



## Medina Aquarius Program

### Aquarius Undersea Laboratory

#### **Per Mission Setup: \$20,348**

This fee covers:

- Habitat and support equipment preparations.
- Training for up to five (5) aquanauts (4 primary and 1 standby).
- Dive equipment (except personal equipment).<sup>1</sup>
- The use of a single research vessel<sup>2</sup> with a captain/supervisor during training week for diving operations<sup>3</sup> (five offshore days). Fee includes fuel.<sup>4</sup>
- Lodging for up to six (6) persons for seven (7) days.<sup>5</sup>

*Note: This fee covers setup for a typical science mission. A mission that involves more than one decompression but only one training period and no significant gaps between saturation periods (e.g., two back-to-back five-day missions) would only incur one setup fee.*

#### **Saturation Day Rate: \$16,289**

This fee covers:

- Daily operations of the Aquarius habitat including shore activities and offshore work as required for basic habitat support.
- Four (4) dedicated berths aboard Aquarius for trained aquanauts for the duration of the mission.
- Material transfers ('potting') to and from the habitat as available based on the Aquarius support vessel schedule. Potting is scheduled daily but can be altered by poor sea conditions.
- Shore watch standing, including facilitation of video and other conferencing events from Aquarius.
- Surface support from an ARB chamber support vessel during SCUBA excursions.
- Dive equipment (except personal equipment).<sup>1</sup>
- The use of a single research vessel<sup>2</sup> with a captain/supervisor for diving operations.<sup>3</sup> Fee includes fuel.<sup>4</sup>
- Lodging for up to six (6) persons for a minimum of seven (7) days.<sup>5</sup>
- Two (2) guest divers per day, not to exceed a total of four (4) guest dives per individual.<sup>6</sup>

*Note: A typical 10-day Aquarius saturation project will be quoted at \$183,238.*

### **1-ATA Aquarius Operations Rate: \$3,000 per standard eight-hour day**

Description: In one-atmosphere mode (1-ATA), divers enter the habitat, hatches are secured and the internal pressure is returned to surface. Divers are sequestered inside Aquarius and cannot leave until the end of the operation, however, they can communicate with divers on the reef, conduct live videoconferences and experience an extended stay not possible on a single no-decompression dive from the surface. This mode of operation doesn't involve saturation diving and requires only a short training session beforehand. 1-ATA operations are especially useful for conducting live education events (e.g., giving a course lecture or hosting multiple outreach events), real-time testing of sensors and equipment where direct interaction and observation is preferred and stable power and Internet connectivity are required, and for project development prior to launching a full saturation mission. **Please note that commercial filming activities will incur a \$5,000 location fee in addition to the day rate.**

This fee covers:

- Daily costs of operating the Aquarius habitat in 1-ATA mode including shore activities and offshore work as required for basic habitat support.
- Five (5) dedicated spaces aboard Aquarius for divers who have undergone a two-hour training program.
- Divers can make one exterior dive for 30 minutes before and after a four (4) hours 'surface interval' inside Aquarius.
- Material transfers ('potting') to and from the habitat prior to and immediately after dive.
- Facilitation of video and other conferencing events from Aquarius.
- Dive equipment (except personal equipment).<sup>1</sup>
- The use of a single research vessel<sup>2</sup> with a captain/supervisor for diving operations.<sup>3</sup> Fee includes fuel.<sup>4</sup>
- Two (2) guest divers per day, not to exceed a total of four (4) guest dives per individual.<sup>6</sup>
- **Contact Thomas Potts (thpotts@fiu.edu) if an overnight stay aboard Aquarius is required.**

### **Visits to Aquarius: \$3,000 per standard eight-hour day**

Description: Visitors with approved science, education, outreach, research & development and media activities (film and radio) can utilize Aquarius for conducting live education events (e.g., giving a course lecture or hosting multiple outreach events), real-time testing of sensors and equipment where direct interaction and observation is preferred and stable power and Internet connectivity are required, project development prior to launching a full saturation mission and filming science and educational programming. **Please note that commercial filming activities will incur a \$5,000 location fee in addition to the day rate.**

This fee covers:

- Daily costs of operating the Aquarius habitat including shore activities and offshore work as required for basic habitat support.
- A maximum of eight guest divers are permitted with a maximum of six (6) guest divers entering the habitat at one time for dives lasting up to 60 minutes.<sup>6</sup>
- Multiple dives to the habitat and on the reef are permitted within no-decompression dive limits over a six-hour period.
- Material transfers ('potting') to and from the habitat prior to and immediately after dive.
- Facilitation of video and other conferencing events from Aquarius.
- Dive equipment (except personal equipment).<sup>1</sup>
- The use of a single research vessel<sup>2</sup> with a captain/supervisor for diving operations.<sup>3</sup> Fee includes fuel.<sup>4</sup>

## **Day Boat and Support Operations**

**Day Rate: \$1,174 per standard 10-hour day for projects meeting the requirements of Scientific Diving** (Science Diving Exemption: OSHA Regulation 29 CFR 1910 Subpart T – Commercial Diving Operations)

This fee covers:

- Up to 10 scientific divers depending upon vessel capacity.<sup>3</sup>
- Dive equipment (except personal equipment).<sup>1</sup>
- The use of a single research vessel<sup>2</sup> with a captain/supervisor for diving operations.<sup>3</sup> Fee includes fuel.<sup>5</sup>

An additional fee of \$332/day will be added for guest divers:

- Two (2) guest divers per day, not to exceed a total of four (4) guest dives per individual, can be accommodated.<sup>6</sup> Please note that guests require a staff escort that counts against the maximum vessel capacity (10).

**Projects that do not meet the requirements to dive under the Scientific Exemption, will incur fees additional to those listed above:**

- \$332/day for mandated standby diver.

<sup>1</sup> Personal dive equipment not provided by ARB – thermal protection, mask and fins.

<sup>2</sup> Research vessel capacities vary from 6-10 passengers/divers.

<sup>3</sup> Scuba diving conducted under the Scientific Exemption to OSHA Commercial Diving Regulations. For participant diving activities that do not fall under the Scientific Exemption, an additional of \$332 per day could be added to cover the required staff standby diver.

<sup>4</sup> Fuel is included for diving activities conducted within a 10 nm radius of the Islamorada shore base (area bounded approximately by Rodriguez Key to the northeast, Conch Reef to the east and Alligator Reef to the southeast). For multiple daily trips within the 10 nm radius or for trips to sites beyond the 10 nm radius, an additional \$125 will be charged per day.

<sup>5</sup> Lodging is provided in leased private residences or participating hotel.

<sup>6</sup> Guest divers must possess a certification from a nationally recognized certifying agency and are limited to visits inside the habitat and/or observation dives on the reef. Guest divers are permitted to operate cameras. Guest divers are not permitted to material participate in research activities. Guest divers must be escorted by an ARB-approved working diver.