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Made by: Lisa Spotowitz		Document code:		
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Usage of the dive locker / decompression chamber

Table of Contents

1. Introduction.....	1
2. Dive locker.....	1
3. Compressor & air tanks.....	1
4. Decompression chamber	2
5. Risk assessment.....	2
6. Others.....	2

1. Introduction

This document is for all users of the Kings Bay dive locker. You will find some general information about the usage of the dive locker and the decompression chamber. Please read the text carefully and make sure that you understand everything before you begin your dive activities. Do not hesitate to ask if you have any questions or suggestions regarding our routines and safety protocols.

2. Dive locker

The dive locker consists of a dry area that has a sofa, chairs and an office space. The remaining space from the entry to the toilets is a wet area. In this area, glove dryers, a rail to hang up dry suits and a smaller rail to hang up regulators are available. For equipment storage a shelf is placed close to the entrance. A shower is available to rinse of dry suits.

A filling panel is installed close to the entrance. It can be connected by a high-pressure hose to the dive team's compressor on the outside. For storage of the dive team's compressor a „compressor hut“ with power socket is installed on the outside.


During summer a cleaning tank and a freshwater hose can be found outside.

3. Compressor & air tanks

It is expected that users of the dive locker bring their own compressor.

Kings Bay owns 2 compressors; one is directly connected to the storage tanks in the decompression chamber room. The other one is used to fill the compressed air tanks of the fire fighters. The KB compressors are not available for the filling of dive tanks.

Kings Bay does not provide compressed air tanks which means that you must bring your own tanks.

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4. Decompression chamber

Kings Bay owns the only decompression chamber on Svalbard. It is located next to the Marine Lab. If your risk assessment / emergency response plan includes the availability of a decompression chamber, the dive team is responsible for the preparation and operation of the decompression chamber. The dive team needs to set up its own standard operating procedures for the decompression chamber. It is furthermore responsible to set up its own emergency response plan. This includes ensuring that sufficient medical advice is available in case of an accident. Chamber operation must be conducted by the dive team itself. It is responsible that a qualified operator is available to coordinate the chamber operation together with remote medical advice. Furthermore at least one diver must be available assisting an injured diver in the chamber. The permanent staff of Kings Bay is trained in the technical operation of the chamber, but they are only able to assist in operation and do not conduct independent chamber operation for clients.

Model: Norwegian Underwater Technology (NUT) Twin lock decompression chamber

5. Risk assessment

As presented at the last NYSMAC meeting, it is mandatory since the 1st July 2022 to provide a risk assessment and standard operating procedure before you can start your research in Ny-Ålesund. This requirement follows the Norwegian work safety regulations and shall ensure that field work is performed in a safe manner for everyone.

The risk assessment must be sent in advance to the host institution and preferably to engineer@kingsbay.no. Preferably it also includes an emergency response plan which is cleared by involved people (e.g. Marine lab staff or KB staff as decompression chamber assistants).

If you need help to prepare a risk assessment you can also take a look in our user agreements: 08 - Standard Operating Procedure and Risk Assessment, as well as 09 and 10 which provide templates for both, the standard operating procedure and the risk assessment.

6. Others

If you don't have a boat for diving activities provided from your host institution you might consider renting the KB research vessel Teisten.