

A CURRICULUM GUIDE AND CONDENSED DIVING MANUAL FOR SCUBA DIVING

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	ii
LIST OF FIGURES	vi
 Chapter	
1. AN INTRODUCTION TO SCUBA	1
PURPOSE	3
METHOD OF STUDY	3
IMPORTANCE OF STUDY	3
2. CONDITIONS NECESSARY TO TEACH SCUBA	7
EQUIPMENT	8
NECESSARY PHYSICAL FACILITIES	12
SWIMMING REQUIREMENTS	13
MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS	14
3. TECHNIQUES IN USE OF EQUIPMENT	16
FACE MASK	16
SNORKEL	16
FLIPPERS	17
TANK AND REGULATORS	17
WET SUIT	18
WEIGHT BELT	18
HIGH PRESSURE COMPRESSORS	19

Chapter	Page
4. TECHNIQUES USED IN TEACHING SCUBA	20
ELEMENTARY UNDERWATER SKILLS	20
SNORKEL TRAINING	21
INTRODUCTION TO SCUBA	22
ADVANCED UNDERWATER DRILLS	25
Blind Diving	25
More Divers Than Scuba	26
Obstacle and Harassment Course	26
5. DIVING PHYSICS AND PHYSIOLOGY	28
PHYSICS OF DIVING	28
Gases and Gas Laws	28
Atmospheres of Pressure	29
Boyle's Law	29
Duration of Air Supply	30
Dalton's Law	31
Henry's Law	31
PHYSIOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF DIVING	31
Squeeze	31
Vertigo	32
Air Embolism	33
Decompression Sickness	33
Oxygen Poisoning	34
Carbon Dioxide Poisoning	34
Nitrogen Narcosis	34
Shallow Water Blackout	35

Chapter		Page
6.	RECOMMENDATIONS	36
	APPENDIX A --Annotated Bibliography	37
	APPENDIX B --P.A.D.I. Certification Levels	40
	APPENDIX C --Equipment Manufacturers and Distributors . .	45
	FOOTNOTES	47

TABLE OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
1.	Comparison of Regular and Flared Snorkel	9
2.	Pike Surface Dive	21
3.	Feet First Surface Dive	21

CHAPTER I

AN INTRODUCTION TO SCUBA

For centuries man has ventured upon the surface of the water and believed the underwater world to be a gloomy, mysterious region inhabited by terrible sea monsters and housing grave dangers. The introduction of Scuba (self-contained underwater breathing apparatus) in 1943 gave man the freedom to explore this unknown world. This piece of equipment, invented by Jacques-Yves Cousteau and Emile Gognan, allowed men to prove the underwater world to be far from a horror house, but one of endless beauty and opportunity.

In the early stages of development this underwater breathing apparatus, also commonly known as an aqua-lung, was an expensive and dangerous item. Its use was limited to highly skilled scientists. Since that time advanced technology has produced a moderately priced and safe machine which allows the average individual the opportunity to explore the underwater world.

The major percentage of diving is done purely from a recreational standpoint. One can limit his participation to observation in the shallow waters of a lake, or experience the thrill of a dive into a deep ocean canyon. The variety of recreational opportunities are limitless.

The underwater hunter, armed with a speargun, is able to find a challenge equal to any on the land. His game may range from only a few ounces to hundreds of pounds. Spearfishing is not limited only to salt-water, as many inland fresh water lakes provide excellent hunting opportunities.

To the photographer, the underwater world provides an endless variety of fresh new scenes. The diver need not be a professional photographer with a great amount of expensive photographic equipment. Very suitable and exciting pictures can be produced with as little equipment as the