

EUROPEAN SCIENTIFIC DIVING PANEL  
(ESDP)

20th Meeting – 04<sup>th</sup> May 2018

University of Stockholm & Skype

MINUTES

		ACTIONS
<p>1. Welcome and Present</p>	<p>PRESENT: J-P Féral (J-PF; France), J Leinikki (JL; Finland), M Asplund (MA; Sweden), D Deyanova (DD; Bulgaria), M Waldey (MW; Norway), M Frost (MF; MARS)</p> <p>BY SKYPE: W Plaiti (WP; Greece), M Sayer (MS; UK), P Fischer (PF; Germany), D Paulo (DP; Portugal)</p> <p>APOLOGIES: A Norro (AN; Belgium), M Ponti (MP; Italy), D Petricioli (DP; Croatia)</p> <p><i>[there were “the usual” issues with Skype that delayed the start of the meeting]</i></p>	
<p>2. Adoption of the agenda</p>	<p>Agreed – no changes were proposed.</p>	
<p>3. Approval of minutes from the 19th ESDP meeting</p>	<p>JL queried: “BS EN ISO 18119:201X Gas cylinders – Seamless steel and seamless aluminium-alloy gas cylinders and tubes – Periodic inspection and testing”. It is still 201X as it has yet to be ratified, but should be 2018.</p> <p>J-PF has not received any input yet on the following: Different countries have different legislation with regards to making recognition of national standards straightforward. There is a need to make this simpler. J-PF outlined what is practically needed to include: minimum training standards, national certification, medical assessment, research mission, insurance etc. A need for a table with equivalent diving qualifications for acceptance to work across borders. <b>Agreed that this is important and all are encouraged to do this as soon as possible (refer also to section 9(a))</b></p> <p>The report of the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting was circulated and the final</p>	<p><b>ACTION:</b> All members to contribute to a template to be sent by J-PF regarding accepting qualifications from other countries. PF to update the table on the website.</p>

	version is now accepted.	
4. "New" ESDP Terms of Reference	<p>Very similar to the Marine Board version with regard to the Terms of Reference. The substitution with the MARS Network replicates much of what was done by the Marine Board.</p> <p>JL – question about the mission statement: “should safety be added at 2.1?” – more important to highlight research in the mission statement. Safety is covered in 2.3</p> <p>JL – 4.4: “what is required of the MARS Network?” – should ask that MARS encourages its members to join or collaborate with the National SD Committees. <b>Agreed</b> that the ToR should be updated to include this as an objective. JL suggested the wording “MARS should also encourage it’s member institutions to actively seek collaboration with the NSDCs”</p> <p>MW – some spelling corrections required but otherwise the content looks fine.</p> <p>New ESDP logo was discussed that now incorporates MARS to replace the Marine Board logo.</p> <p>ESDP agreed the new Terms of Reference; this now goes back to the MARS Board to confirm the minor changes made for final acceptance.</p>	
5. How MARS network and ESDP will act together	<p>MARS is launching a new strategy over next 1-2 years, so is currently in a transition phase. At the moment the MARS subscription fee is relatively low (and no fees have been collected for past 2-years). They will start collecting fees once the new strategy is agreed. Once MARS is more financially secure then they will re-enter discussions about funding some of the ESDP activity. So the discussion can be re-visited once the MARS “re-launch” has been achieved.</p> <p>For information, the full name of MARS is now the “European Network of Marine Research Institutes and Stations”; preferred name is “MARS Network”</p> <p>ESDP “page” on the MARS website is not a problem. There will need to be someone from ESDP nominated to be responsible for editing / updating the page. For ongoing discussion but current route would be through Pim van Avesaath (PvA; MARS secretary).</p>	<p><b>ACTION:</b> On MF to ensure that PvA is aware of the need for the ESDP page and given a contact from</p>

	<p>The new strategy will mention ESDP. A newsletter will be produced soon and would like to have a page from ESDP describing their activity.</p> <p>Next meeting of MARS Network in Crete 28-29<sup>th</sup> November 2018 – ESDP presentation at the main meeting with perhaps a satellite ESDP meeting at the same location; perhaps ESD to meet on 27 November?</p> <p>MARS is joining WAMS – World Association of Marine Stations; MARS would like to be aware what ESDP international connections are? AAUS – American Academy of Underwater Sciences is the best example.</p> <p>Need for regular discussions between MARS Network and ESDP – additional 1-2 meetings between the two chairs.</p> <p>MARS helps to run the EMBS (European Marine Biology Symposium) – another place/option for MARS/ESDP to talk.</p>	<p>ESDP as the person responsible for updating and editing our page.</p>
<p>6. National updates</p>	<p><b>NO</b> – NSD (Norwegian Scientific Divers) is the national body for scientific diving in Norway is formally registered in the ‘voluntary registry’ from 2013. There is no national certification for scientific diving in Norway; instead science divers have to hold commercial diving qualifications (A or B commercial diving certificates). Diving in Norway is regulated by the Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority. There was an exemption for scientific diving – the “S” exemption. There was a hearing in autumn 2017 and a number of recommendations were made, such as surface supply v SCUBA, Minimum team sizes, and the S-level will cease in 2020. Many concerns about misuse of the S-exemption. Revisions are being driven by recent deaths of shellfish divers; no incident for science divers but the whole diving industry is under review (no distinct sectors). The Labor Inspectorate is soon ending the work on assessing final proposals for changes to the regulatory framework for diving. The proposals will be presented to the Regulatory Forum on 12 June 2018, and will then be sent to the Ministry for assessment and possible implementation. The first possible entry into force will be 1 January 2019.</p>	

**FI** - Safety code of practice is under development. Expected to be ready during 2018.

**SE** - Government won't let the armed forces off the administration of SD certifications. SD will seek independent position from the professional diving schools. The Lovén centre, University of Gothenburg and AWI are hosting Joint German, Swedish, Finnish European scientific diving training in 2018.

**BG** – There is a national body for scientific diving in Bulgaria. There is a small scientific diving course but only for skills, it does not certify the diving itself. No changes in the diving regulations but there is an attempt to try and get scientific diving recognised at the regulatory level. There is a lack of clarity as to what happens if there is an accident when diving.

**FR** – No significant changes. There is a review of all types of safety, which includes science diving. There is a temporary situation at present, which has not changed.

**UK** – No changes to national regulations. There has been a change with the UK National Facility for Scientific Diving (NFSD) which supports science diving programmes and the UK national committee (the Scientific Diving Supervisory Committee; SDSC). The Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) decided to no longer support scientific diving; the national facility was hosted by SAMS. The Natural Environment Research council (NERC), the government research council with funding responsibility for the National facility, followed the decision of SAMS. Continuing the main aims/objectives of the NFSD is now being addressed through a new commercial company (Tritonia Scientific Ltd.). There will be continued “NERC” funding but through new routes; so there is a temporary gap in funding but this should be re-established informally in next 2-3 months. The intention is that the new commercial company will support the UK National SD Committee to the same level that was being delivered through NERC.

**DE** – No major changes. Very close relationship with the government and HSE offices. Two new member – now at 20. Increased number of AAUS divers now being employed in Germany with cross-over to ESD certification.

**PT** – Pedro has stepped down as the main representative on ESDP; Diogo is the new contact. The NC has produced a

	<p>document for the government detailing scientific diving operations to make sure that there are kept aware of their activity in case of any change in regulations. Institutions in Portugal are aligning themselves to the ESDP guidance.</p> <p><b>EL</b> – No major changes. Scientific diving continues to be excluded from the law and continue to follow institution rules.</p> <p><b>ES</b> – They are beginning to try and organise a national committee for scientific diving. An initial meeting was held on 28<sup>th</sup> February but no agreement was made. Apparently it was a difficult meeting but there is recognition that a national committee was necessary.</p> <p><b>GENERAL DISCUSSION</b> – trying to raise the profile of Scientific Diving in Europe. Was considered that this might be something that the MARS Network may be able to help with?</p>	
<p>7. Update on previous and upcoming events</p>	<p>4<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Scientific Diving was held in Orkney 9-13<sup>th</sup> April. Small but interesting meeting that had a number of themes. Specifically concentrated on maritime archaeology projects plus the collaboration with Citizen Scientists.</p> <p>Diving Joint Research Activity in ASSEMBLE+. Seven partners to establish a diving-based research network in Europe – being led by SAMS (now being contracted to Tritonia Scientific; UK), with Station biologique de Roscoff (FR), Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (EL), University of Gdansk, Institute of Oceanography(PL), The Institute of Oceanology of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PL), Sven Lovén Centre for Marine Infrastructure at the University of Gothenburg (SE) and the University of Helsinki Tvärminne Zoological Station.</p>	
<p>8. Improving ESDP website</p>	<p>The ESDP website will be retained even though there will now be an ESDP page on the MARS website that summarises our activity rather than giving up-to-date information.</p> <p>Marine Board ESDP page is still active; should it be shut-down? Some information may be kept but is it confusing?</p> <p>There needs to be a national representative for keeping the ESDP website current.</p>	<p><b>ACTION:</b> All members to send JP-F details of the national</p>

		representatives
9. Consultation documents	<p>(a) reciprocity Different countries have different legislation with regards to making recognition of national standards straightforward. There is a need to make this simpler. J-PF outlined what is practically needed to include: minimum training standards, national certification, medical assessment, research mission, insurance etc. A need for a table with equivalent diving qualifications for acceptance to work across borders.</p> <p>There should also be scenarios related to coming to the host country, working together in other countries, holding joint courses – e.g. Svalbard?</p> <p>(b) medical examinations Spreadsheet attached to this record. Martin to turn this into a draft consultation document to be circulated around the committee as soon as possible.</p> <p>(c) rebreathers Working Group created after meeting 18. Group formed early May. WG = 8 members so far. First task to make an inventory of all publications that have arisen from the use of rebreathers, or technical reports etc. This is ongoing and still needs updating. Intended output is a consultation document on minimum standards for the use of rebreathers for scientific diving – to include the training required.</p> <p>(d) MARS newsletter Summary of what has been agreed at this meeting with images of logo that reflects scientific diving in Europe. For each newsletter there should be something from ESDP.</p>	<p><b>ACTION:</b> All members to contribute to a template to be sent by J-PF regarding accepting qualifications from other countries.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Martin to compile a draft. US, Aus, NZ to be included as a comparative annex</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> WG members to continue to contribute to the inventory.</p>
10. Any other business	Next European Conference on Scientific Diving: The Institute of Oceanology of the Polish Academy of Sciences (IO PAN) May 2019. A call will go out soon for institutes to host the 2020 and 2021 meetings.	
11. Date and location of next meeting	Suggested joint meeting with MARS Network on 27-29 <sup>th</sup> November 2018 to be hosted by HCMR in Crete (with the possibility of some diving afterwards).	