

MLML OCEAN WHITE SHARK PROTOCOLS

- White Sharks are known to be in Central California near shore waters year round. Do not dive in immediate areas with recent shark activity (sightings or attacks).
- Discuss emergency procedures with your buddy and dive team before commencing the dives.
- Minimize time spent on the surface and avoid surface and mid-water swimming if possible.
- Be particularly aware of your surroundings underwater and at the surface. Pay attention to marine mammal behavior. Avoid diving in poor visibility or near fishing activity.
- Plan your diving well, dive conservatively and use a profile that minimizes time at the surface. Know compass headings back to anchor line and to shore. Make sure you have enough air to navigate underwater to your exit point, stay in visual contact with buddy at all times, stay well within the no-decompression limits, and make slow but direct ascents to surface.
- If the situation dictates, make a direct ascent to the surface, do not make a safety stop but ascend as slowly as you can safely with your buddy. Be prepared to enter the vessel as quickly as possible, ditching BCD, gear and weight if necessary.
- Utilize boats whenever possible with a surface boat attendant to expedite divers exiting the water. Have a cell phone, VHF, O₂, FA kit, recall on board.
- Recall system and signals. Discuss with team and boat driver what observations may lead to recalling divers. Recall system may be formal (underwater recall sound system, metal shaker) or informal (revving of an engine, banging a wrench on a boat bottom etc..). Signal should be discussed. One example is continuous banging or engine revving means ascend directly, intermittent banging (cycle of 3, stop, 3 stop...) means stay submerged until further communication of continuous signal) or breathing gas becomes low.
- **Divers need to assess the risk of each dive and make their own decision as to their ability to safely conduct a dive. Any diver may refuse to make a dive, even if his/her decision will lead to the cancellation of the day's activities.**

Equipment recommended for all divers: knife, 1m of surgical tubing

Equipment recommended for on site first aid kit: tourniquet, trauma kit, absorbent material

Equipment recommended for boats: extraction kit – parbuckle net

- **Specialized diver first aid training and discussion should include tourniquet use, benefit of leaving a wetsuit on until EMS arrives since it can control bleeding, treating for shock for injured diver and all divers involved.**
- Mid-water Scooter use – avoid if possible, stay towards bottom