

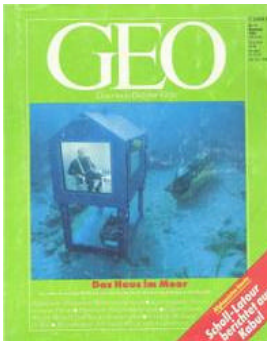
Scientific Diving at the Perry Institute for Marine Science

PIMS Scientific Diving Program's Diving Control Board:

Dr. John Marr
 Mr. Michael Lombardi
 Mr. Kevin Buch
 Dr. Albrey Arrington
 Mr. Hector Cruz-Lopez
 Mr. Patrick Pitts
 Dr. Thomas Bailey
 Dr. Frank Cook
 Dr. Dan Marelli
 Dr. Gregory Meekin
 Mr. Tom Mount
 Mr. Juan Romero
 Mr. Dick Rutkowski

The Perry Institute for Marine Science, at its Lee Stocking Island field research center located in the Exumas, Bahamas, is host to one of the most active dive programs in the world, offering access to a variety of research habitats (from shallow sand flats to blue holes, to deep wall environments) within very close proximity (less than 10 minutes by boat). More than 4000 dives are supported by PIMS at LSI annually, and are inclusive of all modes of diving including standard open-circuit air, nitrox, trimix, and more recently closed-circuit rebreathers.

PIMS scientific dive program is host to world-class research and represents the absolute cutting-edge in diving technology and techniques. PIMS operation of the Caribbean Marine Research Center, one of the six regional NOAA's Undersea Research Program (NURP) centers, as well as its organizational membership with the American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS), and its ideal Caribbean location, set PIMS aside as a leading organization in marine research and scientific diving.



Historically (since the 1970's), PIMS has had considerable influence on development of new technologies for scientific diving such as being the test bed for the early Hydro-lab program, as well as much of the research that was applied to modern submersible and hyperbaric technologies. In 2002, PIMS supported one of the first mixed-gas programs for science and conducted several scientific dives to depths exceeding 300fsw. In 2004, rebreather technologies were introduced, and their benefits are being further explored for long-term program implementation. This type of innovation and industry prominence is part of our vision and strategic plan in moving forward, as new international programs in ocean exploration have recognized the need for investing in our capabilities to take marine science into the 97% of our ocean that has yet to be explored.

A Piece of History...

Mr. John H. Perry, Jr., PIMS Founder, observing the waters surrounding LSI in a custom habitat in 1980. Innovations such as these represent the principles by which PIMS was founded upon, and continues to evolve its undersea interests.

PIMS continues its pursuit of advanced undersea research and technology by pursuing program development and developing assets in three strategic areas: Safety, Exploration, and Advanced training.

Year	# of dives >130 fsw	Max depth (fsw)	Incidents	Total dives
2000	41	160	0	6111
2001	11	157	0	3328
2002	50	308	0	2516
2003	43	190	0	3949
2004	51	300	0	4498

The above chart demonstrates PIMS commitment to supporting routine advanced scientific dive activities deeper than 130fsw. Since regular inception of these activities in 2000, there have been 0 (ZERO) incidents related to these dive activities. This is largely due to PIMS' implementing and upholding of the highest industry standards, which encompass meticulous preparation and training to facilitate safety. PIMS is taking a leadership role within NURP to facilitate routine access to these techniques for the scientific community.

