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Sport Diver Archaeology Management Program

The *Quarterly Reporter* is a quarterly newsletter from the Sport Diver Archaeology Management Program (SDAMP). Part of the Maritime Research Division of South Carolina Institute of Archaeology of Anthropology, University of South Carolina

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SDAMP- Who Are We?

By Carl Naylor

The Sport Diver Archaeology Management Program (SDAMP) serves the licensing and educational needs of sport divers regarding their collection of artifacts and fossils from state waters. Sounds simple enough, but in fact it is not. Let me explain.

Presently, about three hundred persons hold current hobby diver licenses. Since its inception, nearly five thousand hobby diver licenses have been issued through this office to divers from all over the United States. This requires not a small amount of administrative activity. In addition to processing the several hundred applications and renewals each year, we spend much of our time reviewing and recording the artifact reports and subsequent sites that come from the divers. This is the heart of the licensing program. From these reports we learn not only about the cool artifacts divers are collecting, but we also learn of new archaeological sites in state waters, adding them to the already eight hundred plus recorded sites. Once these sites are in the site files, we monitor them, protecting them from the ravages of vandalism, development, and environmental degradation.

By the way, while the licenses we issue cover the collection of fossils as well as artifacts, divers report fossil finds to the South Carolina State Museum where there are trained paleontologists evaluating the significance of these found fossils. Artifact reports come to this office by mail, fax, or now online through our website.

We are also charged with providing a public education and outreach program. With the addition of Ashley Deming as manager of SDAMP, we hope to revitalize and improve our education efforts. The aim of the program is to educate divers to become more informed reporters of their finds, to help divers understand basic conservation methods, teach divers how to record shipwreck sites, and to enhance overall public appreciation for our South Carolina maritime heritage.

SDAMP staff is often in the field doing projects with the other members of the SCIAA Maritime Research Division as well as working on our very own SDAMP field projects. Many of these projects take place offshore. To read more about these joint projects see the Upcoming Events section in this newsletter starting on page 2 or visit the website.

For these reasons, we can often be hard to contact in the office. Yet, we get back to SDAMP headquarters, a 20+ year old trailer at Fort Johnson Marine Resource Center on James Island, as often as we can during our times in the field. The entire SDAMP staff (that's just Ashley and me) work diligently to handle your licensing, reporting, and education and outreach needs. This program is our number one priority. The reports you submit help us to create a better program for you, so keep those reports coming!■

Useful Website Information

For more information on

SDAMP: www.cas.sc.edu/sciaa/mrd/sdamp.html

MRD: www.cas.sc.edu/sciaa/mrd/mrd_index.html

SCIAA: www.cas.sc.edu/sciaa

SCIAA publication *Legacy*: www.cas.sc.edu/sciaa/legacy.html