



**FIELD SCHOOL IN UNDERWATER
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE**
COURSE DESCRIPTION

Goal: This hands-on field course will introduce students to the basic issues and skills in underwater reconnaissance with sidescan sonar, site mapping, and common diagnostic features on shipwrecks, to train them to locate and assess submerged historic sites and to report those sites to State Historic Preservation Officers for inventory, management, and further investigation.

Duration: The course will take four full days. Specific dates in September and October will be based on the weather and the students' preferences.

Structure: The course includes 12 hours of classroom discussion and dry land practice, 5 hours of searching by sidescan sonar (these two sessions are open to divers and non-divers alike), 12 hours of in-water site assessment by divers, and the completion of a site report form.

Enrollment on Day 1 is unlimited. On Days 2 through 4, enrollment is limited to six students.

Diving: Depths will be less than 30 feet. Despite the fairly shallow depths, these will be serious dives with low visibility, strong currents, sharp objects, and entanglement hazards.

day topic place hours

1	BASICS	ashore	7
	Goals of reconnaissance		½
	Site protection		½
	Navigation by DGPS.		½
	Boat safety and communications		1
	Diving		1
	Wooden boat components and site diagnostics		2½
	Map drawing		1

2	SEARCHING		7
	Planning	ashore	2
	Sonar and magnetometry		
	Execution	afloat	5
	Target recognition and location		

3	ASSESSMENT		7
	Site measurement.	ashore	3
	In-water work	afloat	4
	Map a small wreck		

4	ASSESSMENT	afloat	8
	In-water work		6
	Map a large wreck		
	Project records and reports		2

A course certificate will be awarded upon submission of a good site report for the large wreck mapped on Day 4.

PREREQUISITES —

Day 1:

Read *Underwater Archaeology: The NAS Guide to Principles and Practice*, 2nd edition (Portsmouth, UK, 2009), available at Barnes & Noble, Borders Books, or amazon.com for about \$45. You might need to order it in advance.

Read IMH manual *Underwater Archaeological Reconnaissance in Low Visibility*. Free to students. We will mail it when you sign up.

Day 2:

Attend Day 1.

Boat shoes or sneakers.

IMH membership, or a signed agreement not to disturb the sites or disclose their locations.

Liability waiver.

Days 3 and 4:

Attend Days 1 and 2.

Boat shoes or sneakers.

IMH membership, or a signed agreement not to disturb the sites or disclose their locations.

Liability waiver.

Divers: all of the above, plus —

IMH dive forms

dive gear

diving certification (AOW or better)

DAN or other dive insurance

12" slate or clipboard

two tanks each day on Days 3 and 4.

Course fee: \$250.

For more information please email david.howe@maritimehistory.org or visit <http://www.maritimehistory.org>



Mail to:
INSTITUTE OF MARITIME HISTORY
P.O. Box 29
Kensington MD 20895

Please send [] information or [] sign-up forms to —

name: _____

address: _____

email: _____

phone: _____

name: _____

address: _____

email: _____

phone: _____

name: _____

address: _____

email: _____

phone: _____
