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# *Scuba Emporium*

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## *1983 Why I did Conservation Diver Specialty?*

It was doing a beach clean-up dive and felt the divers needed to earn a reward for their time out at the lake. We were teaching a lot about pollution and the subsequent problems so I felt I could put together a course that all participating divers could benefit from. I wanted to show divers that what we did hundreds of years ago no longer works. You see the first piece of plastic ever made is still intact on earth today. It takes hundreds of years for most plastic to degrade. However the husk, shells, or leaves our ancestors used for food were gone a few months later. During this course I like to focus on how any pollution we introduce to the waters makes it to the ocean. I explain how creeks lead into streams and they lead into rivers which eventually dump into lakes and finally they dump into the ocean. Some rivers, such as the Mississippi dump directly into the gulf. All the pollution from way up north makes its way to the sea, so we need to be mindful of our actions. This course also explains how to conserve and recycle products and be mindful of what we are doing. This is a standalone program or you can take it during the cleanup dives. It sure is an eye opener and does make one more aware of their garbage. We all must do our part to protect the water ways.

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