

Salt H2O Bio

Marine-Bio@Dolphin-House



Resort SPA Diving

In Symbiosis with the Reef

Rudy Poitiers,
Environmentalist and diver for more than 40 years
VDST-CMAS, NAUI, SSI and PADI instructor

Dive College, in symbiosis with the reef.

Welcome divers,

Based on the assessment of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network working in behalf of the UN, the coral reefs of South-East Asia consisting of about 92,000 km² make up about 50% of the coral reefs worldwide. Only 15 % of these reefs remain in good condition today. The reef around Moalboal belongs to these 15%.

According to the recent study of Prof. Dr. Patrick Louisy, (www.peaubleue.org) held in July 2013, over 397 different fish species are at home on our 130m stretch of reef just in front of Dolphin House. This tops all counts of "Peau Bleue" in terms of biodiversity: Lembeh Strait + 30%! With more than 250 types of corals (Ronald van de Voorden ISSN1656-1511) found on our reef, about every second known coral specie is represented here. These facts stand as a testimony to this unbelievable habitat that our reefs offer to all the many wonders of nature that are living here.

In the 40 years spent here, to preserve all of this has become more important to us than the diving itself. From what we observe on site and what you can notice worldwide is that the biggest threat to these remaining 15% of healthy reefs are incompetent divers, oblivious dive centers and tour operators.

With improper education & instruction on buoyancy control and little knowledge of the underwater world, the leisure diver easily falls prey to various "attractions for gapers". These include feeding whale sharks to their death as what you can find on our island in Oslob or well-concealed as "seminar for human-shark interaction" from alleged shark specialists who feeding Tiger- and Bull sharks at the beach for easy money – all this is a great burden to our natural environment.

Any properly trained Scuba/Open Water Diver knows that animals living in the wild should not be fed whether above or under water. Steer clear of atrocities of this kind where the consequences are generally concealed from the divers. This has been reason enough for us to start our very own marine biology station in 2012. Quickly we realized how sensitive and disgusted the unknowing divers reacted to these topics when enlightened on the scientific consequences of these so-called "attractions".

Our Marine Biologists now offer a wide variety on little seminars during Happy Hour. Diving groups can even book "Bio-weeks" wherein the seminar topics can be altered to fit the interests of our guest. We dive "in symbiosis with the reef" and know that our divers carry this principle with them for long even after leaving Dolphin House. Perhaps this is the silver lining in the clouds..?

Dive College works intensively with local authorities and stays in contact with a number of environmental organizations and scientists. Prof. Dr. Ralph Schill, board member of science in VDST and CMAS-World, is one such person who has attained a vast scientific background and knowledge of right and wrong when dealing with behavior of divers, dive centers and tour operators. His statement regarding the feeding of sharks in general: "I do not believe in the feeding of sharks whether it is carried out by "experts" or by any other dive sport activists. No one joining a wild safari in Kenya would raise the idea to throw a slab of meat to a lion and to exit the vehicle after doing so".

Rudy, Family Poitiers-Lapaz

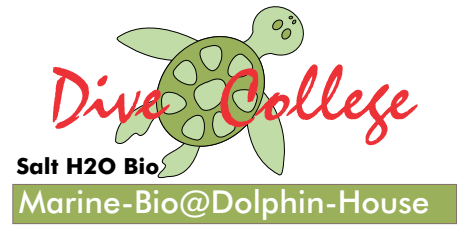


UNEP-Green Fins, Activ member
United Nations Environment Programme



Rudy Poitiers,
proprietor and GM

Mylene Panuncial,
Senior Master in Marine Biology



Dive College, in symbiosis with the reef. Know more, see more, appreciate more

Our newest adventure: Dolphin & Whale Watching (June 2014)

Since April 2014 our marine biologists are participating in a study on "Marine Mammals in the Tañon Strait", together with "Silliman University" of Dumaguete and the "University of Hong Kong", Prof. Leszek Karczmaerski and his masteral students. The pilot study they are conducting now will take about year. If this is successful they are planning to extend their research for another 4 years. The results we have acquired after just two months with about 25 expeditions are surprising and go beyond all of our expectations. In each of this trips we have seen at least 3 to 5 different dolphin species, often in groups of over a hundred individuals. There was only one time when we thought we would return empty handed but we quickly realized the reason for that: Around 40 - 50 "False Orca's" swimming and spy-hopping close to our boat. Smaller dolphin species are on their menu! So far we have encountered a dwarf- and pigmy sperm whale and even a true Orca, the largest of the dolphin species. The Tañon Strait (passage between Cebu and Negros isl.) was once a hunting ground for whalers. This changed about 20 years ago when the marine mammals had nearly become extinct and the entire strait was placed under protection laws. About 15 different species of marine mammals are passing through or are residing in this strait and the study shall determine how far their populations have recovered since.

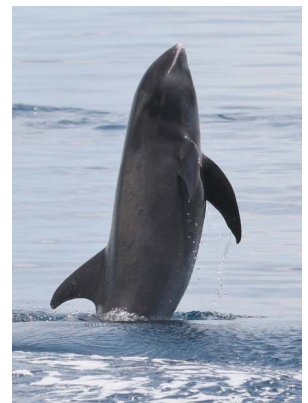
Dolphin-House was once named so because of a group of dolphins which used to return to our house reef every evening to spend the night. With increasing light- and noise-pollution they eventually moved farther away avoiding the coastal area of Cebu, especially our peninsula. Based on this observation we thought the dolphin population had become less and less. The duration of one dolphin & whale watching expedition takes about 4 to 5 hours. Starting this season 2014-15 we will offer these excursions to our guest. Before participating in this astonishing experience our marine biologists will give a small seminar on the different marine mammals we may encounter. The biologists will also join the guest on the boat to give some insights and information along the way. Only a few guest have had the opportunity to join us so far but each one of them has returned full of excitement and amazement.



Tursiops aduncus
Common Bottlenose dolphin



Stenella longirostris
long-snouted spinner dolphin



Peponocephala electra
Melon-headed whale



Grampus griseus
Risso's dolphin



Stenella attenuata
Pantropical spotted dolphin



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Facilities:

The new facilities (2013) are right at the beach, office, marine biology station, equipment shop, repair shop, battery charge station, equipment rental and every room has its own cabinet for storage of our divers own equipment in one of the various dry rooms.

Services:

- Recreational diving
- Marine biology seminars, work shops, Bio-Dive weeks.
- Dive courses from "discover diving" up to Dive Instructor.

Affiliations:

- UNEP Green Fins, a United Nations Environment Programme
- CMAS - VDST, Instructor trainer facility
- NAUI-gold, training facility
- SSI, training and instructor facility

Equipment:

Tanks

100 Tanks, aluminum, 12 Liters, double purpose valves DIN/INT. For "special divers", we have some special big tanks.

Air / Nitrox

Nitrox-32 FOC for Nitrox licensed divers!

2 units BAUER Mariner 200

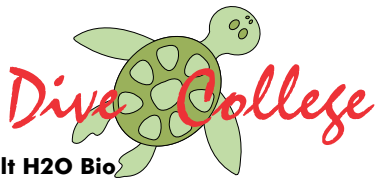
2 units Nitrox blender for Nitrox up to 36%

Our air is pre-cooled, dehydrated and controlled "on the flow" by BAUER pure air electronics.

Equipment for rent

We always have 20 sets (brand new or slightly used) complete equipment for rent incl. Nitrox capable computers





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Boats

All dive boats are equipped with:

- One or two full sets of spare equipment
- One EFR kit and oxygen unit
- One emergency radio and one cell phone
- Water and Tea station

Chocolat -1

Traditional outrigger yacht, very spacious, 150 HP DEUTZ marine diesel, 16 m, up to 16 Divers, 4 guides, 1 captain, 1 mechanic. Serves for our whole day multi-dive excursions and.... "sailing sunset bar"!



Chocolat -1

Chocolat -2 -3 and -4

Flat epoxy boat, 75 HP outboard, 10m, 8-10 divers + 2-3 guides



Chocolat -2-3-4

Chocolat -5

Aluminum speed boat, 90 HP, 6 m, 6 divers + 2 guides also used for excursions, Dolphin & Whale Watching, water skiing, wake boarding etc.



Chocolat -5

Chocolat-6

Epoxy speed boat, 200 HP, 9m
Mostly used for VIP trips, excursions, Dolphin & Whale Watching etc.



Chocolat -6

