

# White Sea Biological Station of Lomonosov Moscow State University (WSBS)

## WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

I, \_\_\_\_\_ hereby declare that I am the holder of a valid Open Water Certification (or higher) in SCUBA diving issued by the following agency: \_\_\_\_\_; trained in safe diving practices, and I am aware of the inherent hazards of snorkeling, skin and SCUBA diving.

In consideration of permitting me to dive at WSBS from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, I hereby acknowledge that snorkeling, skin and SCUBA diving is a potentially dangerous activity and involves risk of serious injury and/or death and/or property damage. I further acknowledge that diving with compressed air and/or rebreather involves certain inherent risks: decompression sickness, embolism or other hyperbaric injuries can occur that require treatment in a recompression chamber. I further understand that the open water dive(s) may be conducted at a site that is remote, either by time or distance or both, from such a decompression chamber and competent medical assistance. Nevertheless, I choose to proceed even in the absence of a recompression chamber and competent medical assistance.

Additionally, I understand that there are also risks associated with dive travel, including, but not limited to the possible injury or loss of life as a result of a dive boat accident, as well as travel to and from dive sites. Despite the potential hazards and dangers associated with the activity of diving, I wish to proceed and I freely accept and expressly assume all risk, dangers and hazards that may arise from diving activities which could result in personal injury, loss of life and property damage to me.

I declare that I am in good mental and physical health for diving, that I have not had any medical condition contradictory to diving practices, and that I am not under the influence of alcohol or drugs that are contradictory to diving. If I am taking medication, I declare that I have seen a physician and have approval to dive while under the influence of the medication/drugs.

Hereby release, waive, discharge, and agree not to sue WSBS, its facility, the dive leader, or any of its officers, instructors, agents or employees (The Releases) from all liability to myself, my personal representatives, assigns, heirs, and next of kin for any and all loss or damage, and any claim of demands thereof on account of injury to my person or property or resulting in my death, now and forever, arising out of or related to my participation in this orientation or any other related diving operations that may occur, whether caused by the negligence of the releases or otherwise.

Hereby, I assume full responsibility for any risk of bodily injury, death or property damage, now and forever.

Hereby I separately agree to indemnify and save and hold harmless the Releases from any loss, liability, damage or cost that they may incur now and forever, arising out of or related to participation in this orientation or any other related diving operations, whether caused by the negligence of the Releases or otherwise.

Hereby I acknowledge that injuries received may be compounded or increased by negligent rescue operations or procedures of the Releases and agree that this Waiver and Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Indemnity Agreement extends to all acts of negligence by Releases including negligent rescue operations.

I have read this Waiver and Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Indemnity Agreement, fully understand its terms, understand that I have given up substantial rights by signing it, am aware of its legal consequences, and have signed it freely and voluntarily without any inducement, assurance or guarantee being made to me and intend my signature to be a complete and unconditional release of all liability to the greatest extent allowed by law. I have had the opportunity to personally discuss and realize the potential dangers incidental into engaging in the activity of snorkeling/skin or scuba diving and related dive operations.

Signature of Participant	Passport Number	Date
Signature of Witness	Passport Number	Date
Signature of Parent/Guardian if Participant is under 18 years	Passport Number	Date

**INFORMARION: SCUBA DIVING RISKS**

By participating in SCUBA diving you may be exposed to several inherent risks, including but not limited to those listed below:

- Aerotitis, Media (Middle Ear Squeeze) • Suit Squeeze (when using a “dry suit”)
- Aerodontalgia (tooth pain from pressure) • Gas in the Gut
- Air Embolism (overexpansion of the lungs) • Heat Loss
- Anoxia (oxygen deficiency-hypoxia) • Hyperventilation
- Asphyxia (carbon dioxide excess) • Overexertion and Exhaustion
- Bleeding • Oxygen Poisoning
- o Bitten tongue resulting from convulsions • Nitrogen Narcosis (Rapture of the Deep)
- o Frothy bleeding from lung rupture
- o Nose bleeding from clearing Eustachian tube, sinus, or vigorous blowing to clear ears
- Bends (Caisson Disease/ Decompression Sickness/ Compressed Air Sickness/ Diver’s Disease)
- Carbon Monoxide Poisoning (accidental air contamination in tank)
- External Ear Infection
- Carotid Sinus Reflex (fainting or blackout caused by insufficient blood reaching the brain because suit at neck is too tight)
- Emphysema, Subcutaneous (swelling due to abnormal presence of air in the tissues just under the skin near neck region)
- Emphysema, Mediastinal (swelling due to abnormal presence of air in the tissues just under the skin in the vicinity of the heart and lungs and large blood vessels in chest area)
- Carbon Dioxide Excess (Hypercapnia/ Carbon Dioxide toxicity)
- Heart Stoppage (Cardiac Arrest)
- Pneumothorax (air between the lungs and chest wall)
- Reverse Block (Inability to clear ears or sinus during ascent)
- Sinusitis (inflammation of the sinus)
- Squeeze (injury that occurs because closed airspace in the body cannot be equalized to that of the outside water pressure)
- Sinus Squeeze (blockage of openings leading from nose to sinuses)
- External Ear Squeeze (air trapped between an ear plug and eardrum)
- Middle Ear Squeeze (failure to clear ears while diving)
- Face Mask Squeeze (failure to equalize pressure in mask and outside mask)
- Lung (Thoracic) Squeeze (holding breath while descending)
- Lipoid Pneumonia (pneumonia infection caused by non-absorbable fat in the lungs)
- Drowning

We request you conduct your participation with the safety of yourself and others in mind.