

Environmental Diving Considerations and Memorandum of Understanding For Dive Professionals and Dive Leaders

As dive professionals we have a responsibility to ensure we educate all our customers on how to be environmentally respectful and responsible divers.

We also have a responsibility to protect our fragile reefs and the marine life that live there.

We can do this by demonstrating environmentally sound leadership and role model behaviour. This includes:

- Educating yourself about reef ecology, how the coral reef functions, the threats it faces, important relationships between living organisms and how they are impacted by both human and natural threats.
- Imparting this knowledge of Reef Ecology to your divers.
- Promoting good role model conservation practices during your day to day teaching and diving activities and encouraging all your divers to become conservation minded and aware.
- Ensuring your personal dive skills are of the highest level and promoting better buoyancy to all your divers.
- Informing all divers of their environmental responsibilities as part of your knowledge development sessions and during every dive briefing.

Additionally, you should encourage divers to follow Project AWARE's ***Top 10 tips for divers to protect the ocean planet*** pledge.

- Ensuring divers are aware of how fragile and easily damaged the marine environment is and that they should not touch, lean or sit on any part of the coral reef during any diving related activities.
- Ensure that staged skills from all training dives are conducted neutrally buoyant wherever possible.

If diver safety maybe jeopardised due to environmental conditions then look for a large sandy area, clear from the reef and minimise disruption.

- Ensure divers and students do NOT touch or remove ANY marine organisms, shells, rocks etc, as souvenirs for any reason whatsoever ***Except under the direction of Marine conservation trained staff.**
- Ensure you explain to your divers about responsible dive practices when observing sea turtles and other marine animals including the Whaleshark awareness code of conduct.
- Ensure divers **Do Not** wear gloves that are unnecessary in the warm sea that surrounds of Koh Tao.
- Inform Management of any serious infractions that are personally witnessed.

I hereby acknowledge that I have read, understand and agree to the rules listed above.

Signed