

# Roger Chapman: The Deepest Sub Rescue

## Case Study



Reflecting on 40 years  
pioneering subsea safety

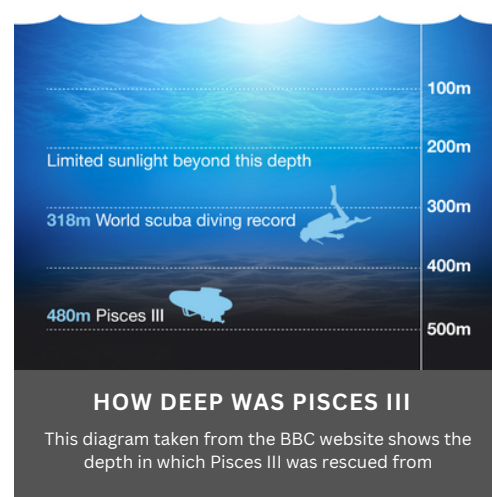
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## The event that changed the course of Submarine Rescue

### SUB RESCUE BEFORE 1973

Submarine rescue before 1973 faced multiple challenges such as lack of technology advancements and specialised equipment.

Additionally, there were no dedicated submersibles or remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) specifically designed for submarine rescue missions. This meant that rescuers had to rely on improvised methods using available equipment, which often proved inadequate for efficient and safe operations.



### THE DEEPEST SUBMERSIBLE RESCUE

Roger Ralph Chapman, CBE (29 July 1945 – 24 January 2020) was a British submariner and businessman who formally served as a Royal Navy Officer. Chapman alongside his fellow submariner, Roger Mallinson, were the two survivors of the deepest rescue in history in 1973, when their submersible, Pisces III, was lifted to the surface from a depth of 1,575 ft (480 m).

On a routine dive to lay transatlantic telecommunication, their submersible sank to a third of a mile to the seabed. 76 hours later and with just 12 minutes of oxygen left, the submersible was finally rescued.



**ROGER CHAPMAN**

Asleep onboard Pisces III in 1973

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### THE ROGER CHAPMAN LEGACY

On the back on the Pisces III incident, Roger formed ‘Rumic’ to further pioneer and propel the development of manned and unmanned submersibles.

Throughout his career, Roger dedicated his life to address the challenges and risks associated with subsea work, and recognised the importance of developing robust safety protocols, specialised equipment, and advanced technologies that could enhance the effectiveness of submarine rescue missions.

In 2005, ‘Rumic’ was acquired by the James Fisher group, latterly becoming JFD.



**ROGER CHAPMAN**  
Founder of JFD

### JFD - SUBMARINE RESCUE TODAY

With a focus on serving both commercial and defence markets, JFD offers an extensive range of innovative solutions and services. These include advanced equipment, state-of-the-art technology and technical expertise.

Through our dedication to excellence and cutting-edge approach, JFD has established itself as a trusted provider for those seeking reliable and sophisticated subsea solutions.

An example of this is JFD’s Fourth Generation Submarine Rescue System. This ground-breaking system was introduced in June 2023 and represents a major advancement in submarine rescue capabilities. Drawing upon four decades of experience, it offers a wide range of improvements in terms of transport options, mobilisation configurations, and overall system safety.



**LR5 - SUB RESCUE**



**AGILE**  
JFD's Fourth Generation Submarine  
Rescue System

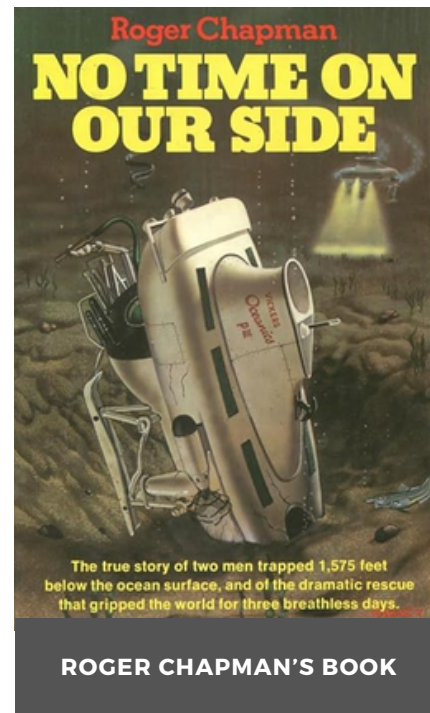
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### CONCLUSION

Today, as an industry and individuals, we still reflect back on the Pisces III incident, which could have had a different, more sombre outcome. These types of events are a constant reminder of how truly dangerous the subsea ecosystem is.

JFD has been dedicated to improving the safety of those who work subsea for over forty years. Ensuring the well-being of these workers continues to be a top priority for us. JFD are renowned industry wide as leaders within this field, with continuous innovations and pioneering technology.



**Roger Chapman and Roger Mallinson**  
Survivors of the worlds deepest submersible rescue