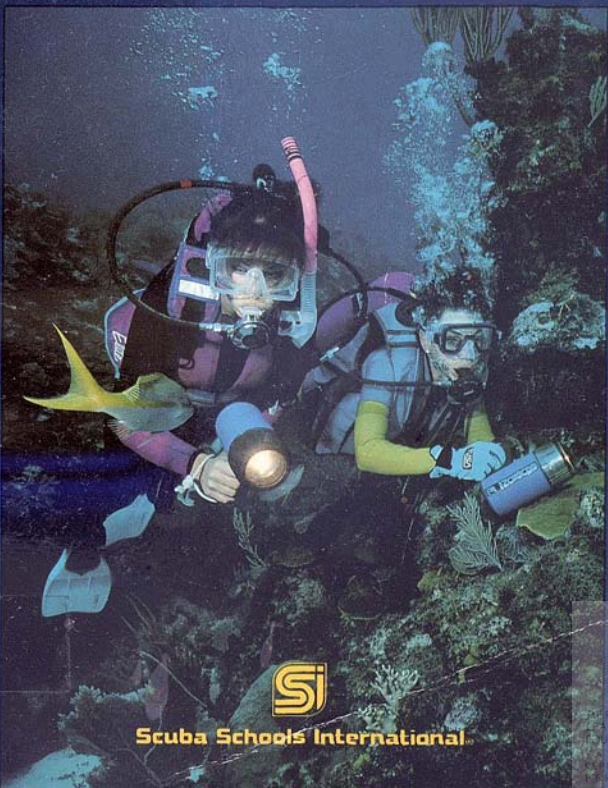


Open Water Diver

M A N U A L



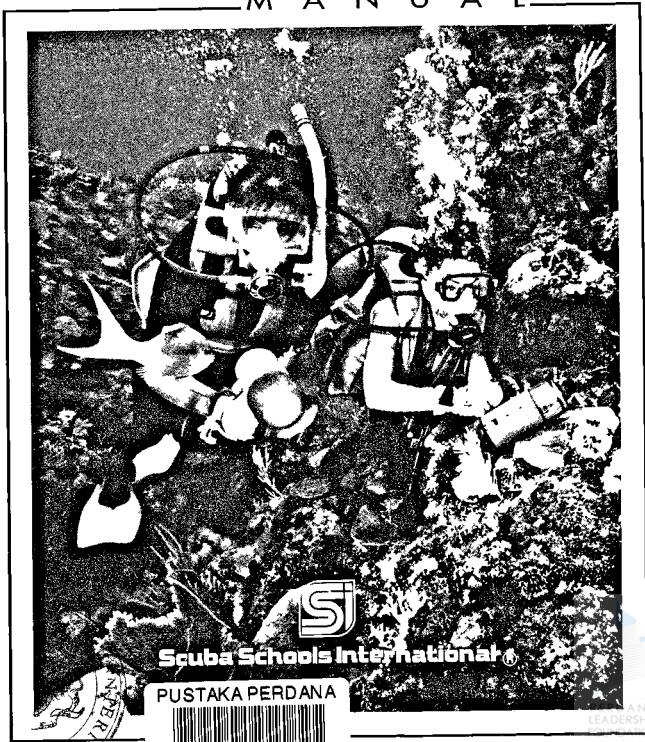
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Open Water Diver

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CAUTION: *This educational system is not designed as an entire scuba course. While the academic requirements can be met wholly or partly through home study, it is nevertheless required that you complete pool and open water instruction under the direction of an SSI-certified instructor.*

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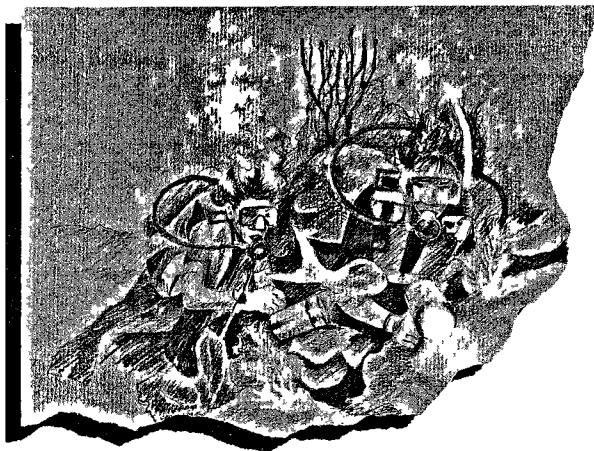
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Foreword

Welcome to the spectacular underwater world and your place in it. You are about to cross over into a new dimension of our Earth's many awesome and beautiful offerings, as well as a new dimension of your life's experiences. Scuba diving is the unique adventure which brings these two realms together.

Recreational scuba diving is easy, fun, and safe, but at the same time it should not be taken lightly. Three-fourths of our colorful planet is under water, most of which has never been seen by human beings. These underwater regions can be enchanting, but because they are out of the human's natural element, the potential for hazard should be appreciated. Similarly, the skills needed to master diving are not difficult to learn, but must be practiced responsibly.

This is why it is the privilege of only the *certified diver* to enter into this most ancient of new frontiers, and to join the growing, close-knit international community of divers who observe and explore, and even make their careers in the open waters of the world.