A commercial diver is shown underwater, wearing a red wetsuit and a helmet with a large clear visor. The diver is working on a large, rusted metal pipe. The scene is dimly lit, with a bright light source illuminating the diver and the pipe. The diver's helmet has a yellow stripe and a circular light fixture. The pipe is heavily corroded and has a white, crystalline substance on its surface. The background is dark and murky, typical of an underwater environment.

The Simple Guide to
**Commercial
Diving**

by **Steven M. Barsky**
& **Robert W. Christensen**



WARNING

Commercial diving is a potentially hazardous occupation that presents many dangers that far exceed the risks in sport diving. Commercial divers work in industrial environments that frequently involve heavy construction, the threat of electrical shock, and the risk of pressure related injuries due to differences in pressure between the diving environment and pipelines, dams, and other structures that may be operating at a higher or lower pressure. These are not the only construction related risks, but are just a few of the more common ones.

It is not uncommon for commercial divers to work in environments where the underwater visibility is zero. This increases the risk of a diving accident tremendously, since the diver is unable to see imminent hazards that pose a threat to his health and safety.

All of the usual risks in sport diving, such as drowning or arterial gas embolism, are present in commercial diving, but some of these risks are multiplied many times. Although the incidence of decompression sickness has been greatly reduced in the commercial diving industry, explosive decompression is still a risk on certain types of commercial dives.

In addition to the physical risks in commercial diving, there are also serious emotional risks. The commercial diving lifestyle is difficult and not conducive to a happy family life. Many commercial divers suffer through the pain of divorce and the difficulty of maintaining long-term relationships due to the frequent travel and long hours required by the profession of being a diver.

This book is not intended to be used as a basic manual in the fundamentals of diving and survival underwater. Its purpose is to acquaint the prospective commercial diver with the job environment, the profession, and some of the challenges and risks people face in pursuing this type of work.

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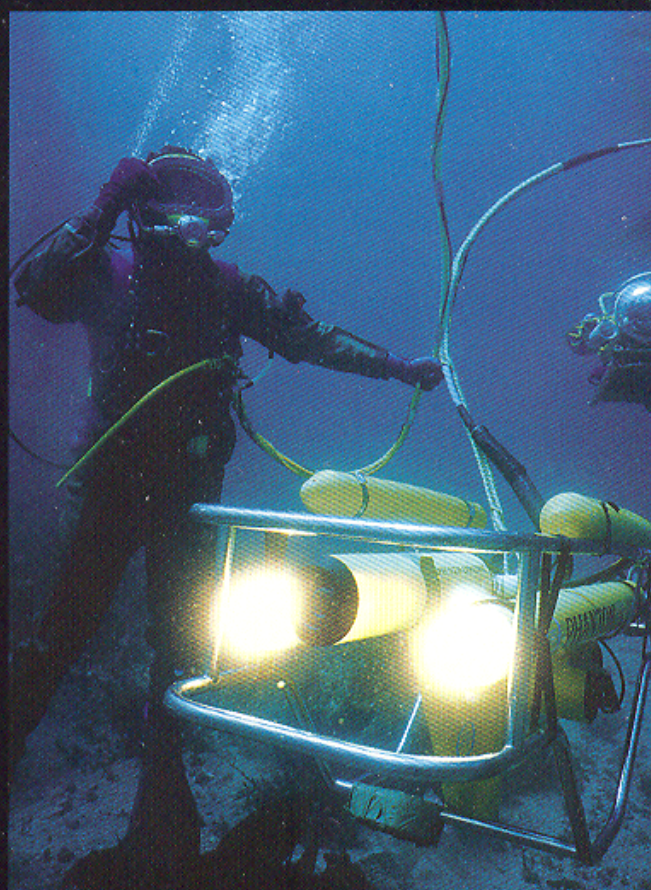
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The Simple Guide to Commercial Diving is the book for anyone who is considering a career in commercial diving. It's a no-nonsense exploration of the fascinating world of the professional diver, that tells the straight facts, both good and bad, about what you can expect in this challenging field.

The book covers all aspects of the job starting with your initial training all the way through what's required to move up to a supervisory position. It's an ideal guide for anyone who is considering becoming a commercial diver and a great text for divers enrolled in commercial diver training.



Some of the topics covered in this book include the following:

- How to select a commercial diving school
- What skills you will need as a commercial diver
- How to get a job as a diving apprentice or "tender"
- Working as a tender
- Working as a diver
- Personal tools you will need for diving and tending
- How to work with tools underwater
- Rigging for the diver
- Becoming a diving supervisor

About the authors:

Steve Barsky is a former commercial diver, who works full-time in the diving industry as a consultant, underwater photographer, expert witness in dive accident cases, and filmmaker.

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