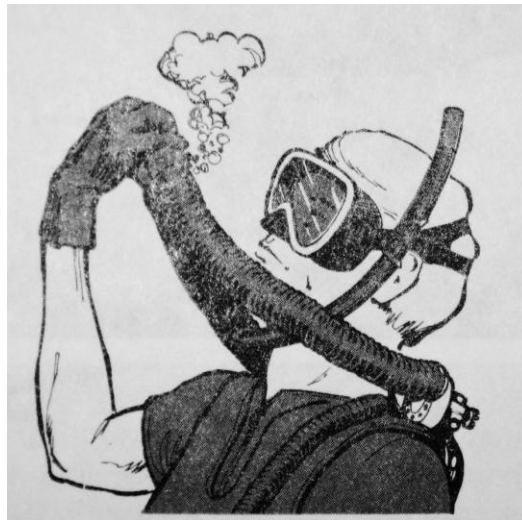


Retrieving Regulator Mouthpiece and Clearing

Losing a regulator mouthpiece can be a traumatic experience. However, practice and thought will make this event a simple and easy fix. Basic physics comes into play when performing this skill necessary for double hose diving.

Mouthpiece Clearing

When the regulator mouthpiece is out of your mouth under water, it will fill with water. There are two simple methods to clear it. These are blowing or purging. Blowing the regulator clear is to place the mouthpiece back in your mouth and blow (exhale) forcibly. If you are short of air in your lungs, you may purge the regulator with the air in your tank. Lift the mouthpiece above your head. This will cause a free flow which will purge the mouthpiece automatically. After clearing the regulator, inhale cautiously as there may be water in the mouthpiece. If there is, clear again.

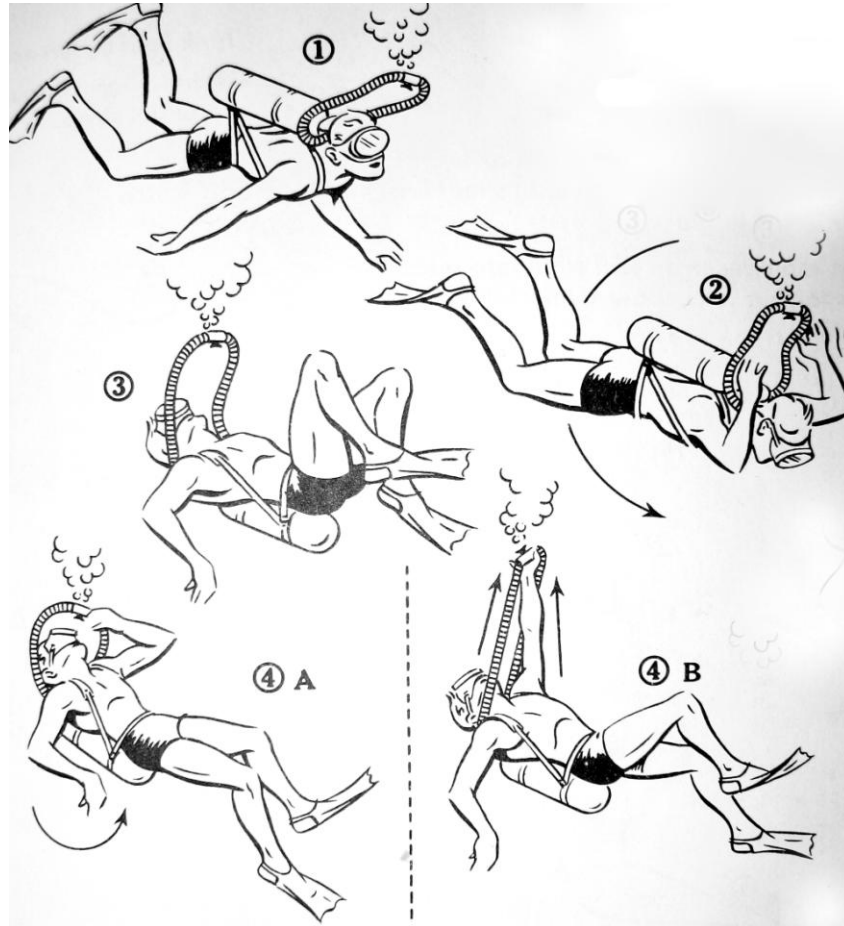


Retrieving a Lost Mouthpiece

Possibly you lost grip on your mouthpiece. So how do you find it? If you are able to reach back over your shoulder and find it attached to your regulator, just grab it and slide your hand down to the mouthpiece and clear as described above. This may not be possible however because the double hoses will float upward as they are full of air. So, using this knowledge, perform these simple steps to retrieve the mouthpiece;

Pictures 1 and 2 illustrate a lost mouthpiece (1) and attempting to locate it by reaching back (2). If you cannot retrieve it that way, roll on your back (3). If air is freely flowing, grab the mouthpiece, insert in your mouth and cautiously take a breath (4A). If air is not flowing freely,

which indicates that the regulator is flooded, grasp and squeeze off the exhalation hose near the mouthpiece and extend the hose upward with several quick jerks, rotating the mouthpiece up as you extend it (4B). When air starts to flow put the mouthpiece in your mouth and relax with a few breaths.



As with any scuba skill, these procedures should be practiced in a pool or other safe environment until they become second nature.

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