FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SSI Expands Environmental Education with New Freshwater Ecology Specialty Program

DELRAY BEACH, FL – [April 7, 2026] SSI is proud to announce the launch of their **Freshwater Ecology Specialty program**, further expanding its industry-leading environmental education portfolio and providing SSI Training Centers and Instructors with a powerful new opportunity to engage both divers and non-divers alike.



The Freshwater Ecology program is now available and specifically designed to help aquatic enthusiasts to better understand the unique ecosystems found in lakes, rivers, springs, and other freshwater environments. The program explores biodiversity, seasonal changes, species interactions, and the impact humans have on these delicate habitats—reinforcing SSI's commitment to developing environmentally responsible divers worldwide.

For SSI Professionals, the program offers a clear, structured academic framework that supports confident instruction while maintaining flexibility in delivery. The course can be taught as a classroom-based specialty and enhanced with optional in-water sessions, making it a versatile addition to any Training Center's education calendar.

"Environmental awareness is a key driver of diver engagement today, and we are thrilled to add our tenth Ecology Specialty to our industry-leading conservation program" said Rachael Steidley, SSI Marketing Manager. "The Freshwater Ecology program gives our valued Training Centers another way to connect with customers, expand their course offerings, and position themselves as leaders in conservation education within their communities."

A Simple Pathway for Professional Qualification

SSI has streamlined the process for professionals to begin teaching the new specialty. Active status **Assistant Instructors and above** can earn the Freshwater Ecology Specialty Instructor rating through a digital verification process by completing the program materials and meeting standard requirements.

Additionally, **SSI Divemasters** may also qualify to teach the program by completing the Specialty Instructor process, including co-teaching or attending an instructor seminar, along with logged dive and Training Center verification requirements.

An SSI University session introducing the program is now available for review, providing additional guidance on course structure, positioning, and integration into existing training pathways.

A Growing Opportunity for Dive Centers

As interest in environmental awareness and conservation continues to grow, the Freshwater Ecology program offers SSI Training Centers a valuable opportunity to:

- Expand course offerings beyond traditional marine-focused training
- Engage local divers in nearby freshwater environments
- Strengthen community involvement and conservation initiatives
- Drive continuing education and repeat customer engagement

With the addition of Freshwater Ecology, SSI continues to lead the industry in providing **diver education that combines knowledge, experience, and environmental responsibility**.

For more information or to get started, contact your local SSI Training Center or **click here to learn more.**