Living and Working in the Sea

James W. Miller

Ian G. Koblick

SECOND EDITION

PADI MATRUCTOR 33913
Albrecht Salm

Illustrated by William Boggess

Contents

Foreword / xi
Preface / xiii

1: A Brief History of Diving: Babylonia to Genesis

Early Days / 1
Renaissance / 2
Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries / 4
Busy Nineteenth Century / 6
Finally the Twentieth Century / 9
References / 13

2: Project Genesis: of Mice and Men 15

Phase A—Saturating Rats in Air and Oxygen / 17
Phase B—Rats, Goats and Monkeys Try Helium and
Oxygen / 18
Phase C—Humans Live in Helium For Six Days / 19
Phase D—Helium Saturation at 100 Feet / 20
Phase E—Twelve Days at 198 Feet / 21
References / 24

3: Surviving in the Sea 25

Man-in-the-Sea I, 1962 / 28 Conshelf I, 1962 / 30 Conshelf II, 1963 / 33 Man-in-the-Sea II, 1964 / 37 Sealab I, 1964 / 42 Conclusion / 48 References / 51

4: Working on the Seafloor 53 Sealab II, 1965 / Sealab III, 1969 / Conshelf III, 1965 / 65 Commercial Interest in Saturation Diving, 1965-1966 / Hydrolab, 1966 / 76 Tektite I, 1969 Tektite II, 1970 / 92 Chernomor, 1968-1974 98 Seatopia, 1968-1973 Helgoland, 1968-1976 Aegir, 1969-1971 / 119 La Chalupa, 1972-1975 / References / 137 5: Habitat Design and Operation 141 Habitat Shape / 141 Materials for Habitat Hulls and Pressure Vessels 144 Corrosion and Protective Coatings Hull Penetrators / Ports and Windows / 155 Hatches / 158 **Entrance Trunks** / 163 Plumbing / 168 Insulation / 169 Dry Transfer Supply Systems / 171 Habitat Transportation and Emplacement Surface-Support Equipment References / 188 6: Life-Support Systems and Operational Facilities 191 Breathing Media / 193 Carbon Dioxide and Odor Removal (Scrubbers) Temperature and Humidity Control / Food and Water Management / 202 Waste Management / 206 Sleeping Accommodations / Habitability / 210 Communication and Lighting Diving Facilities and Procedures / Emergency Facilities and Procedures / 224

Decompression Facilities and Procedures / 227 References / 230

7: Personal Glimpses into Undersea Living

Why Live in the Sea? / 233 The Aquanauts? / 234 First Night on the Seafloor Stresses and Strains / Daily Life on the Seafloor Seafloor Cuisine / 252 Some Close Calls / 255 Fatal Accidents / 263 Introspection / 264 References / 266

Saturation Excursion Diving Experiments and Procedures: A Review 267

First Excursion Diving Study / 269 Tektite Laboratory Studies / Soviet Chernomor Studies / Experiments in Spain / 275

Excursion Diving Profiles from NOAA / 275

The Navy's Shallow Habitat Air Diving Program (SHAD) SCORE, A Joint Government-University-Industry

Program / 281

Excursion Diving from Hydrolab / 284

Field Studies in Great Britain and Newfoundland 287 Nitrogen Saturation Studies in the Navy (NISAT) 289

Air Saturation Studies in the Navy (AIRSAT) / 291

Duke University-NOAA-Oceaneering Nitrogen-Oxygen Saturation

/ 306

Dive / 296 Summary / 297

References / 299

9: Habitats around the World 301

Adelaide, Australia, 1967-1968 302 Asteria, Italy, 1971 / Atlantik, Italy, 1969 / 305 BAH-I, Federal Republic of Germany, 1968-1969

Balanus, Soviet Union, 1968 / 309 Bentos-300, Soviet Union, 1966-Bubble, Great Britain, 1966 / 312 Caribe-I, Czechoslovakia and Cuba, 1966 315 Edalhab, United States, 1968-1972 316 Erebos, Czechoslovakia, 1967-1968 Geonur, Poland, 1975-1980 / Glaucus, Great Britain, 1965 322 Hebros, Bulgaria, 1967-1968 323 HUNUC, South Africa, 1972 325 Ikhtiandr, Soviet Union, 1966-1968 327 Karnola, Czechoslovakia, 1968 / 331 Kitiesch, Soviet Union, 1965 / Klobouk, Czechoslovakia, 1965 Lakelab, United States, 1972 / LORA, Canada, 1973-1975 / LS-I, Rumania, 1967 / 339 Malter-I, German Democratic Republic, 1968- / 342 Meduza-I and Meduza-II, Poland, 1967-1971 / 344 Neritica, Israel, 1977- / 347 Permon. Czechoslovakia, 1966-1967 350 Portalab. United States, 1972 / 352 Robinsub, Italy, 1968 / Sadko-I, Soviet Union, 1966 354 Sadko-II, Soviet Union, 1967 Sadko-III, Soviet Union, 1969 358 Selena-I, Soviet Union, 1972 Shelf-I, Bulgaria, 1970 / 362 SPID, United States, 1964, 1974 364 Sprut, Soviet Union, 1966-1970 Sub-Igloo, Canada, 1972-1975 Sublimnos, Canada, 1969 / 372 Suny-Lab-I, United States, 1976 / 374 Underwater Welding Habitats, United States, 1967-Xenie-I, Czechoslovakia, 1967 / 379 Management of Habitat Programs / Summary / 382 References / 394

10: A Look to the Future 399

Decline of First Generation / 399 Next Generation / 405

```
Humans as Aquatic Animals / 420
Cities in the Sea / 421
References / 424
```

```
Suggested Reading / 425
Glossary / 427
Index / 431
About the Authors / 439
```

Dedication

In appreciation for their assistance and perseverance, this book is dedicated to our wives, Ardeth and Tonya, who through the years have supported and aided our efforts to enhance human capability to live and work in the sea. They have waited patiently on the surface while we carried out experimental programs on the seafloor and have offered encouragement continually throughout the preparation of this book.

Acknowledgments

We thank the following persons who have influenced and helped us to develop and implement the habitat programs in which we have been involved. Some have provided support resulting in the implementation of major undersea programs, and others provided the long, hard hours day after day that kept these programs running safely and smoothly. These individuals are Edward Gieger, Jr., Frank Milhoan, Neil T. Monney, H. A. O'Neal, Denzil C. Pauli, and John H. Perry, Jr.

Appreciation is expressed to Lee H. Boylan for his valuable assistance in the compilation of information on European habitats he gathered and cataloged over the years. Thanks also are offered to Betty Estes who conscientiously typed the entire manuscript.

In particular, our gratitude and appreciation are extended to William Boggess, who not only illustrated this book but who reviewed and edited each chapter in the early stages of preparation.

Explanation of Frontispiece

The Frontispiece shows the remarkable water spider Argyroneta Aquatica. Found in the lakes and ponds of the temperate regions of Europe and Asia, Argyroneta spends its life underwater in and around a thimble-shaped diving bell constructed of carefully woven silk suspended among water plants. This unique spider, ranging in size from 0.35 to 1.1 inches, supplies itself with air periodically by swimming to the surface, capturing an air bubble, and maneuvering so that the body becomes cloaked in air. Although living underwater, the body must be kept dry at all times which is achieved probably through the emission of a waterproofing fluid, a kind of wet suit. When encapsulated with air, Argyroneta dives to her underwater habitat and releases the bubble inside allowing her to remain there for hours before returning to the surface for another air bubble, the time dependent upon the amount of activity and oxygen content of the water. As winter approaches, Argyroneta builds a stronger habitat that is sealed with silk and converted into a closed cell. Sometimes snail shells are used by males who line them with silk, fill them with air, and seal themselves in. While in a state of hibernation, this amazing animal can survive on a single large bubble of air for as long as three to four months, clearly establishing itself as the world's record-holding aquanaut. (Data from Bristowe, W.S., 1958, The World of Spiders, Collins, St. James Place, London.)

ABOUT the AUTHORS



JAMES W. MILLER received the B.A. (1949), M.A. (1950) and Ph.D. (1956) in physiological psychology from Michigan State University. After twelve years of research in physiological optics and visual display systems at the Kresge Eye Institute and Hughes Aircraft Company, he joined the Office of Naval Research in 1963 as director of engineering psychology. In 1964, he became responsible for the diver performance studies in the U.S. Navy's Sealab-II and later Sealab-III programs. Dr. Miller served as deputy

program manager of Tektite-I in 1969 and as program manager of Tektite-II in 1970. From 1971 to 1980, he was the deputy director of the NOAA Manned Undersea Science and Technology Office. He participated as an aquanaut team leader in a two-week saturation diving mission in 1973 and again in 1974, both in the La Chalupa habitat. In addition to authoring and co-authoring over 100 scientific and technical publications, Dr. Miller was the writer and editor of the first two editions of the NOAA Diving Manual and a consulting editor for the third edition. The recipient of numerous professional awards, Dr. Miller served from 1980 to 1985 as Associate Director, and from 1985 to 1990 as the Florida Keys Coordinator of the Florida Institute of Oceanography. From 1982 to 1992, he was a consultant and President of Woodell Enterprises. Since 1991, he has served as Vice Chairman and member of the Federal Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council.



IAN G. KOBLICK, president of Marine Resources Development Foundation since 1970, is an international authority in undersea living. He received a B.A. in biology from California State University at Chico in 1964. He has served as special assistant to the Governor of the Virgin Islands for undersea programs and as special advisor for the development of marine resources under two governors of Puerto Rico. Mr. Koblick was an alternate aquanaut on Tektite-I, an aquanaut on Tektite-II, and served as Tektite-II

program manager for the Virgin Islands' Government. He is responsible for twenty articles on ocean management and resource development and was a consulting editor of the second edition of the NOAA Diving Manual. Mr. Koblick designed and managed the La Chalupa undersea habitat program and has spent more than two months saturated in undersea habitats. Since 1984 he has operated and managed the Classroom in the Sea-MarineLab Habitat in Key Largo, Florida and was coowner and developer of the Jules' Undersea Lodge, the world's first underwater hotel. In 1995, he developed the Scott Carpenter Man in The Sea Program, a handson experience using high-tech diving systems and equipment.