King Snefro 3	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0013 S	www.kingsnefro.de	boats@kingsnefro.de	(20) 12 3150612
M/Y King Snefro 5	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0014 S	www.kingsnefro.de	boats@kingsnefro.de	(20) 12 3150612
M/Y King Snefro 6	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0015 S	www.kingsnefro.de	boats@kingsnefro.de	(20) 12 3150612
M/Y King Snefro Crown	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0039 S	www.kingsnefro.de	boats@kingsnefro.de	(20) 12 3150612
M/Y King Snefro Spirit	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0038 S	www.kingsnefro.de	boats@kingsnefro.de	(20) 12 3150612
M/Y King Snefro Target	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0043 S	www.kingsnefro.de	boats@kingsnefro.de	(20) 12 3150612
M/Y Orchid	Travco Jetty	SSSB-0036-S	www.flowersofsinai.com	info@flowersofsinai.com	
M/Y Sea Queen	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0021 S	www.seaqueens.com	info@seaqueens.com	(20) 12 2186669
M/Y Snap Dragon	Travco Jetty	SSSB-0037-S	www.flowersofsinai.com	info@flowersofsinai.com	
M/Y South Moon	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0020 S	www.seaqueens.com	info@seaqueens.com	(20) 12 2186669
M/Y Tiger Lily	Hurghada	RSSB 002	www.flowersofsinai.com	info@flowersofsinai.com	
M/Y VIP One	Red Sea Diving College	SSSB 0007 S	www.redseacollege.com	info@redseacollege.com	(20) 69 3600145

Hamata					
M/Y Emperor Asmaa	Port Hamata	RSSB 0090	www.emperordivers.com	guestcare.fleet@emperordivers.com	(20) 12 2340995

Hurghada					
M/Y Aida Momo	Grand Seas Hotel	RSSB 0003	www.aida-momo.com	info@aida-momo.com	(20) 12 2447897
M/Y Bella 1	Marriott Marina	RSSB 0099	www.bellasafaris.com	info@bellasafaris.com	
M/Y Blue Fin	Hurghada Marriott Marina	RSSB 0017	www.deepblue-divers.com	deepbluedivers@redseagate.com	(20) 16 5520763
M/Y Blue Horizon	Marriott Marina	RSSB 0018	www.blueotwo.com	deepbluedivers@redseagate.com	(44) 1752 482008
M/Y Blue Melody	Marriott Marina	RSSB 0016	www.deepblue-divers.com	info@deepblue-divers.com	(20) 16 5520763
M/Y Colona V	Magawish Resort Marina	RSSB 0066	www.colona.com	liveaboard-hurghada@colona.com	(20) 65 346 4631
M/Y Dolce Vita	Hurghada New Marina	RSSB 0033	www.diversfleet.com	info@diversfleet.com	(20) 065 344 7965
M/Y Dreams	Hurghada New Marina	RSSB 0014	www.seaserpentfleet.com	info@seaserpentfleet.com	(20) 65 3447307
M/Y Emperor Superior	Hurghada New Marina	RSSB 0050	www.emperordivers.com	guestcare.fleet@emperordivers.com	(20) 12 2340995
M/Y Fire Bird	New Marina	RSSB 0059	www.deepblue-divers.com	info@deepblue-cruises.com	(20) 16 5520763
M/Y Ghazala Voyager	Travco Jetty	SSSB-0017-S	www.sinaidivers.com	info@sinaidivers.com	
M/Y Golden Dolphin 1	Hurghada New Marina	RSSB 0024	www.golden-dolphin.net	info@golden-dolphin.net	(20) 65 3447237
M/Y Golden Dolphin 2	Sheraton Road	RSSB 0057	www.golden-dolphin.net	info@golden-dolphin.net	(20) 65 3447237
M/Y Golden Dolphin 3	Hurghada New Marina	RSSB 0075	www.golden-dolphin.net	info@golden-dolphin.net	(20) 65 344 7237
M/Y Heaven Freedom	Hurghada	RSSB 007	www.diversheaven.com	info@diversheaven.com	(20) 65 3440220
M/Y Heaven Harmony	Hurghada	RSSB 006	www.diversheaven.com	info@diversheaven.com	(20) 65 3440220
M/Y Heaven Saphir	Hurghada	RSSB 008	www.diversheaven.com	info@diversheaven.com	(20) 65 3440220
M/Y Heaven Liberty	Hurghada	RSSB 004	www.diversheaven.com	info@diversheaven.com	(20) 65 3440220
M/Y Liliom	Marine Sports Club	RSSB 0010	www.liliomdivers.com	diving@liliomdivers.com	(20) 122 478 993
M/Y Nouran	Hurghada New Marina	RSSB 0087	www.redsea-sound.com	redsea@redsea-sound.com	
M/Y Obsession Marine	Hurghada New Marina	RSSB 0023	www.seaserpentfleet.com	info@seaserpentfleet.com	(20) 65 3447307
M/Y Sea Sound	Hurghada New Marina	RSSB 0079	www.divingattitude.com	info@divingattitude.com	(20) 12 217 6756
M/Y Spring Land	Hilton Plaza	RSSB 0065		samirgaber@rocketmail.com	
M/Y Thunder Bird	Ali Baba Center, Arabia Beach Resort	RSSB 0043	www.deepblue-cruises.com	info@deepblue-cruises.com	

Safaga					
M/Y El Samman Explorer	Minaville Resort Marina	RSSB 0088		elsaman67@yahoo.com	
M/Y Legends	Aluminium Port	RSSB 0038		mdivers@intouch.com	

Marsa Alam					
M/Y Al Dabaran	Port Marsa Alam	RSSB 0094		info@aldebaran-redsea.com	
M/Y Amal Hayati	Port Marsa Alam	RSSB 0092		samysergy2000@yahoo.com	
M/Y Amelia	Port Ghalib	RSSB 0029	www.discovery-divers.com	info@discovery-divers.com	(20) 65 3448251
M/Y Emperor Elite	Marsa Ghalib	RSSB 0051	www.emperordivers.com	guestcare.fleet@emperordivers.com	(20) 12 2340995
M/Y Emperor Fraser	Marsa Ghalib	RSSB 0044	www.emperordivers.com	guestcare.fleet@emperordivers.com	(20) 12 2340995
M/Y Grand Sea Serpent	Port Ghalib	RSSB 0009	www.seaserpentfleet.com	info@seaserpentfleet.com	(20) 65 3447307
M/Y Muaddib	Port Ghalib	RSSB 0037	www.duneredsea.com	gerard@duneredsea.com	
M/Y Miss Nouran	Port Marsa Alam	RSSB 0011	www.seaserpentfleet.com	info@seaserpentfleet.com	(20) 65 3447307
M/Y Quick Shadow	Port Marsa Alam	RSSB 0047		nabilessbagh@yahoo.co.uk	
M/Y Royal Evolution	Marsa Alam Port Ghaleb	RSSB 0001	www.royalevolution.com	info@ROYALEVOLUTION.com	(20) 65 3447366
M/Y Sea Serpent	Marsa Alam Port	RSSB 0013	www.seaserpentfleet.com	info@seaserpentfleet.com	(20) 65 3447307
M/Y Seven Seas	Port Ghalb Marsa Alam	RSSB 0026		bob_sevenseas@yahoo.com	

WATERSPORT CENTRES:

Name	Address	CDWS No.	Website Address	Email Address	Telephone
Taba					
Egypt Sun Marine	Salah Eldine Hotel	SSSC 0001 T		Mah_ismail@yahoo.com	(20) 103 767704
Red Sea Water World	Taba Heights	SSWS 0001 T	www.redseawaterworld.com	info@redseawaterworld.com	(20) 69 3580 009

Dahab					
Five Circles	Panda Resort	SSWS 0001 D		medhat200073@yahoo.com	(20) 69 3641024

Sharm el Sheikh					
Aaron Waves	Oriental Resort Nabq	SSWS 0001 S		aaronwaves@yahoo.com	(20) 69 3710061
Egypt Sun Marine	Palermo Hotel	SSSC 0001 S		abdoodiver@hotmail.com	(20) 69 3661838

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