

THE USE OF SCUBA IN COMMERCIAL DIVING AND ITS IMPACT ON FATALITIES

If the most recent fatality is not enough to convince someone that SCUBA has no business in the commercial industry, perhaps these graphs will help paint the picture.

Shipyards worker passes away after getting stuck in gate valve

36-year-old diver passes away after allegedly getting stuck in a gate valve while working on a caisson.



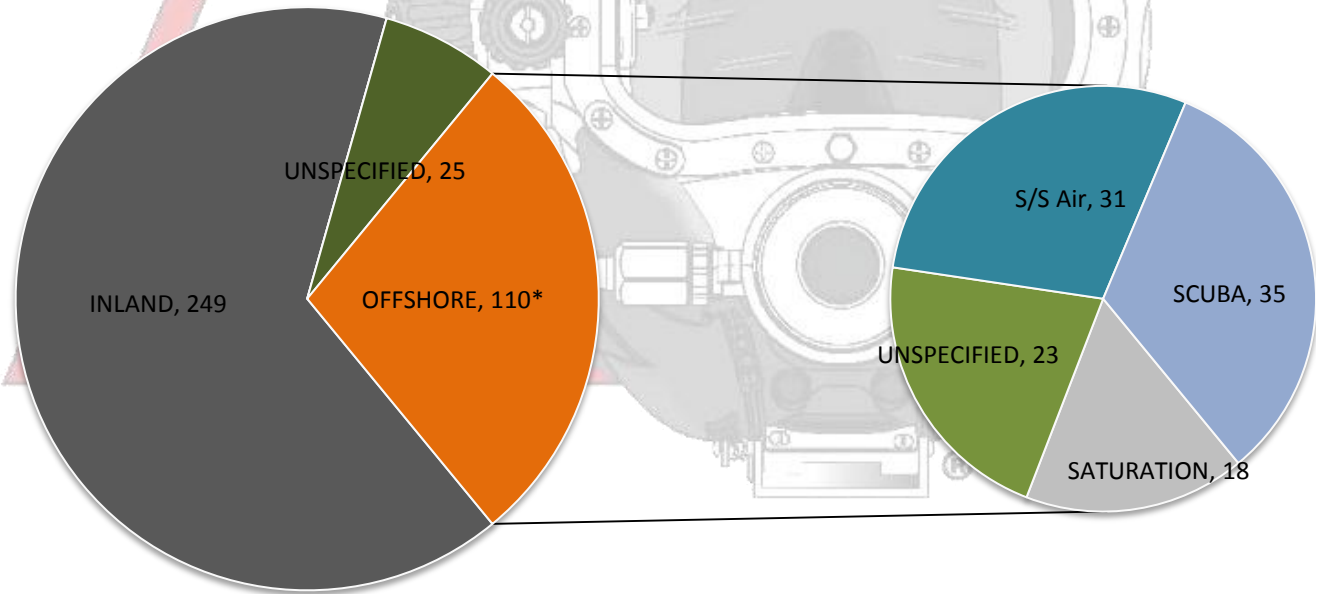
John Pisani 28 February 2015, 3:23pm

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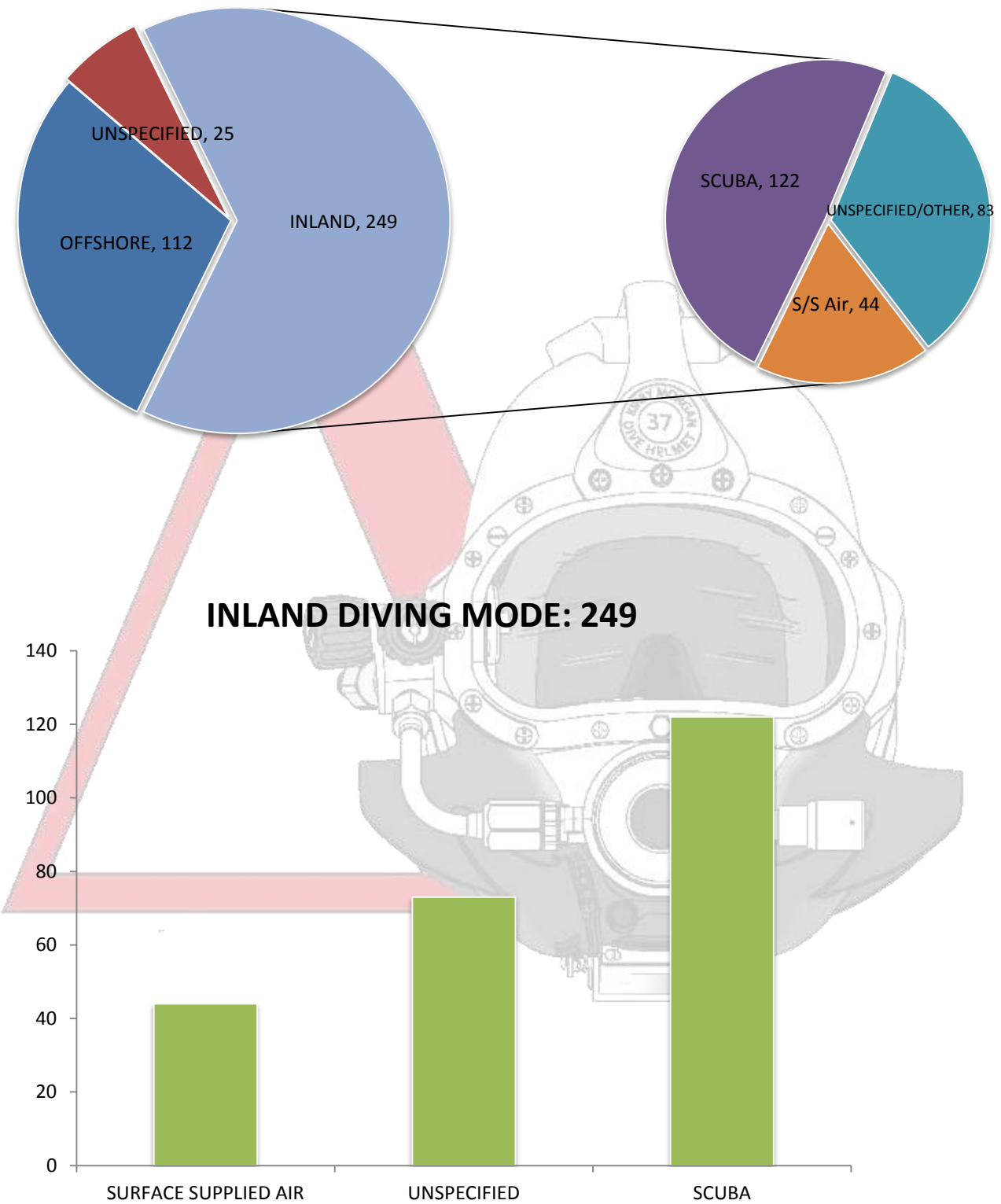
Patrick Vella - lost his life while on duty. Photo Facebook

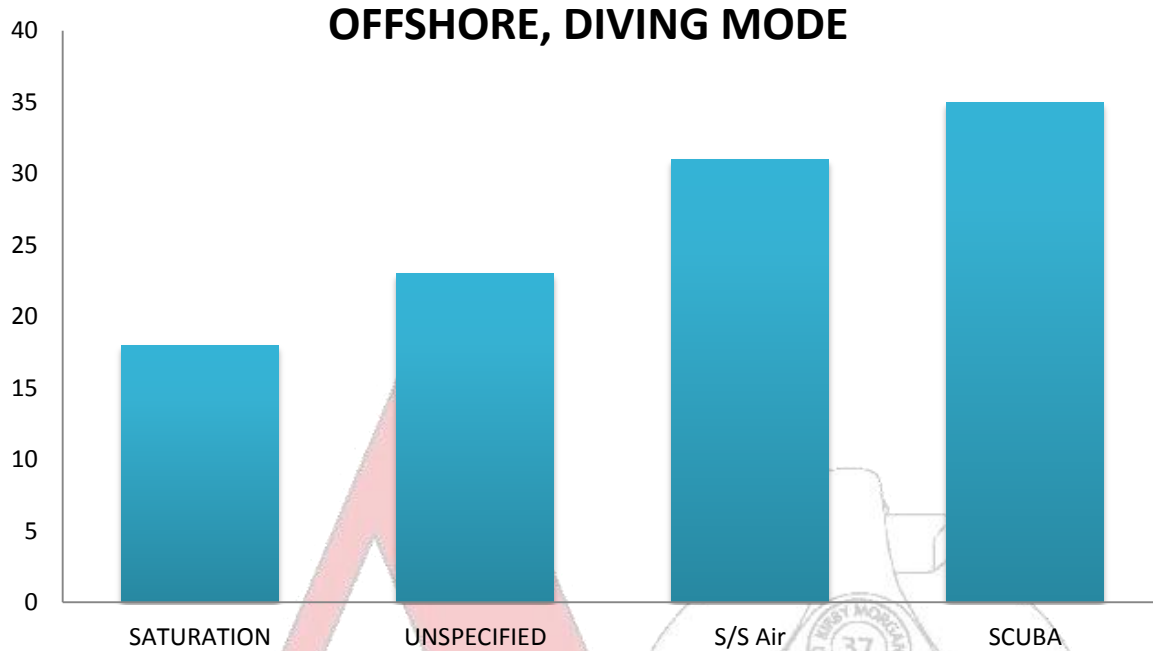
OFFSHORE FATALITIES BY DIVE MODE



*Total for offshore is 112 with 2 mixed gas diving mode fatalities.

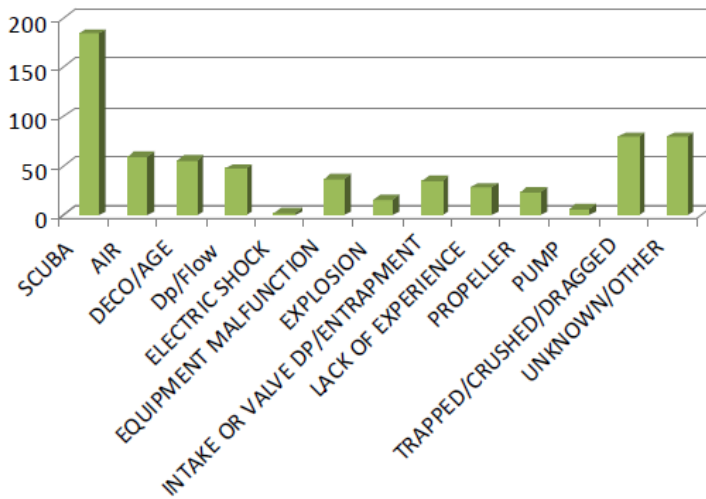
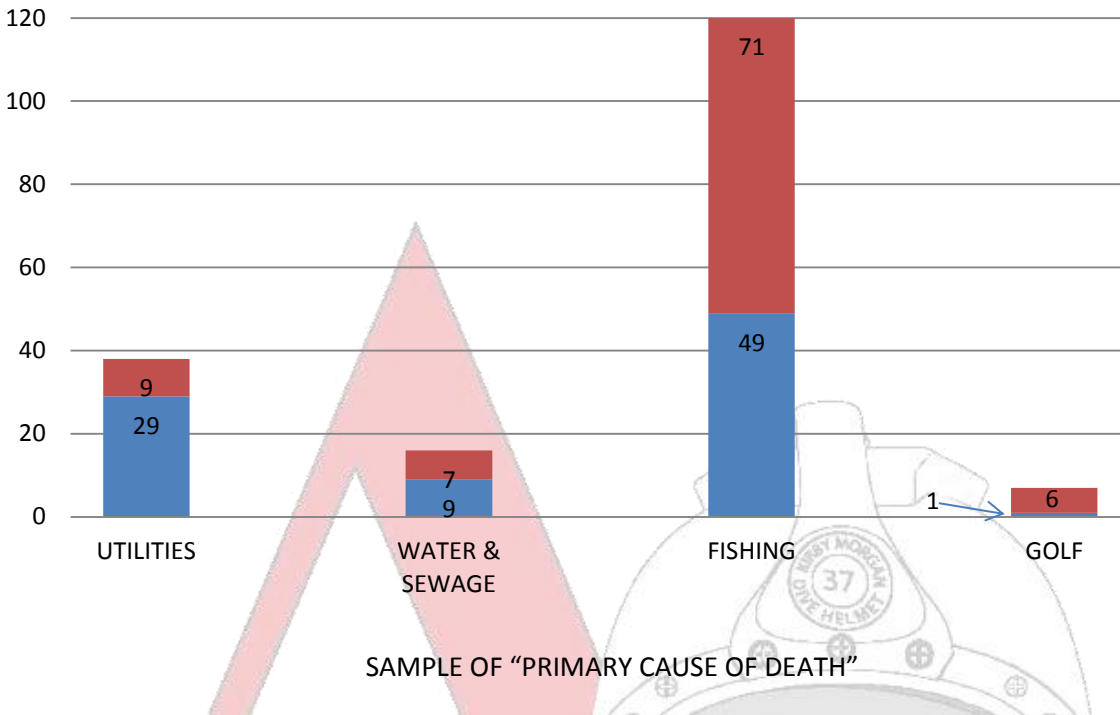
INLAND FATALITIES BY DIVE MODE





When it comes to safety and protecting the lives of divers with improved regulations, we need to break free of the mindset that we're only looking at offshore safety revisions. Permitting SCUBA in regulations is an unspoken way of giving approval to untrained commercial divers to perform activities which cross the line into the realm of commercial diving. The graph below shows how many of the total fatalities which occurred in a typical sector had SCUBA noted as the dive mode. SCUBA is in red and other dive modes, whether reported or not, are in blue.

SCUBA FATALITIES BY ACTIVITY



This is an older graph I put together at the start of the NOSAC committee. And this is what it said:

At a glance it is obvious that SCUBA has no place in commercial diving. It is also to be noted that the "Air" category means the diver died because he ran out of air, or had an air hose severed, rendering him unable to get breathing air. It is also noteworthy that a lot of the fatalities were due to a combination of two or more of the categories listed. For example, it is common for inland fatalities

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where the diver got trapped due to dP against a screen or got sucked into an intake, then ran out of air because he was using SCUBA as the dive mode.

For this reason, I am greatly disturbed by the fact that neither agency with regulating authority and power to enforce regulations seems compelled to change this!

USCG and NOSAC have again made it clear that they are not concerned with inland diving regulations. But I have reviewed diving operations manuals from several plants and companies and they all use and or reference the USCG regulations!

