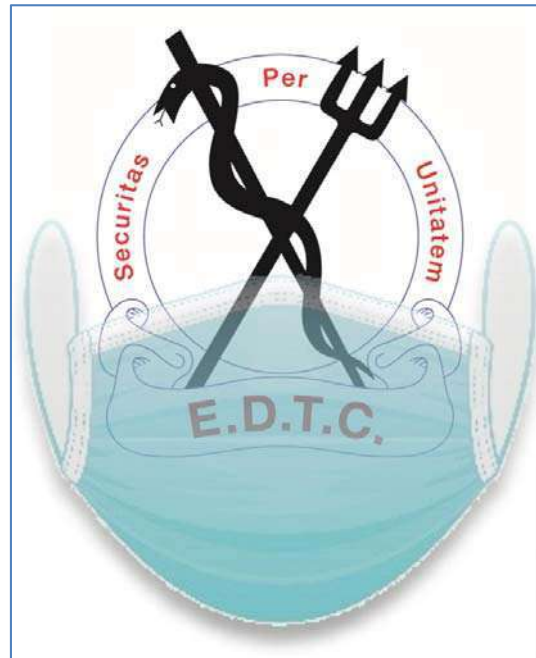


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# MINUTES of EDTC 2020 ONLINE MEETING



**Place:** Online, at [zoom](#)

**Date:** 25 september 2020

**Time:** 17:00 (CET)

## AGENDA

<b>17:00</b>	<b>Welcome</b>	
<b>17:05</b>	<b>Chairman's report</b>	<b>Jörn Ryberg</b>
<b>17:30</b>	<b>Admin matters</b>	<b>Akin S. Toklu</b>
<b>17:40</b>	<b>Treasurers report</b>	<b>Phil Crombie</b>
<b>17:50</b>	<b>MedSub Report</b>	<b>Jürg Wendling</b>
<b>18:10</b>	<b>Member countries reports</b>	
	Ireland	John Kinsella
	Sweden	Mats Hagberg
	UK	Philip Crombie
<b>18:50</b>	<b>Elections</b>	<b>Members</b>
<b>19:00</b>	<b>Closing Remarks</b>	<b>Jörn Ryberg</b>

## HOST

Akin Savas Toklu

Istanbul University, [zoom](#)

## THOSE PRESENT

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>	<b>Note:</b>
Jörn Ryberg	SWEDEN	Chairman
Akin Savas Toklu	TURKEY	Secretary
Phil Crombie	UK	Treasurer
Jurg Wendling	SWITZERLAND	Member Executive Board

### MEMBERS

### COUNTRY

Akin Savaş Toklu	TURKEY
Ali Uzunoğlu	TURKEY
Amanda Sordes	IDRCF
Andreas Achermann	SWITZERLAND
António E. L. F. Oliveira Bandejas	PORTUGAL
Daniel Larsson	SWEDEN
David Parkes	IDRCF
Eric Albier	FRANCE
Jacek Kot	POLAND
Jennifer Mayer & Marcus Klönner	GERMANY
John Kinsella	IRELAND
Jörn Ryberg	SWEDEN
Jurg Wendling	SWITZERLAND
Hans Cuyllits	BELGIUM
Knud-Helge Andreasen	DENMARK
Roland Vanden Eede	BELGIUM
Mark Caney	EUF
Massimo Becherucci	ITALY
Philip Crombie	UK
P.J.A.M. (Pieter-Jan) van Ooij	THE NETHERLANDS
Peter Sieniewicz	UK
Salih Murat Egi	TURKEY
Steve Forman	UK
Veronika Rybárová	SLOVAK REPUBLIC

## APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Aleksei Usanov	ESTONIA
Deric Ellerby	EUF
Eric Saint-Sulpice	FRANCE
Francisco Gamito Guerreiro	PORTUGAL
Jabulile Mhlophe	IDRCF
Joar Gangenes	NORWAY
Mats Hagberg	SWEDEN
Olav Hauso	NORWAY
Pavel Macura	CZECH REPUBLIC
Peter Souza Ric-HanJoar Gangenessen	DENMARK
Thomas Gaisberger	AUSTRIA

## WELCOME ADDRESS

The Secretary, Akin S. Toklu informed participants about the principles of using zoom. The Chairman, Jörn Ryberg, opened the EDTC 2020 meeting welcoming members.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman started his report by stating that 2020 had been a very odd year and he shared his screen presenting his report named "Time for Reflection". The presentation included the subtitles of "EDTC Profile-Aims & Objectives", "The Work of Executive Board", "EDTC -vs >Covid 19" and

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“The way forward”. He reminded members that the EDCT was founded in 1973 as a non-profit organization and the main purpose of the organization is safer commercial diving. He emphasized the importance of being a non-profit organization while working towards safer commercial diving, functioning as an independent European forum, organizing discussions, producing standards and guidance. The Chairman introduced the Board members and noted that the Board organizes online meetings by MS Teams every three months on a fixed agenda. He also summarized the achievements of the EDTC Board during 2020. Chairman explained why the EDTC did not provide specific guidance regarding Covid-19, adding that Covid-19 measures are legal actions that should be taken on national level, and everyone must follow their own national legislation, since EDTC is not a legislating party. He mentioned about the specific challenges of the global economy that was affected by Covid-19. He explained the role of EDTC and importance of using the common minimum standards prepared by EDTC. These standards on safe diving practice in commercial diving, issued in 2018, can be used to create awareness of the fundamental issues surrounding commercial diving activities. He noted that implementation of the standards can be achieved in a fast and safe manner by the EDTC members in cooperation with national HSE authorities. Chairman stated that the way forward should be proactive instead of reactive and EDTC documents should be functional guidance. The pdf format of the chairman report can be seen in Annex 1.

## **EDTC ADMIN MATTERS**

The Secretary, Akin S. Toklu started his report summarizing the date and place of previous EDTC annual meetings. He reported on the number of the countries and organizations represented in the EDTC together with the correspondent members. He gave information about the updated website and asked members to check their details at the “Members Area”, and let him know if any amendments are needed. He shared the list apologies for absence, and of the registered members. He added the number of participants is 24, but 28 members registered for the meeting. The Secretary noted that when looking back at previous meetings there are some members who are not active and have not participated in annual meetings for several years. He asked members to get in contact with their colleagues who are not active in EDTC in their countries, to find out if they would like to be replaced with someone else. He introduced the new members; Carl-Johan Djurstedt Holm representing Sweden, who replaced Staffan Littorin, Veronika Rybarova representing Slovak Republic, who replaced František Novomeský, Dr Steve Forman representing UK medical, who shares membership with Dr Phil Bryson, Bartosz Rutkowski representing Poland. Then he gave the numbers regarding EDTC memberships as follows;



Secretary indicated the percentage of the overall vacant memberships for each category; 48 % for government, 20 % for industry, 20 % for medicine, 72 % for union. See the detail in Annex 2.

## **TREASURERS REPORT**

Phil Crombie stated that the current bank balance was approximately 14,000 Euros. He explained the purpose of the balance as; 1- to contribute towards host of EDTC Annual Meetings cost and 2-strategic expenses such as inviting important guests to annual meetings. He added

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there are still payments due and reported that only 20 members had paid their membership fee this year. He informed the members about the bank details and added there was no money transfer fee between European countries. He asked the members who need receipts to send an e-mail to [Philip.Crombie@hse.gov.uk](mailto:Philip.Crombie@hse.gov.uk).

## **REPORT FROM THE MEDICAL SUBCOMMITTEE**

Jurg Wendling, the chairman of the EDTC MedSub, started his report without sharing a presentation. He noted that EDTC MedSub will not organize a meeting since the planned Annual Scientific Meeting of European Underwater and Baromedical Society (EUBS) won't be able to be held this year due to Covid-19 pandemic. He reported that the work on fitness to dive is being carried out online by the committee. He added the revision will be finished by the annual meeting in Italy next year. Jurg Wendling noted that almost hundred competent doctors from all continents are currently working on the project and recently contraindications regarding ENT and pulmonary system are being discussed.

## **NATIONAL REPORTS**

### **IRELAND (John Kinsella)**

John Kinsella, representing BIM (Bord Iascaigh Mhara) reminded the role of BIM with regard to diving training and gave information about QQI (Quality and Qualifications Ireland) diver training center and BIM facilities. He reported that BIM Diver training programs were suspended in March due to Covid restrictions, and the college was closed to students. However online courses continued and regular material/assignments were sent to diving students to maintain learner engagement. He stated that the National Fisheries and Diving College reopened in August, with Covid management measurements in place, reducing class sizes, social distancing, sanitizing stations, daily register/declaration signed etc. The diving program was started on Sept 21<sup>st</sup> and students were allocated individual sets of Commercial Scuba equipment, ie Full face mask / hoods / suits. John Kinsella noted that SSD students will starting training in October using individual oral nasals and hat liners. He reported that BIM will host IDSA meeting in September 2021. See the detail in Annex 3.

### **SWEDEN (Akin S. Toklu on behalf of Mats Hagberg)**

Akin S. Toklu presented the report sent by Mats Hagberg, representing medicine for Sweden, regarding Covid-19 and working divers. He reported that even asymptomatic Covid-19 cases may have pulmonary changes that can only be seen on thorax CT, and stated that all working divers in Sweden that have had confirmed or suspected Covid-19 are to be evaluated by a medical examiner of Divers (MED). The MED should refer the diver to a pulmonary disease specialist and after the consultation the MED should decide whether a new full fitness to dive examination should be done or not. Swedish diving medical physicians also recommended that divers should be monitored when evaluating physical capacity (regardless of Covid19).

### **UK (Philip Crombie)**

Philip Crombie started his report by informing the members regarding accidents and incidents in UK. There was one fatality during recreational TDI trimix technical diving course. There were two major injuries; one scientific and archaeological diver and one shellfish diver. There were 19 dangerous occurrences of which 8 were during offshore diving, 3 were during inland/inshore diving, 1 during a dive by Ministry of Defence diver, 2 scientific and archeological diving, and one police and 1 recreational diving. Enforcement notices included 2 prohibition notices to inland/inshore divers because they didn't have valid medical diving certificate, 4 Improvement Notices. He made training update after giving information about current prosecutions and investigations. Philip Crombie listed the diving schools and gave information about the precautions they took against Covid-19. He stated that there were 414 HSE certificates issued last year. Changes in legislation, practices and/or arrangements were reported. He listed the

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preventive measures regarding medical certification and COVID-19. The detail about the report can be found in Annex 4.

## **ELECTIONS**

The Secretary announced that there were two nominations for the positions of Jörn Ryberg from Sweden and Jean Lelievre from France, on the EDTC Board. The nominations were Jörn Ryberg and Jean Lelievre. They were re-elected as EDTC Board members.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CLOSING REMARKS**

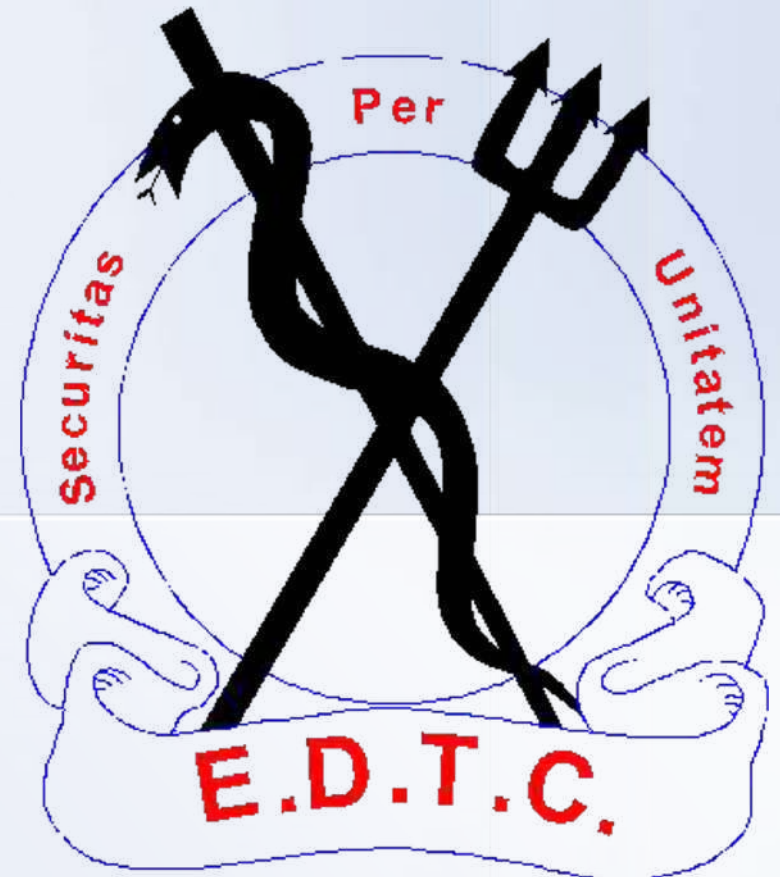
The Chairman thanked all EDTC members for participating in the EDTC 2020 Online Meeting. He expressed his wish for coming together in Livorno, Italy for EDTC 2021 meeting.

Compiled by Akin S. Toklu

# European Diving Technology Committee

Chairman's report  
Annual Digital Meeting  
25 September 2020

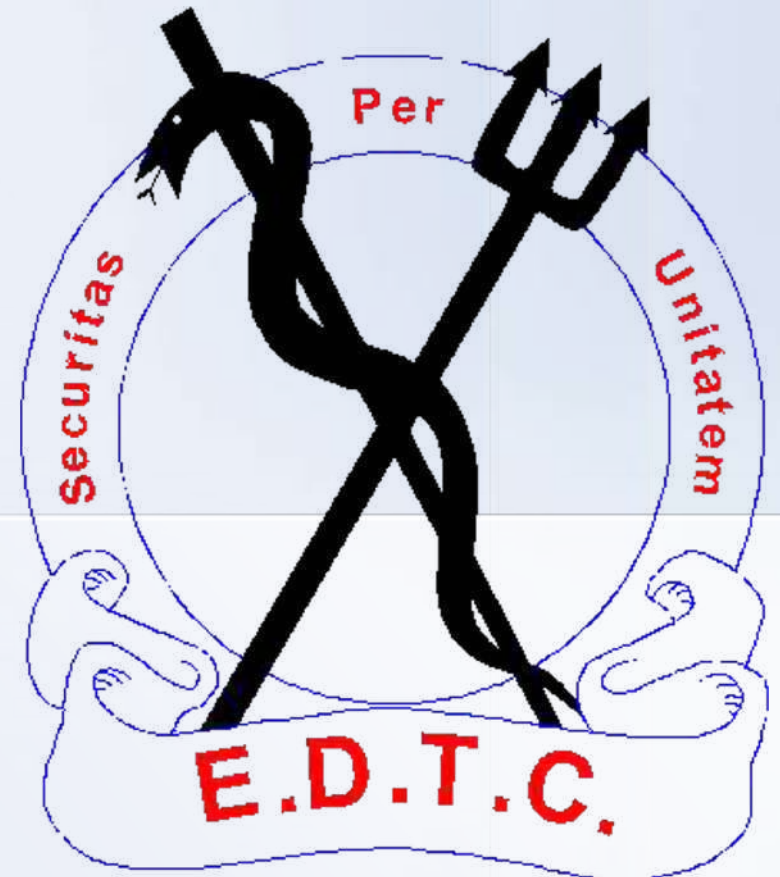
“Time for reflection”



Presented by: EDTC Chairman Jörn Ryberg

# Agenda

1. EDTC Profile - Aims & Objectives
2. The work of the executive board
3. EDTC – vs. Covid - 19
4. The way forward



# 1. European Diving Technology Committee (EDTC) Profile



EDTC is a non for-profit organization - formed 1973. Today EDTC has representation within almost every European countries.

This year has given the entire community of divers globally some extreme challenges.

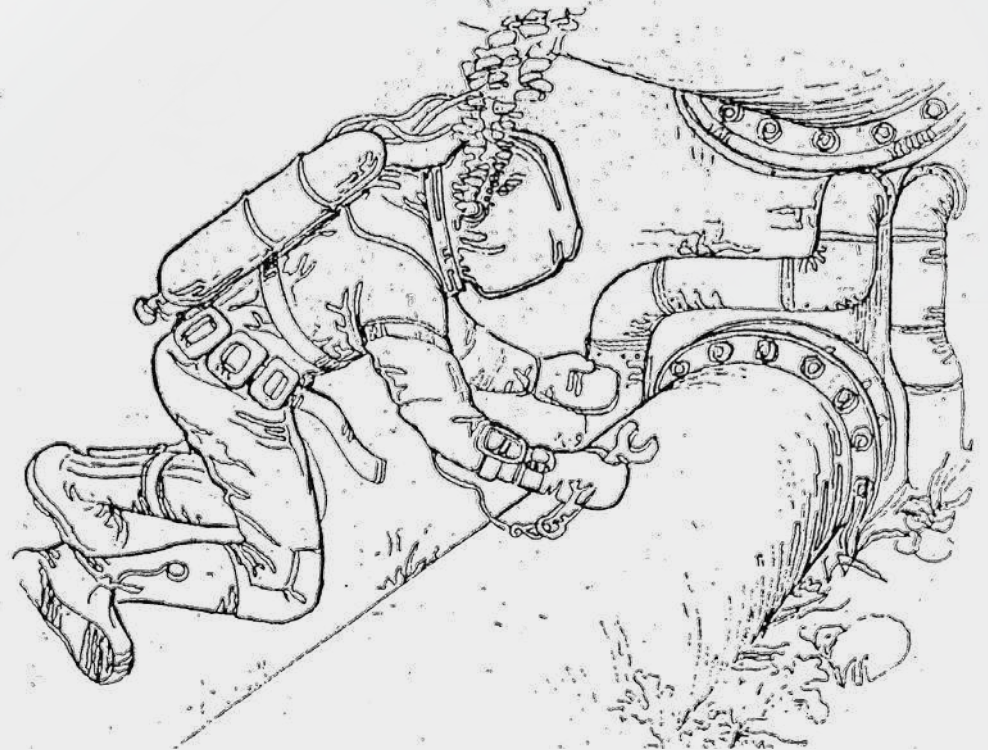
Therefore its important to reflect on the overall purpose of EDTC

## Purpose

- Safer Commercial Diving,
- Through Unity, Strength (Securitas per unitatem).

## EDTC reach its aims by

- Independent European forum,
- Discussions,
- Standards,
- Guidance.





## 2. The executive board of 2020



Akin Toklu



Jean Lelievre



Jürg Wendling



Jörn Ryberg



Pasquale  
Longobardi



Philip Crombie

### Efficient board meetings each 3<sup>rd</sup> month using Ms Teams.

#### Fixed agenda:

1. Welcome and opening comments by Chairman,
2. Review and approval of previous Board meeting minutes,
3. Actions and matters outstanding since last meeting,
4. Economic reports,
5. Discussion on EDTC 2020 activities,
6. Discussion about preparing the annual meeting,
7. Any other business,
8. Next meeting.

### Other board achievements during 2020

1. Meetings with governmental authorities,
2. Meetings re. the Directive 2005/36/EC,
3. Discussions re. Covid -19 and diving,
4. Providing information to all members.

## 3. EDTC – vs. Covid - 19



### EDTC as an organization

- Spreading knowledge and guidance,
- If applicable - recommend harmonization.

### Why does EDTC not provide specific guidance re. Covid – 19 ?

- Covid – 19 measures are legal actions taken on national level,
- Everyone must follow their own nations legislation,
- EDTC is not a legislating party.

### Some basic thoughts

Everyone involved are trying to find ways that are proportionate and flexible to enable commercial divers to continue. The authorities try to balance the need to protect the health, safety and welfare of divers and the current constraints presented by the COVID-19 outbreak.

**Only one thing is certain with Covid – its uncertainty – and commercial divers, should do everything they can to avoid a coronavirus infection.**



## 4. The way forward



### Restarting the global economy will create specific challenges



### Will the Diving Industry be affected?

The answer is probably that it will and that changes will come, and the Industry needs to be prepared and adaptive.

EDTC as association, provides a European forum, although of interest for countries all over the world, where authorities, organizations and individuals can bridge the existing gap between them.

## 4. The way forward



### The third goal of agenda 2030 - good health and well being

#### Covid-19 has effected the industry and what is EDTC role in the situation?

It is the view of EDTC that it's now very urgent and of significant prevention value to use the common minimum standard realized by EDTC. This guidance can be used to create awareness of the fundamental issues surrounding Commercial Diving activities.

- **The guidance documents has since 2018 been available for Europe.**

Implementation can be achieved in a fast and safe manner by using the EDTC members following consultation process with national HSE authorities

- **The pandemic has shown the need of a common way forward**

EUROPEAN DIVING

GUIDANCE ON SAF  
COM



The Professional Qualifications Du  
This directive was updated in 2016  
the same or equal all over Europe at

# 4. The way forward

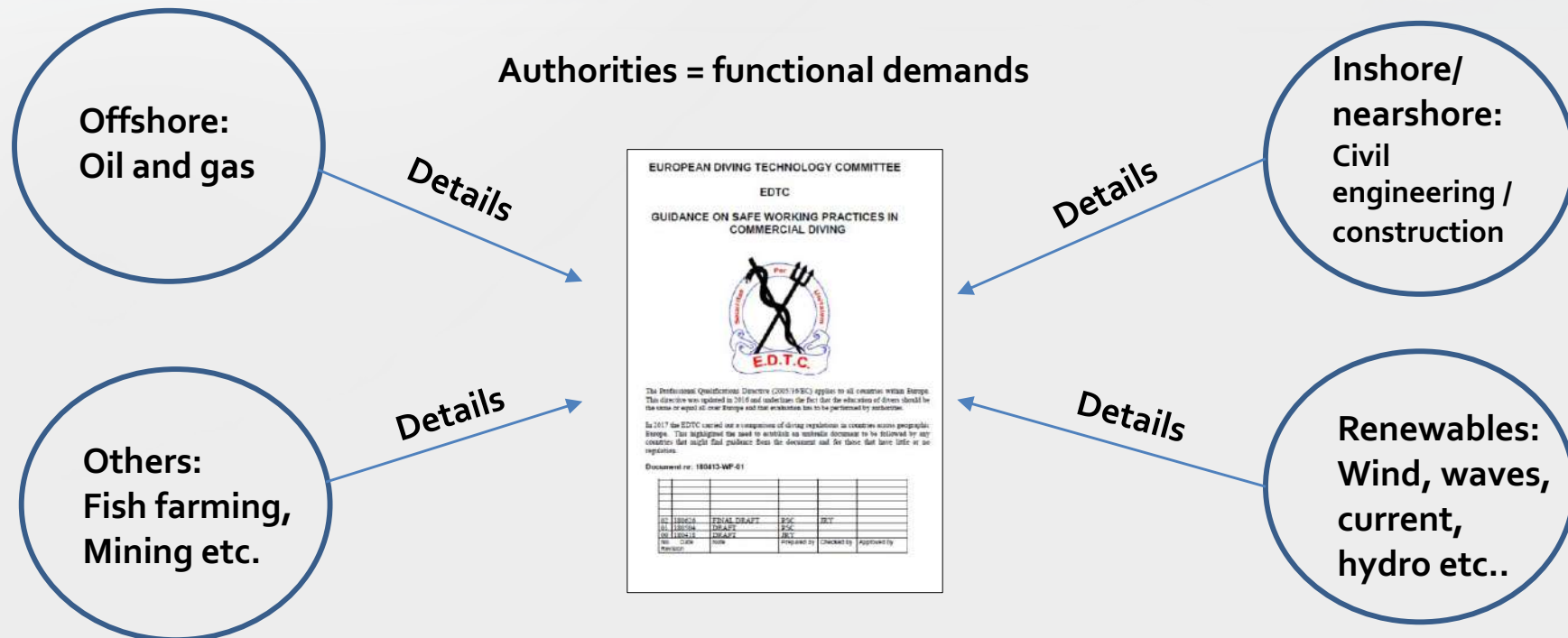


## Proactive instead of Reactive

- **Helping the authorities to co-operate with industry.**

The EDTC document gives practical advice for authorities who can then ensure that industry works to reduce the risks from their work to a minimum.

This makes sense, since industry are the experts in what they are doing.



**EDTC documents = functional guidance**

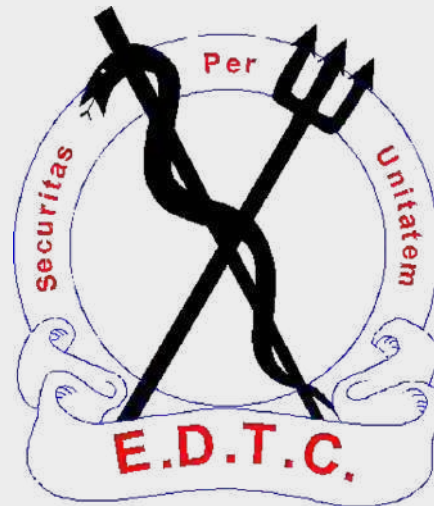
# Summary

- EDTC provides an independent forum,
- EDTC inventory was the first of its kind - confirmed by SLIC 2019,
- EDTC “safe work practice” can be used by anyone in a broad spectre,
- **Its time to be pro-active now.**

**Any questions ?**

EDTC Chairman - Jörn Ryberg

E: [jorn.ryberg@marcon.se](mailto:jorn.ryberg@marcon.se)



## EDTC 2020 ONLINE MEETING

# AGENDA

25 September 2020, Time: 17:00 [SE]

[zoom](#)



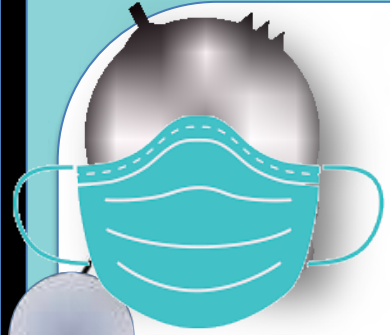
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[Link for the zoom meeting:](#)

<https://ibkardui.edu.it/zoom-join/97027173773?pwd=VWVGM0M0UyY3ZkdHh0em9mQWk4S0E0D0R>

Meeting ID: 970 2717 3773

Passcode: 969198



# EDTC Secretary Report

Akın Savaş Toklu





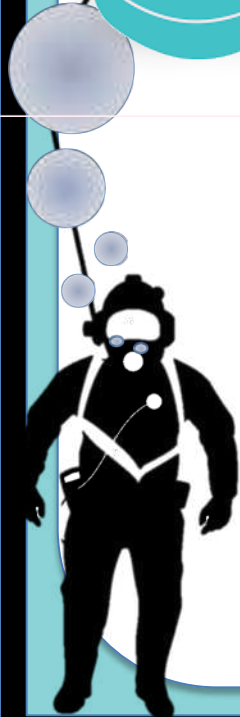
## HOSTS of ANNUAL MEETINGS

YEAR	HOST	YEAR	HOST
2000	UK	2010	CZECH R.
2001	BELGIUM	2011	FRANCE
2002	FRANCE	2012	NORWAY
2003	SWITZERLAND	2013	TURKEY
2003	AUSTRIA	2014	SPAIN
2004	TURKEY	2015	POLAND
2005	BELGIUM	2016	ESTONIA
2007	PORTUGAL	2017	AUSTRIA
2008	ITALY	2018	ROMANIA
2009	DENMARK	2019	SWEDEN



## HOSTS of ANNUAL MEETINGS

YEAR	HOST	YEAR	HOST
2000	UK	2010	CZECH R.
<b>2001</b>	<b>BELGIUM</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>FRANCE</b>
<b>2002</b>	<b>FRANCE</b>	2012	NORWAY
2003	SWITZERLAND	<b>2013</b>	<b>TURKEY</b>
<b>2003</b>	<b>AUSTRIA</b>	2014	SPAIN
<b>2004</b>	<b>TURKEY</b>	2015	POLAND
<b>2005</b>	<b>BELGIUM</b>	2016	ESTONIA
2007	PORTUGAL	<b>2017</b>	<b>AUSTRIA</b>
2008	ITALY	2018	ROMANIA
2009	DENMARK	2019	SWEDEN









25 Countries, 6 Organization, 9 Correspondents





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## PROTECTED: MEMBERS AREA

This content is password protected. To view it please enter your password below:

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CROATIA

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# Apologies for absence

NAME

REPRESENTING

Aleksei Usanov

ESTONIA

Deric Ellerby

EUF

Eric Saint-Sulpice

FRANCE

Francisco Gamito Guerreiro

PORTUGAL

Jabulile Mhlophe

IDRCF

Joar Gangenes

NORWAY

Mats Hagberg

SWEDEN

Olav Hauso

NORWAY

Pavel Macura

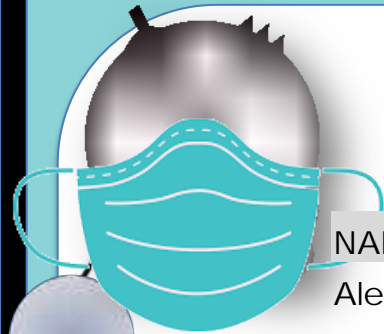
CZECH REPUBLIC

Peter Souza Ric-HanJoar Gangenessen

DENMARK

Thomas Gaisberger

AUSTRIA



# List of participants



Akin Savaş Toklu

Ali Uzunoğlu

Amanda Sordes

Andreas Achermann

António E. L. F. Oliveira Bandejas

Carl-Johan Djurstedt Holm

Dan RICAN

Daniel Larsson

David Parkes

Jacek Kot

Jennifer Mayer & Marcus Klönner

John Kinsella

Jörn Ryberg

Jurg Wendling

TURKEY

TURKEY

IDRCF

SWITZERLAND

PORTUGAL

SWEDEN

ROMANIA

SWEDEN

IDRCF

POLAND

GERMANY

IRELAND

SWEDEN

SWITZERLAND

Hans Cuyllits

Knud-Helge Andreasen

Leo Lagarde

Mark Caney

Martin Heer

Massimo Becherucci

Orlando Pandolfi

Philip Crombie

P.J.A.M. (Pieter-Jan) van Ooij

Pasquale Longobardi

Peter Sieniewicz

Roland Vanden Eede

Salih Murat Egi

Steve Forman

Veronika Rybárová

BELGIUM

DENMARK

THE NETHERLANDS

EUF

NORWAY

ITALY

ITALY

UK

THE NETHERLANDS

ITALY

UK

BELGIUM

TURKEY

UK

SLOVAK REPUBLIC





## New members

Carl-Johan Djurstedt Holm

(Staffan Littorin)

Veronika Rybarova

(František Novomeský)

Steve Forman

Bartosz Rutkowski

Sweden

Slovak Republic

UK

Poland

Government

Medical

Medical

Government

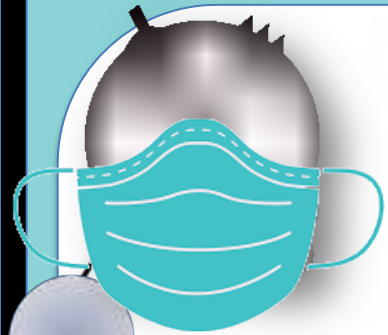




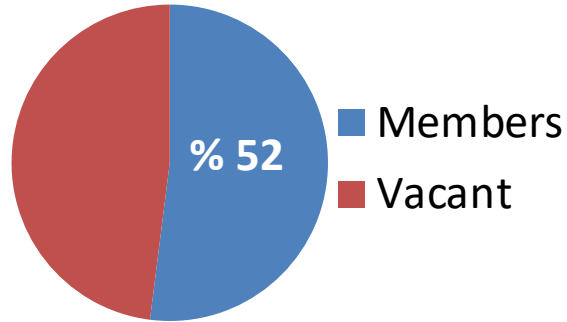
# Membership facts in numbers

- The # of member countries 25
- Expected # of members 100
- Current # of members 60
- # of vacant positions 40
  - Government 12
  - Industry 5
  - Medicine 5
  - Union 18

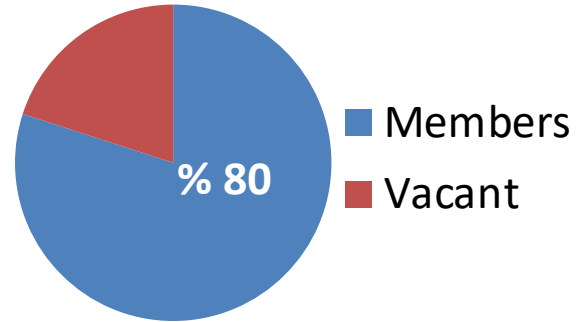




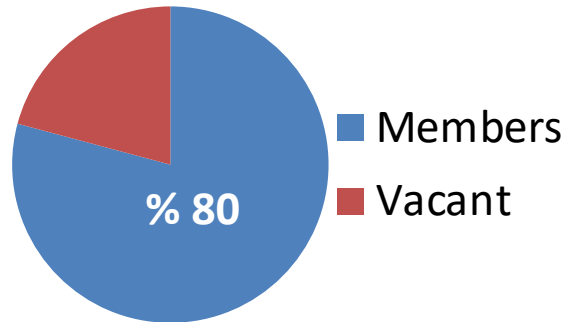
## GOVERNMENT



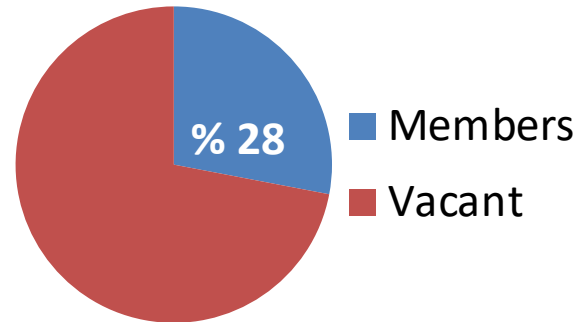
## INDUSTRY



## MEDICINE



## UNION





MEMBERS NOMINATED FOR EDTC BORAD MEMBER  
ELECTION

Jörn Ryberg  
Jean LELIEVRE



## EDTC 2020 ONLINE MEETING

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Meeting ID: 970 2717 3773

Passcode: 969198



## **EDTC Status Update** ***Commercial Diver Training*** ***in Ireland***

**John Kinsella**

**Regrets**  
**Brian Murphy**



## Bord Iascaigh Mhara

- Sea Fisheries Board
- National Fisheries College
- QQI diver training centre
  - Quality and Qualifications Ireland
    - Commercial Scuba Diving  
QQI Level 6
    - Surface Supplied Diving (Inshore)  
QQI Level 6
  - CEDEFOP European Qualifications Framework (EQF) Level 5 = QQI Level 6



## RESOURCES

### BIM Facilities

BIM National Fisheries College,  
Castletownbere, Co. Cork.

### Location

Access to suitable depths  
Sheltered water



## Where are we now?

- BIM Diver training programmes suspended in March due to Covid restrictions
- College was closed to students
  - Online courses continued
  - diving students sent regular material/assignments to maintain learner engagement



- National Fisheries and Diving College reopened in August
  - Covid management measurements in place
  - Reduced class sizes, social distancing, sanitising stations, daily register/declaration signed etc.
- Diving programme begins on Sept 21<sup>st</sup>
- Students allocated individual sets of Commercial Scuba equipment, ie Full face mask / hoods / suits



- SSD students starting in October
  - Individual oral nasals and hat liners
- BIM having 30m x 16m work barge refitted for diving programmes
  - Planned introduction 2021



- BIM Hosting IDSA annual meeting  
Sept 2021
- Aquaculture doing relatively well
  - Food processing business
- Major commitment from government  
to develop offshore wind farm on Irish  
coastal waters.



## Information about the programme

- BIM website
- QQI website

## Irish Diving Regulations and ACOPs

- HSA website

Any questions?

Thank you



Health and Safety  
Executive

# EDTC UK National Report

## Online meeting 2020





# UK Accidents/Incidents – 2019/20



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## At Work Diving Fatalities

### 1 Recreational

11 April 2019, TDI Trimix technical diving Course.

# Major injuries

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## 1 Scientific and Archaeological

Fractured foot - tripped on deck hatch

## 1 Shellfish

Loss of consciousness. Diver signalled they were coming to the surface, and was subsequently pulled to the surface unconscious. Regained consciousness and taken to hospital.

# 16 Dangerous Occurrences



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## 8 Offshore

- Umbilical snagged during bell recovery.
- COBRA (Compact bailout rebreather apparatus) scrubber compartment became wet due to incorrect pressure relief valve setting.
- Unplanned blowdown - supervisor concentrating on reclaim panel and not on the bell depth gauge.
- Incorrect gas mixture - 3 separate DO's. Heliox gas found found to contain a large percentage of argon.
- Escape of gas to diving bell – caused by twisting on umbilical drum.
- Loss of gas to diver during manned testing of diving system.



# 16 Dangerous Occurrences cont'd

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## 3 Inland/inshore

- Umbilical damaged whilst diver was accessing the water.
- Air supply issue – frozen regulator and pipework due to cold weather.
- Incorrect depth reading which could have resulted in an incorrect decompression schedule.

## 1 MOD

- Uncontrolled ascent following 2 divers becoming entangled in shot line.



# 16 Dangerous Occurrences Cont'd

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## 2 Scientific and Archaeological

- Perforated ear drums - number of dives over a period of days.
- DCI symptoms, but dive history considered non-contributory. Underlying medical condition suspected.

## 1 Police

- Failure of breathing equipment - DP1 hose burst.

## 1 Recreational

- Uncontrolled ascent – student on drysuit speciality course.

# Enforcement Notices 2019/20

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## 2 Prohibition Notices

### 2 x Inland/inshore

- Diving without a valid diving medical.
- Using a compressor and umbilical that have not been certified as fit for this purpose.

# Enforcement Notices 2019/20, Cont'd

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## 4 Improvement Notices

### 3 x Inland/inshore

- Standby diver was not at immediate readiness.
- Welfare – lack of drying facilities for work clothing.
- No plant and equipment maintenance system.

### 1 x Offshore

- Supplying breathing gas quads which did not contain the specified gas mixture.



# Current Prosecutions/Investigations

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## Crown Censure

- MOD issued with a Crown Censure on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 following the investigation into fatality during basic diver training (2018).

## Prosecutions

- All ongoing cases have been delayed by COVID-19 restrictions



# UK Diver Training Update



# Schools:



JFD at Fort William?

The Professional Diving Academy (Dunoon)

Commercial Diver Training (Fowey)

Police Scotland

Northumbria Police (NEW)

Plymouth University

TH Diving Services (Plymouth)

DV Diving (N.I.)

Tritonia Scientific Ltd (Dunstaffanage)

Puffin (Oban)

Andark (Southampton)

Bristol Channel Diving Services (Cardiff)

Closed Bell

TU, SS, SCUBA

TU, SS, SCUBA

Police SS, SCUBA

Police SS, SCUBA

SCUBA



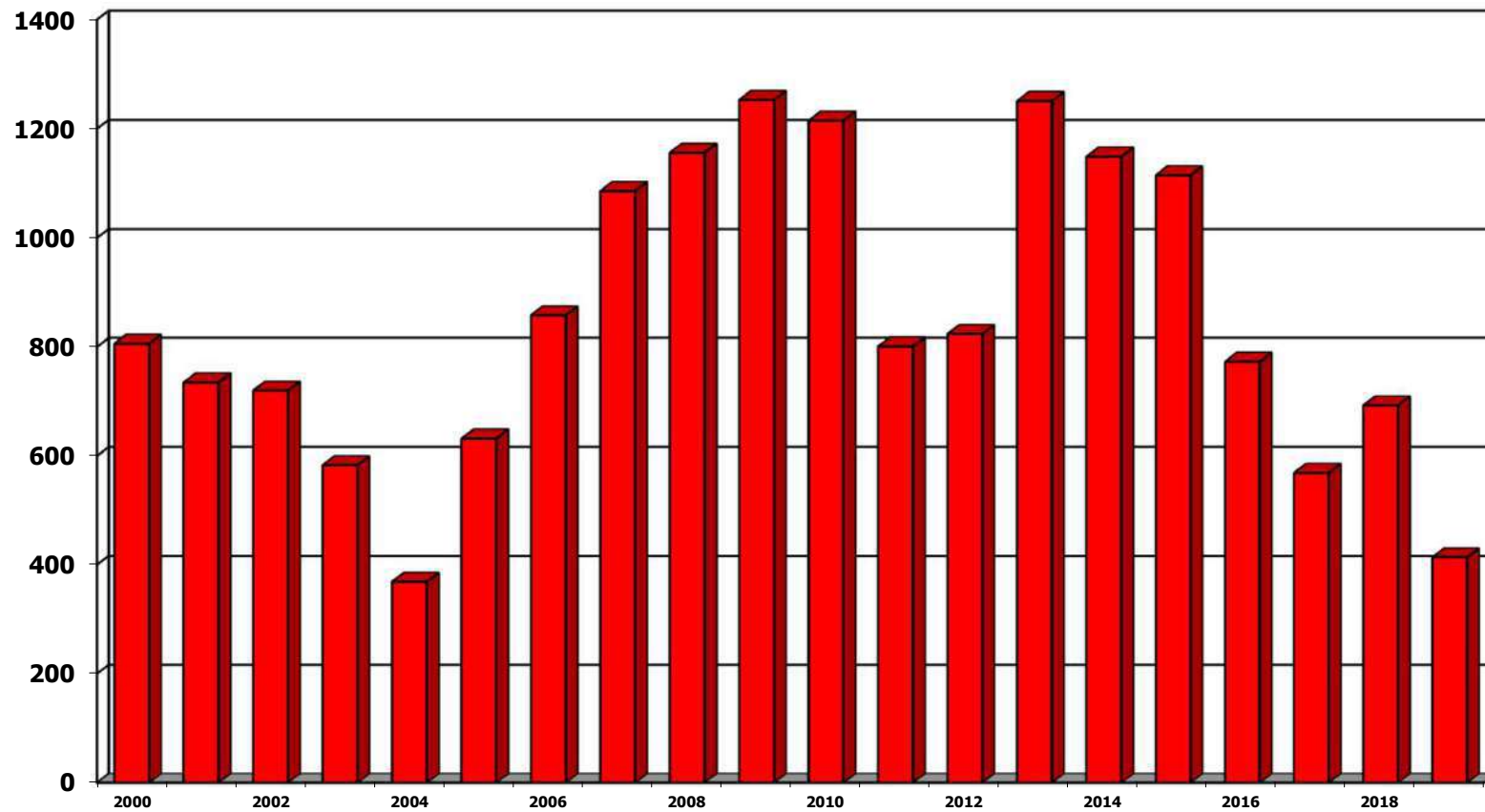
# Training and COVID

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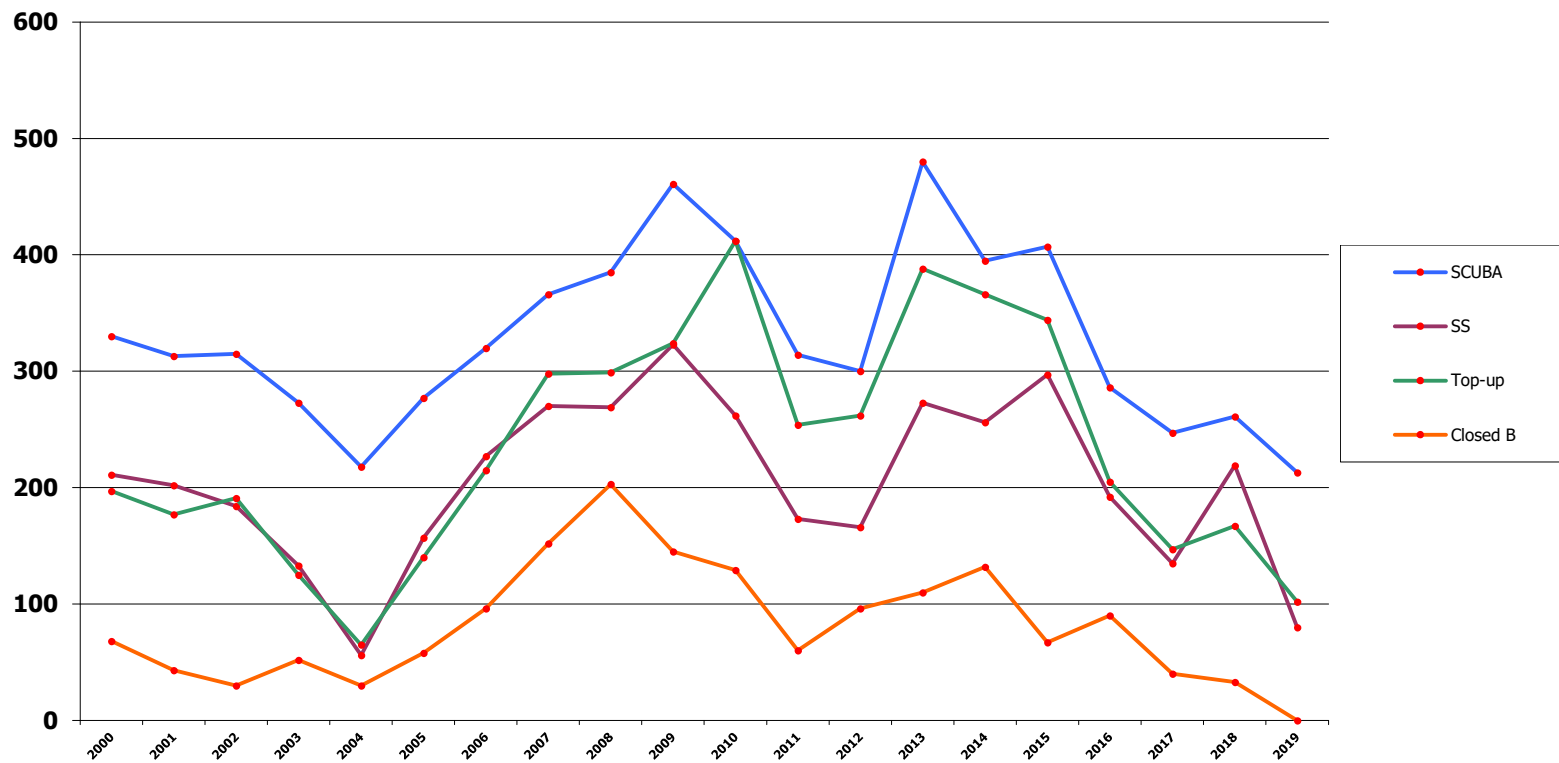


- JFD stopped work at Fort William
- Professional Diving Academy (Dunoon, Scotland) cancelled courses – resumed training in August
- Commercial Diver Training (Cornwall, England) cancelled courses – resumed training July
- Plymouth University cancelled all courses for 2020

# HSE Certificates Issued (= 414)



# HSE Certificates Issued (+ 19 Pol)



## Changes in legislation, practices and/or arrangements:

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Updating shellfish diving guidance – consultation ongoing (extended from March to Sept 27<sup>th</sup> due to COVID 19)

- Minimum qualification to be raised to Commercial SCUBA from recreational Dive Master level
- Minimum team size to be raised to 4
- Two way communications
- Full face masks
- Minor changes such as PP02 and chamber availability to ensure consistency with ACOPS
- New section on electrofishing

# COVID19 Diving medical changes

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- Automatic extension for 3 months for certain medicals
- Published advice about returning to diving if you have had COVID19  
<https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/first-aid-and-medicals/divers-medical-certificate-extension.htm>
- Option for 6 month medical without spirometry
- Majority of examinations now being done are full medicals.



**BETA** This is a new way of showing guidance - [your feedback](#) will help us improve it.

# Commercial divers' medical fitness and assessment during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic

In the light of advice from Public Health England on COVID-19, HSE issued guidance (on 24 March 2020), setting out a proportionate and flexible approach so that medical assessment of commercial divers can continue.

This advice set out below updates that guidance. It continues to balance the need to protect divers' health, safety and welfare with the current constraints of the coronavirus pandemic. It also takes account of emerging evidence on lung and cardiac changes in people with COVID-19.

The guidance came into effect on 27 May 2020. HSE will continue to review it as appropriate.

Under the Diving at Work Regulations 1997, divers:

- must not dive in a diving project if they know of anything, including any illness or medical condition, which makes them unfit to dive
- under certain circumstances following illness or injury, must be re-examined by an approved medical examiner of divers (AMED) to assess their fitness to return to work (see below)

## When you can return to diving after COVID-19 infection

COVID-19 status	Minimum recovery time (with no symptoms) before diving can resume	Return to work assessment by an AMED required
Previously asymptomatic and tested positive for coronavirus	1 month	No
Previously had mild symptoms that improved within a week with complete recovery. Back to your usual levels of fitness	1 month	No
Previously had moderate symptoms. Back to	2 months	Yes

**Related content**

- ▶ [Managing risk and risk-assessment at work](#)
- ▶ [Working safely during the coronavirus pandemic](#)



# Questions?

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