

Shearwater Cloud Custom PDF Instructions

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Introduction

As part of our growing support of divers, this feature is a way for users to export their dive logs to custom PDF templates using Shearwater Cloud.

To work with custom PDF templates, you will need a PDF Form editor and a PDF Editor. The Form editor is to create or edit existing form fields, which are used as the output targets for data. The PDF Editor is needed to do any visual aspects such as labels, images, borders, etc. For these instructions we will be using Adobe Acrobat as our reference.

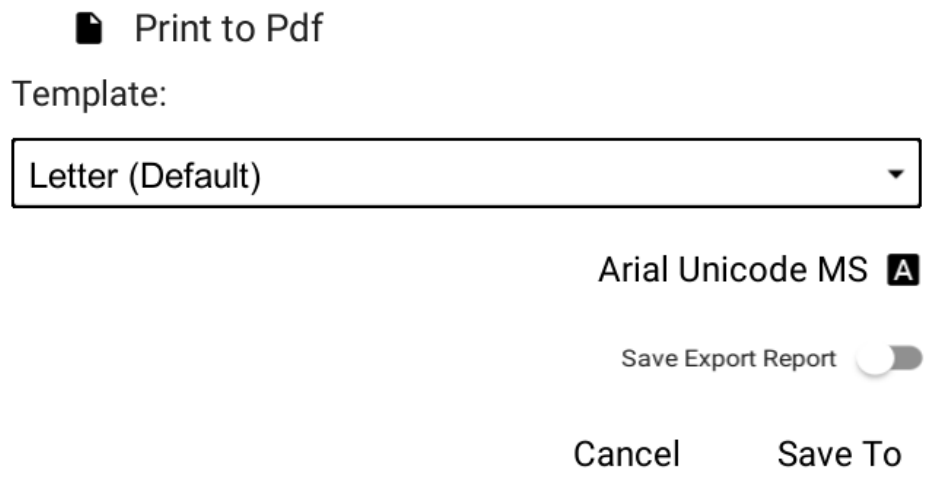
These instructions are not meant to teach users to use PDF Software tools, but instead focus on the elements of software use to be able to edit/modify or provide guidance to be able to work with Shearwater Cloud's PDF export process.

New PDF Export Navigation

With the release of Shearwater Cloud 2.9.6 we added more options to the “Print to PDF” dialog.

The first addition is the ability to choose the exported data font. This will only affect the form fields to the specified font. This will not affect any of the labels in the PDF.

Another feature is the Save Export Report. This will save any print information about the PDF process in order to help identify any issues printing to custom PDFs.



Print to Pdf

Template:

Letter (Default) ▼

Arial Unicode MS **A**

Save Export Report ☐

Cancel Save To

If selecting multiple dives, the “Print to PDF” dialog will also show the option to save a number of dives per file. Options provided are 1, 5, 10, 25, 50 and 100.

Dives Per File 1 ▼

Custom PDF Options

Custom PDF options can be accessed by selecting Custom Template from the Template dropdown selection.

Print to Pdf

Template:

Letter (Default) ▼

Letter (Default)

A4

Personal Organizer - 96mm x 172mm

Binder - 118mm x 188mm

Custom Template

Once selected, additional options will appear in the Print to PDF dialog.

Print to Pdf

Template:

Custom Template ▼

Arial Unicode MS 

 Select Custom Template

/

Custom Template Help ▼

Save Export Report 

Cancel

Save To

[Select Custom Template](#)

This option will open a file browser to select the PDF template to be used.

The path “/” underneath will refer to the file name and one directory level above to assist in indicating what is the current file to use along with a folder name for reference.

[Custom Template Help](#)

Clicking on this option will expand to show additional support options.

Custom Template Help



Custom Template Instructions

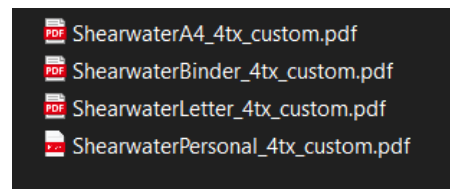
Export Default Templates

Custom Template Instructions is a link to our website where these instructions are posted.

Export Default Templates will export the default PDFs that the application uses for templates other than Custom Templates. These can be modified for your own personal use or used as an example for making your own.

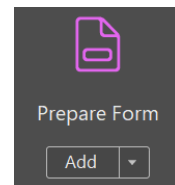
Modifying existing PDFs

Click on the “Export Default Templates” and save it to an easy to access folder location. Once a folder is selected, the PDF template files will be saved to the folder.

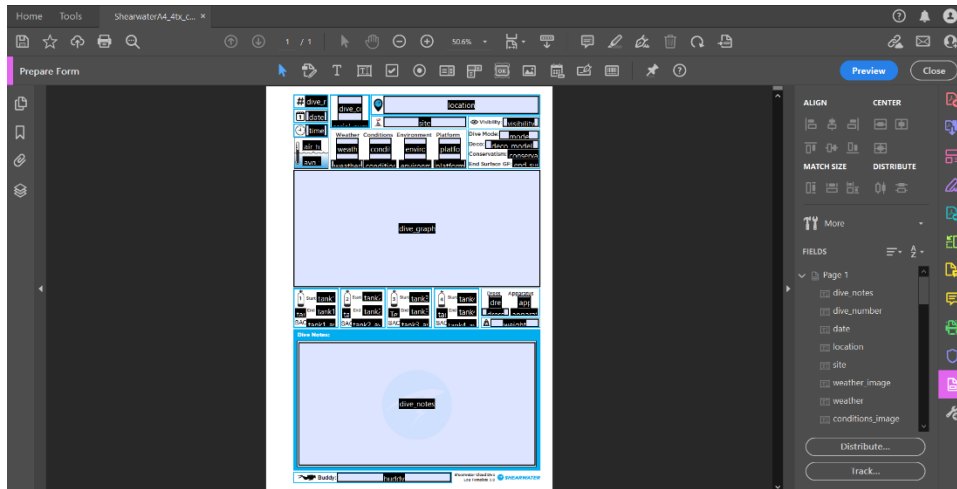


Form Editing

Using a PDF Form Editor, select the Form editor for the software. For the rest of our example, we will be using Adobe Acrobat for reference.



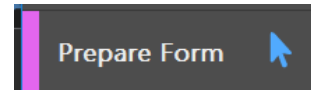
Once the Form is open it will look like this when in Form Editing mode. While in the Form edit mode, we are unable to modify any of the visual aspects of the PDF.



The Form fields are what are editable. These are identified with the black block with the field name. This is a close-up for “location”.



A form can be selected and modified with the Form Select tool, which is the cursor arrow icon.



The Form editor allows for changing the form name as well as dimensions. In our example we will demonstrating a simple layout change.

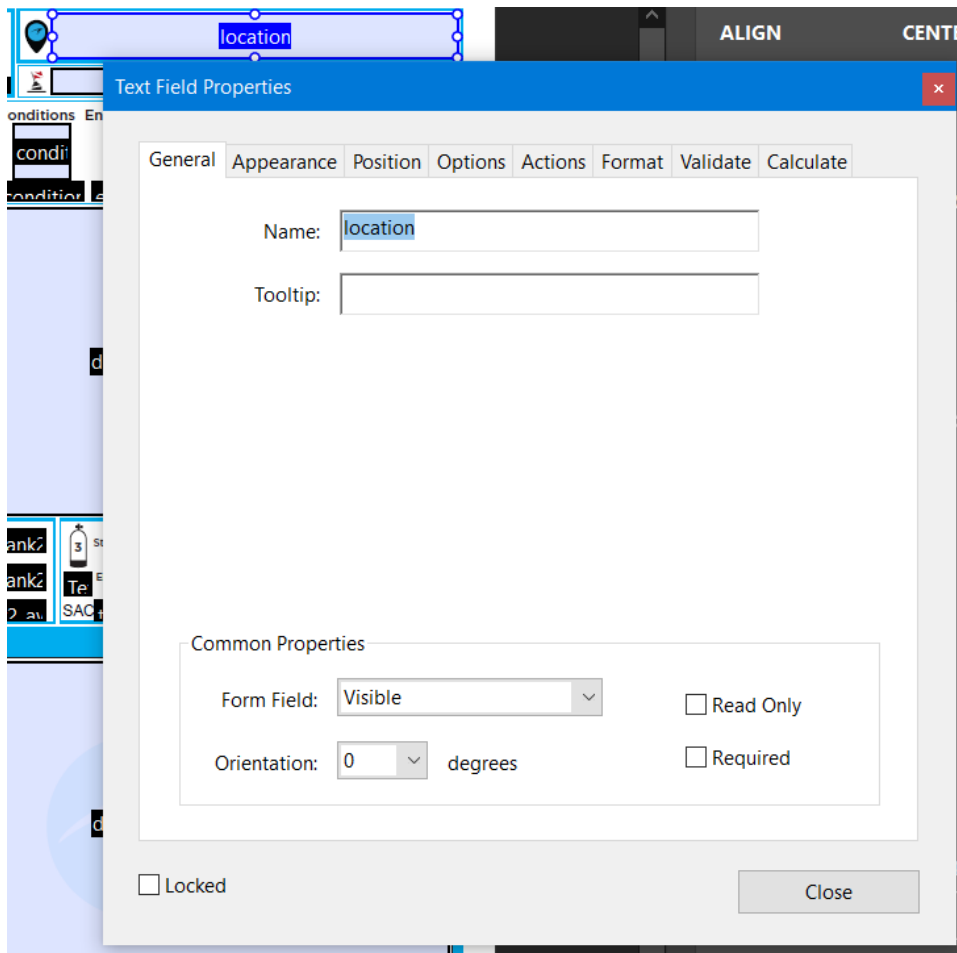
In the image below, we reduced the size of the graph and moved the “dive_notes” form field next to it.

# dive_r	dive co	location	
date	site	Visibility: visibility	
time	Weather	Conditions	Environment
air t	weath	condi	envirc
avd	platform	Platform	
	Dive Mode: mode	Deco: dern mode	
	Conservatism: conserva	End Surface GF: end su	
dive_graph		dive_notes	
Start tank1	Start tank2	Start tank3	Start tank4
End tank1	End tank2	End tank3	End tank4
SAC tank1	SAC tank2	SAC tank3	SAC tank4
Dress	Apparatus	Weight	
Dive Notes:			
			
Buddy: buddy	Shearwater Cloud Dive Log Template 2.0 SHEARWATER		

If we printed at this point, we would see the notes next to the graph without any border.

Form Property box

Forms fields have properties. To access these properties in Adobe Acrobat double click the form field. The properties information can be used to adjust various values or change names. Options are to rename the name for the export data reference, multi/single line, alignment, font size, etc. Shearwater Cloud export does not use all the options available but does work with the basics.

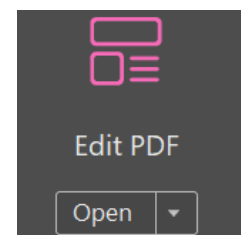


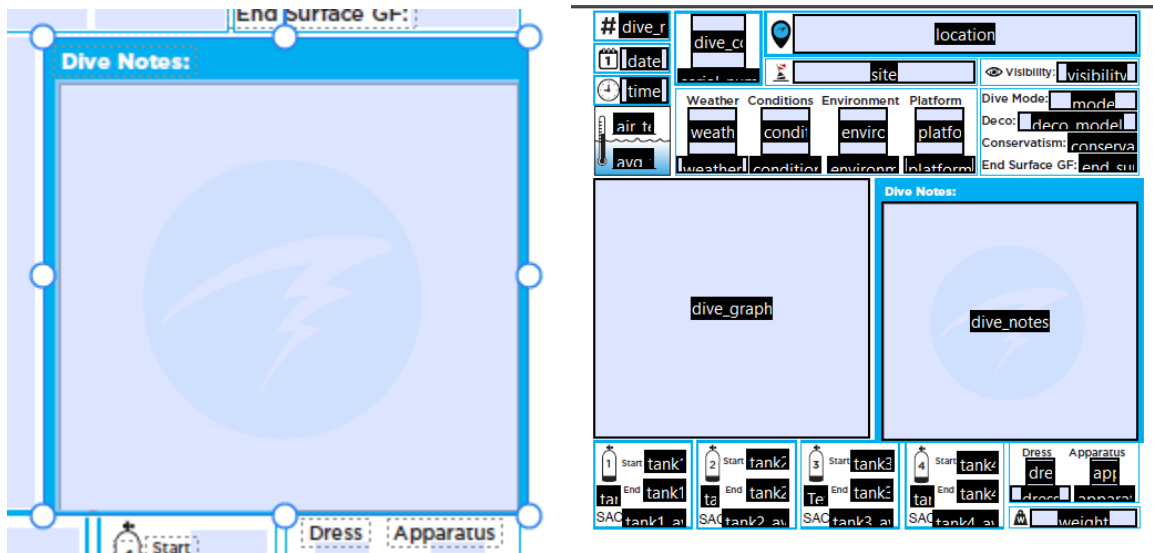
PDF Edit

With PDF Editing mode features we can change, add, or remove any existing visual parts of the PDF such as any labels or images. This can be helpful in situations to translate the labels from the default English to another language.

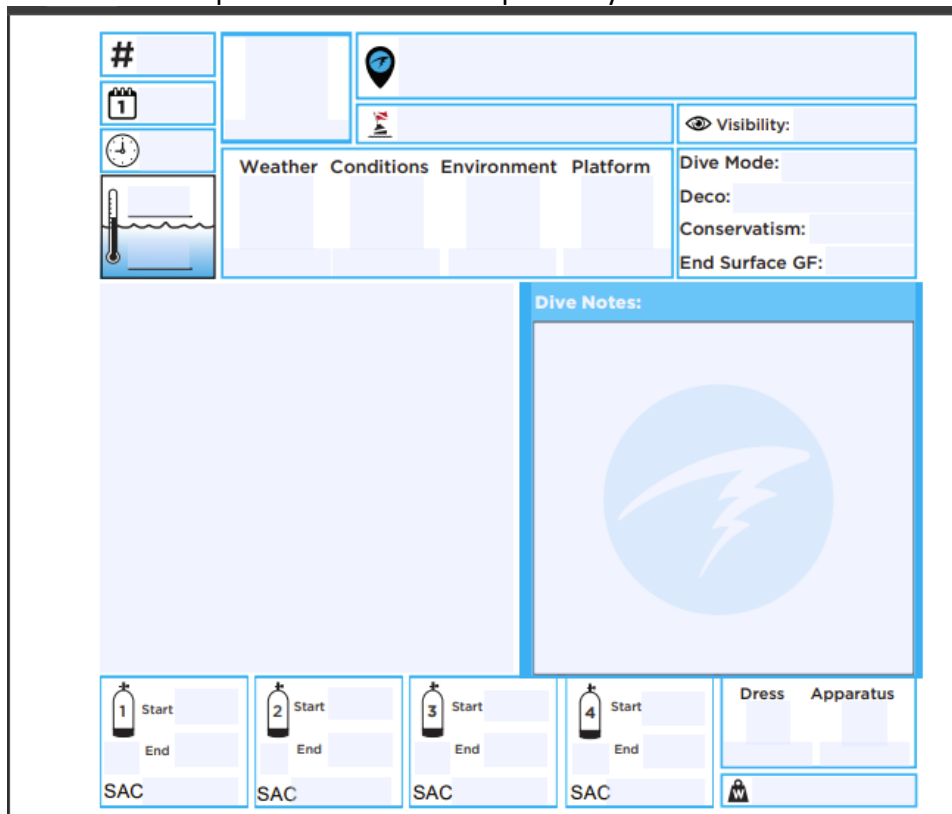
Switch to the Edit PDF mode to adjust any of the visual parts of the template.

Below, we moved the Graph beside the Dive Notes: label and border. We provided a picture of the size anchors as well as the Form example of the moved items.





Here is the Template PDF saved and opened by a PDF viewer.



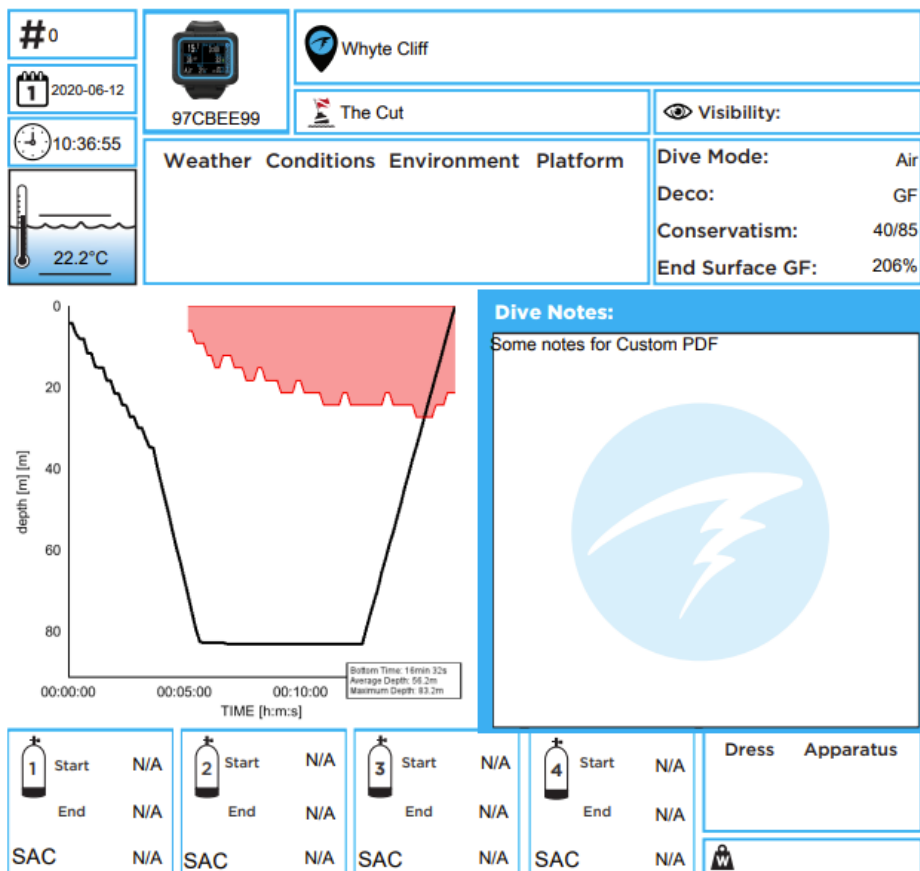
We can now use this template in the Shearwater Cloud PDF print “Select Custom Template” option.

Select Custom Template

PDFInstructionPics\ShearwaterA4_4tx_custom.pdf

* In our sample we did not rename the file, but feel free to name the PDF template to fit your use case.

Here is the modified output once printed.



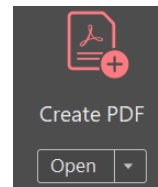
* This is a computer-generated factory test dive and does not reflect any diving suggestions.

Creating a Custom Template from scratch

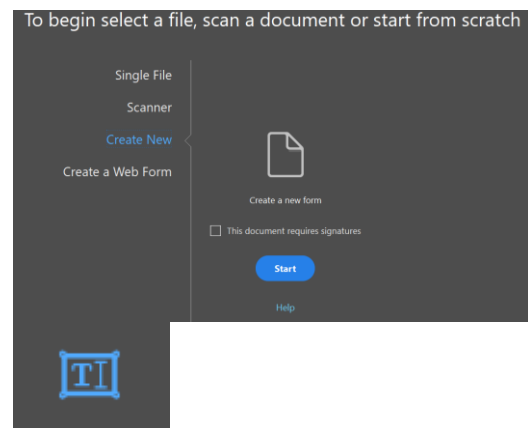
What if you want to make your own PDF template from scratch? These instructions will guide you in making your own PDF template.

PDF Form Editing

To start you will need to create a new PDF.



Create New for a new file and start the process. This process may be different based on the software used. We will again demonstrate with Adobe Acrobat.

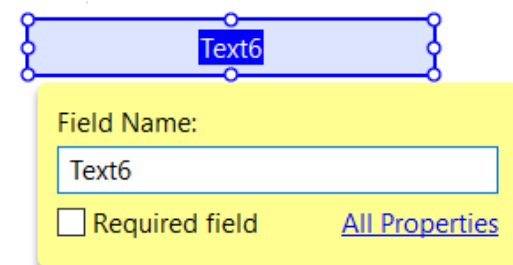


Use the Add Text Field Button to create a new Form field.

Click on the canvas to generate the new Form field anywhere you want for your use and design aesthetics.



Once the field is created, use the properties box to edit the name. Double click the text box to edit the name.



To be filled out by Shearwater Cloud, a Form field must have a name that Shearwater Cloud will recognize. The list of specific field names can be found at the bottom of this instruction document. For our sample here we will use “dive_number”.

dive_number

Field Name:

dive_number

☐ Required field

[All Properties](#)

Below is a sample of the available form field information that is filled out by Shearwater Cloud and a sample of what the printout will look like.

Prepare Form

dive_number

date

time

location

site

buddy

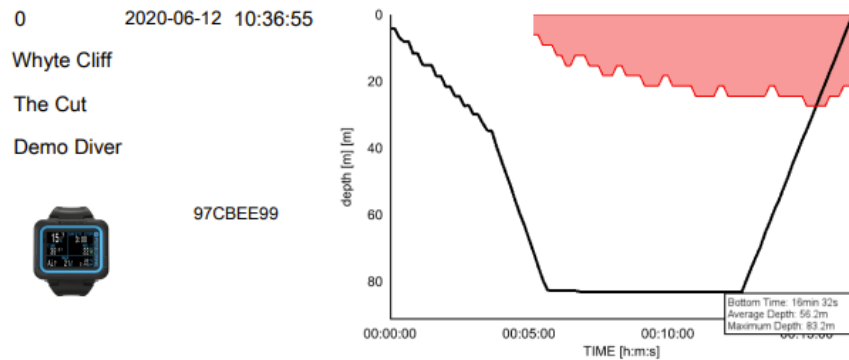
serial_number

dive_computer

dive_graph

dive_notes

This is what our custom form will print out using the above template:.

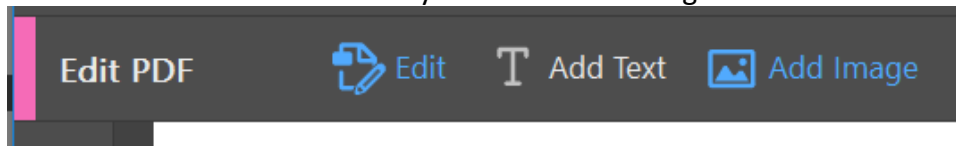


Some notes for Custom PDF□□

PDF Edit visual parts

It is useful to add labels and images to help with information presentation.

The Edit PDF will have the ability to Add Text or Images.



For our demo pdf we will add a few labels and a simple border to the main blocks. Feel free to be as detailed or minimalistic as possible to your design.

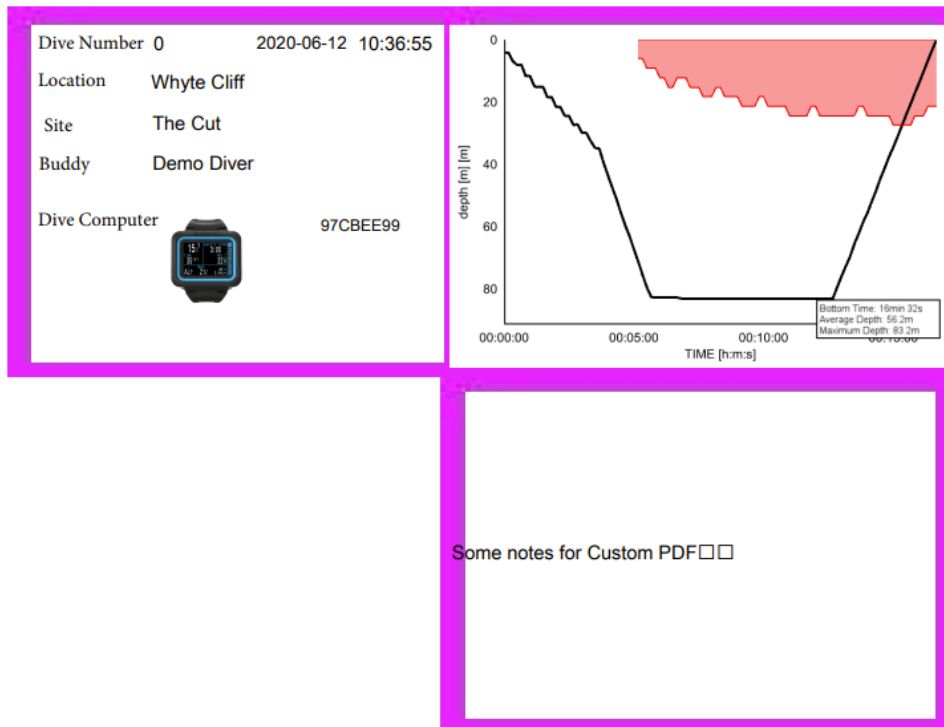
In this sample we added some labels and some big pink borders for the areas we used.

Edit PDF Edit Add Text Add Image Link Crop Pages Header & Footer Wa

Dive Number Location Site Buddy Dive Computer

*This design is perhaps a bit garish, isn't it?

Once we use this version to print out a dive, here are the results.



This information is enough to be able to create any PDF export template you would like to make. The NDL is the limit now.

Technical Information for Form Fields

This section covers the technical information for the Form Fields.

Shearwater Cloud Output Fields

Here are the form names for form fields Shearwater Cloud uses to assign the correct information to the field. These names must be exact for the export reference to work.

Form name	Type	Description of information
dive_number	text	Dive number
Date	text	Date of the dive
Location	text	Location of the dive
Site	text	Site of the dive
weather_image	image	Image of the selected drop down.
weather	text	Name of the selected dropdown
conditions_image	image	Image of the selected drop down.
conditions	text	Name of the selected dropdown
environment_image	image	Image of the selected drop down.
environment	text	Name of the selected dropdown
platform_image	image	Image of the selected drop down.
platform	text	Name of the selected dropdown
dive_graph	text	Rendered graph of the dive
mode	text	The Dive mode
deco_model	text	Deco model selected
conservatism	text	Conservatism values
end_surface_gf	text	GF of the end of the dive
dress_image	text	Image of the selected drop down.
dress	text	Name of the selected dropdown
apparatus_image	text	Image of the selected drop down.
apparatus	text	Name of the selected dropdown
buddy	text	Information from the Buddy field
time	text	Time of the dive
visibility	text	Information from the Visibility field
air_temp	text	Temperature taken when the dive started
avg_temp	text	Average calculated temperature by the Dive Computer
weight	text	Weight from the Gear information

serial_number	text	Dive computer serial number
dive_computer_image	image	Image to be rendered for the Shearwater Dive Computer
tank1_average_sac	text	Tank average calculated sac
tank1_end_pressure	text	Tank end pressure either from the Dive Computer or entered field
tank1_start_pressure	text	Tank start pressure either from the Dive Computer or entered field
tank1_name	text	Name of the tank entered on the Dive Computer
tank2_average_sac	text	Tank average calculated sac
tank2_end_pressure	text	Tank end pressure either from the Dive Computer or entered field
tank2_start_pressure	text	Tank start pressure either from the Dive Computer or entered field
tank2_name	text	Name of the tank entered on the Dive Computer
tank3_average_sac	text	Tank average calculated sac
tank3_end_pressure	text	Tank end pressure either from the Dive Computer or entered field
tank3_start_pressure	text	Tank start pressure either from the Dive Computer or entered field
tank3_name	text	Name of the tank entered on the Dive Computer
tank4_average_sac	text	Tank average calculated sac
tank4_end_pressure	text	Tank end pressure either from the Dive Computer or entered field
tank4_start_pressure	text	Tank start pressure either from the Dive Computer or entered field
tank4_name	text	Name of the tank entered on the Dive Computer
		Collection of all the dives notes to a single field output. This will be lowered to a minimal font size of 6 to try and fit as much as possible. If the text does not fit, it will leak outside of the render clipping range.
dive_notes	text	Ensure Multiline is enabled in the form field properties.