



Innovation for
Marine Conservation

Dive Safety:

Reducing Risk & Empowering Communities

A multi-course training program taught by former fishermen to raise awareness of safe diving practices and build dive-related emergency response capacity.



Rate up to which
fishermen
sampled exceed
maximum bottom
times on tables

5x

Proportion of
divers in a
sample fishing
community with
brain injuries

1/2

Sampled rate of
decompression
sickness in
fishermen vs.
recreational divers

300x



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Dive Safety for Artisanal Fishermen



Fishing is the world's most dangerous job. And fishermen divers are at particularly high risk of accident or injury. Fishing communities across Mexico's Baja Peninsula bear deep economic and emotional wounds from dive-related accidents and injuries.

Baja's fishermen divers harvest species such as snails, clams, scallops, lobster, fish, sea cucumbers, urchins, abalone and octopus from the Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of California. Few are trained to prevent dive accidents or understand the long-term health risks associated with decompression sickness. Unsafe dive practices are often associated with unsustainable and illegal resource use. Investing in dive safety also encourages fishermen to consider long-term resource management goals.

Olazul's Dive Safety instructors are former fishermen certified to teach DAN Dive Emergency Management modules. They understand the safety concerns most relevant to fishermen divers and are well-positioned to best respond to the needs of local fishing cooperatives.

We currently offer the DAN courses (Emergency Oxygen, First Aid and Neurological Evaluation) in hands-on seminars that best suit the learning styles of artisanal fishermen divers. Our team is also gathering data to create a specialized curriculum for certifying fishermen divers with the potential to transform the sector by:

- Fostering safer and more sustainable practices for improved long-term human and ecosystem health;
- Supporting fishermen who obtain permits and follow legal methods for resource exploitation; and
- Enabling fishermen to secure insurance coverage for themselves and their families in case of accident.

Major advisors and partners include: Abraham Bustamante of Medicina Hiperbárica Integral; Gabriel Vazquez of Carey Dive Center; and Dr. Walter Chin at the UCLA Hyperbaric Medical Center.

For more information, contact Olazul's Executive Director Jos Hill via email at jos@olazul.org

Features

Administering Oxygen:

- Basic techniques;
- Use on non-breathing divers;
- Alternate administration methods.



Diver First Aid Training:

- Identification of hazards;
- Avoiding injury;
- Treating wounds on the water.



Neurological Evaluation:

- Recognizing signs of embolism;
- Decompression sickness;
- Identifying subtle changes.



Dive safety training encourages fishing communities to adopt more responsible practices and plan for the future.