

## Just another CCR Diver died

Sent: Wednesday, May 06, 2009 3:50 AM

Subject: **NOAA Diver Dies Off Key Largo**

Dewey Smith was using an **inspiration closed circuit rebreather** at the time of the accident,(approx. 2:00pm) one of the U.S.Navy divers and one of the NOAA diving specialist in the habitat are U.S.Navy Corpsman who administered medical aid within minutes of his discovery,they were also aided by 2 U.S. Navy Master Divers who dove from the surface to render aid, he was declared dead by 2 U.S.Navy Medical Diving Officers had earlier in the day done an inspection dive and were recalled to the Aquarius habitat.

(I was on the surface support vessel preparing to do a repet Dive to document the task the divers were working on. I would be interested in any emails published on this incident.)

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A diver who worked for the NOAA National Undersea Research Program's Aquarius laboratory in waters off Key Largo died during a dive Tuesday afternoon.

Dewey Smith, 36, worked as a scientific diving specialist, a habitat technician for the Aquarius. He was working on a project just outside the facility with two other divers who found him unconscious on the bottom, the Monroe County Sheriff's Office says.

Smith was returned to the facility and CPR was performed. Two U.S. Navy divers helped in the resuscitation efforts, but Smith was declared dead at 3:47 p.m.

An autopsy will be done Wednesday to attempt to determine the cause of his death.

Aquarius is an underwater ocean laboratory three and half miles offshore in 60 feet. It's owned by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and operated by the University of North Carolina-Wilmington. Numerous astronauts have trained there to simulate weightlessness in space.