WHY DIVE A FULL FACE MASK?

The straight facts about Full Face Masks!
Get onboard with the future of SCUBA diving!

Brought to you by:

OCEAN REEF®
connecting divers
Instead of asking why you should dive with a full face mask (FFM), maybe you should ask yourself, “Why not?” If you’ve never used one before, you may be unaware of the features and benefits a FFM provides.

Whether you’ve been diving for years or just earned your C-card, common goals unite all divers—safety, comfort, and of course, adventure, just to name a few. You depend upon your dive gear to help you reach these goals each time you dive. A FFM could be just the piece of gear you need to enhance your future diving adventures.

Professionals use FFMs because they offer extra protection when diving in extreme conditions, and until recently FFMs were only available to these divers. However, user-friendly design and affordable prices have made FFMs accessible for all divers. Today, lack of awareness is all that stands between a recreational diver and a FFM.

If you’re interested in a FFM, but not sure where to find one, just ask the owner of your local dive shop. He or she may even be able to set up a FFM demo at the store so you can really learn what sets a FFM apart. And don’t forget the internet! Check out the website of any FFM manufacturer and you will find information on the product and places to purchase it.

So, if you want to learn more about FFMs—and how they can push your diving to the next level—keep reading. You are sure to discover some answers to that original question, “Why dive a full face mask?”
SCUBA diving has evolved from an activity for a few experts into a hobby for millions of people throughout the world. In the last 20 years, improvements in equipment have completely changed the way we dive by increasing safety and comfort.

Masks and regulators have traditionally been separate units, but by keeping the mask and regulator separate, we allow the rest of the face to be exposed to the elements, thus losing precious body heat. And, since humans breathe primarily through their nose, while using their mouth for communication, it’s reasonable to say that the separate mask and regulator setup is relatively unnatural. By integrating these two systems, we can solve several problems: we are more thermally efficient; we can communicate; we have a broader field of vision; and we are much more comfortable.

Now, divers have the ability to use more sophisticated systems than ever before. We are able to dive like real “aquanauts” to explore the last frontier on the planet: the oceans!

Just breathe... it’s that easy!

You breathe every minute of every day. Inhaling... exhaling... for most people, the process is virtually effortless. Congratulations, you’ve mastered the breathing technique for a full face mask!

Some divers are unnecessarily concerned that a new kind of mask will require a new way of breathing. It’s just not true. In fact, with a full face mask you can breathe underwater the same way you breathe on land—through your nose, mouth, whichever is most comfortable!

Since you no longer have to hold the regulator in your mouth, you no longer need to breathe through your mouth only. A normal breathing pattern will help you conserve your air and relax your body, which equals a longer, more enjoyable dive.

Relax. Enjoy your dive. Just breathe.
There are a lot of misconceptions about full face masks. We’ll set you straight on the five most common myths.

“It’s only for professional divers.”
That may have been the case in the past, but now FFMs are user-friendly and affordable. So, why should the pros have all the fun? Recreational divers can benefit from a FFM, in many of the same ways that professionals do. Visibility, communication, protection—don’t all divers want these qualities in a mask? Just because every diver on the block hasn’t bought one yet, doesn’t mean you can’t use a FFM on your next diving trip!

“It’s too expensive.”
Just ask yourself, is it worth it to buy one FFM and have it last a lifetime? And, what price do you put on your comfort or your safety? Look at the cost of a FFM and integrated regulator versus the cost of any high-quality conventional mask/regulator set-ups. The costs are comparable; and, with a lifetime warranty and upgradable features, the FFM is built to last.

“It’s only useful for communication.”
FFMs are a great tool for underwater communication since, unlike a conventional mask and regulator set-up, they allow divers to talk underwater. However, communicating isn’t the only benefit of a FFM! (For more benefits, check out our top ten list on the next page.) And if you crave silence, remember, communication devices are always optional!

“If my mask floods, it’ll be hard to clear.”
First of all, the mask won’t flood, we promise. FFMs are designed to seal snugly around the face, in order to prevent flooding during a normal dive. But, even if you remove and replace your mask while underwater, causing water to get inside the mask, just exhale or push the purge button and you’ll be dry again!

“It looks too complicated.”
FFMs are easy to use, but in order to be sure you know all the features of your mask, just get trained. It’s a simple solution to a common fear. Before you got your first C-card, SCUBA diving probably seemed pretty complex, too. Did that stop you from diving? Didn’t think so.
TOP 10 REASONS TO DIVE A FFM

1. **Visibility** - a FFM has a greater visual field than a traditional mask

2. **Communication** - with the addition of an underwater communication system, you can speak to other divers

3. **Security** - a FFM’s sturdy multi-strap system means it cannot be knocked askew while diving

4. **Comfort** - no more jaw fatigue from holding a regulator in your mouth

5. **Specialty** - add another specialty to your diving repertoire with FFM training

6. **Accessories** - there are lots of neat add-ons to try out with your FFM

7. **Protection** - a FFM covers the whole face, protecting it from the elements

8. **Relaxation** - a FFM allows you to breathe in a normal, relaxed fashion

9. **Versatility** - a FFM can be customized for a variety of diving conditions

10. **Warmth** - a large percentage of your body’s heat is lost through your head; warm head equals warmer body
“Your high level of customer service and technical support exceeded anything ever experienced before personally in my over 23 years of experience as a dive professional working with various dive equipment manufacturing and retailing organizations... Again thanks for all your exemplary support and assistance to us over the past seven years.”

Patrick Murphy
North Carolina Aquariums

“OCEAN REEF’s full face masks and underwater communication systems are a key part of our four-times-weekly Kelptank Dive Shows here at the Birch Aquarium. They allow excellent communication between our divers and the viewing public.

With the Neptune masks and Alpha Pro sound system, our divers have their hands free to feed the sharks, groupers and giant seabass, all while carrying on a lively dialogue with our visitors.

Our live feeding shows are among the most popular attractions here at the Birch Aquarium, and Ocean Reef has been a major factor in helping us maintain that level of commitment to educating AND entertaining our visitors. We couldn’t do it without them!”

Mark Ball - Lead Aquarist
Birch Aquarium at Scripps

“OCEAN REEF has become an integral component in my underwater film work. The Neptune System is very comfortable, provides excellent visibility, and makes using full face masks and underwater comms a pleasure!”

Jeremiah Sullivan - Inventor of the Neptunic Sharksuit
Adventure Television Personality

“As the CEO of Shark Diver, I have come to depend on OCEAN REEF technology for simply outstanding underwater communication with our divers. The ease of use, the clarity of sound, and the styling of the units make them not only functional but cool to look at.

I not only suggest these units to our divers, but our safety dive teams use them as well and we now insist on their use with film crews who use Shark Diver for shark related film shoots all over the planet.”

Patric Douglas - CEO
Shark Diver
Do I need to take a class?

Any diver knows proper training always equals a safer, more enjoyable dive. Your first experience diving with a FFM should be unforgettably positive. A full face mask training course can be the key to ensuring that great first dive.

Diving with a FFM is easy, but if you’ve never tried one before - a class can be incredibly beneficial. A FFM training course provides you with the basic technical knowledge necessary to be a competent FFM diver. This knowledge allows you to dive with all the benefits of safety, fun, socialization and product satisfaction.

FFM training is available from certified instructors. Though the training period can differ for each diver, most can be trained in a single-day session; however, in-depth specialty courses are available.