



SSEAS



SUBMERGED SITES EDUCATION AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL STEWARDSHIP

Submerged Sites Education and Archaeological Stewardship:

The Florida Public Archaeology Network announces **SSEAS**. This program is intended to train sport divers in the methods of non-disturbance archaeological recording and then give these trained divers a mission.

Mission:

The mission will focus on investigating sites in NOAA's Automated Wreck and Obstruction Information System (AWOIS - www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/hsd/awois.html) with the goal of identifying possible historic shipwrecks and other submerged cultural sites.

Training:

SSEAS divers will be trained to recognize historic shipwrecks and cultural sites, to record the site using photography and hand-drawn site plans, and to fill out Florida Master Site File recording forms. The SSEAS program consists of taking the Orientation to Underwater Archaeology for Sport Divers training course. This course includes classroom, confined water, and open water instruction. Upon completion, participants will receive an FPAN Certificate of Training; a NAUI or PADI Specialty Certification may be possible as well. Once training is complete, SSEAS divers are able to perform all necessary tasks and are encouraged to begin investigating AWOIS sites.

Resource:

FPAN will host an on-line database where basic information can be recorded and where dive groups can see what other groups have recorded.

Additional SSEAS Projects:

Trained divers also will also be asked to monitor nearby Florida Underwater Archaeological Preserves (www.museumsinthesea.com) and other known submerged sites. SSEAS divers may also participate in the Nautical Archaeological Society's Big Anchor Project (www.biganchorproject.com/) to identify isolated anchors on land and under water.

Preserve site monitoring and Big Anchor Project participation are encouraged but not necessary to participate in SSEAS.

For more information, please contact your local FPAN office (www.flpublicarchaeology.org) or Dr. Della Scott-Ireton at FPAN's Northwest Region (dscottireton@uwf.edu or 850-595-0050 x102).

