Planning and Preparation

Do I need a permit to operate an ROV in public waters?

You MAY need a permit to operate and ROV. For example, if you are operating in a National Marine Sanctuary or any protected waters, you likely will need a permit. If you are operating in waters that are not specifically protected, and launching from a vessel, you will most likely be OK without a permit. However, if you are operating from a shoreside location, permits and permissions will depend on the owners of your launch location. It is always good practice to double check launch location ownership and rules/regulations as well as know your exact position on the water relative to updated and modern navigational charts to ensure you are not operating in a protected or restricted area.

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