

PADI Kelp Restoration Diver

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In conjunction with the Giant Kelp Restoration Project (g2kr.com)

Prerequisites

- Open Water or above certification by a recognized agency
- Excellent buoyancy skills
- Familiarity with Monterey diving
- At least 20 cold water dives logged

Course goals

- To develop the student's knowledge of urchin anatomy and behavior kelp dynamics, safe diving in urchin barrens and kelp forests, personal conduct and basic urchin culling methods and tools.
- To develop the student's ability to perform important urchin culling skills and methods of working on kelp restoration projects to provide optimum results for kelp restoration.
- To develop the student's ability to properly identify urchin species, different species of the understory and canopy forming kelp species, how to identify marine invasive species.
- How to properly count and report these species when observed and/or culled.
- To enable the student to plan, organize and conduct safe kelp restoration dives.

What will we be doing?

- One classroom session by Zoom/ Google Meet videoconference. Usually on a weekday evening.
- Two boat dives on Tankers Reef from the [Beachhopper II](#). Trips are on weekday mornings at 9am. (If you have your own boat or DPV, we can get to Tankers Reef on a more flexible schedule.)

What do you need?

- California recreational fishing license (purchased online for about \$50)
- Welding chipping hammer with a wrist strap (less than \$10 at Harbor Freight or Amazon)
- Dive slate and pencil
- Gear with no dangling things (retractors, bolt snaps, etc. are a good idea)

How much does it cost?

- Instructor/certification fee: [see current rates](#).
- Beachhopper II boat cost: \$50 per student

When is the course offered?

- I run a course periodically when there are enough interested divers. There isn't a fixed schedule.

In the meantime, now's a great time to work on your buoyancy skills

- We need to be able to dive a foot above a soft shale bottom *without touching it*, while culling urchins with a hammer. The marine sanctuaries want to see us get results at Tankers Reef without harming the reef before they'll let us expand into other areas.
- If you're already a lean, mean, urchinating machine with great trim, that's wonderful.
- Otherwise, you'll benefit from an Advanced Open Water or Peak Performance Buoyancy course.
- If it's been a while since you've been in the water (thanks, COVID), take a Scuba Refresher.

What if I still have questions about the course?

- Contact the instructor: Randall Spangler / randall@spanglers.com / 408-463-6376