

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA

Environmental Health and Safety Office

*****SAFETY ADVISORY*****

To: All University of Hawaii scientific divers, all campuses and agencies.

From: David F. Pence, University Diving Safety Officer



Subject: Remove from Service all ScubaPro® Mk20 Regulators

March 4, 2005

This is an important Safety Alert issued by the University of Hawaii Diving Safety Program, as ordered by the UH Diving Control Board. Effective immediately and until further notice, all **UH divers must discontinue diving with and remove from service Scubapro MK-20 first stage regulators on University-sponsored operations.** This applies to both personally-owned and University-owned equipment

Multiple catastrophic failures (reference photo below) of MK-20 first stages have recently been reported to UHDSP. One occurrence was a regulator owned and used by a UH diver, and occurred shortly after termination of a dive due to unrelated issues. The failures could result in complete and immediate loss of air supply, leading to serious injury or death.

We are currently inquiring of Scubapro whether they will replace the MK-20 regulators for UH divers, and by what mechanism this can occur. In the interim, UHDSP has a limited number of regulators available for loan on a case-by-case basis for Oahu based divers. If you have a MK20 regulator and have a need to dive, please contact Chris Stoebenau to arrange for a replacement regulator. He can be reached at stoebena@hawaii.edu or (808) 956-9643. UH Divers on Maui and the Big Island should contact Donna Brown, at donnabro@hawaii.edu (Maui Community College) or John Coney, at jconey@hawaii.edu (UH-Hilo), to inquire about possible short-term loaners.

UHDSP understands that this may pose significant hardship to some divers, but feel that the potential risk involved with continued use of these regulators necessitates this action.

