





## An experience without equal

At Wakatobi, you don't compromise on comfort to get away from it all. Our private air charter brings you directly to this luxuriously remote island, where all the indulgences of a five-star resort and luxury liveaboard await. Our dive team and private guides ensure your in-water experiences are perfectly matched to your abilities and interests. Your underwater encounters will create lasting memories that will remain vivid and rewarding long after the visit to Wakatobi is concluded. While at the resort, or on board the dive yacht Pelagian, you need only ask and we will gladly provide any service or facility within our power. This unmatched combination of world-renowned reefs and first-class luxuries put Wakatobi in a category all its own.



*"The reef systems here are some of the most pristine I have seen anywhere in my dive travels around the globe, and Wakatobi resort and liveaboard are second to none. The diversity of species here is brilliant if you love photography." ~ Simon Bowen*



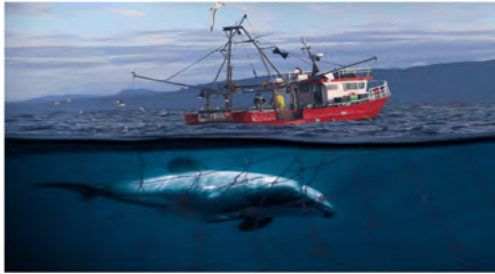
[www.wakatobi.com](http://www.wakatobi.com)

# Contents

## 4 Editorial

Survey, Splash Ins & Shootouts

## 5 News Travel & Events



## 12 New Products



## 31 UWPhotography.com 2018

by Tal Mor



## 37 Torbay Splash In

by Peter Rowlands



## 40 Olympus TG-6 and PT-059

by the Backscatter team



# Underwater Photography

A web magazine UwP109 July/Aug 2019

## 45 Baja California

by Franco Banfi & Sabrina Belloni



## 51 Alor, Alor

by Anita Verde



## 55 French Polynesia Pt 2

by Jean Michel Machefert



## 61 Socorro

by Michel Braunstein



## 66 Parting Shot

by Stamatis Skordas

Cover shot by  
**Filip Staes, Belgium**  
Winner Temperate Waters Category  
[www.underwaterphotography.com](http://www.underwaterphotography.com)

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[peter@uwpmag.com](mailto:peter@uwpmag.com)

## Survey results

Once again, bear with me please.

You may remember our recent request to complete a 60 second survey with just four questions and a comment box; well to date 1436 of you responded which is a very high number and the results it provides make for very interesting reading especially if you are a manufacturer, dive resort or travel company.

Question 1. If you're an SLR user, are you considering moving to a smaller format (for less bulk and expense) in the next 12 months?

221 said Yes and 1215 No so that's a significant majority of over 70% who are happy with their current set up. But for a manufacturer that shows 221 customers are considering 'downsizing'. That's a lot of potential sales.

Question 2. If you're a smaller format user (4/3rds, APS-C, etc.), are you considering upgrading to full frame mirrorless or SLR in the next 12 months?

128 Said Yes and 1308 No so that says that the big majority are staying put but, once again, there are 128 potential customers looking to 'upsize' and these systems don't come cheap so that's a significant amount of \$\$\$.

Averaging that out 73.1% of respondents are not considering

moving to a smaller or larger format. But, again that shows nearly 30% are looking to make a significant new purchase.

Question 3. Whatever system you use, are you considering a major purchase (e.g. a new lens or strobe) in the next 12 months?

734 Yes and 702 No so that's almost exactly half. I make no apology for repeating that is half our readers considering a major purchase (e.g. a new lens or strobe). That's big business.

In terms of travel, Question 4. Are you planning to spend more this year on diving travel than you did last year?

834 Yes and 602 No so there's a big possibility of more travel business from UwP readers IN ADDITION to the 602 who will be spending, hopefully, the same amount this coming year so in terms of travel business that's a Win, Win.

Finally the Comments box revealed an almost 100% positive response to UwP and its contents which is reassuring but the suggestions for alternative subjects, more of this, less of that feedback will prove invaluable when planning future issues of UwP.

So thanks to all who contributed. It is much appreciated.

# Editorial

## Splash Ins and Shootouts

Having literally just got back from judging the Torbay Splash In and with the Digital Shootout just finished in Little Cayman, it is timely to stress how beneficial these events are for underwater photographers of all levels.

The modestly sized Torbay Splash In attracted 22 entrants despite a week of inclement weather yet the images produced confirm that there are always quality images out there regardless of the weather.

In addition such events provide an unprecedented opportunity for underwater photographers to meet and exchange ideas with others, see how others operate and the images they produce all on the same day. Add in the vital ingredient of a social gathering and you have a positive mixture all round.

Shootouts on the other hand operate on a much larger scale with a Warm Up week beforehand followed by the main week itself. All major manufacturers are represented; offering a unique opportunity to check out the latest gear but, more importantly, to getting in the water

with potentially new gear. No camera show or dive exhibition comes close to such a valuable opportunity.

Sure these are sales driven promotional events which cost to attend but the benefit far outweighs that and you get a dive trip to boot :-).

The concentration of seminars presented by industry leaders can never be beaten by the written word or, dare I must admit, even an online publication so the immense effort put into organising these events is to be applauded.

UwP is keen to help promote any such future events in our News, Travel & Events Section so if you are organising one please get in touch and we'll be happy to promote it here.

**Peter Rowlands**  
[peter@uwpmag.com](mailto:peter@uwpmag.com)

# News, Travel & Events

Travel and Workshops, Raja Ampat, Indonesia  
with Brook Peterson  
January 4-16, 2021



Raja Ampat is arguably the most beautiful and bio-diverse diving destination on earth.

Join Brook Peterson and other like-minded individuals on a twelve-night underwater photo safari aboard the magnificent Seven Seas liveaboard. This exclusive workshop is limited to just 16 individuals and will focus on wide angle opportunities around pristine reefs, large schooling fish, manta rays, mangroves and more. Designed to help you achieve a higher perspective on underwater photography, this workshop will

include coaching by photo pro and educator, Brook Peterson.

The itinerary will include daily photo reviews and discussion on how to improve lighting, composition, and post processing. Learn to create beautiful split shots, stunning sunbursts, and gain insights on other big ideas. You will be invited to participate both by submitting your photos for discussion and offering your own ideas to others. At the end of the trip, we will have a slide show presentation showcasing each participant's work.

The Seven Seas offers luxury diving and amazing adventure. They will provide an exotic cruise in comfort and style through the intriguing coral triangle. There are eight state rooms with en-suite bathrooms. Guests may enjoy diving at the very best sites in Indonesia, snorkeling, sea kayaking, fishing (where permitted), beach excursions, relaxation, and even on-board massage.

Please join Brook at a destination that begs to be photographed and in an environment that promotes growth as an underwater photographer.

[www.waterdogphotographyblog.com/travel-and-workshops](http://www.waterdogphotographyblog.com/travel-and-workshops)

## Dive Into The Pink announces the 2019 Think Pink Photo Competition



Nonprofit organization Dive into the Pink is excited to announce the 3rd annual Think Pink photo competition.

The competition, organized by Dive into the Pink and supported by Dive Photo Guide, invites photographers to submit their most exciting underwater images featuring the color pink, with proceeds used to support the fight against breast cancer.

Prizes include a trip to Anilao sponsored by Crystal Blue Resort, a liveaboard trip to Indonesia sponsored by Dive Damai, underwater photography gear from Light and Motion, Sea and Sea, and Saga, and books sponsored by Tobias Friedrich and C2G2 Productions.

The judging panel is made up of professional underwater photographers Erin Quigley, Adam Hanlon, Kerri Bingham, and Hergen Spalink. The contest is open for entries June 17 through July 12, 2019 for both wide angle and macro categories.

Winning images will be used to help promote



Dive into the Pink and the fourth annual Pink Auction, a silent online auction that kicks off in September 2019. Items up for bidding include exotic dive trips, dive gear, underwater photography gear, jewelry, and apparel. Bidding will remain open through 4:00 pm PDT on October 7, 2017 at [32auctions.com/divepink2019](http://32auctions.com/divepink2019).

Dive into the Pink was founded in 2016 by Allison Vitsky Sallmon, a breast cancer survivor, veteran scuba diver, and underwater photographer, who wanted to raise money to fight cancer by mobilizing the scuba community through dive charters and dive-related activities. Dive into the Pink is a 501c3 organization, and 100% of our proceeds are redistributed.

[www.diveintothepink.org](http://www.diveintothepink.org)

[www.32auctions.com/divepink2019](http://www.32auctions.com/divepink2019)

## Whale & Dolphin Watching



A full day ocean wildlife exploring in the Sea of Hebrides a recognised marine wildlife hotspot on the Hebrides Whale Trail. Our tour starts in Oban (Dunstaffnage Marina) and using our fast RIBs can take you to the whale grounds quickly and comfortably. We have an option to join the tour from Tobemory on the Isle of Mull, which cuts out an hour each way of the journey between there and Oban.

Tour at a Glance

8hr whale, dolphin & marine wildlife tour

Small group - max 12 passengers.

Runs May, June, Early July

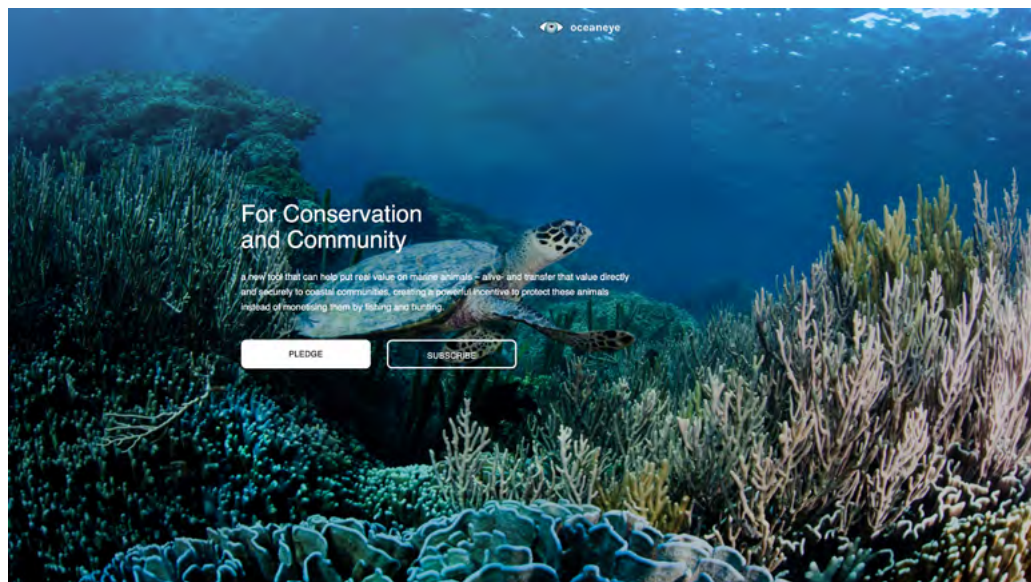
Tour starts Oban & Tobermory, Mull

£150 per adult (minimum of 6)

Join our marine biologist guides on an ocean discovery and let us show some amazing marine wildlife!

[www.baskingsharkscotland.co.uk](http://www.baskingsharkscotland.co.uk)

# What makes Oceaneye so special?



Our world's oceans are facing a catastrophic biodiversity decline. Coastal communities, primarily in developing countries are lacking incentives to protect marine wildlife and continue to kill endangered species in order to make a living.

Ocean Eye is an innovative technology solution that provides a financial benefit to coastal communities which is linked directly to the long-term recovery of marine animal populations. This is facilitated by Ocean Eye, an application that facilitates small tourism payments for each animal sighted during a trip. The money is then securely and transparently transferred to the community, creating a powerful

incentive to monetise the animals alive, as opposed to killing them for short term profit.

This application will allow marine tourism businesses to both protect their assets - the marine life - as well as increase their credibility as sustainable and ethical operators by working side by side with the communities in ensuring a sustainable future for all. They will also be able to contribute to citizen's science with the data collection and use the sightings statistics to both better plan and promote their operations.

[www.oceaneye.io](http://www.oceaneye.io)



[www.bunakenoasis.com](http://www.bunakenoasis.com)  
[info@bunakenoasis.com](mailto:info@bunakenoasis.com)



Set in the world-famous Bunaken National Marine Park, Bunaken Oasis offers a truly luxurious diving experience.

Exceptional air-conditioned cottages with sea-view balconies. Chill-out bar, and gourmet panoramic restaurant.  
Custom-built spa with qualified therapists.

Panoramic freshwater infinity pool

From water-makers, with UV treatment, to black water treatment, Oasis was designed to minimise any impact on the environment.

5\* PADI-affiliated dive centre, designed for photographers, and dive boats that are second to none, with freshwater deck showers, toilets and, above all, space.



## Sea Shepherd Demands that the United States Ban Seafood Imports from New Zealand

Sea Shepherd Demands that the United States Ban Seafood Imports from New Zealand Fisheries that Are Driving Māui Dolphins to Extinction

Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, Sea Shepherd New Zealand Ltd., and Sea Shepherd Legal (collectively, Sea Shepherd) refuse to allow New Zealand's Māui dolphin to follow the same tragic path as the vaquita in Mexico. Today, Sea Shepherd took decisive action to defend the Māui dolphin by formally demanding that the Trump Administration immediately ban all imports from New Zealand fisheries that are driving the Māui dolphin to extinction.

Endemic to New Zealand, the Māui dolphin population has been decimated – a victim of bycatch in fisheries using gillnets and trawls. The Māui dolphin is the world's most endangered marine dolphin. In fact, because most scientists consider the Baiji (a.k.a. the Chinese river dolphin) to be extinct, the Māui dolphin is likely the most endangered dolphin in the world.

The Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) estimates that there are only 57 Māui dolphins remaining — down from approximately 2,000 in 1971. Unless action is taken immediately, the Māui dolphin will disappear forever.

The IWC, leading scientists, and even the New Zealand government all agree that the chief cause of this alarming population decline is bycatch in New Zealand fisheries.

It is an unfortunate fact that global consumers



of New Zealand's seafood exports are hastening the Māui dolphin's slide into oblivion. Among the culprits is the U.S. seafood market, which routinely imports between 25,000 and 50,000 kilos of New Zealand snapper per month. The snapper fishery is known to use gear that ensnares Māui dolphins – and this is just one fishery among many that incidentally capture Māui dolphins.

Fortunately, we have a legal tool at our disposal to push for an import ban and encourage New Zealand to take immediate steps to save the Māui dolphin. The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) is a U.S. law that aims to reduce bycatch of marine mammals — not just in U.S. waters, but globally. Recognizing that the U.S. is a major seafood importer, Congress, through the MMPA, chose to prohibit imports from foreign fisheries that fail to prevent bycatch of marine mammals in line

with U.S. standards.

There is no question that New Zealand fails to meet such standards in the case of the Māui dolphin. The current bycatch of Maui dolphins is estimated to be 2 to 4 individuals per year. This bycatch number is unnerving; the IWC Scientific Committee has concluded that “[the] human-caused death of even one individual would increase the extinction risk.”

As the U.S. government has neglected to take action on its own accord, Sea Shepherd submitted a petition for emergency rulemaking demanding that the government fulfill its MMPA obligations.

If the responsible U.S. agencies do not respond appropriately, Sea Shepherd will seek redress in court.

[www.seashepherd.org](http://www.seashepherd.org)



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4 Day & 7 Day Tours - 100% Success in 2017 (2-3 Day Tours 83%)

[www.baskingsharkscotland.co.uk](http://www.baskingsharkscotland.co.uk)



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- Grey & Common Seals
- Whale & Dolphin Hotspot
- Puffins, Seabirds & Eagles
- Evening Photography Dives
- Stunning Scenery
- One - Seven Day Tours
- Guided by Marine Biologists
- Scientific Research Programme

## Solomon Islands dive operators to establish formal association



A major step forward for the future promotion and development of the Solomon Islands dive tourism sector, the destination's main dive operators have agreed to combine resources to create a formal representative body - Dive Operators Solomon Islands (DOSI).

The move follows a recent forum in Honiara facilitated by Strongim Bisnis, an Australian government initiative working in partnership with local companies and operators to promote business growth.

All participants unanimously agreed on the need for a formal association to champion issues affecting the local dive industry in relation to the overall growth of the tourism industry.

Forum attendees included Tulagi Dive, Raiders Hotel & Dive, Driftwood Solomon Islands, Bilikiki Cruises, Dive Munda/Solomon

Islands Dive Expeditions, Yawana Dive, Dive Gizo and Uepi Island Resort

Gizo-based Sanbis Resort and Solomon Dive Adventures are also expected to become DOSI members.

Other stakeholders taking part included the Ministry of Culture & Tourism, Tourism Solomons, Solomon Airlines, and the Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

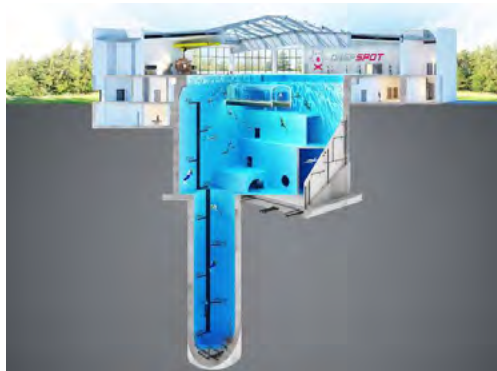
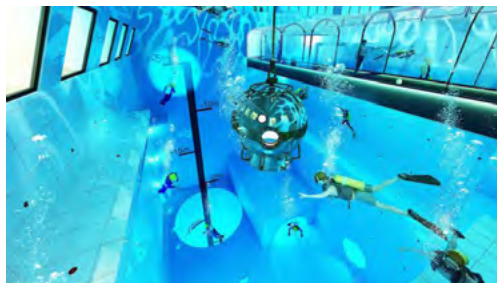
Representatives from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade and NZAid also attended.

Welcoming the development, Tourism CEO, Josefa 'Jo' Tuamoto underlined the important role a strong, united dive operators' association can play in helping to shape the country's tourism future.

[www.visitsolomons.com.sb](http://www.visitsolomons.com.sb)

[www.uwpmag.com](http://www.uwpmag.com)

## The Deepest Pool Set To Open In Poland



Thalassophobia is the compulsive fear of deep water. And while you probably don't need to worry about it while you're skirting round puddles or having a shower - this news might be triggering. The world's deepest pool is opening in Poland in the autumn - and it's a little deeper than your local swimming bath.

With incredible depths of 45 metres and a water volume equivalent to 27 normal swimming pools, DeepSpot will open its doors to the public later this year in the central Polish town of Mszczonow (about 25 miles from Warsaw).

According to local reports, the pool will be 45 metres (or 148 feet) deep.

That's a full five meters (or 16 feet) deeper than the present record holder in the north Italian town of Montegrotto Terme.

It's set to be accessible to everyone, not only scuba divers, and will include an underwater tunnel to explore, hotel rooms overlooking

the pool, as well as restaurants and conference rooms.

It's understood DeepSpot is being constructed by the same company who built the popular indoor skydiving simulator FlySpot in Poland's Warsaw West County.

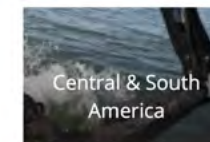
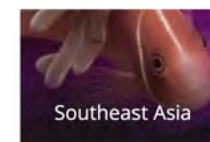
Deepspot won't hold its crown for long, however. The Blue Abyss swimming pool in the English city of Colchester is already poised to snatch the world record with a 50-metre-deep pool, set to open in 2020.

[www.visitpoland.com/deep-spot](http://www.visitpoland.com/deep-spot)



**rateyourdive.com**  
Making scuba diving better!

In January 2017 rateyourdive was launched as the world's first rating platform for dive professionals, diving schools and liveaboards. The quality of the ratings is ensured by checking each one by hand and releasing it manually. The goal of founder Ricardo and his team: make diving more transparent and the search for the next diving experience as easy as booking a hotel. In the meantime, rateyourdive has listed around 5,000 profiles, making the site the largest international comparison, booking and rating portal for recreational diving.



# The Big Anchor Project Makes a Splash

Citizen scientists around the world are being urged to share their anchor ‘finds’ following the relaunch of an online resource that aims to be the world’s biggest public record of these iconic objects.

The Nautical Archaeology Society (NAS) has relaunched the popular Big Anchor Project following a generous public response to a crowdfunding campaign that met its target in just two months. And now it’s appealing to the public— young and old, enthusiasts and professionals—to explore this rapidly growing and free public resource, as well as adding information and photos of their own finds using its easy-to-use interface.

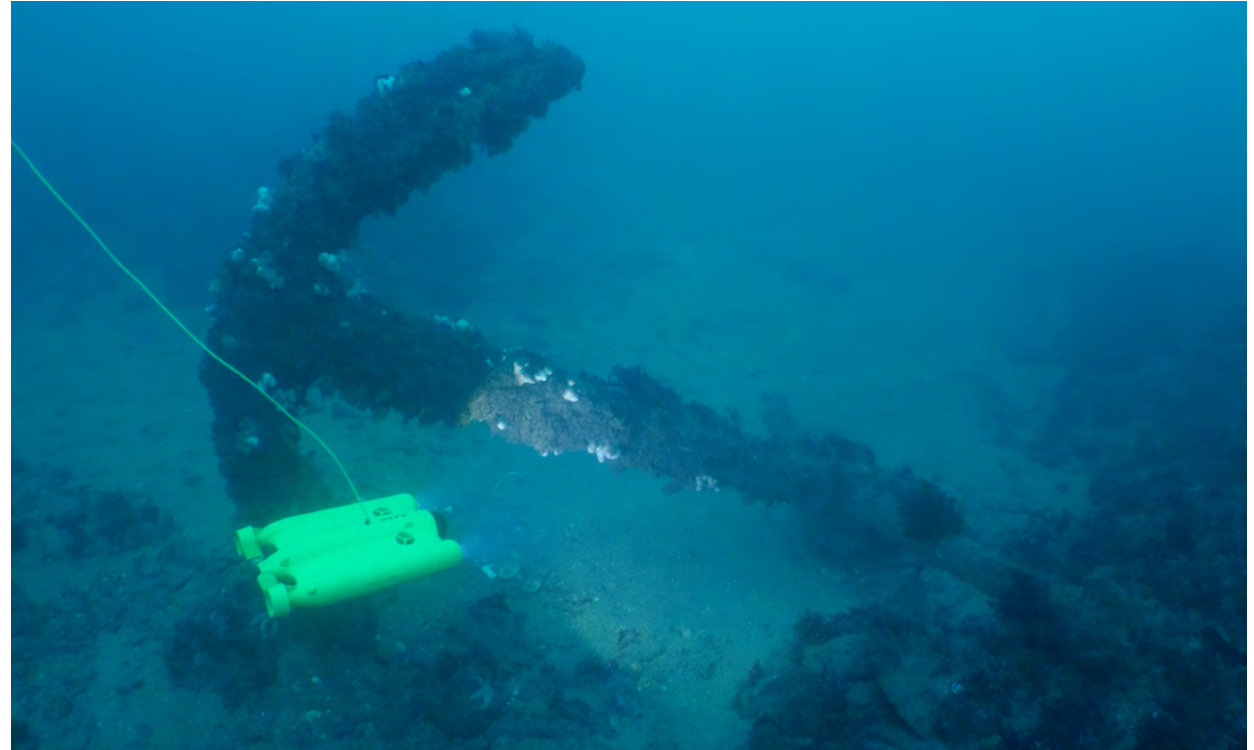
“We are looking forward to seeing new anchor records from every corner of the globe,” says NAS CEO Mark Beattie-Edwards. “We want to showcase the amazing range of anchors out there.”

The relaunch comes a decade after the project first went live, and just a year after malicious hackers sent the original website crashing beyond repair. The more-than-800 original records were not lost, and these are once again accessible on the new website through an interactive map.

“We were thrilled when the target of £2,500 was reached so quickly,” says Beattie-Edwards. “The level of public support to get the project website back online was astonishing. It is testimony to the popularity of the concept and the generosity of individuals and organisations who donated.”

The relaunched Big Anchor Project website was designed by long-time NAS supporter Mike Postons of 3Deep Media Ltd, who has created a bigger, better and more interactive website. “The project was established to make the recording and documentation of anchors easy, accessible and enjoyable,” says Beattie-Edwards. “Mike’s design really meets this objective.”

The NAS hopes to secure more funding in future for further developments, including creation of an app.



The anchor has been an icon of maritime life for over four millennia, and has become a symbol of all things nautical. Today they are found as memorials in seaside towns, as decorative pieces in gardens and museums, and on the sea floor. “You never have to go far to find one,” says Beattie-Edwards, “yet so many are undocumented.”

The project website operates

a three-tier recognition system that allows users to record as little or as much about an anchor as they like. User contributions earn ‘Bronze’ status if they include just a photograph of the anchor and its location, ‘Silver’ for identifying its features, and ‘Gold’ if they record its dimensions.

If you would like to support the Big Anchor Project, please visit the NAS website:

[www.nauticalarchaeologysociety.org/Appeal/big-anchor-project-appeal](http://www.nauticalarchaeologysociety.org/Appeal/big-anchor-project-appeal)

## UPY partners in Milan Photo Week

June 2019: UPY are proud to be collaborators in an exciting display of winning images as part of the prestigious Milan Photo Week.

“A photographic journey set in the depths of the Oceans. A photographic journey dedicated to the Oceans in collaboration with Underwater Photographer of the Year 2019. Born in 1965, UPY is the most prestigious photo contest aiming to celebrate the underwater world. On the occasion of Milan PhotoWeek, the Rotonda della Besana welcomes a story in images showing nature, the wonders of the abyss, the relationship with man and the dangers that the seas are facing. Through numbers, questions and suggestions, which accompany the project, photography becomes a tool to create a journey into the wonders of the abysses and a path of awareness and information suitable for everyone.”

Calling on the rich and diverse collection of inspiring underwater images that make up the UPY 2019 winners collection, ArtsFor\_ put together a stunning walk-around display of prints and quotes as part of the 2019 Milan Photo Week. Standing up to 2m tall and 3m wide, our winner's images were enjoyed by many hundreds of visitors to the Rotonda della Besana.

An ArtsFor\_ project for Milan Photo Week realized with the support of La Mer, in collaboration with MUBA - Milan Children's Museum, and Underwater Photographer of the Year 2019.

Images © Lorenza Daverio



<http://underwaterphotographeroftheyear.com/winners/upy-2019-in-milan/>



# NIKON Z7

## FULL FRAME MIRRORLESS CAMERA

Introducing the new 200DL Underwater Housing for the Nikon Z7. Every detail has been thoughtfully designed to enhance creative control, streamline the system, and reduce travel weight to a bare minimum. The large diameter Dry Lock (DL) port system provides superb optical performance with a wide variety of Z-mount and F-mount lenses. Add the optional DL1 DS Link TTL Converter for the fastest, most reliable, and most accurate TTL strobe exposure in the water.

Read more at [ikelite.com](http://ikelite.com).



# New Products

## Aquatica Monitor 5HD

In our ever evolving desire to offer the greatest tools for underwater photographers and videographers, we have created a solution for photographers who need a larger view than what is available with their camera's viewfinder or rear LCD. Introducing our new 5HD Monitor...

Primary features:

Aluminum housing rated for 100 meters Supports focus peaking and false colour to assist in focussing and proper exposure Adjustable colour temperature

Safe area (80/85/90/93/93% 2.35:1) Monitor image can be flipped horizontal, vertical, or both simultaneously

New quick release sunshade, no tools needed! Sunshade can be stored in housing when travelling

Compatible with other underwater manufacturer housings (using 16mm bulkhead)

Available in black or red

Specifications:

Full HD 1920x1080 resolution 460

cd/m2 Brightness

1400:1 Contrast Ratio

5.7" IPS LED-Backlit Display

Accepts 4K HDMI Input

Up to 4 hours running time when



using NP-770 Battery  
Positively buoyant  
Options: Standard ball clamp  
Ball clamp with extended knob (low profile)

Housing seals with Aquatica's signature rotary lock and has a detachable sunshade, also featuring stainless steel buttons

[www.aquatica.ca](http://www.aquatica.ca)

## Sony housing for RX100-Series Cameras



Allowing you to shoot with all Sony RX100-series cameras, this housing is a protective casing featuring dual water-tight gaskets that enables you to photograph in depths down to 130'.

The dedicated design maintains access to all camera controls, including a rotary lens-ring dial, zoom lever, push buttons for menu access, and a large lever-type shutter button.

The housing also permits the use of the cameras' built-in flash, and an included detachable diffuser can be used to lessen vignetting and provide a more even wash of lighting. Additionally, the front of the housing has 67mm filter threads to permit the attachment of color-correction filters or other threaded lens accessories.

[www.sony.co.uk](http://www.sony.co.uk)

## YS-D2 STROBE



AUDIBLE & VISUAL  
READY & TTL CONFIRMATION

DUAL POWERED MODELLING  
LIGHT WITH RED FILTERS

BACKLIT ILLUMINATED  
REAR CONTROL PANEL

FASTER RECYCLING TIME

DS-TTL II WITH +/-2 EV RANGE

**SEA&SEA**  
THE UNDERWATER IMAGING COMPANY

[www.sea-sea.com](http://www.sea-sea.com)

01803 663012 - [sales@sea-sea.com](mailto:sales@sea-sea.com)

## Deepshots Panasonic 8-18 Zoom Gear

NEW!



NEW!



Deepshots Panasonic 8-18 zoom gear is an extremely affordable alternative for the Nauticam gear and works both with Nauticam and Olympus housings.

Designed for the Panasonic Leica Vario-Elmarit 8-18mm f2.8 - f4 super wide-angle lens. Intended to be used with Nauticam 7" wide angle port (36129).

The 8-18 gear is available in black or orange.

[www.deepshots.co.uk](http://www.deepshots.co.uk)

## Ikelite DL3 DS Link Panasonic / Olympus TTL Converter with Nikonos N5 Connector



TTL strobe exposure opens up a whole new world of creative possibilities for both wide angle and macro photographer. Let your camera control the strobe output so that you can devote your attention to adjusting your camera's settings, composing the shot, and focusing on your subject.

### Key Advantages

Faster, more accurate, and more reliable than fiber optic TTL triggers  
Always ready when you are - no batteries required

Switch between TTL and manual exposure with the press of a button  
Supports flash exposure (EV) compensation set in the camera  
Supports rear curtain sync  
Improves strobe battery life and recycle time

One TTL converter supports a wide selection of camera models  
Independently waterproof sealed  
Standard Nikonos N5 type connector at housing end

[www.ikelite.com](http://www.ikelite.com)

## T-Housing POWER 150m deepdive housing for GoPro Hero 5,6,7



This is an extremely sturdy housing to protect your camera. Due to the optimum heat dissipation of the aluminum housing, your camera is safe from fogging on the lens.

The aluminum underwater housing has space for the optional 2.300mAh powerbank. With this combination you can make extra long divevideo's with your Gopro.

All housing parts are machined from one single block of aluminum using state-of-the-art CNC machines.

Material: Aluminum  
Max. depth: 150 meters  
Size: 148 x 75 x 53mm.  
Weight: 470g.

[www.uwcamerastore.com](http://www.uwcamerastore.com)



## Nauticam NA-D850 for Nikon D850



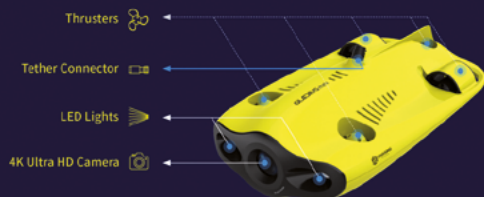
### "The Next Frontier"

Proving that speed and resolution can indeed coexist, the Nikon D850 is a multimedia DSLR that brings together robust stills capabilities along with apt movie and time-lapse recording. Revolving around a newly designed 45.7MP BSI CMOS sensor and proven EXPEED 5 image processor, the D850 is clearly distinguished by its high resolution for recording detailed imagery. Nauticam is the market leader in build quality, ergonomics, and reliability. Built on a foundation of innovative product design and modern manufacturing technology, NA-D850 is the ultimate accessory for the exciting new Nikon D850 camera.

[www.reefphoto.com](http://www.reefphoto.com)

# WE ARE UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHERS JUST LIKE YOU!

## 4K UNDERWATER DRONE WITH 100M CABLE



### GLADIUS MINI

is the first five thruster minisize underwater drone in the world. Equipped with a 4K ultra HD camera, it can dive up to 330 feet deep and is perfect for underwater photography and exploring. The submarine-like five thruster design ensures stable underwater footage. Any underwater exciting moment can be recorded and ONE-STEP shared to your families and friends. With a backpack, you can start your trip right away. Whatever adventure you go on with friends or family, the GLADIUS MINI is a highly entertaining and unique underwater drone for everyone to enjoy.

- 4K UHD Camera
- Portable Backpack
- One Touch Lock-Depth Mode
- ±45° Adjustable Tilt-Lock Mode
- One Touch Share on Social
- Dive to 330ft
- Live Stream (YouTube/Facebook)
- 2hr Runtime



## UK Inspection Camera with 7" DVR Monitor

General Underwater Inspection required? or have you ever wanted to explore a waterfilled area such as the Sea, river or lake? Well here's the solution!

Our portable Waterproof Inspection camera is ready to use below the water to capture your required image. Super bright White LED lights that can be turned off or dimmed allow you to penetrate the darkest of areas. With a monitor included, you can live preview the camera or you can record your findings and play it back later via the built in DVR and SD card holder. Recording has never been easier!

The monitors user interface is simple to use and provides a high-quality image of 1000 TV Lines so that you don't miss a thing. The camera can be moved around freely, and cable submersed with no defects to the camera image. Whether you take it down to the depths diving, underwater structure inspecting, fish finding, or whatever your need may be, you can be assured that the Underwater inspection camera is going to do the job.

This camera fits so many different situations that it is the perfect piece of equipment that is currently on the market. Supplied with a rechargeable battery, power

supply and flight case along with camera, cable and Monitor.

HD Submersible Waterproof Camera with 1000 TVL monitor

Stainless steel waterproof Camera with White LED Lights

DVR operated monitor to record video and photos  
High quality image with 15m of cable

Easy to use and Great Results

£149.00



[www.ukinspectioncamera.co.uk](http://www.ukinspectioncamera.co.uk)

### CB70 SQUARE GROUPE

UNDERWATER HOUSING  
TRANSPORT & RINSE TANK

\* SHOWN WITH NAUTICAM 1DX HOUSING  
ULCS ARMS  
SEA&SEA STROBES  
FOR SIZE REFERENCE ONLY



FOLDED FOR TRANSPORT



[CINEBAGSUNDERWATER.COM](http://CINEBAGSUNDERWATER.COM)

## Aquatica A1DXmkII Housing For The Canon EOS-1D X Mark II



The A1 DX MarkII housing has three bulkhead access holes ready to accept external accessories such as our Aquatica Remote trigger, our Water Wizard (an external radio transceiver housing) and third party external monitors and other accessories.

The A1 DX MarkII model 20082-NK comes equipped with two classic Nikonos connectors of the newest type, these strobe connectors are easy field interchangeable in minutes, while the 20082-KM model is supplied with a time proven 5-pin Ikelite connector.

More than 30 years of expertise have helped craft this A1 DX MKII ergonomic design. It's a design strongly influenced by working closely, and listening to the input of professional image makers from around the world. The result is an unparalleled attention to detail and expertly crafted solutions.

Viewing is through our own



exceptional Galileo-type eye piece. This high quality and coated optical finder gives a bright and full view of the finder. The A1 DX MarkII is also fully compatible with our accessory Aqua View 180, and Aqua View 45 finder, for those who are seeking the ultimate in still image viewing, these two enhanced Aqua View finders deliver second-to-none clarity, providing tack sharp corner to corner viewing for composing and critical focusing.

[www.aquatica.ca](http://www.aquatica.ca)

## Underwater camera housings, lighting and specialist equipment hire

Red Weapon / Dragon / Monstro and Gemini DSMC



We have a Gates underwater housing that takes any of the Red DSMC 1 and 2 camera systems. It also comes with remote follow focus and HDSI surface monitoring for DP/focus puller, and can be operated without the follow focus if working in open water. The housing has a 5" HD monitor kit for critical focus and framing, and a double V lock plate is in the housing for longer operation under water.

Lens support is for PL, Canon and Nikon lenses and there are a variety of lenses that work well with the Epic

Alexa Mini camera



This camera system is a firm favourite with commercials and features and is supported with a Nauticam underwater housing. As with the Epic housing above, this kit comes with a 5" HD monitor for the operator to control critical focus and framing, and the housing can be used manually in open water.

For studio work I have installed the hardware support to enable the WCU4 hand controller and C-force mini motors to control focus, iris and zoom from the surface using 45m long waterproofed cables. An independent iris control for DOP can also be integrated into this housing in addition to the WCU4 controller used by the focus puller.

[www.richstevenson.co.uk](http://www.richstevenson.co.uk)

## Sealife Micro 2.0 32GB

Small and ergonomic, the Micro 2.0 camera is easy to handle underwater, operating with three wide “Piano Key” controls. Features a 16MP SONY® CMOS Image Sensor for stunning still images, full 1080p HD video and a built-in 130-degree Fisheye Lens, the Micro 2.0 provides everything needed to capture and share your underwater encounters down to 200 feet/60 meters.

Permanently Sealed and flood proof: The Micro 2.0 has no doors or openings that could possibly leak. With 64GB of onboard memory, high capacity internal battery and WiFi, there’s no need for memory cards, batteries, O-rings, or maintenance.

Features:

- Full 1080p HD video at 60fps or 30fps
- 16MP SONY® CMOS image sensor for sharp, colorful pictures
- 130° Fisheye Lens – Get close to your subject and still fit everything into the picture
- WiFi to wirelessly preview, download and share pictures/videos to smart phone or tablet with free SeaLife Micro Cam app
- USB Cable connection allows for downloading direct to your computer. You can download directly to an



Android or Apple smartphone, or tablet using a USB adapter cable (Not included, Apple devices also require a USB Y-Cable)

- Land, Dive, Snorkel, and Light Scene modes
- Three built-in underwater color correction filters
- “Piano Key” controls for easy operation, with or without gloves
- Picture in Video - Take still images while recording full HD video
- Easy Set-up Mode with simple menu selections
- 64GB internal memory holds 25,000 16MP still images or 29,000 14MP still images;
- 12 hours 1080p @ 30fps or 6 hours 1080p @ 60fps
- Waterproof to 60m

[www.oceanleisurecameras.com](http://www.oceanleisurecameras.com)

## Aquatica AD500 housing



The Aquatica AD500 housing is designed specifically for the Nikon D500 camera. With 21mp still image, 4K video possibilities, impressive level of low light performance, this Nikon D500 is a worthy addition to the DX format, a much appreciated sensor size for underwater photography.

Exceptionally good and ergonomic control placement. All controls remain accessible in all dive conditions, either cold or warm, gloves or not. Secure port locking system and easy access lens release button. The most comfortable and sturdy hand grips of the industry, also extendable for larger or gloved hands.

Precise camera mounting via a quick release camera tray with angled rear LCD positioning. Two (2) entry point for accessories such as HDMI monitors, remote control or vacuum monitoring systems.

Eight (8) threaded standard ¼”-20 holes, one located on top, three on



the bottom and four on the grips, to mount strobe arm, brackets, tripods and a wide range of accessories.

Depth rating options of 90m or 130m depth at no extra charge.

Made with a time proven manufacturing process, using the best material available and state of the art tooling, to offer you many years of dependable and enjoyable service.

Retail price starting at \$ 3,195 USD

[www.aquatica.ca](http://www.aquatica.ca)

# BACKSCATTER M52 AIR LENS



ALL-NEW  
ACCESSORY  
LENS FOR  
OLYMPUS TG-5



CLICK FOR  
FULL REVIEW  
& TEST SHOTS

## Sea&Sea DX-6G Rugged Sports Camera and Housing



Sea&Sea has announced the DX-6G rugged sports camera and underwater housing, which is based around a repackaged Ricoh WG-50 compact. The camera itself is depth-rated to 46 feet (for up to two hours), while the housing increases the depth rating to 180 feet—and removes the time limit underwater.

The camera is built around a 16MP 1/2.3" CMOS sensor and a 28–140mm (equivalent) f/3.5–5.5 lens. There are dedicated underwater modes that adjust white balance and contrast. The camera can also capture Full HD video at 30fps.

The macro mode makes it

possible to focus as close as 0.4 inches (1cm) from the subject, and the housing comes with a removable flash diffuser. The optional x0.6 wide-angle wet lens (WCL06), which features a bayonet mount, increases the angle of view to 94 degrees for capturing wide-angle scenes.

[www.sea-sea.com](http://www.sea-sea.com)



## Nauticam NA-Z7 for Nikon Z7/Z6



**"More than mirrorless.  
Nikon mirrorless."**

Underwater image makers rely on environmental diversity to push their art to its limits and not just in the underwater environment. With the introduction of the Nikon Z7 and Z6, the full-frame mirrorless camera market has major new competitors to push the segment even further.

The Z7 and Z6, Nikon's first full-frame mirrorless cameras, offer underwater shooters the same legendary Nikon sensors with the versatility of an electronic viewfinder and the compactness of a mirrorless system. The NA-Z7 supports both the Z6 and Z7 models.

[www.reefphoto.com](http://www.reefphoto.com)

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Your partner in Europe for in-store full overhauls and repairs



Nauticam NA-A7RIII housing for Sony A7RIII and A7III



Nauticam NA-EMIX for Olympus OM-D E-M1X



Nauticam NA-RX100V PRO Package for Sony RX100 V



Nauticam MWL-1 macro to wide angle lens

**WE ARE UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHERS... JUST LIKE YOU.**

## 360 OBSERVE MIRROR BOX



As a divemaster, often dive with a group, for which I am responsible. I pay attention to all the pairs of divers coming behind me. Due to the limited field of view (mask, cylinders) is a tedious task. In addition, divers are often fascinated by the underwater world stop, leave, do not keep the pattern. Sign keeping together is often ignored. It has long been thought of what to do to have eyes around the head. Nature did not prepare us for associating with unruly partners. It was impossible to control the flow direction, at the same time to see what they do members of the group. Until...:-) On the solution I came up suddenly. Convex mirrors focus the image turned out to be an extremely good idea.

Attached to the hand can freely select the viewing direction. There is still adraw method of attachment, the radius of the mirror, and a few minor details, eg. A collar to protect the mirror from scratches and



height – so as not to interfere operate flashlight or emergency grab a diver for the harness. It turned out that the objective has been achieved. Now, raising his hand, I see before me a mirror that reflects everything that is needed to safely dive.

[www.saferdive.com](http://www.saferdive.com)

[www.uwpmag.com](http://www.uwpmag.com)

# SONY RX100VI



## UNDERWATER CAMERA REVIEW



## Isotta announces housing for LX15/LX10



Isotta has announced their housing for the Panasonic LX15/ LX10 compact camera. It features a flash window with the option of fiber optic triggering, an M126 port for vacuum or other accessories, along with an M67 thread on the lens port for attaching wet lenses. One Hand Open/Close  
Double O-rings on all Seals  
Interchangeable Ports  
Machined Aluminum Housing  
Vacuum System Ready  
Depth Rated to 100m/330ft

[www.backscatter.com](http://www.backscatter.com)



## Strobe Arm Sets

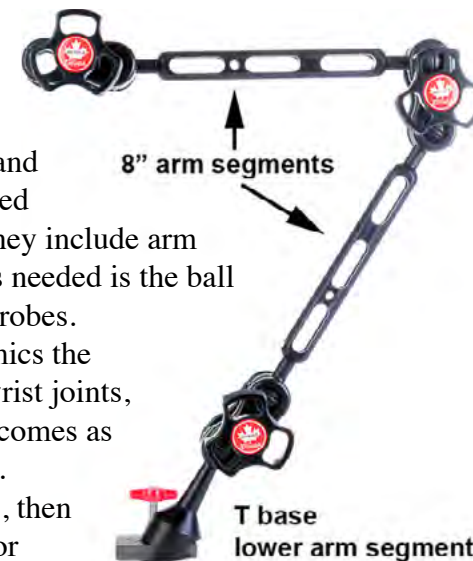
The new Delta 3 arm sets from Technical Lighting Control are a quick and efficient way to get exactly what you need for your lighting support requirement, they include arm segments, clamps and mounts, all that is needed is the ball head adapter for your specific light or strobes.

The typical Delta 3 strobe arm mimics the human arm, with shoulder, elbow and wrist joints, positioning the light where you want becomes as flexible as you can ever imagine it to be.

If macro photography is your thing, then the dedicated Macro master arm set is for you, it lets you tuck the strobes nice and tight when working in close quarters. For a more flexible arm set, then the one built around the 8" arm segments offer the best of both world, they can be extended for considerable spread and neatly tucked in for close up work. This is by far the most popular strobe arm configuration.

On the other hand, if you are a wide angle aficionados, you may want to have the longer reach of the 11" arm segments to give you the ultimate strobe positioning.

Each 8" and 11" arm segment is provided with a threaded 1/4-20" hole on its side, these convenient attachment point are ideal for securing lens caddy, extra lighting fixture or accessories. Mounting on the housing is done with either a sliding base that will require a standard T shape base bracket, or the strobe can be mounted using a mounting base with a 1" ball bolted to the grip or housing.



[http://www.aquatica.ca/en/tlc\\_arm\\_sets.html](http://www.aquatica.ca/en/tlc_arm_sets.html)

**NIKON**  
**Z 7**  
**FULL FRAME**  
**MIRRORLESS**



**BACKSCATTER**

**UNDERWATER**  
**CAMERA REVIEW**

## Meikon MK-WX500 Underwater Housing for Sony WX500



Explore a whole new world of underwater photography with the new MK-WX500 Underwater Housing. Compatible with the Sony WX500 Digital Camera, this case provides water resistance to depths of 40 metres, as well as protecting the camera from dust, dirt and damage – making it perfect for snorkelling or scuba diving.

[www.aditech-uw.com](http://www.aditech-uw.com)



## Aquatica

Aquatica manufactures an extensive line of underwater housings for today's finest digital cameras. The company also manufactures the world renowned Technical Lighting Control (TLC) strobe arms, trays and accessories. Aquatica and TLC are the brands preferred by some of the top professional underwater photographers and are well known for their optical quality and superior level of craftsmanship.

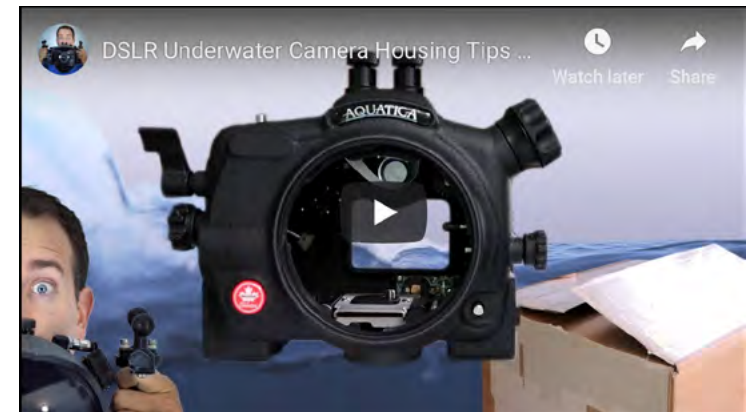
Located in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, Aquatica was founded in 1982, and with expertise acquired over more than 25 years in the industry, has gained a worldwide reputation as a leader and innovator in the field of underwater photography.

Aquatica is the official supplier for the two largest fleets of liveboards in the world.

[www.aquatica.ca](http://www.aquatica.ca)

## Unboxing an Aquatica A5D Mk1V housing and accessories

Aquatica user Joe Kistel made a video of him opening the box in which he received his A5D MkIV housing and accessories.



[https://youtu.be/\\_ow2Ym4rDZE](https://youtu.be/_ow2Ym4rDZE)

# EUROPE'S NR. 1 UNDERWATER CAMERA STORE

**150 METER WATERPROOF**



**FOR HERO 5/6/7**

**ACTIONPRO ALUMINUM  
HOUSING FOR GOPRO**



**UW  
CAMERA  
STORE** .COM

## Subal GH5



The Subal GH5 housing for Panasonic Lumix GH5 provides access to all camera functions. Maximum depth: 80 m and optional 120m Weight: 2,4 kg. approx (w/o port, grip and accessories) Weight in water: Nearly neutral (depending on the port and accessories) Dome port and accessories shown on picture not included in housing scope of delivery ! Suitable for:

3.588,- €

Width x height x depth: Approx. 237 x 180 x 131 mm (w/o port and handles)

[www.subal.com](http://www.subal.com)

## Nauticam NA-RX100VI Housing for Sony DSC- RX100 VI



With the sixth iteration of the RX100 series, Sony has continued to add features to this workhorse compact camera and Nauticam is also adapting with the new NA-RX100VI housing.

The NA-RX100VI housing provides the ergonomics, build quality, and innovative feature set our customers demand in a tiny, travel friendly package with the addition of an interchangeable port system to accommodate the longer zoom lens of the Mark VI. Nauticam designs are always improving, and new features integrated into each new release.

[www.nauticam.com](http://www.nauticam.com)

**Nauticam**  
innovation underwater



*Unleash your creative potential*

## NA-XT3

*for Fujifilm X-T3 Camera*



[www.nauticam.com](http://www.nauticam.com)

# GOPRO HERO7



## UNDERWATER CAMERA REVIEW



### Seashell SS-1



Seashell is the first manufacturer to make a universal housing to fit large numbers of digital stills cameras with centrally-located lenses.

Simply fit your camera into the housing with the pads provided and you'll be able to use it underwater.

[www.aditech-uw.com](http://www.aditech-uw.com)

### AOI UCL-05 +6 Close-Up Lens M67



The AOI UCL-05 is an affordable high quality close up lens.

- Optical glass lens with multi coating
- +6 Dioptre
- Waterproof to 60m
- 67mm thread
- Dimensions: 74mm x 42mm
- Weight in air: 275 gr
- Comes with silicone covers and mesh pouch.

The AOI Quick Release System provides a speedy and convenient way to change wet lenses underwater. Once the Mount Base is fitted to your M67 flat port any AOI lens fitted with a Quick release adapter can be easily removed and replaced.

[www.oceanleisurecameras.com](http://www.oceanleisurecameras.com)



### Nauticam NA-A7RIII for Sony a7R III



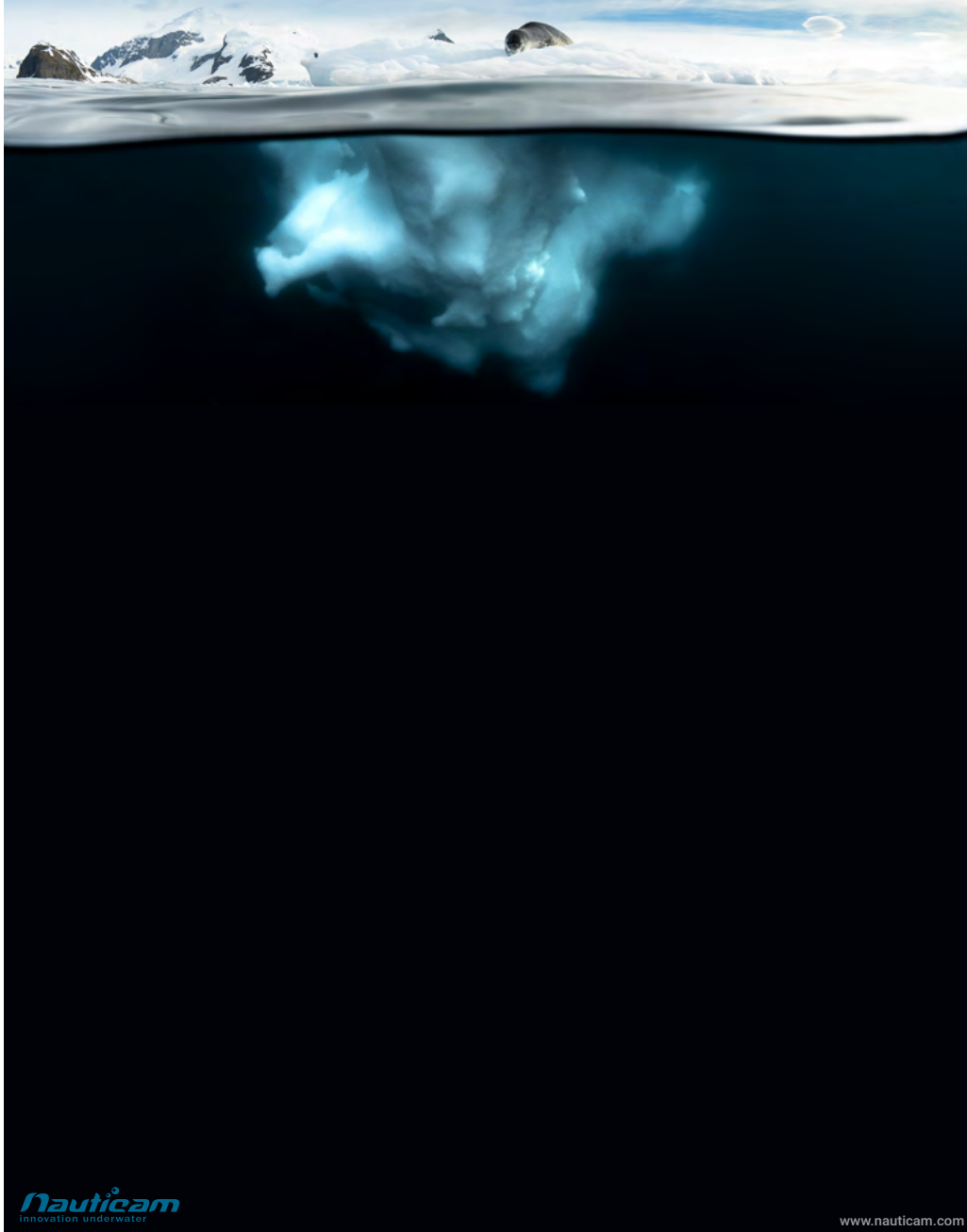
#### "Reality Realized"

Sony, the pioneers of the full-frame mirrorless camera with their a7 line have brought us their latest iteration and it is awesome. Taking cues from the just released a9 the a7R III adds better autofocus, faster continuous shooting, and the same great 5-axis stabilization we've come to love. 4K footage can be captured either from the full width of the sensor or from a Super 35 size crop.

A professional housing befitting of a top-of-the-line camera, the NA-A7RIII underwater housing provides fingertip access to all key camera controls in a rugged and reliable aluminum underwater housing. Ergonomic camera control access is one of the defining strengths of a Nauticam housing, and the NA-7RIII continues this tradition.

[www.reefphoto.com](http://www.reefphoto.com)

# There is more



**Nauticam**  
innovation underwater

www.nauticam.com



Issue 109/25

## Divepro Vision

The Divepro Vision 170 Degree Wide Beam 8000 Lumens LED Rechargeable is a scuba diving torch and photography video light.

LED - 1\*CXB2530 High-CRI LED

Color temperature Warm light 5000K

Lumen

High light: 8000 lumens

Middle light: 4000 lumens

Low light: 400 lumens(Stepless dimming from 100% to 5% brightness)

Runtime High light about 50 mins

Middle light about 100 mins

Low light about 15 hours(Stepless dimming to 5% brightness)

Body material - Durable aircraft-grade aluminum

Beam Angle 170° in air 160° underwater

Premium type III hard-anodizing

Battery

4x18650 Li-ion battery pack

Waterproof 100M underwater

Dia. 65 (head) 51( body of dia.)\*126 ( length )mm

Weight About 645g ( with battery ), 285g in the water (with battery)

The battery has short-circuit protection, Over-charge protection, Stepless dimming, Memory function.



## Seacam announces support for Laowa lenses

Seacam has released two new specific lens solutions they are producing for use with Laowa lenses. Firstly, they have produced a housing for the Laowa 24mm f/14 2X Macro Probe. Secondly they have announced port support for the Laowa 15mm f/4 Wide Angle Macro.

[www.divepro.com](http://www.divepro.com)

[www.seacam.com](http://www.seacam.com)

[www.uwpmag.com](http://www.uwpmag.com)

# EUROPE'S NR. 1 UNDERWATER CAMERA STORE

**INON Z-330 STROBE**

**IN STOCK NOW**



Fibre snoots, dome diffusers and snoots are also available for the Z-330.



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CAMERA  
STORE** .COM

## INON High Quality 6500K LED Torches



INON INC. is pleased to announce it is widening its LED flashlight product range by having another version producing quality 6500K constant lighting for existing LF3100-EW, LF1300-EWf and LF800-N.

Newly applied quality 6500K light makes it easier to reproduce natural color comparing to existing LED torch product producing warmer light even in bright circumstance or mixing with a strobe light. As these new quality LED torches produce at about 15 to 25% less lumen power comparing to existing models but offer another options for those who are keen for quality natural color for either of still/video shooting.

[www.inon.co.jp](http://www.inon.co.jp)

## Sealux CD-Z7 housing for Nikon DSLM Z7, Z6



The new Sealux CD-Z7 housing made for the lightweight Nikon Z7 allows both taking photos as well as shooting videos.

Now the fullframe mirrorless camera Nikon Z7 with its supreme ease of handling can fully show its capabilities under water, too.

The proven camera slide was made to facilitate the fitting of the camera inside the housing. The handgrip is mounted at the front and can be adjusted. The housing also supports the NIKON FTZ adapter.

With a special socket a HDMI monitor can be connected (optional).

As a result, it is very easy to view image sharpness in video mode using the monitor, too.

[www.sealux.de](http://www.sealux.de)



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## dji Osmo Action



DJI has launched its first action camera posing a challenge to the market leader GoPro. The Chinese company already dominates the consumer market for drones.

The Osmo Action uses image-stabilisation software to smooth out its video, rather than using the electronic motors found in the Osmo Pocket and other handheld gimbals.

This mirrors the approach of GoPro's Hero 7 Black. But DJI's model has the advantage of a colour front-screen.

The 1.4in display should help frame selfie photos and videos, while its rear 2.25in touchscreen is also slightly larger than that of the GoPro.

Otherwise the devices are closely matched, both offering:

- two microphones
- waterproofing
- a time lapse feature
- up to 60 frames per second 4K resolution video
- 8x slow-mo video in 1080p resolution

12 megapixel photos

voice-activated controls

Whether you want to record your world from behind a lens or be the star of the show, Osmo Action's dual screens allow you to capture it all with the touch of a button.

A vivid front screen lets you frame yourself effortlessly in any setting, while the back screen delivers a crystal-clear, hyper-responsive display. This durable, versatile action camera is jam-packed with advanced technology that lets you spend less time worrying about equipment and more time living the action.

Sporting a watertight seal and a hydrophobic coating on the back touchscreen, Osmo Action is waterproof at depths of up to 11 meters, making it the perfect underwater companion.

[www.dji.com](http://www.dji.com)



## Nauticam NA-RX100VI for Sony DSC-RX100 VI



### "Close in on the Action"

With the sixth iteration of the RX100 series, Sony has continued to add features to this workhorse compact camera and Nauticam is also adapting with the new NA-RX100VI housing. The

NA-RX100VI housing provides the ergonomics, build quality, and innovative feature set our customers demand in a tiny, travel friendly package with the addition of an interchangeable port system to accommodate the longer zoom lens of the Mark VI. Nauticam designs are always improving, and new features are integrated into each new release. The ergonomic experience has been tailored for a photographer's right hand on the side of the housing, placing key controls literally at the users finger tips.

[www.reefphoto.com](http://www.reefphoto.com)

# WORKSHOPS

ANILAO  
MAY 18-25, 2019

## PHILLIPINES



+ PHOTO  
+ VIDEO

LEMBEH  
OCT 4-14, 2019

## INDONESIA



+ PHOTO  
+ VIDEO

BLUE HERON  
BRIDGE  
Dates Vary

## PALM BEACH

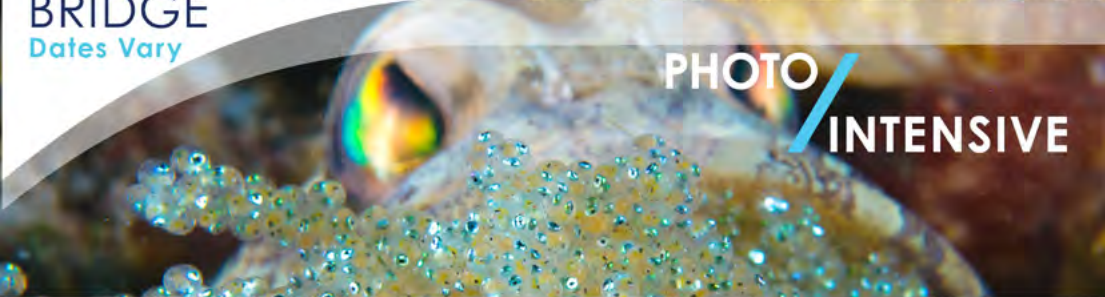


PHOTO  
/ INTENSIVE



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PHOTO & VIDEO  
www.reefphoto.com

## WeeFine Smart Focus 4000 underwater focus light / video light



The compact, WeeFine 4000 Lumen underwater light has 100 degrees beam angle and unique strobe mode. Waterproof to 100 meters.

Easy to use by a rotary knob and one push button.

Rotary knob can be rotated clockwise or counterclockwise. The white light has 11 levels (0 tot 100%). For the red, blue, green light, there are 60 levels available.

When the light holder reaches 50 degrees, it enters the temperature protection function with 20% lightness. The display shows "HOT". When the temperature is below 40 degrees, it exits the protection function and the light turns to the normal status.

The Smart Focus 4000 also has the unique strobe mode. In this mode, the current light will be off and the strobe light will be on. After 0.1 second this will be off and the light

goes back to the previous light.

When the battery power is low, the brightness will be reduced to 10% and display shows 10 minutes countdown. The light will turn automatically off after 10 minutes.

Brightness: 4000 lumen / 5000K  
CRI: Ra80  
Strobemode: max. 6000lumen  
Beam angle: 100°  
Battery: 4x 18650 Li-Ion (3400 mAh)  
Burn time: app. 60 min. (100% flood)  
Depth rated: 100m / 330ft  
LED life: over 50.000 hours  
Dimensions: 137.6 x 60 x 70mm  
Weight: 560g on land / 215 g in water (incl. battery)

[www.uwcamerastore.com](http://www.uwcamerastore.com)

[www.uwpmag.com](http://www.uwpmag.com)

# MIRRORLESS MIRRORLESS ON THE WALL



WHO HAS THE LARGEST SELECTION  
OF THEM ALL?



THATS WHO.

## UWCameraStore Fiber snoot Pro dual for Sea & Sea YS-01

The snoot for the Sea&Sea YS-01 prevents stray light from illuminating your subject or scene. The arms are centered over the strobes flash tube(s) and can also be easily manipulated for accurate subject illumination.

The Fiber snoot pro dual for the Sea&Sea YS-01 is specially designed for macro photography. The snoot concentrates the light on a small area and allows you to emphasize a specific area or compensation and hide the background. With the correct set-up is also prevents you from backscatter.



[www.uwcamerastore.com](http://www.uwcamerastore.com)

## Sea & Sea Leak Sentinel V5

The Sea & Sea Leak Sentinel V5 lets you check the housing's water-tight integrity before diving.

Although small in size, the Leak Sentinel V5 is equipped with an pressure sensor and built-in LED along with an external vacuum pump.

The pump creates a vacuum inside the housing, the sensor detects any leaks and the lights let you know if it is safe to drive or not.

The leak Sentinel V5 is fitted into the housing's accessory port and is compatible with some older Sea &



Sea housings with accessory ports.  
[Dimensions(WxH)]  
Φ20mmx48mm / Φ0.8x1.9inches  
[Weight]Apporx.30g / 1oz  
[Depth rating] 100m / 330ft

[www.sea-sea.com](http://www.sea-sea.com)

[www.uwpmag.com](http://www.uwpmag.com)

## Hire a Drift GHOST



This 'GoPro' style HD camera has some amazing features that even GoPro's envy! Shoots in full HD, waterproof and benefits from a built-in LCD screen. Some of the features are; Two-Way Remote Control, 2-inch Scratch-Proof LCD Screen, Extra long battery life - 3 hours standard, 3m waterproof camera, water resistant remote control, Full HD 1080p@30fps, and 720p@60fps for epic slow-motion, 11MP still photos, 10 photos per second burst and time-lapse.

If you want to hire something amazing - then renting this small HD camera will certainly put a smile on your face!

[www.dvcamerahire.co.uk](http://www.dvcamerahire.co.uk)

## Dive Master Insurance

Our insurance has been protecting Divers for over 30 years and pays losses back to divers and the dive trade.

Your dive kit insurance policy provides annual worldwide cover for all diving equipment. The equipment is covered whilst in storage, transit and use, for accidental loss (including emergency jettison), damage and theft.

Underwater camera equipment is available as an 'add on' to your scuba diving equipment insurance policy. The cover is on the same conditions as dive equipment insurance and because we understand the issues of underwater photography, it includes cover for unexplained flooding. Underwater camera equipment is rated at 7.5% of the replacement value.

You can add your other sports equipment to your dive kit insurance policy, under the same conditions and at the same rate.

Standard policy excess is £35, coverage subject to policy terms, conditions and exclusions.

[www.divemasterinsurance.com](http://www.divemasterinsurance.com)

# THE SOURCE



# WETPIXEL

# underwaterphotography.com 2018

We are hereby announcing the 2018 annual awards for the World's longest running underwater photo contest. Our competition has been an inspiration to thousands of photographers across the world and has amazed millions by print and online publications. The UnderwaterPhotography.com photo contest is the longest running and most prestigious online, or off.

If you want to make a name for yourself it is THE place to do it. One of our medals is the reward for all the hard work underwater photographers put in chasing those great shots in far-flung destinations. It's the industry's most coveted prize because it says you succeeded in the most competitive environment there is, against the top talent of the moment.

Another competition has ended with an impressive 4,121 entries out of which 891 became hotshots that we consider the first round of judging to the annual competition. We are so proud to be having a constant flow of new talent coming in.

Our goal is and always have been to promote young talent and give them a stage to show off their photos and launch a career as underwater photographers.

Thank you to all the contestants and judges.



**Winner: WIDE ANGLE - WRECKS: Mehmet Öztapak (Turkey) Gold Medal**



*SHARKS :Steven Anderson (United States) Gold Medal*

[www.underwaterphotography.com](http://www.underwaterphotography.com)



Issue 109/32

[www.uwpmag.com](http://www.uwpmag.com)



*OVER/UNDER: Greg Fleurentin (French Polynesia) Gold Medal*

[www.underwaterphotography.com](http://www.underwaterphotography.com)



Issue 109/33

[www.uwpmag.com](http://www.uwpmag.com)



*WIDE ANGLE - NATURAL LIGHT: Henley Spiers (United Kingdom) Gold Medal*

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Issue 109/34

[www.uwpmag.com](http://www.uwpmag.com)



*CREATIVE - MANIPULATED (PHOTOSHOPPED) : Filip Staes (Belgium) Gold Medal*

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# We've got you covered!



Magic filters are now available in 3 options. Original Magic for use in blue water with DSLR and compact cameras with Manual White Balance, Auto-Magic for compact cameras in automatic point and shoot mode. GreenWater Magic for use in green water with DSLR and compact cameras with Manual White Balance. Prices start at just £22.

The Auto-Magic formula is now available in a Plexiglass filter that can be added or removed underwater.

[www.magic-filters.com](http://www.magic-filters.com)

# Torbay Splash In 2019



*The conditions the day before did not bode well but an astute change of the rules allowed diving over a wider area to include lee shores resulted in excellent images such as Dan Bolt's winner in the Wideangle Category.*

The Torbay Splash In, in sunny Devon, took place for the fourth year running on Saturday 29th June.

Unfortunately the event was preceded by three days of unprecedented easterly wind; the worst direction possible for Torbay. The result was a very brown sea with a dangerous swell so the astute organisers made a last minute decision to open up the permitted diving area to... well.... anywhere; as long as you got back physically with your images to the organisers based in the Living Coast Centre in Torquay by 5pm.

The effect of the rule change on the underwater images was transformative and I was once again very pleased to be invited back as the judge.

22 entrants pre-registered and the proverbial starting gun was fired at 00:00 hours on 29th June. The day dawned in stark contrast with a cloudless sky full of promise for a productive day's diving. The effort and positive thinking of the entrants produced a crop of images that defied the conditions and helped make this the best ever year.



What sets this Splash In apart is the social get together of entrants and supporters at the excellent Living Coast Centre in the evening. With a glorious view of the now deceptively calm Torbay from the outside terrace next to the fully stocked bar followed by a tasty buffet it was the perfect opportunity to mingle with other entrants, swap tales of daring do and celebrate underwater imagery.

Two images were permitted per category - Beginner, Compact, Macro and Wideangle and by 5.45pm I was presented with a laptop and a quiet

place to view the images and make my decisions.

It very soon became apparent that the quality of the resulting entries had been greatly helped by widening the diving area and I would suggest this now becomes the norm as any windy conditions on the southwest coast, as with any peninsula, will always provide the shelter of a lee shore with safer diving and better visibility.

In addition to my deliberations as judge there was also a 'People's Vote' where anyone who attended could



*Beginners Winner: Jo Rabineau*

vote for their favourite image. I have to say that this is the perfect combination and helps everyone feel involved and from a judge's point of view it also adds an element of competition hoping that I also came to the same decision!

Well fed, watered and socialised, the presentation started on the dot at 2000 hours. As always the club atmosphere produced good natured banter but with a genuine appreciation towards the eventual winners. True this is a competition but that never got in the way of everyone having a good

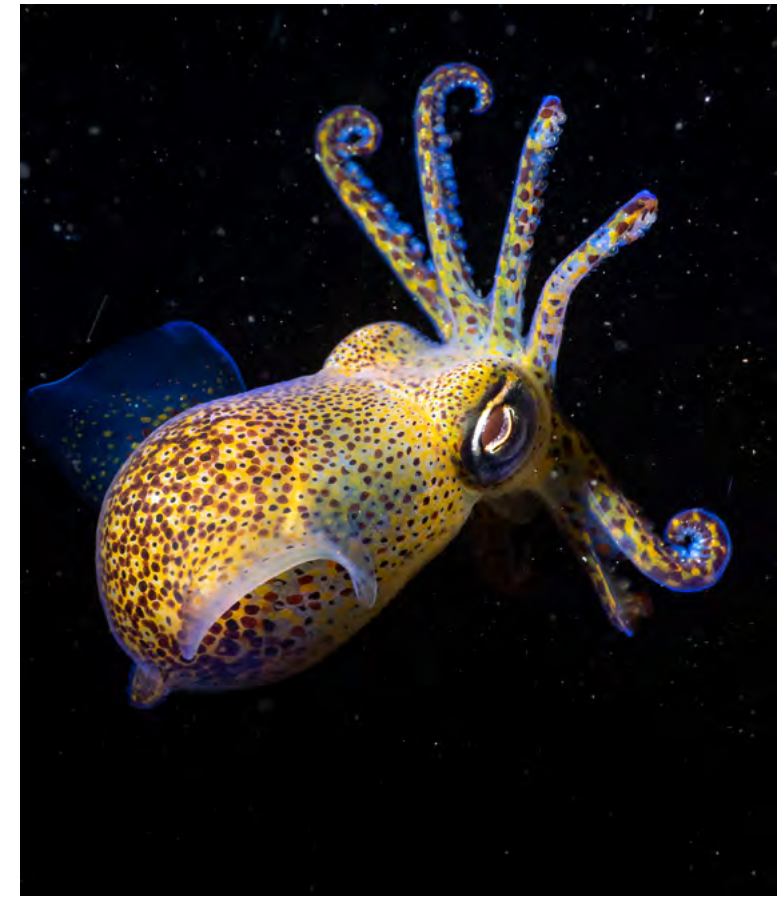


*Compact Winner: Tony Reed*

social time.

The results, I think, speak for themselves and provide a celebration of the talent we have and the marine life we are blessed with.

The Torbay Splash In has the potential to become a significant event in the UK underwater photography calendar. I am happy to have been involved and am available, should the organisers want, to help take this event to another level not seen since the much missed days of the Plymouth Splash In.



*Macro Winner: Dan Bolt*

Until next year, safe diving and may your exposures be with you.

**Peter Rowlands**  
[peter@uwpmag.com](mailto:peter@uwpmag.com)  
[www.torbay-bsac.co.uk](http://www.torbay-bsac.co.uk)

PS I am also pleased, and relieved to report that my choice of Dan Bolt's Octopus shot in the Macro Category was 'The People's Choice' :-)

# *Don't settle for 2nd best*



Film - No Filter No  
White Balance



Digital - No Filter Manual  
White Balance



Magic Filter Manual  
White Balance

Digital cameras have opened up new possibilities to underwater photographers. For available light photography manual white balance is an invaluable tool for restoring colours. But when you use it without a filter you are not making the most of the technique. You're doing all the hard work without reaping the full rewards. These three photos are all taken of the same wreck in the Red Sea. The left hand image was taken on slide film, which rendered the scene completely blue. The middle image is taken with a digital SLR without a filter, using manual white balance. The white balance has brought out some of the colour of the wreck, but it has also sucked all the blue out of the water behind the wreck, making it almost grey. The right hand image is taken with the same digital camera and lens, but this time using an original Magic Filter. The filter attenuates blue light meaning that the colours of the wreck are brought out and it stands out from the background water, which is recorded as an accurate blue.

*[www.magic-filters.com](http://www.magic-filters.com)*

# Olympus TG-6 & PT-059 review

by The Backscatter Team

We were able to get our hands on a prerelease Olympus TG-6 camera and Olympus PT-059 housing and spent a few dives with it in our home waters of Monterey. On paper, the Olympus TG-6 looks very similar to Olympus TG-5, with the same great image quality and similar specs. However, there are some major improvements to the menu options and operation that completely changes how to shoot the Olympus TG-6, making it a lot easier to use and get even better results. Everything you would want to do underwater can be done without ever having to rotate the mode dial. Read on for this key information you won't find in any press release or topside camera review.

## Set To Aperture Priority And Forget The Rest

With all of the new usability features of the Olympus TG-6, the camera can pretty much just live in Aperture Priority mode all the time. We can now focus as close as we could in microscope mode on the Olympus TG-5, and can shoot 4K video without having to be in movie mode. Everything you would want to do underwater can be done without ever having to rotate the mode dial. Here's how we did it.

The Olympus TG-6 now has what Olympus calls a "variable macro system", which allows access to the new Super Macro Autofocus and Manual Focus modes directly from the Quick Menu in Aperture Priority, Program Auto, or Movie Mode. Once focus is set to Super Macro, and as long as you zoom in to at least 1.2x, the camera can focus



up to 1cm in front of the lens. This makes Aperture Priority mode equivalent to Microscope Mode in terms of focus ability, but with the added benefit of having a selectable aperture value as well.

The Olympus TG-6 still has Microscope Mode, which has been the marquee feature on this camera line for multiple generations. There are multiple options available in microscope mode such as focus stacking and HDR, but none of those really apply to underwater photography. For almost any underwater shooting situation there's no reason to bump over to Microscope Mode.

Previously, Microscope Mode did not allow one to select the aperture, making it the same as Program Auto mode but with a super close focus ability. Typically the camera would pick a wide-open aperture like  $f4.9$ , but now we can stop our aperture down to  $f18$  for more depth of field, and darker backgrounds.

*The image quality of the Olympus TG-6 is still superb, with fine, sharp detail, especially when shooting macro.*

*Olympus TG-6 | 1/100 | ISO 100 | f18*





*Click Here to see out Hands-On Review of the new Olympus TG-6 & Olympus PT-059*

## 4K Video From The Quick Menu And Super Macro 4K Video

Olympus has changed up the movie options that are available in the quick menu. Previously with the Olympus TG-5 to shoot 4K or high speed 1080 video, it was required to be in Movie Mode. Now, 4K and high speed 1080 can be used directly from the Quick Menu, allowing shooting of these video specs in Program Auto and Aperture Priority mode.

Another benefit is executing a custom white balance. A custom white balance cannot be executed in Movie Mode but can be executed when in one of the photo modes such as Program Auto or Aperture Priority. Previously on the Olympus TG-5 to execute a custom white balance when shooting 4K one had to switch to a photo mode, execute the white balance, then switch back to movie mode. It's a time consuming and tedious process that is greatly simplified by being able to shoot video by directly pressing the record button in one of the photo modes.



*Super macro can now be shot in Aperture Priority, no more need to switch back and forth from microscope mode.*

*Olympus TG-6 | 1/100 | ISO 100 | f18*

Being able to select Program Auto or Aperture Priority for shooting 4K video, and the ability to use Super Macro autofocus from the quick menu are huge improvements. This is the first TG camera that can shoot 4K super macro, which is a breakthrough for a camera this size.

The ability to use Aperture Priority and shoot video has benefits for both wide angle and macro shooting. For wide angle, when using a conversion lens like the Backscatter M52 Wide Angle Lens, sharp corners can be assured by being able to assign an aperture of f8 or higher. For macro the aperture can be set to f18, giving more depth of field and making it easier to eliminate ambient light to get nice clean dark backgrounds for macro video.



*Shooting at higher f stops results in more depth of field, which was not possible with the Olympus TG-5 in microscope mode.*

*Olympus TG-6 | 1/100 | ISO 100 | f18*

## Ability to set a minimum shutter speed—eliminate motion blur and get darker backgrounds

Wide angle photography has been something the TG series made a little more difficult with a lack of a direct shutter speed control. The minimum shutter speed when the flash is turned on is a very slow 1/30. While Exposure Compensation can be used to “trick” the shutter to a slightly faster speed to get darker backgrounds with less ambient light, this is way too slow of a shutter speed for moving underwater subjects, like turtles, sharks, and rays.

The Olympus TG-6 has a new ability to set a Minimum Shutter Speed limit, which can be set as fast as 1/500 of a second. The only catch is that in order to take advantage of this the camera must be



*The Olympus TG-6 higher shutter speeds can shoot great wide angle shots and freeze motion with a wide angle accessory lens such as the Backscatter M52 Wide Angle Lens. 1/125 | ISO 160 | f8*

in Auto-ISO mode. Auto ISO preferences can be set that will prevent the camera from choosing too high of an ISO setting. The higher limit can be set as low as 400 and the lower limit can be set to a default of 100.

While it's not direct control over shutter speed, the Olympus TG-6 can better freeze motion and create backgrounds that are several stops darker than the capabilities of the Olympus TG-5.

### 3 New underwater preset white balances

The Olympus TG-6 has 3 new white balance presets for underwater shooting that are depth-specific. There is a Shallow setting for 10-feet or 3-meters, Mid Range for 10-50 feet or 3-15 meters, and Deep for anything below 50-feet or 15-meters.

Even though this camera can capture a good



*Backscatter CEO Jim Decker enjoying the new LCD screen of the Olympus TG-6 at the Commercial Wharf in Monterey.*

manual white balance down to about the 15-meter mark, if you are a newer shooter that isn't ready to get into manual white balancing, one can just set one of these new Underwater options for your appropriate depth range. Because these balances are calibrated for clear, blue water, we haven't been able to properly test them here at our home base of Monterey, but stay tuned for a report from our next tropical trip.

### New underwater microscope mode, but better off shooting in aperture priority

The Olympus TG-6 now has 5 underwater preset shooting modes - Snapshot, Wide, Macro, Microscope, and HDR - but only the Underwater Microscope Mode is new compared to the Olympus TG-5.



*This shot was done with a snoot, which is a device to narrow the strobe's angle to just a small pinpoint. The idea is to use a high f stop and low ISO to get a very dark, if not a black background to make a dramatically lit shot. The Olympus TG-6 can now get these types of shots with ease as exposures can now be made several stops darker than what the TG-5 was able to achieve. 1/100 | ISO 100 | f18*

These modes just simply apply one of the underwater preset white balances and apply an underwater color filter, both of which we can also manually set in the non-underwater modes while also gaining the benefits of more exposure control as well.

Just like before, the underwater preset shooting modes are actually a little more limiting than just shooting in aperture priority mode, and we still recommend doing that for better results. If you haven't seen our best setting videos or just want to get in the water quickly without setting up the camera, then this is a good option to have.



*The Olympus TG-6 can get great shots of a subject from full wide to macro without moving the camera.*  
**Left image: Olympus TG-6 | 1/500 | iso 400 | f8**     **Right image: Olympus TG-6 | 1/500 | iso 400 | f18**

### Sharper screen resolution

There is a new and improved LCD screen with over twice the resolution of the screen on the Olympus TG-5 at over 1 million pixels. Everything looks a lot smoother and less pixelated.

A big advantage of this is when using an accessory magnifying viewfinder like the AOI UMG-01. The improved LCD screen is noticeably sharper and easier to work from when magnified. The adjustable diopter of the viewfinder helps dial in sharp focus even if one's eyes need a prescription mask.

### Custom Mode, Pro Capture, Teleconverter

The Olympus TG-6 has 2 custom assignable modes on the mode dial, like the Olympus TG-5. These are a great solution for quick jump-settings to spend less time in the menu.

The Olympus TG-6 still has Pro Capture mode

for buffering images and capturing the action from before you hit the shutter button, but as cool as this is, only works underwater when shooting stills with a video light. It's a nice feature but likely one that won't be used often.

There's also the new digital teleconverter for enhanced zoom. Digital teleconverters are not optical, so whatever zoom bonus that is gained is done through cropping, not actual optical zooming. The same effect can be achieved during editing.

### Underwater Housing PT-059

The new housing is the Olympus PT-059, and as far as we can tell the differences between the previous housing are cosmetic only, with a frosted back instead of the clear back on the previous model.

From our testing, it's cross-compatible with the Olympus TG-5 and Olympus TG-6. We've put a Olympus TG-6 in Olympus PT-058 housings and



*The Olympus TG-6 can shoot great wide angle shots with a wide angle accessory lens such as the Backscatter M52 Wide Angle Lens.*  
**Olympus TG-6 | 1/30 | ISO 250 | f8**

vice versa, and so far have not found any control issues on these Olympus housings.

Even though the camera body itself is still waterproof to 50 feet, it is still preferable to use the housing any time the camera is in the water. The wear and tear and extra layer of leak protection is the obvious main benefit, but the true advantage of the housing is that it acts as a platform for the accessories we need to really make the most out of this system underwater.

The 52mm threads on the front of the housing are what we need to install wide angle accessory optics, like the Backscatter M52 Wide Angle Lens and Backscatter M52 Wide Angle Air Lens.

The other major benefit of keeping the camera body dry is that you are also a lot less likely to experience fogging in the housing on a dive. If there is any moisture trapped on the camera body behind

a button or in a little crevice, it can create fogging in the housing at depth so keep it in the housing any time you plan to get it wet and avoid that risk.

## Conclusions - The Best Tough Camera Yet

The Olympus TG-5 made major leaps forward in image quality and performance over previous models, and all of these great improvements carry over to the Olympus TG-6. Think of it as everything the Olympus TG-5 could do, but with a few more enhancements.

The biggest news with the camera is the revamped menu options that make it much easier to shoot. With the new ability to shoot super macro outside of microscope mode, shoot 4K video outside of video mode, and set a minimum shutter speed, Olympus took away all of our pet peeves regarding the usability of the Olympus TG-5.

The camera can now live in Aperture Priority Mode and do it all. Having control over aperture allows the camera to get darker backgrounds and more depth of field control, and with the minimum shutter speed setting, it can eliminate motion blur for big moving subjects in wide angle.

Minor updates are the new underwater preset modes and white balances that we will test the next time we are in tropical waters, but on the surface, it looks very promising.

With the upgrade in usability, the Olympus TG-6 gets the top spot in our Best Compact Cameras for best overall compact camera. It's hands down lightyears ahead of any other camera for macro, both ease of use and performance, and does a decent job at wide angle.

While it would be great to have direct shutter speed control in manual mode, it's the only miss this camera has. One can still dream of the day.

## Pros

All the same great image quality and pro level features as Olympus TG-5.

Super Macro focusing ability direct from the quick menu means no need for Microscope Mode.

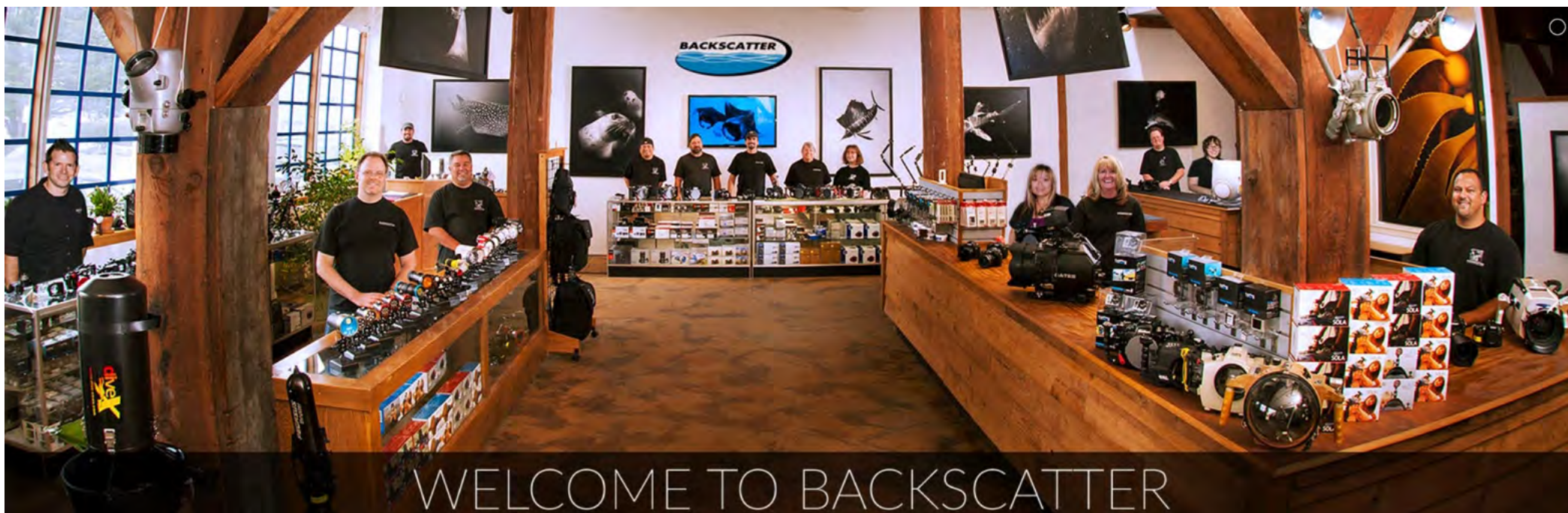
Can shoot 4K macro where Olympus TG-5 could not.

Camera can live in aperture priority and shoot wide, macro, video, and photo with no reason to change modes.

## Cons

After years of begging, still no manual mode.

The Backscatter Team  
[www.backscatter.com](http://www.backscatter.com)



# Baja California

by Franco Banfi & Sabrina Belloni

The look of the Baja California Sur can appear tedious: cactus, desert, rocks, beaches and vice versa. But the underwater side of the coin reveals to be awesome. We came here with the spirit of the traveller, with curiosity, in search of the surprising underwater nature of Sea of Cortez and the wonderland of Pacific' coast shallow waters, and we felt in insane love of this charming destination.

It is a peninsula plenty of contradictions and striking chromatic contrasts, stretched between the mid-cold Pacific Ocean and the quieter Sea of Cortes. Among the parched lands, coloured of ochre, orange, fire red - the mountains of granite and sandstone - the long beaches of white and fine sand, with the shape of a crescent moon. Between the endless rows of columnar cactus and the long ribbon of asphalt, the Carretera Transpeninsular -that joints Tijuana, in the northern side of the peninsula, to Cabo San Lucas, in the south- going zigzag from one coast to the other side and crossing the desert canyons and the sierras.

The Baja is a sensational place, like the character of Mexican people : strong, friendly and smiling. We could not ask for something more.

Don't be distracted and lose your mind into the stories of Ernest Hemingway, thinking to be in the shade of a kiosk on a lofty and sandy beach, drinking Margarita, that is possible anyway.

The Sea of Cortez deserve more passion, it is more intriguing. Basically, it is nearly a primordial soup who feeds a perfect marine food chain and a great variety of marine birds (among them beautiful pelicans and flights of gulls). You will be



*Diver surrounded by shoal of Big-eye jacks (Caranx sexfasciatus).*

*Canon EOS 5DS camera, Isotta housing, Canon EF 8-15mm F4 lens at 15mm. 1/200th sec @ F9. ISO 320. Manual exposure with available light.*

surprised by the quantity and variety of fish thriving everywhere, albeit the dive spots seem to be the natural appendage of the land environment : an endless bare area, rocks, canyons wore away by the marine currents in the granitic blocks emerging from the sandy depth.

Divers who are looking for colourful coral gardens, gorgonians' sea-fans, soft-corals, critters

for macro-photography ... well, they will better go for the polichromy of the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean because the Sea of Cortez Cortes is extraordinary and give great satisfaction to those people who looks for abundance of fish, behaviours and fast actions.



*A diver with a big Gulf grouper (Mycteroperca jordani).  
Canon EOS 5DS camera, Isotta housing, Canon EF 8-15mm F4 lens at 15mm.  
1/125th sec @ F16. ISO 320. Manual exposure with available light.*

## Cabo Pulmo

One of the gem of the Baja California Sur is a true “hot spot” : the Cabo Pulmo reserve is considered to be one of the most successful marine protected areas in the world and is part of the Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California, UNESCO World Heritage Site. Since the reserve was established, after imposing a 15-years ban of fishing and other extractive activities, the fish populations biomass has increased more than 460 percent !. Capo Pulmo

was once depleted by fishing. In early 2000 there were only medium-sized fishes, but only ten years later it was full of parrotfish, trevally, groupers, snappers, and even sharks.... and their huge sizes reveal there are not youngers, but succeeded in living quite long life.

No other marine reserve in the world has shown such a fish recovery. Factors such as the protection on spawning areas for large predators have been of key importance to the reserve. Local leadership and self-



*Shoal of colorful yellow fish Panamic porkfish (Anisotremus taeniatus).  
Canon EOS 5DS camera, Isotta housing, Canon EF 8-15mm F4 lens at 15mm.  
1/200th sec @ F11. ISO 320. Manual exposure.*

enforcement, led by the determined action of few resident families, have been major factors in the park’s success. Everyone (boat captains, dive masters, etc.) works to enforce the park’s regulations and share surveillance, fauna protection and efforts. They are like vigilantes and more, and demonstrated that when people pull together not only with individual leaders but as a community working together, changes are possible.

Cabo Pulmo National Park is

home to over 6.000 marine species. Enormous groupers, turtles and large schools of jacks are easily found. Tropical fish are bountiful and if you move a bit off the reef, you’ll be pleasantly surprised by garden eels, sticking their head out of the sand to stare at new visitors.



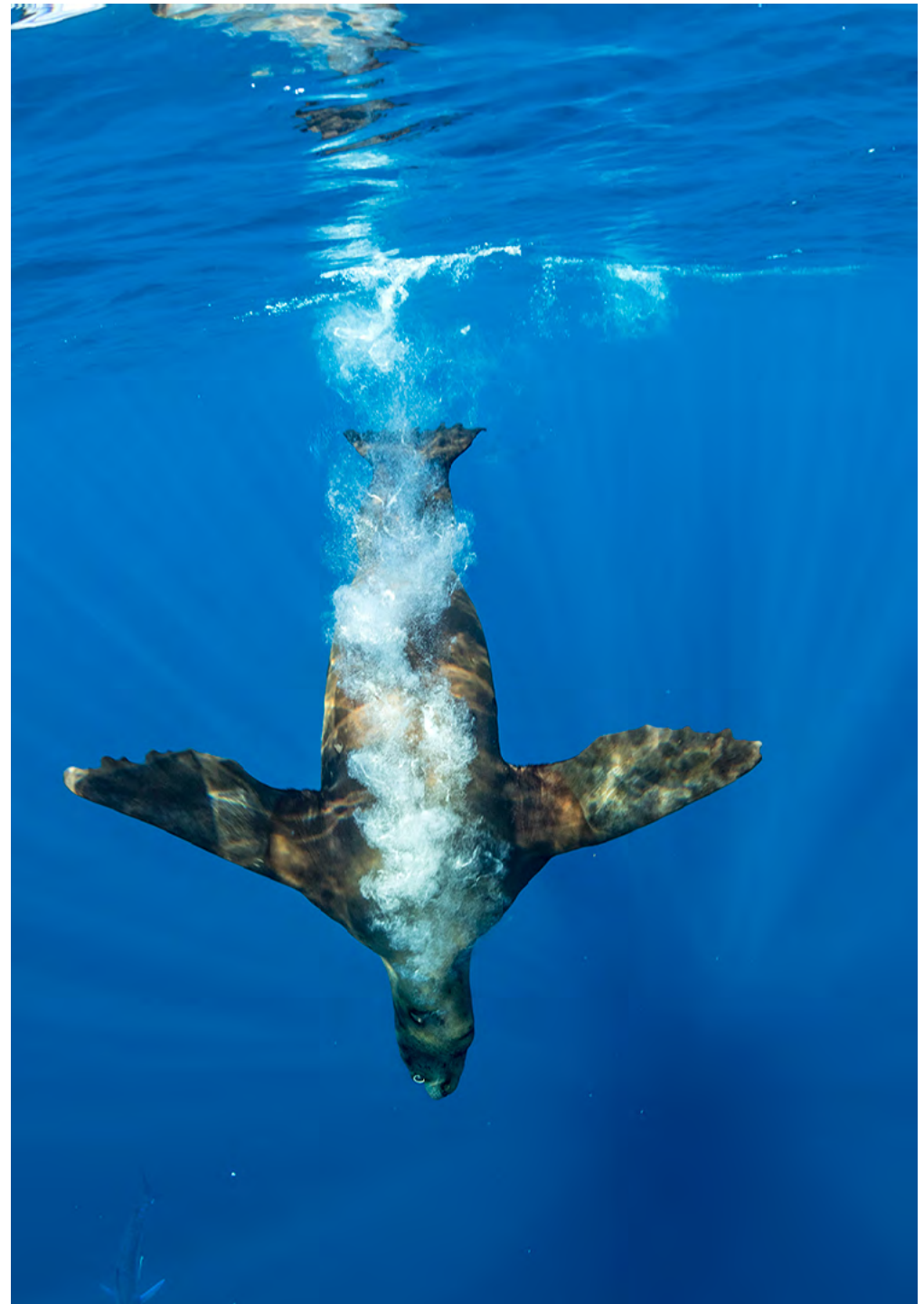
*California sea lion,  
(Zalophus californianus)  
swimming under the  
surface  
Canon EOS 5DS camera,  
Isotta housing, Canon EF  
8-15mm F4 lens at 15mm.  
1/125th sec @ F16. ISO  
320. Manual exposure with  
available light.*

## Espiritu Santo archipelago

Sailing to north, 27 miles from La Paz, after 1 ½ hours from the boarding at Pichilingue, sometimes two hours depending by the conditions of the sea, we reach Los Islotes. Above our heads, the gulls and the frigate birds whirls and plunge into the water looking for the daily meal to carry to their chicks, which are waiting into the nests built on the cliff, into the rifts of the rocks. This spot is made by monoliths of granite with vertical walls bleached by the guano. The southern side is home of a colony of sea-lions, the undoubted stars of the submerged stage. They are about 300 members, lively, vivacious, overwhelming and with endless energy. Dive into three metres of water, into the backwash, around these rocks, it is a sole and personal emotion. It is unavoidable to forget the time and let go completely to the pleasure of staying underwater among the pups of sea-lion (born early in the summer) and the calls of the dominant males. These cute and hyper-curious marine mammals, mostly the cubs and the juveniles, just want to play and to find something, or someone, to whom spend their time. The interaction of the sea-lions with scuba and free-divers are simply incredible.

In a moment we have been surrounded and dazed by the curiosity of these mammals, that seemed to ask us to play, while they were probably enjoying our blunder. They are used at the contact with the persons, because they are steadily studied and controlled by the researchers of the University of La Paz.

*A California Sea Lion  
(Zalophus californianus)  
dive fast to feed on  
sardine's bait ball  
(Sardinops sagax)  
Canon EOS 5DS camera,  
Isotta housing, Canon EF  
8-15mm F4 lens at 15mm.  
1/400th sec @ F11. ISO  
640. Manual exposure with  
available light.*



*A school of Munk's devil ray, pygmy devil ray, (Mobula munkiana), feeding on plankton at night, photographed on a long exposure.  
Canon EOS 5DS camera, Isotta housing, Canon EF 8-15mm F4 lens at 15mm. 1/4 sec @ F4. ISO 360.  
Manual exposure with available light.*

Another highlight of this destination is the encounters with a huge school of mobula munkiana feeding on plankton at night. Plunging or snorkelling in a handful metres of water, we are surrounded by dozens of mobula, attracted by the light of the torchs, which call for aggregation of plankton. The mobulas, mouth full open, are totally disinterested of divers, exhausted bubbles, strobes of underwater's cameras, lights of videographers, etc. and goes on feeding in front of our eyes until the lights are switched off.

Located in the Bay of La Paz, the Espiritu Santo archipelago and the surrounding waters provide habitat for algae, fish, marine mammals, birds and invertebrates, including some species at risk and 38 species of plants and animals that are not found anywhere else in the world.

Nearly 49.000 hectares of the surrounding sea have been declared marine reserve because of their great biological importance.

We suggest to visit this spot several time, because it is possible to do different kinds of dive. Swimming to northeast from the berth and leaving the granitic nose on the left, the sandy bottom slopes down till 25 / 30 mt. Among the blocks we have seen many green morays and groupers, damsel of Cortes, angelfishes and surgeon-fishes. A great school of barracuda performed in the blue, showing a wonderful carousel of silver shapes.



*Franco's lens choice for most of his pictures is a Canon EF 8-15 mm f 4L Fisheye USM  
The fisheye is the most important and powerful lens for underwater photography, for photographers who are addicted to sceneries, large animals, school of fish, wrecks, etc.  
Fisheyes offer the widest angle of coverage of any lenses, allowing us to shoot the largest subjects and scenes through the least water, giving the most colourful and detailed pictures.  
They are fabulous both in crystal clear water and in murky environments. The Canon EF 8-15mm f/4 L Fisheye lens delivers an exceptionally sharp picture underwater and it also focuses to just millimeters in front of the glass, reducing the quantity of particles suspended in the water so reducing backscatter.*

## Pacific Ocean

Driving north and crossing the peninsula towards the Pacific coast, about four hours driving from the city of La Paz, we headed to Magdalena Bay, for epic encounters with one of the more elusive fish in the world : the striped marlin. Striped marlin is a highly migratory pelagic species, broadly distributed throughout tropical, subtropical, and temperate waters, which shows considerable variation in spatial distribution as a consequence of habitat preference.

To document first hand this wonder of nature at its purest form, our choice was to touch bases with the more skilled captain and fisherman of Puerto San Carlos, a man whom wide experience made the difference and who shares a passion for the ocean unlike many we've met. During the months of November and December, 35 miles offshore, the stretch of the Pacific ocean becomes an hotspot for striped marlins actions, as they feed on large bait-balls of sardines on the surface, assaulted by frigate and marine birds' squadrons from the air. If you don't have the right man who spots the right bait-ball, side of which you can safely swim, then the game is over in a blink of an eye.

The bait-balls can disperse, and so will do the marlins ; the surface could be rough and you will never be in the right position to shot the pictures, since the scales of the fishes reflect the sun beams ; you might find yourself too close to the bait-ball, putting you in danger to be injured by the fish. But when everything is perfect, you will see striped marlins working along side sea lions and sometimes sailfish, mahi mahi and tunas, to push the bait-balls to the surface before hunting together is awe inspiring. The action is unreal and hard to really put to words.



*Striped marlin (Tetrapturus audax) feeding on sardine's bait ball (Sardinops sagax) Canon EOS 5DS camera, Isotta housing, Canon EF 8-15mm F4 lens at 15mm. 1/400th sec @ F11. ISO 640. Manual exposure with available light.*





**California Sea Lion (*Zalophus californianus*) and Striped marlin (*Tetrapturus audax*) feeding on sardine's bait ball (*Sardinops sagax*)  
 Canon EOS 5DS camera, Isotta housing, Canon EF 8-15mm F4 lens at 15mm.  
 1/400th sec @ F7. ISO 640. Manual exposure with available light.**

Striped marlin is a surface-dwelling species, and spend the majority of its time in the surface “azul”, crystal clear waters. This room is something that I’ve always been fascinated, together with the most of underwater photographers specialized in wide angles pictures. It is by far the largest aquatic biome in terms of volume. Nevertheless, in comparison to many of the other biomes, it usually seems to be a desert. On the surface, we will never have the guarantee to find subjects and / or we will find

animals that are really wild, fast, shy, hypersensitive. Often we’ll have only one ops to take “The Picture” : a true challenging and thrilling environment that can be tamed with the right team of professional operators.

We are impatient to come back at the beginning of November 2019 and live some days in the purest wild experience the ocean will grant us. Best season : October and November  
 Air companies : KLM and Aeromexico, via Amsterdam and Mexico City



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# Alor, Alor

by Anita Verde

The thing we love about scuba diving is that it takes us to places way off the radar, and our recent trip to the magnificent Alor Archipelago In Indonesia's East Nusa Tenggara province was no exception.

Diving in Alor is like stumbling across a treasure chest with a kaleidoscope of colors and hidden gems that take your breath away. Boasting over 50 dive sites, with an array of marine life, some of which are only found in Alor's waters, this is definitely scuba heaven. The reefs here are exceptionally healthy, tourism is undeveloped with only a few eco operators catering for experienced divers, and the islands here are still inhabited by many of the Flores sub ethnic peoples who still preserve their traditional ways of life.

Renowned for having some of the more difficult diving in Indonesia, the diving here is catered to quite experienced divers. Alor has everything; with rare critters, hammerheads, pristine reefs, pods of dolphins & false killer whales, astonishing visibility and adrenaline pumping currents.

The currents here can be very challenging depending on the moon phase, with some dive sites being

inaccessible during this time. The unpredictability of the currents here means you must be experienced enough to be flexible and nimble with your dive plan. On a single dive it's not uncommon to experience up-currents, down-currents, vertical currents, horizontal currents and the odd 'washing machine'. But don't fear them, as it's these currents that bring a variety of pelagic fish species and keep the reefs in their pristine condition. Strong currents are also present on the surface, so make sure you bring your SMB as there are few boats to find you if you were to drift far from your group.

Water temperatures in Alor range from 26 to 29 degrees, but thermoclines of 20 degrees or less are not uncommon. We dived in a 3 mm full suit with a combination of thermal under layers depending on the dive site.

Most dive operators in the area close from mid December to mid March, so the best time to dive Alor is between April to November. We chose to visit in April and experienced exceptional visibility, clear sunny skies and pleasant evenings.

Many of the dive sites are located near local villages which provides



a wonderful up close encounter into village life. On many dives you are greeted by children swimming or waving from the shore, or local fisherman with their home made goggles and spears. If you're lucky enough, you'll be down on your dive while a local fisherman free dives to depth to check his fishing basket.





Here are a few of our favorite dive sites:

### Bama Wall

This stunning wall is covered in a spectacle of corals with abundant fish life. This is a wide angle photographers dream, but don't neglect the wall itself where you'll find a diverse array of macro life. The wall drops below 40 meters but there's also lots to explore in its shallow waters, so extending your dive time here is worthwhile.

### The Edge

This is a dive we will never forget. The current here can be tough and unpredictable; but as you descend below its initial slope and on to its endless wall you'll find protection amongst unimaginable

species of the most spectacular corals you'll ever see. Vivid enough to burn your retinas! The steep wall appears to be endless, so keep an eye on your dive computer as the sheer beauty of this wall tends to draw you deeper!

### The Jetty

The local jetty at Bajalang doesn't fail to impress. Apparently only five years old, it's pylons are covered in amazing coral growth and numerous varieties of nudibranch, frogfish, ghost pipe fish, shrimps, sea spiders, and crabs. The Jetty also provides a safe habitat for many



species of juvenile fish to grow before they leave the protection of the Jetty for the open ocean. A resident school of very friendly Bat fish provide for some fabulous wide angle photography. An impressive dive site not to be missed.

## Black Sand

This was our first proper muck dive and one of the very few places in the world where you can encounter the famous Rhinopias. Often described as the 'Holy Grail' of underwater photography for muck divers, the Rhinopias top our list of weird and strange critters.

## Yellow corner

Unfortunately the moon phase during our visit meant the diving conditions were not ideal for us to dive this site, but from what we heard from other guests, it is spectacular! If you can manage the sometimes death defying currents the key draw card here are the Scalloped Hammerhead sharks.

## Alor Divers

We stayed at the Alor Divers Eco Resort, one of very few options in the area. The resort itself is nestled delicately amongst the native vegetation on a pristine white sandy beach. Catering to only 16 divers, this place is barefoot luxury at its best.

The resort has a selection of standard and deluxe bungalows. We chose to stay in one of 3 recently built Deluxe Bungalows at the end of the beach.

Exceptionally private, each are tastefully appointed in a traditional style, complete with all the comfort divers need. Proper hangers for drying wetsuits, two desk stations complete with power



boards for assembling and charging your precious underwater camera equipment, a super comfy bed with mosquito net and lovely outdoor bathroom with eco body products.

The bungalows are not air conditioned, but this didn't bother us in the slightest. While the days are warm, the evenings cool to a pleasant temperature for sleeping and the open air design of the Bungalows means the air flows through the building structure keeping you completely comfortable. We slept under the mosquito net with the double sliding doors wide open, allowing ourselves to be immersed in the sounds of the ocean, the light from the moon, and the rising of the sun.

Managed by British/ Dutch couple Rob and Yardena Wareham-de Haan, we felt completely at home the moment we arrived. Both Rob and Dena are very experienced in both managing the resort and guiding guests on the local dive sites. We were less experienced than some of the other divers, but they made us feel instantly comfortable and helped us improve our diving and camera skills during our stay. The stand-out quality of management was how



engaging and fun loving they are. Well travelled and open minded, they had all the guests in stitches with their stories, making it easy for everyone to integrate and enjoy each other's company regardless of country or culture. During our stay we had divers from France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Brazil, Hong Kong and of course us Aussies.



The resorts eco credentials are impressive. Each of the individual buildings are positioned to compliment the natural environment and were built from local materials with natural thatched roofing. The resort was constructed by local people from the nearby villages, and was designed to ensure protection from the heat eliminating the need for air conditioning.

The dive boats are small, efficient and quite and adhere to the strictest emissions standards. Water is supplied from the resorts own underground water reserve, and all waste is either composted or returned to the main island where it is shipped for recycling.

### How to get to Alor

Alor may not be the easiest place to access and facilities here are limited, but that's what makes it so

special.

Alor's Mali Airport is serviced by direct flights from Kupang, which has connections to the major Indonesian cities of Jakarta and Denpasar, Bali. Kupang is only currently serviced domestically, so transiting through Bali or Jakarta is necessary.

While the lack of easy connections and flight cancellations can make traveling a bit arduous depending on where you are coming from, once you arrive and descend beneath the surface you'll soon understand why the journey was worth it. Would we return? Absolutely! When's the next flight!

Anita Verde

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# French Polynesia - Part 2

by Jean Michel Machefert

In the first part of this article published in the issue 108 of UWP we visited the high islands of Polynesia and especially Moorea. Now this is time to discover the low islands known as atoll.

At 350 km north east of Tahiti and after 1h of flight from the airport of Faa'a, we landed in Rangiroa, in the archipelago of the Tuamotu. The Tuamotu Archipelago with 76 atolls is really the place to go for discovering the flat islands of Polynesia.

The atoll of Rangiroa is the second largest atoll of the world (the first one is Kwajalein in the Marshall archipelago) with a length of 200km (the lagoon has a length of 80 km and a width of 32km) and a width of the coral ring always less than 300m.

The volcano at the origin of Rangiroa is aged from 61 to 65 millions of years and it is now fully eroded and covered by the lagoon with a maximal depth of 35m now. Outside of the atoll the bottom of the sea lies at a depth of 1200m.

The first settlers arrived from the west in Rangiroa around 500 A.D. and they survived by drinking the freshwater coming from the rain and stored in the soil by floating above the denser salt water trapped in the pores

of the coral rocks. The first Europeans in Rangiroa were the Dutch explorers Jacob le Maire and Willem Schouten during their 1615-1616 trip and they called this atoll "Vlieghen Island" (meaning the island of the flies). John Byron, also passed the atoll during his circumnavigation in 1765, named it "the island of the Prince of Wales".

By arriving by plane the light turquoise water of the lagoon surrounded by the dark blue water of the deep ocean and the tiny coral ring in between is really an amazing scenery.

Now this is time for diving and we stay in a "pension de famille" (boarding house) at less than 100m from the Tiputa pass and the Raie Manta diving club owned by Yves Lefevre who arrived in Rangiroa as underwater photographer and diving

*The blue lagoon in Rangiroa from the sky. Nikon D2x, Tamron Tamron 18-200mm at 50 mm, 1/750, f11, ISO 200*

*Shoal of yellow fishes outside of the barrier in Rangiroa. Nikon D2x, housing Aquatica, Nikkor 10,5mm, 1/125, f9, ISO 200, 2 strobes nikon Sb 910, Patima housings, 1/2 and 1/4 power*



instructor in 1985 and who worked with JY Cousteau during his trip in 1987, Luc Besson (on Atlantis), National Geographic and many others...

So where are we diving?

Most of the time we will go for a drift dive in the Tiputa pass is located in the northwest part of the Rangiroa lagoon (there is also second pass in Rangiroa named Avatoru pass). It is now supposed by the geologists that the passes have been built by the erosion of the reef barrier at the place of former rivers coming from the volcano at the time it was a mountain over the surface of the sea. After the disappearance of the volcano the flow continued to erode the channel dig in the reef and the coral never succeed to fill the pass.

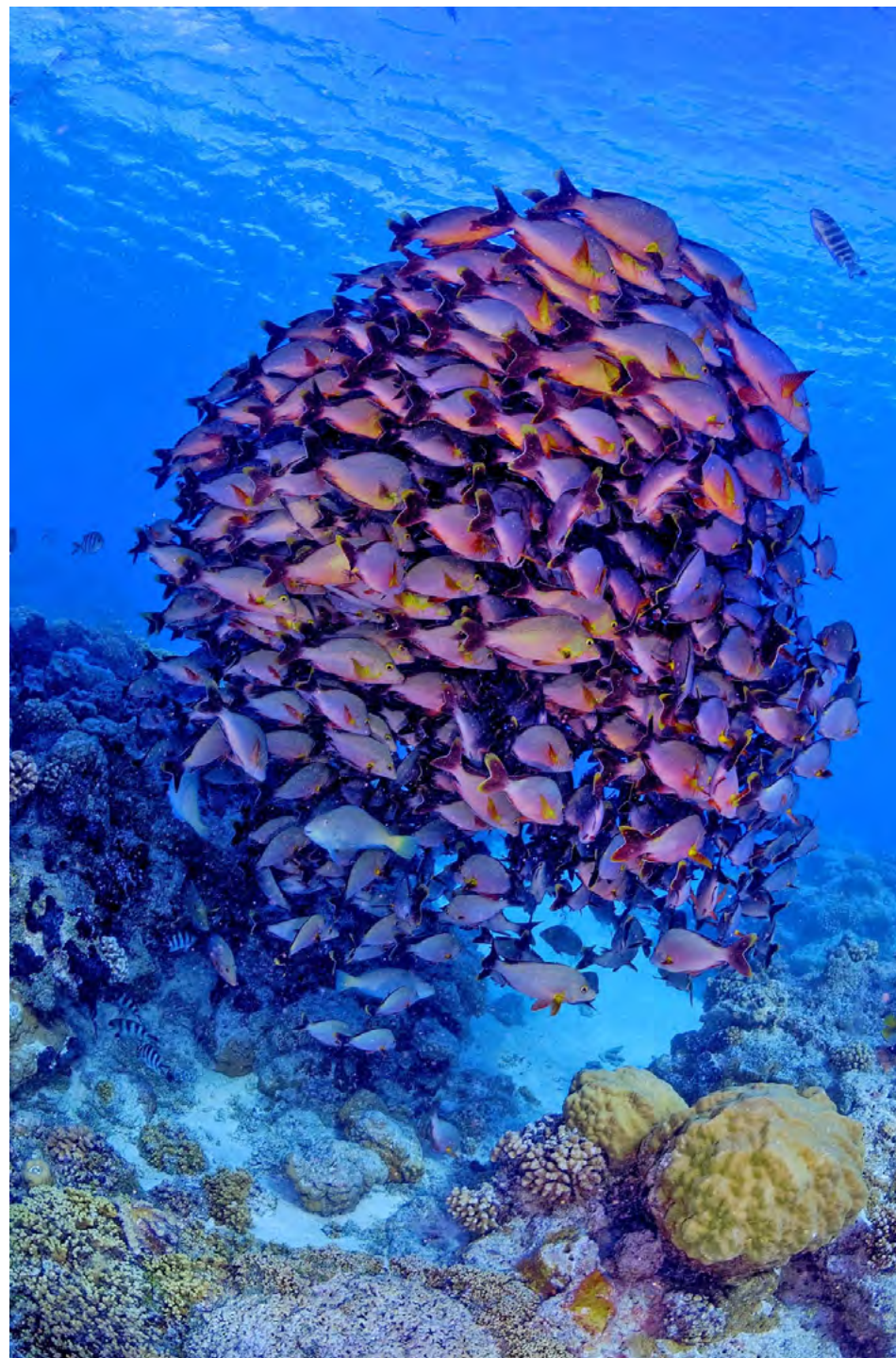


Why in the pass and not close to the reef or in the lagoon as we did in Moorea?

With a width of 300m the pass is always traversed by fast currents and they act as “marine life concentrators” since the pass is the only big communication way between the lagoon and the ocean and the majority of marine species must go through the pass in order to move from one place to the other. Some other small and shallow channels named Hoa also exist between the lagoon and the ocean but they are at the top of the reef, very shallow and not always submerged. The Hoa are

*White tip shark in the pass in Tikehau, Nikon D2x, housing Aquatica, Nikkor 10,5mm, 1/ 160, f9 , ISO200 , 2 strobes nikon Sb 910, Patima housings, 1/2 and 1/4 power*

*Shoal of snappers inside the lagoon of Rangiroa . Nikon D2x, housing Aquatica, Nikkor 10,5mm, 1/ 160, f11 , ISO 200 , 2 strobes nikon Sb 910, Patima housings, 1/2 and 1/4 power*



still important for the circulation of the marine life, but by far less than the passes.

In the Tiputa pass the dives are more demanding than in Moorea since the depth on the step outside of the pass is more than 50m and the current either entering or outgoing is very strong and the diving team need to stay together in order to be safe. Basically the dives begin more or less always at the same location at little bit outside of the reef in front of the pass but then all the dives are every time fully different. The only certainty is that the dives are always amazing!

As soon as we enter into the water the blue is everywhere! The place for dropping the diving team was choose carefully by Yves Lefevre and by Maco (very important, Maco is native from Tiputa and he is the pilot of the boat with an extensive knowledge of the currents in the pass and the habits of the fauna) and all the dive is depending on the right choice of the dropping location.

In case of entering flow, we need to wait a little bit in front of the pass for encountering the big animals. Almost every time hundreds of grey sharks are living on the step just in front of the pass but also this is the perfect place for encountering many dolphins, mantas and eagle rays, shoal of barracudas, white tip shark and even sometimes tiger sharks. In January the great hammerhead shark is also near the Tiputa pass and frequently shown.

After 10 to 20 minutes at depth from surface down to 40-50m we follow then the flow entering into the pass... we are now in a traveling movie over the bare bottom of the pass looking at hunting sharks or rays or humphead wrasse (Napoleon fish). Without many effort for swimming after 10 minutes we are at more than 1000 m from the dropping point (the bottom of the pass is perfectly adapted to the



deco profile!) in the lagoon for the last deco stop in 6 or 3m. We are in the middle of an aquarium with plenty of fishes full of colours, huge moray at cleaning station and shoal of snappers shaped like spherical ball...

In the case of outgoing flow as soon as we enter into water we then swim into the direction of the outer side of the reef and spend the dive along the wall of the pass covered by hard coral and taking the benefit of the back eddy. In such dive

*(Top left) Remora in Tikehau Nikon D2x, housing Aquatica, Nikkor 10,5mm, 1/ 125, f14 , ISO 200 , 2 x Nikon Sb 910, Patima housings, 1/2 and 1/4 power (Above) Friendly Remora. Nikon D2x, housing Aquatica, Nikkor 10,5mm, 1/ 125, f14 , ISO 200 , 2 x Nikon Sb 910, Patima housings, 1/2 and 1/4 power (Above left) Shoals of fishes on the reef barrier in Tikehau Nikon D2x, housing Aquatica, Nikkor 10,5mm, 1/ 160, f13 , ISO 200 , 2 strobes Nikon Sb 910, Patima housings, 1/2 and 1/4 power*



*Moray in the lagoon of Rangiroa . Nikon D2x, housing Aquatica, Nikkor 10,5mm, 1/ 125, f10 , ISO 200, 2 strobes nikon Sb 910, Patima housings, ½ and ¼ power*

this is always possible to see some big animals, but more frequently we observe shoal of fishes, turtles, triggerfishes... beautiful!

After Rangiroa a small jump of 20 minutes by plane and we land in Tikehau. Tikehau is an atoll known to be (as J Y Cousteau said) the atoll with the richest marine life in the south pacific. The first European in Tikehau was the german-russian explorer Otto von Kotzebue who landed the 25th April 1816 and named the place Krusenstern island.

Tikehau is much smaller than Rangiroa with a lagoon having a length of 27km and a width of 19km. Tikehau is a really a small

and quiet place, we can visit thanks to the bicycles lent by the “pensions de famille” (boarding houses). No disturbance here with only 2 shops, a post office (without cash machine!) and no restaurant, no bar and not a lot of cars on the only road. The sunset in Tikehau is also beautiful with the sun going down with an orange-pink colour over the blue lagoon and the incredible pink sand covering the beaches in Tikehau ( also named the island with the pink sands).

For entering into the lagoon there is only a single pass named Tuheiava and as in Rangiroa we will also dive in the pass and the surroundings with the Raie Manta club also created by



*Group of dolphin out side of the reef in Rangiroa. Nikon D2x, housing Aquatica, Nikkor 10.5mm, 1/100, f9 , ISO 200 , 2 strobes nikon Sb 910, Patima housings, ½ and ¼ power*

Yves Lefevre and now the diving club is managed by Stéphanie and Robert.

The dives in Tikehau are different from those in Rangiroa since the pass is much smaller and shallower and the flow is also weaker. As soon as we enter into water there are plenty of shoals of fishes (mainly snappers) with every time several hundreds of specimens moving together with a perfect synchronisation. Sometimes it looks like flows of fishes following the slopes on the bottom of the sea. Really amazing and for sure J Y Cousteau was right! Also many turtles and a lot of coloured fishes leave on the bottom covered by bushes of hard coral. One

mention for the remora. In Tikehau they are really friendly and they love to be driven for free by the divers and many times you can see some of them bonded on the tanks and even better directly on the suits.

But this is not the only show. We still are in or just in front of a pass and the sharks are also interested by the fishes and since the space in the pass is narrower and the depth shallower than in Rangiroa. Hence the sharks are coming very close to the divers without feeding and we had the chance to dive close to a big white tip shark and the cherry on the cake a big hammerhead shark came slowly between us at the right

*Detail of the reef in Tikehau, Nikon D2x, housing Aquatica, Nikkor 10,5mm, 1/ 160, f11 , ISO 200 , 2 strobes nikon Sb 910, Patima housings, 1/8 and 1/4 power*



distance for a nice observation and of course a picture. Really a unique and unforgettable dive.

What to conclude? all the islands are fully different and almost unique. Each location we visited was beautiful either under the sea and on the land with nice and friendly people always having solutions for the daily problems tourists could have. Here everything seems to be easy and smooth.

So after being in the French Polynesia we have only one question: when will we be back ? and we hope that the answer is: as soon as possible !



*Jean Michel with a Hei Matau hook!  
Picture Marie Machefert*

*Jean Michel began to dive in caves, lakes and the oceans in 1987. He started underwater photography in 1992 using a Nikonos IV. After many years with a Nikon D70 he now uses a Nikon D2x in an Aquatica housing with 2 Nikon SB910 strobes in Patima housing.*

**Jean Michel Machefert**  
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# Socorro

by Michel Braunstein

Islas de la Revillagigedo, better known as Socorro, is a small archipelago in the Pacific Ocean, South West of the Baja California region in Mexico. The archipelago includes four islands called Sorocco, even though this is actually the name of one of the islands..

The San Benedicto, Roca Partida and Socorro islands are generally accessed during the regular live aboard trips (9-10 days), which the remote Clarion island is only reached during the 12-15-day live-aboards.

Many pelagic species can be found in the area, including all kinds of sharks like silver tips, white tips, black tips, hammerheads, tiger sharks, whale sharks and even rarely the great whites. You can also find all kinds of huge fishes or fish shoals, dolphins, false killer whales, and many more.

The huge manta rays are probably the most impressive and the most elegant of all species in that area and they are well integrated.

The last time I was as excited and didn't know what direction to look as the mantas were coming literally from everywhere, was in Yap, Micronesia and a bit in the Maldives. What makes the manta diving



experience so different between Yap, the Maldives, and Socorro, is the actual size of the mantas themselves. In Socorro, they are HUGE!!! The mantas are all 5 to 6 meters wide, double the size of the species in the far eastern destinations!! Meeting the mantas at the El Boiler dive site located in San Benedicto was

so intense and pleasurable, we can almost call it an orgy.

The fact that they keep very close to the divers and seem to like so much to “fly” over our bubbles is quite funny. Even though the mantas look like they are swimming away, there is no need to catch up with them, as they are coming back.

Here, you can find two types of mantas. The first type is the black manta, which, as its names tells it, is completely black on the upper and lower sides, with only a few white traces on the belly. The second type is called “chevron”; it is white on the lower side and black with some artistic design on the upper side.



We had the opportunity to encounter bottlenose dolphins on a few occasions, mainly during the first morning dives; then, they leave to the open sea. At times they come back, like on the Socorro island, and you can see them again during a later dive. What can possibly make a diver happier than meeting some joyful dolphins in the wild? Our divemasters told us stories about dolphins imitating them by standing in front of them, very much like the divers stand at the safety stop for example. In other cases, the dolphins are doing some movements and they wait for the diver to do the same... I did not have the chance to witness that but the dolphins

I saw came to greet us quickly. However, I had the great opportunity to witness an amazing scene of three dolphins performing a synchronized dive while a manta ray was swimming in their background. What a delight! As a photographer, spotting that kind of scene from a safety stop, much too far to take a proper picture of that beautiful scene, made me a bit nervous!!

Sharks are fully present all over the islands. Silver tips can be found in large quantities at the cleaning stations and so are white tips.

In many places in Roca Partida, white tips can be spotted resting in groups, laying on top of each other.

We also saw hammerheads, usually when diving into the blue. Socorro does not have the same breathtaking wallpaper view featuring many dozens of hammerheads, like you can enjoy in the Cocos Islands, Malpelo, the Galapagos Northern Islands, or Wolf and Darwin, but there are still quite a bit of them. Hammerheads are mostly swimming alone and sometimes you can see them in groups of two or three; if you are lucky enough, you can see pods of 10-15 hammerheads.

The Galapagos sharks are quite large and widespread.

Silky sharks will sometimes swim along with you all the way back

to your safety stops. They migrate during the end of May and June, sometimes in groups of about one hundred. A few years ago, a pod of over one thousand was spotted in Roca Partida.

We had the chance to spot six different species of sharks swimming together in the “El Canyon” dive spot cleaning station, in San Benedicto. This raised our adrenaline so high.

BTW, our first dive day was in El Canyon and was rather uneventful. However, when we came back, our last dive day was full of action; there were lots of sharks, mantas, and dolphins. It was super-exciting! Real hardcore!!



Whale sharks and tiger sharks are supposed to live in the region, but I didn't see any during my trip. The great white was seen on rare occasions.

During the season, it's possible to spot the humpback whales' migration. They stop around Roca Partida to rest for 2-3 months (between January to March) during their migration to Hawaii.

Besides the pelagic fishes and other turtles, you can find some beautiful reef fishes in the archipelago, especially in the Socorro hike dive spots. There is also some amazing micro life, even into the blue. Honestly, you should not have to travel to see these while you have so many amazing big animals swimming around.

Dives can be quite eventful and have lots of currents; that's always a good thing as these types of dives bring about a lot of life and action.

From your dive ship, you embark on a panga (Zodiac) that brings you from and to and from the dive spots.

Because of the intensive diving schedule and great depths (4 dives a day at 30 meters), it is best to dive with Nitrox, to avoid decompression stops.

The sun is always very present, even if sometimes hidden by clouds. If you have a nice shiny head, like I do, make sure to protect it with

a hood or another type of hat while you are on your way to and from the dive. The sun won't be forgiving if you forget to protect your head and it will burn it real hard... of course this advice is not only true for the head.

Live-aboards leave either from La Paz, San Jose del Cabo, or Cabo San Lucas, in the Baja California region, Mexico.

My trip was scheduled kind of last minute because I had to travel to the region; so I thought it was a good idea to plan this dream adventure and add it to my trip. First, I checked with the Nautilus Fleet, which is great, but I could not book with them since they had no space available for the dates I was able to join. Then, I checked with the equally amazing Solmar V; they were very responsive, accurate, and professional; I was fortunate to be able to book with them.

The trip did not start as well as it could have. A short time before leaving my hotel in Cabo San Lucas to the Solmar V at the marina, I got an urgent message inviting me to a meeting at the Hotel Bahia. There, we met with Jorge Hauser, Pelagic Fleet's (Solmar V) CEO, who told us that one of the boat's engines was defective that it would take a few days to repair, and therefore we wouldn't be



able leave as planned. However, another boat, the "Southern Sport", was promptly set up to leave two days later with the entire Solmar team. The Solmar V company really dealt with this unpleasant situation quite gracefully; they paid for all the expenses due to flights and hotels modifications and cancelations. They even offered all the participants a free voucher for a future trip to Socorro or Guadalupe. Shit happens, but they handled it all with the greatest care. Chapeau for the amazing and speedy organization.

So, we began our trip with two days delay, but who cares, when you come back with so many beautiful experiences and pictures in your



head. I was also amazed by the professionalism and the devotion of each member of the team, Nacho, Daniel, Hex, Andres, Crazy Luis, Paloma, the amazing cook....

The crossing from the continent to the Socorro Islands takes slightly over 24 hours on a sea that is not always the quietest. Even if you're not used to being sea-sick, you can still feel nauseous; make sure you bring along some motion sickness meds, just in case.

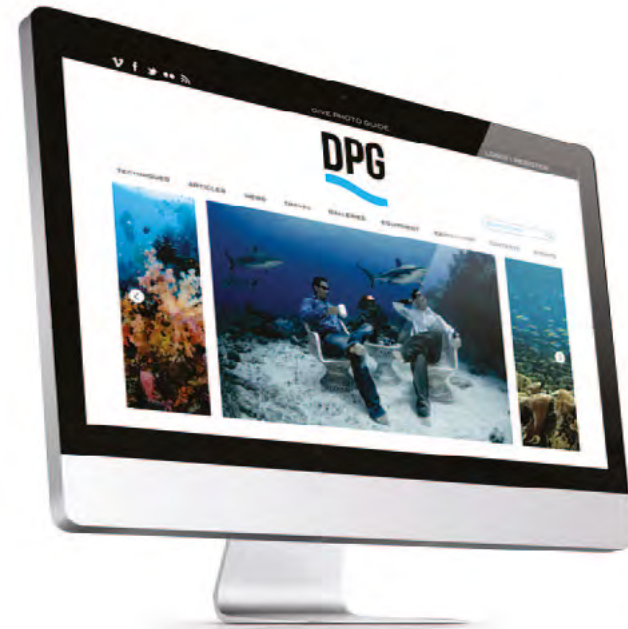
At first, I thought that there would be many Americans onboard, but there was only Liah, a cute young lady who had just finished college and who was the most amazing underwater model. There was also

a super cool group of Mexicans, all under 30, with whom I had the best time both onboard and below the surface.

So, if after this article, you are still not convinced, you should go and see by yourself and book your trip to Socorro; let me just add that, holy guacamole... Mexican food is so damn tasty, probably among the tastiest in the world (the competition is hard!)...and when you eat Paloma's meals, you will forget all about your diets while onboard. That was sooooo yummmmmmyyyy mhhhhhhhhh delicious!!!!

**Michel Braunstein**

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Journey with us to the hottest dive destinations on the planet and learn better technique from the most talented image makers in the scubaverse

# Guidelines for contributors

The response to UwP has been nothing short of fantastic. We are looking for interesting, well illustrated articles about underwater photography. We are looking for work from existing names but would also like to discover some of the new talent out there and that could be you! UwP is the perfect publication for you to increase your profile in the underwater photography community.

The type of articles we're looking for fall into five main categories:

**Uw photo techniques** - Balanced light, composition, etc

**Locations** - Photo friendly dive sites, countries or liveaboards,

**Subjects** -, Anything from whale sharks to nudibranchs in full detail

**Equipment reviews** - Detailed appraisals of the latest equipment

**Personalities** - Interviews/features about leading underwater photographers

**If you have an idea for an article,  
contact me first before putting pen to paper.**

**[E mail peter@uwpmag.com](mailto:peter@uwpmag.com)**

## How to submit articles

**To keep UwP simple and financially viable, we can only accept submissions by e mail and they need to be done in the following way:**

1. The text should be saved as a TEXT file and attached to the e mail

2. Images must be attached to the e mail and they need to be 150dpi

Size - Maximum length 20cm i.e. horizontal pictures would be 20 cm wide and verticals would be 20cm high.

File type - Save your image as a JPG file and set the compression to "Medium" quality. This should result in images no larger than about 120k which can be transmitted quickly. If we want larger sizes we will contact you.

3. Captions - **Each and every image MUST have full photographic details** including camera, housing, lens, lighting, film, aperture, shutter speed and exposure mode. These must also be copied and pasted into the body of the e mail.

# Parting Shot

I work as a Chief Officer in merchant vessels and I have had time to reflect on some beautiful dives in Egypt whilst on voyage.

It was November; I had returned from a long contract and I had the need to go diving as it was winter in Greece, I joined a friend's group heading to Egypt to dive the Deep South route, so here we are in the familiar Golden Dolphin 3!

As always the group was great and together with the friendly and always ready to help crew of Golden Dolphin 3 the week was promising!

During the week we had some great diving around Fury Shoal and St John's reefs. The dives had it all; the colorful reefs of the Red Sea, plentiful sea life and of course the famous coral caverns.

I had with me my new Canon 7D MKII and I was enthusiastic to use it underwater for the first time, a good thing was that my dive body had also a camera so we were in the same page in terms of making relax dives taking our time to photograph and not worrying about staying behind the rest.

I made some good photos that I was happy with, but I was waiting anxiously for the snorkeling with spinner dolphins at Sataya reef if I

remember the name correctly.

So here we are on the 5th day of our trip, we did two nice reef dives, we rested and then approached the reef where the dolphins should be. The crew went with the Zodiac to check if there was any there. I prepared my camera and I was trying to wait calmly, all the people on the boat was super excited waiting for the opportunity to see and swim close to those magnificent creatures.

Finally the Zodiac came back with good news, a big group of spinner dolphins was on the reef! I was so excited that I grabbed my camera and got in the first Zodiac.

As we approached the site I was like, what the.... Dozens of Zodiacs from other livaboards and day boats were there! And as you can guess too many people in the water! As we jumped in I saw my first dolphin; I didn't even think of taking a picture I stayed still just feeling so happy and blessed to see such a beautiful creature.

The thinking was that with so many people in the water and the Zodiacs going round to pick up divers, The dolphins most of the time did a pass and then disappeared and in the first photos I manage to make there were many people in them.



Finally me and 2-3 others from our group found ourselves further away from the crowd and there was a big group of dolphins with their young. They let us approach and they seemed to be interesting in us. It was then that I made my favourite picture of the trip when a dolphin approached me to investigate.

Overall it was a great trip and I was pleased that I had the opportunity

to see and photograph my first dolphins, but I was wondering if our "intrusion" to their home was overwhelming for them.

*Canon 7D MKII with Tokina 10-17 and Ikelite housing, Iso 100, F: 5.6, Shutter speed : 500, WB set to Cloudy*

**Stamatis Skordas**

[www.instagram.com/stamatisskordas](http://www.instagram.com/stamatisskordas)

**Do you have a shot which has a story within a story?  
If so e mail it with up to 500 words of text  
and yours could be the next Parting Shot.**

[peter@uwpmag.com](mailto:peter@uwpmag.com)