



What is Project Baseline?

A global network of highly skilled and organized SCUBA divers who are creating a lasting visual legacy of underwater conditions in oceans, lakes, rivers, springs, and caves all over the world, one picture and video at a time.

Teams share their underwater images and experiences with the world by posting to our spatial database and leveraging social media outlets.

Take a look! projectbaseline.org/database





Project Baseline Origin

- Created by GUE founders from a desire to make a positive change in the way the world's critical water resources are being impacted.
- Now the central conservation initiative of Global Underwater Explorers,
 - A federally recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit
 - Project Baseline's primary fiscal sponsor

Education



Global leader in SCUBA training, ranging from Recreational to Technical and Cave

Conservation



Exploration



Global projects including coral reef survey, historic shipwreck discovery & documentation, archeological finds, and cave exploration.

Why is Project Baseline Important?

At nearly every turn, wherever there is water, human impact is evident. Unchecked residential and commercial development, unregulated agricultural run-off, overconsumption of fragile fisheries, and unprecedented weather events affecting water quality and availability are omnipresent. Too often, the manifestation of these impacts results in accelerated chemical and nutrient oversupply, severely altered ecosystems, and compromised recreational and economic opportunities.

Still, our resilient planet nurtures locations that teem with life, beauty, and biological diversity that remind us of the abundance and generosity once universally available to our species. Yet, these environmental circumstances are often hidden beneath the water's surface, out of sight and out of mind in as little as three feet of water, accessible to many, or buried under more than three hundred feet of water, accessible to only a select few. Enter **Project Baseline**.

Our baseline for the health and vitality of underwater environments is shifting. It will continue to shift until we can present the current generation and those to come with pictures that clearly demonstrate the differences in environmental quality between then and now.

How Project Baseline Works

Our passionate volunteers:

- Select an underwater location that is meaningful to them.
- Begin by collecting four basic sets of data on a regular basis: depth, temperature, visibility, and a photograph.
- Send that information to us for upload to our public database.

How is the data used?

- Teams are able to provide a clear view of evolving conditions to their local community, politicians, and researchers.
- As these relationships with the community are built, projects are able to grow their efforts and expand the types and complexity of data collected.

Project Baseline Quick Facts

In 2009

- Project Baseline was started by GUE founders with minimal funding
- One volunteer-run Project area was established by volunteers in Florida

By January 2015

- Project Baseline had secured funding from foundation and corporate gifts, private donors, and annual membership dues designated to us by Global Underwater Explorers
- Over 60 volunteer-run Project areas in 25 countries had been established
 - We had teamed with underwater researchers on an ongoing project to investigate hard-to-reach and never-before-seen study areas to a depth of 400ft.

2015/16 Goals

- Build organizational capacity to support volunteer teams
- Expand and refine our spatial database and interface of underwater observations
 - Provide advanced diving support for researchers

(Healthy) Brain Coral
North Bimini Island, 2014

Project Baseline Summary

Who we are

- All Project areas are run by volunteer teams comprised of SCUBA divers and Project supporters

What we do

- All teams work towards the fulfillment of Project Baseline's overarching mission to survey and record their local aquatic environments with photos, video, and data logs as a baseline against which future changes can be measured.
- Additionally, many teams engage in debris removal from waterways, educational outreach, offer diving support to exploration and research efforts, often in understudied underwater environments

Our results

- The efforts of our volunteer teams are used to build public awareness and support political action for underwater conservation around the globe



www.projectbaseline.org

Project
Baseline
a global underwater explorers initiative



Image Credit – Project Baseline Volunteers

- Mikkel Pitzner
- Robert Carmichael
- Andreas Hagberg
- Blake Carmichael
- Rick van Dijk
- Cor Kuyvenhoven
- Rich Denmark

Image Credit - Other

- Neptune Memorial Reef Society
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