



## We are happy to launch our very first E-Newsletter!

**PCSSD** is proud to announce the first of its series of newsletters for our dive partners. The Commission aims to bring you relevant updates pertaining to PCSSD operations, what the PCSSD is up to, schedule of PCSSD caravans which will involve the active participation of the stakeholders, announcement in relation to the upcoming dive shows of the DOT family, marine rehabilitation and conservation programs, and other timely and important announcements concerning Philippine's SCUBA dive industry. For starters, allow us to give you a brief background about PCSSD!



**PCSSD** stands for **Philippine Commission on the Promotion and Development of Sports SCUBA Diving**. PCSSD is the national agency under the Department of Tourism, mandated to formulate rules & regulations, safety standards, and operating procedures for the development of recreational and technical SCUBA diving in the Philippines, in coordination with the Department of Tourism Office of Tourism Standards & Regulations.

### Our Legal Basis and the Law

PCSSD was created through Letter of Instruction 745 in 1978 by then President Marcos, and further strengthened by Republic Act 9593: Tourism Policy Law of 2009, so that the country may utilize the potential of its rich marine resources for nation building & economic progress. The PCSSD has then been mandated as the agency to promulgate programs to promote the Philippines as a premier diving destination in Asia.

The PCSSD is tasked to:

- Formulating rules, regulations, safety standards and operating procedures to implement the development of Sports SCUBA Diving.
- Undertaking studies, researches and surveys for possible incentives to the private sector members who may wish to undertake projects and programs beneficial to the development of SCUBA Diving Tourism within the framework of related Presidential Decrees.
- Expressly directed to formulate and implement programs on marine conservation, particularly those areas of high touristic value.
- Providing the standard basic dive rules to all levels or kinds of divers, regulate scuba sports and technical diving in the country;
- **Ensure the safety of the sport through the formulation of policies, including accreditation of dive establishments and individuals, pursuant thereto, in coordination with the Office of Tourism Standards and Regulation.**

With reference to the Republic Act 9593: Tourism Policy Law of 2009, which requires accreditation to all primary tourism establishments including sports and recreation facilities such as SCUBA diving establishments. SCUBA diving having a highly technical nature preliminarily falls under PCSSD jurisdiction and would require PCSSD accreditation to ensure safety in SCUBA diving and to verify if the entity or individual is in a legal capacity to operate.



### **Purpose of PCSSD Accreditation**

SCUBA diving has been determined as a key tourism product in the National Tourism Development Plan of the Philippines but ways and efforts to sustain or improve it is evidently lagging behind. This gives us the danger of its imminent

decline, stagnant improvement, and wasted potential should we not step up our game in its regulation and give due importance to it. PCSSD accreditation will help us monitor the SCUBA diving industry and give us the statistics, facts, and the like to harness this asset. We endeavor to use this advantage as a driver for economic growth, and as an avenue for employment of locals and nation building.

### **Scope of PCSSD Accreditation vis-a-vis DOT Accreditation**

The Department of Tourism is tasked to accredit hotels, resorts, and restaurant amenities (board and lodging) among others. For establishments which mainly stand as SCUBA diving enterprises, PCSSD accreditation is necessary as SCUBA diving is technical in nature. The PCSSD, being the regulatory government agency which is equipped with the technical know-how, is mandated to accredit dive establishments and dive individuals and is also tasked to inspect equipment and facilities which are SCUBA specific. To further the effort to make the Philippines an international top-of-mind dive destination, all dive establishments seeking accreditation from the Department of Tourism will be required PCSSD accreditation as a pre-requisite.

### **Where are the PCSSD accreditation fees going?**

Dive establishments are required to pay a corresponding fee of PhP5,000.00 annually. This directly goes to the consumables (chemical testers) in the form of ampoules (water, monoxide, carbon dioxide, oil) which is needed to conduct Air Quality Inspection using the Aerotest Kit or Airlab. Both the testing equipment and its consumables are not readily available locally which is why the premium on these imported items are high.

### **What are the benefits of being accredited?**

We continuously strive to offer relevant and helpful benefits to our stakeholders. Currently, listed below are the benefits of all accredited dive establishments and dive individuals:

#### **Diving Individuals:**

In case of diving-related accidents, PCSSD accredited SCUBA divers are entitled to a 50% discount, a special rate for treatment at all PCSSD owned and operated Hyperbaric Chambers all around the Philippines. The PCSSD currently operates (2) and have already in the pipeline (4) more which will be strategically placed in areas where there is dense SCUBA activity.

#### **Diving Establishments:**

Air Quality Testing to check for oil mist, water vapor, carbon, monoxide, and carbon dioxide contamination (Purification Standard EN 12 021)  
In case of diving-related accidents, PCSSD accredited dive establishments can declare two of their employees as beneficiaries who will be entitled to a 50% discount, a special rate for treatment at all PCSSD owned and operated Hyperbaric

Inclusion in both PCSSD and DOT endorsed diving instructors lists

Inclusion in the Dive

Professionals Page published on the PCSSD website and other social media

Prioritized in their intent to participate in diving events, both international, and local, facilitated or endorsed by the Commission and DOT such as in training programs like the Hyperbaric Medicine Training Courses

First to receive important updates, newsletters, and other pertinent announcements circulated by the PCSSD

Chambers all around the Philippines

Only PCSSD and DOT accredited dive establishments are permitted to participate in efforts facilitated/endorsed by the DOT and/or the PCSSD in diving related events, both international and local (PCSSD Board Resolution No. 2013-002)

Inclusion in both PCSSD & DOT endorsed SCUBA diving lists and promotional materials

Inclusion in the Accredited Dive Establishments Page published on the PCSSD website and other social media

First to receive important updates, newsletters, and other pertinent announcements circulated by the PCSSD.

**In case of Decompression Sickness, call PCSSD Hotline:**



**+ 63 928 - CHAMBER (2426237)**

[Click here to view location of PCSSD-owned Hyperbaric Chambers nationwide](#)



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