

January 29, 2007

Welcome Divers,

The Saba Hyperbaric Facility (SHF) is managed by the Saba National Marine Park (Saba Conservation Foundation). This Facility, in conjunction with hyperbaric physicians at the A.M. Edwards Medical Centre, provides emergency services to divers suffering from decompression sickness (DCS) 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. The SHF is the only Divers Alert Network (DAN) approved facility in the northeast Caribbean.

Due to the exceptional professionalism of local dive shops and the increased level of diver awareness and education, incidents of DCS have continued to decrease in recent years. While this is excellent news for recreational divers, it has led to reduced revenue for the SHF from DCS treatments. However, the chamber still requires a minimum of US \$25,000.00 per year to maintain critical equipment and staff preparedness. Unfortunately, outside funding to cover these costs is currently not available.

The SHF, in cooperation with the local dive shops and live-aboards, has invoked a US \$1.00 per dive Hyperbaric Fee. We pledge that 100% of this money will be put toward:

- On-going continual maintenance of the SHF equipment.
- Periodic capital expenditures for major upgrades to remain DAN compliant.
- Support for our volunteer and staff training programs.

This Fee will ensure that the SHF remains operational and that the best service can be provided to you in the event that treatment for DCS is needed. Any voluntary donations in excess of these costs will be put into a fund specifically allocated to the Facility.

Please feel free to ask your local dive shop about arranging for a tour of the SHF and stop by the Saba National Marine Park office at Fort Bay for the latest news concerning the chamber and the park.

Thank you and have a great dive!

Jan den Dulk
Saba Conservation Foundation