

## **Proposed ESS SCUBA Course Justification of Required Course Fee:**

Dive gear:

The marine science department has some existing dive equipment. However, we will need to order more dive equipment to increase the number of students who may participate in one course. Students are also of various sizes, and we will need enough equipment in the varied sizes to accommodate student needs. The marine science program may be able to utilize grant money in order to also supplement this gear at times. The average cost of gear to outfit one student is \$500 per set. We would have a more costly initial investment in order to run the course, and then need to utilize course fee monies to add a few new sets of gear each year. Inevitably, gear becomes worn to the point that repairs are no longer able to solve the problem.

As equipment ages, it will need maintenance and repairs. Some of this can be done on site and other repairs may require parts, which would involve an expense.

Dive tanks must be inspected each year and serviced every 5 years. There is currently no operation on island that can provide this service, and so tanks must be sent to Guam, or new tanks ordered in their place. We could try to coordinate our shipment with other dive facilities on island to reduce the cost of getting tanks serviced, but either approach, again involves expenses. This can be as much as \$50 - \$90 per tank. New tanks cost just over \$100.

The PADI membership fee is presently \$150 per instructor per year.

The liability insurance per instructor is presently \$598 per instructor per year.

We have to get tanks filled with air from a reputable shop on island, as we do not currently possess an air compressor (which is expensive). The cost of getting one tank filled with air is generally between \$7 - \$8 per tank. Depending on the number of times a student is taken into the water for training, they will need between 6 - 8 tanks. So, the cost per student per semester would be \$42 - \$64.

For the certification card the student will receive, PADI is presently charging about \$20 (per student).

Instructor materials must be on hand, such as the water proof cards to take into the water which list all skills students must perform. There are also instructional aids for lecture on DVD that should be acquired. We must purchase the PADI Open Water Diver Video. We must purchase the current quizzes and exams from PADI to give the students their written assessments. Again, these are initial expenses but would then need to be replaced as new versions or standard changes occur.

We would also have an initial cost to acquire safety gear. An AED (automated external defibrillator), a safety kit, and two emergency oxygen cylinders. Over time

items removed/used from the safety kit would need to be replaced. Oxygen cylinders might need recharged. And, a worn or old AED would need to be replaced.

So, though the \$100 fee seems rather substantial, the majority of this fee is necessary simply to pay for basic course expenses, not to mention the many other things necessary to run a SCUBA course.

Also, these same materials can be used if we develop and offer further SCUBA training, such as Advanced Scuba Diver and Rescue Diver helping to justify initial expenses. Though each of those courses would require their own fees, if we develop them.

Further, the typical textbook is presently costing a student around \$150. But the PADI course materials/textbook will fall around \$60 - \$70 with the other \$100 being paid as a student fee and put into a budget for the SCUBA course. So, this is not costing the student much more, if any more, than they are presently having to pay for their other course materials.