

Fourth Element

Premiere Thermal Protection Sponsor for Eco-Photo Explorers

The function of drysuit undergarments is to trap air against your body to be warmed. The colder the water, the more (or thicker) layers of undergarments are required. It is recommended that you wear two or three layers, depending on the type of drysuit you are wearing. It's important to make sure your undergarment fits well, because this avoids the build-up of excess pockets of air, which can make it hard to evacuate during an ascent.



We chose Fourth Element because of how their technical range is designed around the principles of performance, innovation and function. They use the latest fabric technology in unique combinations and designs, which revolutionized thermal protection for both wetsuit and drysuit diving.

Since crushed neoprene does not provide thermal insulation and protection, the drysuit undergarments are of utmost importance. We use a layered approach to the undergarment system, beginning with the Fourth Element's drybase system for our first layer to wick away body moisture and capture body heat.

We also decided to use the HALO 3D as our primary or outer thermal undersuit along with Arctic booties. If necessary, we plan to use the Xerotharm layering system as a secondary base layer for extreme cold-water or polar conditions.

Essential Gear for Polar Diving Conditions



HALO 3D (Biomapped thermal undersuit) - Maximizing thermal protection at the same time as minimizing buoyancy, the HALO 3D has body-mapped insulation, strategically placed to enhance protection when in horizontal trim. Designed for use underneath membrane and trilaminate suits, the HALO 3D is the perfect

complement to Fourth Element's current range of drysuit thermal protection. In a layering combination with Xerotharm, HALO 3D is suitable for the harshest diving conditions on the planet.

http://www.fourthelement.com/dry_halo_3d_undersuit.php
Layer Elements: One-piece jumpsuit



Arctic (Extreme performance undersuit) - The Arctic's two layers of high insulation, low bulk fabric, ensure exceptional levels of thermal protection. Constructed with comfort and utility in mind, the low-key design provides outstanding performance under closer fitting neoprene drysuits. In a layering system, the Arctic is also

suited for use underneath membrane and trilaminate suits.

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http://www.fourthelement.com/dry_arctic_undersuit.php
Layer Elements: Tops, leggings, and socks



Xerothem (Thermal base layer) - The Xerothem is the ultimate base layer for use under a drysuit. Made using Polartec® Powerstretch® which was originally developed for NASA, the Xerothem traps a layer of air - a much better insulator than water - next to the skin, keeping the wearer drier and more

comfortable. The unisex range of this base layer is designed to be worn under another undersuit or on its own under a neoprene drysuit, it provides astonishing warmth without contributing to bulk or buoyancy.

http://www.fourthelement.com/dry_arctic_undersuit.php
Layer Elements: Tops, leggings, vests socks, wrist warmers, and hats



Drybase (Ultra-Fast wicking base layer) - Cotton holds perspiration and moisture next to the skin where it can feel clammy, cold and uncomfortable. Drybase is the high wicking underwear system for drysuit diving from Fourth Element. Using ultra fast wicking fabric, the Drybase garments are the ideal alternative to

cotton underneath a thinsulate or other undersuit. The garments' exceptional wicking performance means that the skin is kept dry and the wearer is much more comfortable during and after the dive, and is able to get the most out for the performance of their undersuit.

http://www.fourthelement.com/dry_drybase_wicking_baselayer.php
Layer Elements: Tops, leggings, vests, and shorts

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