

Supplemental information for New Scuba Divers

1. Keep up your log book.
 - a. Provides a record of your dives by tracking location, dive times/depth, wet suit used for different water temperatures, weights, etc.
 - b. Some dive charters want to see your log book prior to booking on advanced dives.
 - c. Required for advanced dive training.
2. Use Triptone if there is any risk of getting sea sick.
 - a. Do not follow instructions on the box: take the night before, first thing in the morning, then 4-6 hours during the dive trip.
3. Get organized for off-shore charters.
 - a. A dive tool and computer or watch is required for Charleston Scuba charters.
 - b. Gloves are highly recommended.
 - c. Compass, small light, and safety sausage are recommended.
 - d. Keep your gear organized and contained on the boat. Loose gear is a safety hazard.
 - e. Have proper gear bags and organize for efficient packing and unpacking.
 - f. Setup and breakdown gear at the soonest opportunity.
 - g. Pack a "go-to" -a-dive kit.
 - h. Mark your gear. Many divers have the same gear and stuff can get mixed up on the boat.
4. Support your dive shop.
 - a. The purpose of a good dive shop is to support divers by maintaining equipment, providing training, and providing dive opportunities.
 - b. It's not a business to get rich, but because we love to dive.
 - c. Product support is worth more than the product cost.
 - d. Become a fan of Charleston Scuba on Facebook. We post dive charter and trip reports, open seats on the boat and trips, and photos.
 - e. Contact info:

Charleston Scuba
 335 Savannah Hwy.
 Charleston, SC 29407
 (843) 763-3483 (dive)
info@charlestonscuba.com
www.CharlestonScuba.com
www.facebook.com/home.php?#/pages/Charleston-Scuba/36264082611

5. Consider buying your own dive gear.
 - a. You get familiar with your own gear.
 - b. Configure gear for the way you dive.
 - c. More comfortable.
 - d. Safer because you know the service record.
6. Dive often to stay in practice and gain experience.
 - a. Stay in practice. You must dive often to stay in practice.
 - b. Gain experience by seeking out different dive locations and types of sites, i.e. wrecks, reefs, and shore diving.
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 - d. Consider joining the PADI Diving Society: www.padi.com
7. Continue your dive training.
 - a. Register with Padi.com to keep abreast of the latest courses and industry trends.
 - b. Makes dives much more enjoyable and secure.
 - c. Register with Padi.com to keep abreast of the latest courses and industry trends.
 - d. Advanced Open Water course allows new divers to explore a variety of underwater activities and enhanced skills.
 - e. Rescue Diver course provides training for self and buddy care and rescue techniques. Achieving Rescue Diver level of training is highly recommended.
 - f. A great training resource is Dive Training magazine: <http://www.dtmag.com/>.
8. Learn about the aquatic environment.
 - a. Gives purpose to your dives.
 - b. Use photography for fish, coral, invertebrate, etc. identification.
 - c. Stewardship of the oceans and waterways. See the graphic on the last page.
 - d. Visit Project AWARE website: projectaware.org.
 - e. Visit Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF): reef.org.
 - f. Participate in Fish Counts.

Living with a Razor-Sharp Skeleton

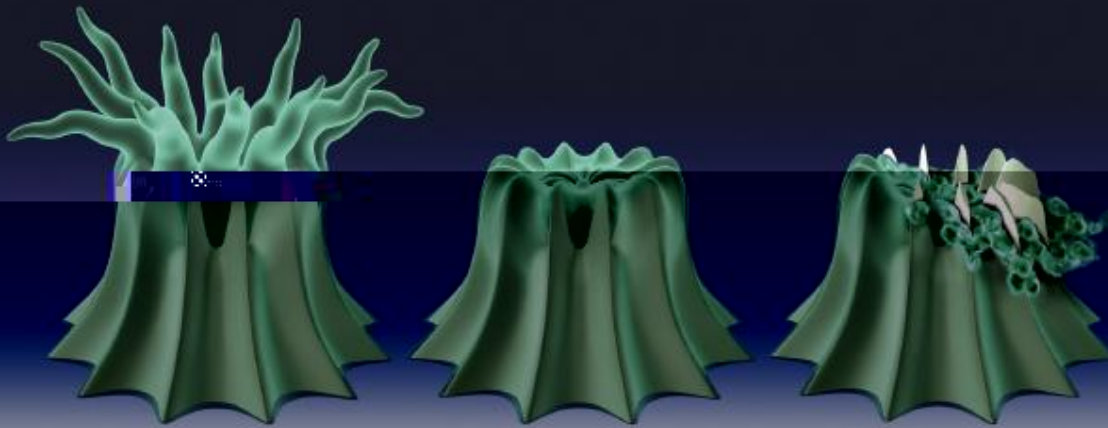


illustration: gcarlson.com

Individual coral animals are called polyps. The illustration emphasizes how the fragile tissue of each polyp rests on top of its own sharp skeleton. The polyp on the left is extended, feeding. The center coral polyp is withdrawn as it would normally be during the day. The polyp on the right shows the damage a diver would cause by brushing against it, smashing the soft polyp against its stony skeleton. Once a few polyps are killed, that section of the coral head cannot grow again.

A coral head is a colony of thousands of interconnected polyps who are clones of each other. A coral head the size of a hawksbill turtle began growing long before humans began using SCUBA gear. It takes millions of coral polyps and hundreds of years to build a reef.

Let's respect coral so our children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy living reefs, too!

Action in Behalf of Coral Project[©] – <http://www.touchthesea.com/abcproject>

9. Protect yourself and your equipment with Divers Alert Network (DAN) insurance: diversalertnetwork.org.
 - a. Hyperbaric chamber support.
 - b. Trip insurance.
 - c. Equipment insurance.
 - d. Latest safety protocols.
 - e. Diver casualty reports.
 - f. The DAN website is the best source for dive related medical information. This is a great article for new divers to read: [S n n l n k m S n](#).
10. Tip your Dive Master.
 - a. Normal tip is \$5 per tank.



11. We will always be your instructors.
 - a. Discuss training issues.
 - b. If you need a dive buddy.