



Coral Reef Conservation

Course Instructor:	Al Schumer, Northwest Diving Institute (www.nwscuba.org)	
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Course Type:	Coral Reef Conservation	
Course Tuition:	\$25.00	Required Text: See Notes

Session One

Session Type:	<u>Classroom</u>	Session Location:	<u>UWS Seattle</u>
Session Date:	<u>Thursday, October 14, 2010</u>	Session Time:	<u>6:00 PM</u>

Prior to class, students should read Chapter Four in the digital book *Our World, Our Water* which is included in the course fee (See Notes).

Specifics: Knowledge Development

Project AWARE

Why are divers and snorkelers the natural ambassadors for the aquatic environment?

What is Project AWARE's purpose and mission?

What steps are PADI and Project AWARE taking to protect the aquatic world?

What is the Project AWARE Foundation?

Importance of Coral Reefs

Why are coral reef ecosystems important and how do they maintain biological diversity?

What benefits do coral reefs provide to islands, coastal areas and tourism?

How do coral reefs benefit humanity?

Understanding Coral

What is coral and why is it difficult to classify?

What is zooxanthellae and what role does it play in coral physiology?

How do coral reefs form?

What other calcifying organisms help maintain reef integrity?

We'll then take a short break and continue on with our knowledge development.

Session Two

Session Type:	<u>Classroom</u>	Session Location:	<u>UWS Seattle</u>
Session Date:	<u>Thursday, October 14, 2010</u>	Session Time:	<u>After Interval</u>

Knowledge Development (Continued)

Complex Nature of Life on the Coral Reef

Specifics: What limits coral reef distribution and how do coral reefs exist in nutrient deficient waters?

How do corals reproduce and grow?

What is zonation?

How do corals battle for space with each other and compete with other reef residents?
Why is grazing so important to reef ecology and how are reef fish classified by what they eat?
What two related ecosystems are important to coral reef ecology?

Coral Reefs in Peril

What is the worldwide status of coral reefs and estimated loss?
What land-based activities are detrimental to coral reefs?
What ocean-based activities are detrimental to coral reefs?
What detrimental effect does atmospheric alteration have on coral reefs?

Protect the Living Reef

Why is local coastal zone management and sustainable coral reef development so important?
How can you promote coral reef conservation?
What are responsible coral reef dive practices?

We'll then take a short break and then watch the film *Protect the Living Reef*.

Final Session

Session Type: Classroom **Session Location:** UWS Seattle

Session Date: Thursday, October 14, 2010 **Session Time:** After Interval

Specifics: After watching the film *Protect the Living Reef*, we'll go over the knowledge reviews that we did in class and complete your certification paperwork.

Congratulations, you are now a certified Coral Reef Conservationist!

Equipment Required for this Course: None

Equipment Recommended for this Course: None

NOTES:



This is a fun evening class for those interested in or traveling to coral reefs and will make you a more knowledgeable and responsible diver, not to mention speed you along your way towards becoming a Master Scuba Diver and beyond.

The class is instructor-led, relies heavily on multimedia, and requires very little student preparation. A single knowledge review is completed in class from the slides. The text, *Our World, Our Water*, is provided in PDF online at: <http://www.nwscuba.org/resources/project-aware/Rainforests%20of%20the%20Sea.pdf>

You may also consider taking my Peak Performance Buoyancy and Digital Underwater Photo classes, which will help you hold your position to avoid damaging coral, and enjoy taking photos of your favorite coral life.