

Survey Diving:



Become the Eyes of Our Ocean

Survey Diving is one of the most rewarding ways divers can contribute directly to marine science, conservation, and long-term ecosystem monitoring. By collecting species and habitat data during dedicated survey dives, Aquaholics members support real research used by scientists, managers, and community groups to better understand and protect Port Phillip Bay and the broader Victorian coastline. Every observation helps build a clearer picture of how our marine environments are changing — and where help is needed most.

Aquaholics proudly participates in established citizen science programs, including the **Victorian National Parks Association's Great Victorian Fish Count**, one of the state's longest-running marine biodiversity surveys. During these dives, participants learn to identify key fish species, record abundance, and contribute valuable data that aids long-term population tracking. The Club also supports the **VNPA Sea Slug Census**, a colourful and scientifically significant project that celebrates the extraordinary diversity of nudibranchs and sea slugs in Victorian waters. Survey divers document sightings, behaviours, and habitat details — contributing to a growing regional database used by researchers and marine biologists.

Beyond these large-scale citizen science initiatives, Aquatic Adventures and Aquaholics collaborate to offer **exclusive Survey Diving experiences** targeting two of the Bay's most fascinating and often overlooked marine groups: **syngnathids** (seahorses, seadragons, and pipefish) and **cephalopods** (octopus, squid, and cuttlefish). These specialised surveys help build local understanding of population health, breeding patterns, habitat use, and seasonal movement — information that is incredibly valuable for conservation planning and habitat protection.

In every survey, divers learn how to record species sightings accurately, assess substrate types, navigate transects or roving survey methods, and document environmental conditions. These skills deepen a diver's connection to the places they explore and transform regular scuba outings into meaningful data-collection missions that support local science. Survey divers become true citizen scientists, contributing to monitoring programs that inform policies, restoration projects, and community awareness initiatives.

Aquatic Adventures strengthens these activities with training opportunities that introduce divers to survey techniques, species identification skills, and the fundamentals of underwater data collection. With guidance from experienced instructors and conservation leaders, divers gain the confidence and capability to contribute high-quality data that researchers can rely on.

Together, Aquaholics and Aquatic Adventures are cultivating an active community of citizen scientists who help safeguard Victoria's marine biodiversity. By joining survey dives, divers play a vital role in documenting and protecting the unique species that make our waters so extraordinary — one observation at a time.