



## Medina Aquarius Program

*Rate sheet for FY 2019-21 for external users*

### **Aquarius Undersea Laboratory**

#### **Per Mission Setup: \$25,530**

- **Setup fee: \$20,460**
- **Housing: \$5,070** (\$507 daily rate x 10 days)

This fee covers:

- Habitat and support equipment preparations.
- Training for up to four (4) aquanauts.<sup>1</sup>
- Dive equipment necessary for aquanaut training (except personal equipment).<sup>2</sup>
- One vessel used exclusively for aquanaut training, including support personnel and fuel.<sup>3</sup>
- Lodging for up to six (6) persons for ten (10) days.<sup>4</sup>

*Note: This fee covers setup for a typical mission. A mission that involves more than one decompression but only one training period and no significant gaps between saturation periods (e.g., two back-to-back five-day missions) would only incur one setup fee.*

#### **Saturation Day Rate: \$18,426**

- **Saturation daily rate: \$17,919**
- **Housing daily rate: \$507**

This fee covers:

- Daily operations of the Aquarius habitat including shore activities and offshore work as required for basic habitat support.
- Four (4) dedicated berths aboard Aquarius for trained aquanauts for the duration of the mission.
- Logistical support for material transfers ('potting') to and from the habitat.
- Shore watch standing, including facilitation of video and other conferencing events from Aquarius.
- Basic information technology service.
- Access to ARB recompression chambers and emergency response vessel.
- Dive equipment (except personal equipment).<sup>2</sup>
- One vessel for diving operations in support of mission activities, including support personnel and fuel.<sup>3</sup> Vessel capacities range from 6-8 passengers/divers.
- Lodging for up to six (6) persons.<sup>4</sup>
- One (1) guest diving day for no more than six (6) persons/divers.<sup>5</sup>

This fee does NOT cover:

- Training of non-staff mission support divers.<sup>6</sup>

*Note: A typical 10-day Aquarius saturation mission will be quoted at \$209,790.*

**1-ATA Aquarius Operations Rate: \$4,096** per standard eight-hour day (8:00a – 5:00p)

- **1-ATA daily rate: \$3,144**
- **Staff safety divers: \$952** (\$476 per person x 2 persons)

**1-ATA Aquarius Operations Rate: \$5,918** overnight (10:00a – 10:00a)

- **1-ATA daily rate: \$3,144**
- **Staff safety divers: \$1,904** (\$476 per person x 2 persons x 2 days)
- **Day-2 recovery: \$870** (day boat non-diving rate)

Description: In one-atmosphere mode (1-ATA), divers enter the habitat, hatches are secured and the internal pressure is returned to surface. Divers are sequestered inside Aquarius and cannot leave until the end of the operation, however, they can communicate with divers on the reef, conduct live videoconferences and experience an extended stay not possible on a single no-decompression dive from the surface. This mode of operation doesn't involve saturation diving and requires only a short training session beforehand. 1-ATA operations are especially useful for conducting live education events (e.g., giving a course lecture or hosting multiple outreach events), real-time testing of sensors and equipment where direct interaction and observation is preferred and stable power and Internet connectivity are required, and for project development prior to launching a full saturation mission. **Please note that commercial filming activities may incur a \$5,000 location fee in addition to the day rate.**

This fee covers:

- Daily costs of operating the Aquarius habitat in 1-ATA mode including shore activities and offshore work as required for basic habitat support.
- Five (5) dedicated spaces aboard Aquarius for divers who have undergone a two-hour training program.
- Divers can make one exterior dive for 30 minutes before and after a four (4) hours 'surface interval' inside Aquarius.
- Two (2) staff in-water safety divers (required per operations protocols)
- Material transfers ('potting') to and from the habitat prior to and immediately after dive.
- Facilitation of video and other conferencing events from Aquarius.
- Dive equipment (except personal equipment).<sup>2</sup>
- One vessel for diving operations in support of mission activities, including support personnel and fuel.<sup>3</sup> Vessel capacities range from 6-8 passengers/divers.

**Visits to Aquarius: \$2,524** per standard eight-hour day

- **Habitat powering and access: \$1,572** (1-ATA daily rate x 0.5)
- **Staff safety divers: \$952** (\$476 per person x 2 persons)

Description: Visitors with approved science, education, outreach, research & development and media activities (film and radio) can utilize Aquarius for conducting live education events (e.g., giving a course lecture or hosting multiple outreach events), real-time testing of sensors and equipment where direct interaction and observation is preferred and stable power and Internet connectivity are required, project development prior to launching a full saturation mission and filming science and educational programming. **Please note that commercial filming activities may incur a \$5,000 location fee in addition to the day rate.**

This fee covers:

- Daily costs of operating the Aquarius habitat for offshore work as required for basic habitat support.
- A maximum of six (6) guest divers are permitted for dives lasting up to 60 minutes.<sup>5</sup>
- Multiple dives to the habitat and on the reef are permitted within no-decompression dive limits over a six-hour period.
- Two (2) staff in-water safety divers (required per operations protocols)
- Material transfers ('potting') to and from the habitat prior to and immediately after dive.
- Facilitation of video and other conferencing events from Aquarius.
- Dive equipment (except personal equipment).<sup>2</sup>
- One vessel for diving operations in support of mission activities, including support personnel and fuel.<sup>3</sup> Vessel capacities range from 6-8 passengers/divers.

## **Day Boat and Support Operations**

**Day Rate: \$1,410** per standard 10-hour day for projects meeting the requirements of Scientific Diving (“diving performed solely as a necessary part of a scientific, research, or educational activity”)<sup>7</sup> or **qualified non-scientific mission support diving** (“personnel participating in an approved project or diving operation that is outside the scope of the federal exemption for scientific dives”).<sup>8</sup>

This fee covers:

- Up to eight (8) scientific divers depending upon vessel capacity.
- Dive equipment (except personal equipment).<sup>2</sup>
- One vessel for diving operations in support of mission activities, including support personnel and fuel.<sup>3</sup> Vessel capacities range from 6-8 passengers/divers.

**Day Rate: \$2,362** per standard 10-hour day for projects that do not meet the qualifications of scientific diving or non-specific mission support diving.<sup>9</sup>

This fee covers:

- Up to six (6) non-scientific divers/vessel passengers.
- Dive equipment (except personal equipment).<sup>2</sup>
- Two (2) staff in-water safety divers (required per operations protocols)
- One vessel for diving operations in support of mission activities, including support personnel and fuel.<sup>3</sup> Vessel capacities range from 6-8 passengers/divers.

## **Day Boat Surface Support – Non-Diving Operations**

**Day Rate: \$870** per standard 10-hour day.

This fee covers:

- One vessel for diving operations in support of mission activities, including support personnel and fuel.<sup>3</sup> Vessel capacities range from 6-8 passengers/divers.

<sup>1</sup> Training alternate aquanaut - \$5,115

<sup>2</sup> Personal dive equipment not provided by ARB – thermal protection, mask and fins.

<sup>3</sup> Fuel is included for diving activities conducted within a 10 nm radius of the Islamorada shore base (area bounded approximately by Rodriguez Key to the northeast, Conch Reef to the east and Alligator Reef to the southeast). For multiple daily trips within the 10 nm radius or for trips to sites beyond the 10 nm radius, an additional \$125 may be charged per day.

<sup>4</sup> Lodging is provided in leased private residences or participating hotel. A total of ten (10) days of lodging is included as part of mission setup: Two (2) days prior to start of training, five (5) five days during training, two-day (2) interval between the end of training and start of saturation, and one (1) day post-saturation. Typically, the same accommodations are then utilized by surface support personnel once the mission starts and vacated when aquanauts surface post-saturation.

<sup>5</sup> Guest divers must possess a certification from a nationally recognized certifying agency and are limited to visits inside the habitat and/or observation dives on the reef. Guest divers are permitted to operate cameras. Guest divers are not permitted to material participate in research activities. Guest divers must be escorted by ARB-approved working divers. Additional guest divers and days may be arranged subject to approval by operations director at an additional cost.

<sup>6</sup> A maximum of six (6) non-staff divers can be trained at a rate of \$7,086. Training will occur over a three-day period (\$2,362 per day) and must be completed prior to aquanaut training. Lodging and meals are not included.

<sup>7</sup> A scientific diver is an observer of natural phenomena or responses of natural systems, and a gatherer of data for scientific analysis. These divers must be able to use research techniques in studying and analyzing the underwater environment. Consequently, these divers are required to be scientists or scientists in training. The tasks performed by the scientific diver usually are light and short in duration; if any hand tools are used, they are simple ones (such as a small hammer, collecting jars, special hand-held measuring devices, plastic core tubes, hand net, suction fish collector, camera, or slate pencil).

<sup>7</sup> FIU approved external organization, company, or entity personnel participating in an approved project or diving operation who do not hold a commercial diver certificate or military diver qualification, shall comply with the below standards, training requirements, and restrictions detailed in FIU Diving Operations Manual Revision 1, 2020.

<sup>8</sup> Persons who are not qualified FIU Working Divers, qualified Scientific Divers, Aquanauts or Mission/Project Support Divers and will participate as an observer diver in a university approved diving operation per FIU Diving Operations Manual Revision 1, 2020.