



Notice to Submariners

USCG SAR Dive Plan Submission

SUBNOTE-2026-001

Issued: February 20, 2026

NOTICE TO SUBMARINERS

SUBNOTE-2026-01

Date Issued: February 20, 2026

Source: PSUBS.ORG

Subject: USCG SAR Dive Plan Submission

Distribution: PSUBS Members

PURPOSE

This SUBNOTE establishes the minimum information to be provided to the U.S. Coast Guard for Search and Rescue (SAR) awareness when conducting submersible diving operations within U.S. Coast Guard jurisdiction. The purpose of this notice is to assist the U.S. Coast Guard in preparing for SAR response should an emergency occur during submersible operations.

Submission of this information is not intended as a request for approval, nor does it imply endorsement by the U.S. Coast Guard.

APPLICABILITY

This notice applies to all PSUBS-affiliated submersible operations conducted within U.S. waters subject to U.S. Coast Guard jurisdiction; however, compliance is strongly recommended for all submersible operators regardless of affiliation.

PROCEDURE

Operators shall submit the required SAR awareness information to the appropriate local U.S. Coast Guard unit having Search and Rescue (SAR) responsibility for the intended area of operations. Submission should be made directly to the nearest Coast Guard Sector, Station, or command center serving the dive location.

Note: The PSUBS-adopted Dive Plan and Emergency Plan documents, available at PSUBS.ORG, contain all required information and may be submitted in lieu of a separate SAR awareness document.

REQUIRED INFORMATION

Prior to commencement of dive operations, operators shall submit a dive plan including:

1. Vessel Information.
 - a. Submersible name
 - b. Registration number
 - c. Brief description of the submersible
 - d. Planned diving depth

2. Personnel.
 - a. Names of occupants on board
 - b. Designated shore-side emergency contacts

3. Itinerary.
 - a. Date of dive.
 - b. Departure time.
 - c. Estimated time of return
 - d. Precise area of operations (coordinates or clearly defined location)

4. Emergency Contact.
 - a. Name and number for party authorized to report submersible as overdue
 - b. Pre-determined time after which SAR notification will be initiated

REFERENCES / RESOURCES

- United States Coast Guard Organization Chart
<https://www.uscg.mil/Units/Organization/>

- Personal Submersibles Organization (PSUBS):
<http://www.psubs.org>

DISCLAIMER

This SUBNOTE is issued for guidance and educational purposes only. It does not substitute for federal, state, or local regulations. Operators must comply with all applicable laws and maintain responsible conduct to safeguard marine resources and the PSUBS community reputation.

CONTACT / QUESTIONS

For clarification or further guidance, please contact the PSUBS leadership team via the official PSUBS communication channels.