

News, Travel & Events



Underwater Photographer of the Year Competition 2019 is now open for entries

Entrants have until 4th January 2019 (midnight GMT) to enter their images into the world's premier underwater photography competition.

Judging takes place on 6th - 8th January 2019 and every single image entered will be seen at least twice by our panel of judges.

To honour our commitment to the continuous development of the UPY competition we've added two new categories and one new award.

British Waters 'Living Together'

sponsored by the Crown Estate
www.thecrownestate.co.uk

This is a new category for the 2019 competition and is sponsored by The Crown Estate.

The Crown Estate play a

role in managing activities on the seabed around England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and wanted to create a category that showcases the co-existence of nature and human activities on the UK seabed.

We are happy for photographers to interpret the Living Together theme in a broad fashion in the first year of this new category.

We are looking for strong, striking images (both macro and wide angle) that show the value of natural and/or man-made habitats in British Seas, particularly offshore renewables. Open to all.

Marine Conservation Photographer of the Year

Marine Conservation
Photographer of the Year: (new for

2019) is open to both underwater and "above water" photos. Open to all photographers (even those who are not underwater photographers).

This category has a separate entry system. This is a single image category and photographers may enter up to 5 images. Photos can be taken underwater or above the water but must highlight a marine conservation story (both positive and negative stories are eligible). Freshwater themed images are not allowed.

Images will be judged without captions (but entrants can assume that the judges will be aware of most major marine conservation topics). The winning images will, however, be displayed with a full caption.

2019 is a trial year for this category. Therefore it is free to enter and there is no prize. The winning photographer will be named Marine Conservation Photographer of the Year 2019, and will be promoted alongside the other UPY winners.

Underwater Photography Book of the Year

This category is for underwater photography books first published after 1st January 2017.

Eligible books must contain at least 50 underwater photographs and must be entered by the main photographer/author.

All types of underwater photography (wreck, nature, conservation, studio etc) can be entered and will be judged according to the photographic theme of the book.

The text of the book will only be a minor factor in the judging process and books published in languages other than English are eligible.

Self published books and eBooks are eligible, but they must have an ISBN.

Authors can enter more than one title. At present this category is free to enter and there is no prize, but the winning publication will be named Underwater Photography Book Of The Year 2019, and will be promoted alongside the other UPY winners.

2018 winners

Kirsty Andrews
British Waters Macro 3rd place

"I look forward to Underwater Photographer of the Year entrance day every year; the quality of images is superb and I'm so proud to have had my name on the list for the past two years. I also like poring over the Yearbook to read the judges' reviews and shooting information provided, which inspires and motivates me for next year's shooting projects.

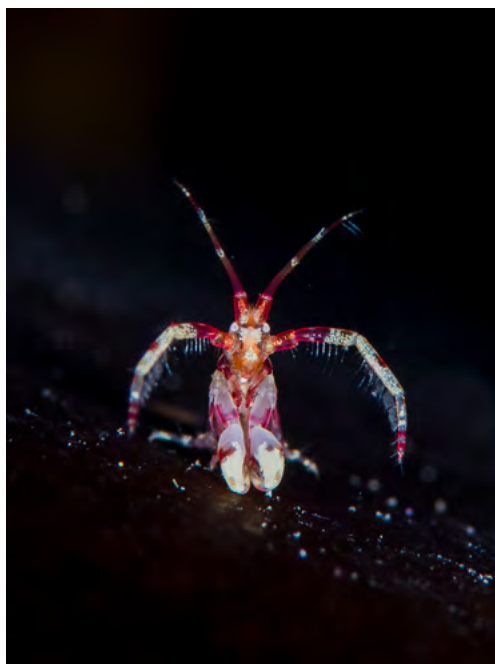
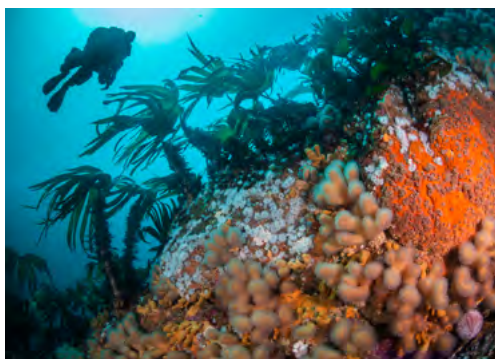
The 'points mean prizes' system

for UPY is clever and means you get to choose a prize that really suits you. In my case it couldn't have been more tailor-made; I was already hoping to spend a week on the liveaboard MV Halton in 2018 so was delighted to win a week's diving for me and a buddy, which I took advantage of almost straight away.

Having done well in the British macro category, it was great to win the opportunity to take more UK shots in some of Scotland's most remote and photogenic sites. A lot of my photography is UK-based and I love to surprise and impress people with the beauty in UK seas. I already knew the diving would be spectacular but my buddy Mae Dorricott hadn't been diving in Scotland before and was blown away by the visibility, colour and life on our trip. We were really lucky.

Bob Anderson, our skipper, is a very talented photographer himself so knows how demanding photographers can be and what will keep us happy! During the week I shot tiny pelagic crustaceans, soaring arches, caverns and sea walls, diving seabirds and a jellyfish explosion in a sea loch. It was a truly memorable trip and a worthy prize for the Underwater Photographer of the Year competition."

www.mvhalton.co.uk



Shane Gross 2018 Macro 'Winner' and Behaviour 'Highly Commended'

"Congratulations to Shane Gross, the winner of Photographer of the year macro division 2018. Shane's eye and lighting skills came together for his stunning backlit image of seahorse shot to represent density at one of his favorite dive sites.

Shane won a dive package for a week at CBR and of course the honor and high esteem of winning in such a competitive category and prestigious



competition.

Well done Shane! from everyone at Crystal Blue Resort."

www.divecbr.com

Sylvie Ayer 2018 Black & White 'Runner Up' and 'Commended', Up & Coming 'Highly Commended'

The 2018 UPY competition saw Sylvie Ayer from Switzerland do very well, with three images being included in the winners circle. What was even more impressive was that this was Sylvie's very first international competition, so to get a 'Highly Commended' in the Up & Coming category was richly deserved, but also be awarded as 'Runner Up' in the open Black & White category was a huge achievement. Sylvie chose the 1500Euro voucher to spend with Siren Fleet to the Philippines.

The photo above is a very happy Sylvie with the crew of the Philippines Siren!



www.sirenfleet.com

www.underwaterphotographeroftheyear.com

www.uwpmag.com



Galapagos with Josef Litt 17 Jan 2020 - 26 Jan 2020

Author, explorer and photographer with a curious mind and a soft spot for life, fish, universe and everything. Josef travelled the world for business and pleasure. Josef is an acknowledged underwater, nature and drone photographer.



“Since I was a little boy, I dreamt of becoming an adventurer shooting movies in the wilderness of Africa and the depth of the ocean. Hitchhiking did not cut it, so I borrowed a camera and took it under water.”

After creating half a dozen of books from trips for his friends and family, he wrote and published GALÁPAGOS, a fantastically received travel guide to the archipelago.

www.scubatravel.com

2018 International Coastal Clean-up (ICC) in Malaysia



On 22nd September, Reef Check Malaysia joined numerous partners across Malaysia to participate in the 32nd International Coastal Clean-up (ICC) Day 2018. Nearly 4,000 volunteers joined the effort, which covered all of Malaysia's states. A star studded cast included Tengku Zatashah from Selangor, YB Yeo Bee Yin, Minister of MESTECC, H.E. Victoria Treadell, British High Commissioner, and celebrities galore.

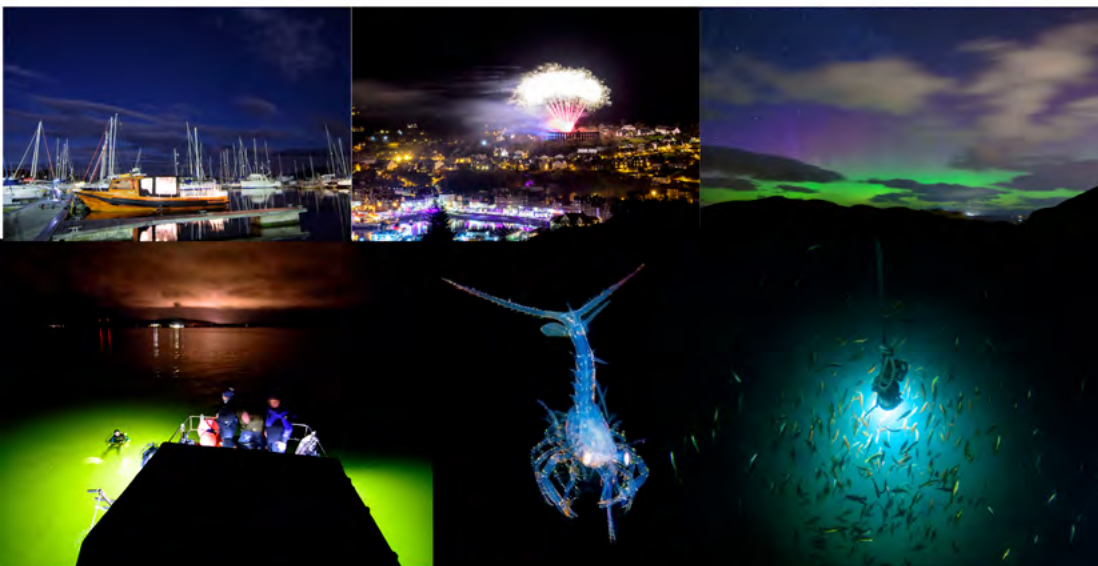
In previous years, RCM has conducted clean-ups and programmes in conjunction with ICC on Tioman and Mantanani Islands, but on a much smaller scale. This year, RCM planned for a clean-up on a much wider scale, in conjunction with the 3rd International Year of the Reef (IYOR) 2018.

RCM's Theresa Ng, who coordinated the event, commented: “The Body Shop is the custodian for

ICC in Malaysia, and we approached them to offer our help to arrange a national-scale event to coincide with IYOR and to gather data for our campaign to reduce marine debris. Teams were self-organising and we provided briefing materials on how to conduct clean-ups and collect data. The effort has been tremendous, and we would like to thank the thousands of people who have taken part”.

The clean-up was conducted at 84 locations around Malaysia. Nearly 7,500 kg of trash was removed from beaches, with the most common items being plastic bottles, cigarette butts and plastic bags.

www.reefcheck.org.my



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Michael Patrick O'Neill school assemblies



Treat your students and staff to an unforgettable elementary / middle / high-school assembly with national author & wildlife photographer Michael Patrick O'Neill!

In the past 14 years, he has visited over 400 schools in 24 states, and his school assemblies are often described as the "best ever." They combine the arts, science, conservation and writing and fit perfectly with school curriculums.

To make sure the entire student body benefits from his visit, Michael has age-specific school assemblies, one for the little guys and girls (K-2; 40 minutes), and one for grades 3 and higher (50-60 minutes). The former is more basic, while the latter is more sophisticated and includes topics such as an in-depth discussion on marine biology, conservation, geography, and writing, among other topics.



He prefers to limit the size of to no more than 200 children, and they should take place in a room where the lights can be turned off so the projected images look their best.

His equipment requirements (provided by the school) include a quality LCD projector, mike and large screen. He brings his own laptop, loaded with his Keynote presentations.

www.mpostock.com

www.uwpmag.com



2019 Raja Ampat with Bluewater Travel's Katie Yonker February 25 - March 8, 2019

The jewel-like islands of Raja Ampat are caressed by a convergence of swift nutrient-rich currents. Here the pulse of marine life thrives from the sea floor to the surface where the kaleidoscope of corals can start in less than a meter of water.

There are sites that are so pristine and packed with growth, that a photographer is hard-pressed to find a spot to place a steadying finger. Exotic sea life and macro critters abound of course, and photo opportunities border on overwhelming.

But at the end of the day, the most memorable moments for us are what can rarely be captured in digital format: the incredible experience of drifting along miles of exquisite reef brimming with hues and activity, the likes of which few have ever experienced.

www.bluewaterdivetravel.com

Tulamben, Bali, Alam Batu Sep 21 - Oct 1, 2019



Tulamben, Bali is well known for its biodiversity. Alam Batu's 800-meter house reef is one of the region's best. Guests often spot pygmy seahorses and larger animals like ocean sunfish and even pilot whales on the same dive.

Short boat rides are available to famous dives sites like The Dropoff, Coral Gardens, and Ulami. Also not far from the resort is the wreck of the Liberty, a U.S. cargo ship torpedoed during World War I, a bucket-list dive site that's among the world's most

famous wreck dives.

Both wide angle and macro shooters will be happy. The region's ecology is complex. More than 3500 different species have been found in the surrounding waters. Iconic critters like the harlequin shrimp, wonderpus, seahorses, frogfish, boxer crabs and various nudibranch are regulars around the resort. Alam Batu's underwater guides are experts at spotting unique photo opportunities.

Small groups of divers ensure excellent images for everyone.

www.backscatter.com/reviews/post/Tulamben-Bali-Alam-Batu-Underwater-Photo-Trip

7th annual Ocean Art Underwater Photo Competition

The Underwater Photography Guide is proud to announce that it is accepting entries for the 7th annual Ocean Art Underwater Photo Competition.

Ocean Art is one of the most prestigious underwater photo competitions in the world. A long list of prizes valued at over \$75,000 also makes it one of the richest, attracting pro to amateur photographers across the globe.

Sixteen categories ensure all photo disciplines and cameras compete fairly, while the 75+ winning images create a portfolio of the best underwater photos of the year.

Ocean Art prizes are provided by almost 30 scuba diving resorts, liveaboard dive yachts, and underwater photo gear manufacturers.

Grand prizes include a choice of an Indonesia liveaboard itinerary on the S.M.Y. Ondina, an Indonesian liveaboard itinerary on the M.Y. Oceanic, a 7 night liveaboard trip to Palau on the Solitude One, a trip aboard the Pelagic Fleet, a 7 night liveaboard trip on the M.V. Bilikili in the Solomon Islands, 7 nights on the Solomon PNG Master, a 7-night package with Villa Markisa, a 9 night



package with Experience Lembeh, and a variety of gift certificates from Bluewater Photo.

Premium travel prizes are provided by Siladen Resort & Spa (Indonesia), Solitude Liveaboards & Resorts (Indonesia), Aiyanar Beach and Dive Resort (Philippines), Atlantis Dive Resort (Philippines), Volivoli Beach Resort (Fiji), Manta Ray Bay Resort (Micronesia), Crystal Blue Dive Resort (Philippines), Spirit of Freedom Liveaboard (Australia), El Galleon Dive Resort/Asia Divers (Philippines), Aquamarine Diving (Indonesia), Atmosphere Resorts (Philippines), Eco Dive Resort (Indonesia), Scuba Cozumel (Mexico), Blackbeard's Cruises – Allstar Liveaboards (Bahamas), and scuba

travel agency Bluewater Travel. Premium gear prizes are provided by Sea & Sea, Think Tank Photo, and Ikelite.

Ocean Art 2018 consists of 16 categories, including a Novice DSLR category, 3 compact camera categories and 3 mirrorless camera categories, giving underwater photographers of all levels a chance to win a great prize. Unique categories include Supermacro, Cold/Temperate Water, and Nudibranchs, while the more traditional categories include Wide-Angle, Macro, Marine Life Portraits and Marine Life Behavior. The Underwater Art category encourages creativity in post-processing.

Winners from each category will be able to rank the prizes they would like to receive, making it more likely that each winner will receive a prize they desire.

Photos must be submitted before the deadline of 23:59PM PST on November 30, 2018.

We look forward to your participation. Information can be found on our Ocean Art Photo Competition page

www.uwphotographyguide.com/ocean-art



NAD-Lembeh Resort is a small, owner-operated, photography-oriented dive resort in the Lembeh Strait.

Situated in a private bay on Lembeh Island, you can enjoy being away from the hustle and bustle of the mainland.

Guaranteed 2:1 guest to guide ratio as standard, which makes for a private dive experience and lots of time to take pictures.

NAD is often the choice of film crews and production companies. We also offer Blackwater Night and Mandarin Fish Dives if you would like to try something different!



NAD
lembeh

North Sulawesi, Indonesia

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Read more at ikelite.com.

