

# Nikon Z7 & Nauticam NA-Z7

## sneek preview

by Phil Rudin

Underwater Photography Magazine has over 8,000 regular readers and they are all underwater Photo and video enthusiasts. No other diving publication can say that, the staff at UWP focuses on bringing our readers the most current and interesting information we can provide to the underwater photo community.

Once a year UWP makes the pilgrimage to The Diving Equipment & Marketing Association Show which is just around the corner and I know you equipment junkies are out there waiting to hear about the latest toys.

From November 14-17 UWP Editor Peter Rowlands and I will once again meet on the floor at the Las Vegas Convention Center to inspect the latest in equipment and training from manufacturers and professionals around the world.

Produced by DEMA, the annual show is the largest trade-only event in the world for companies doing business in the scuba diving, ocean water sports and adventure/dive travel industries.

Within the DEMA show one of the largest and most well attended

areas is the Image Resource Center (IRC) where all of the Photo and video manufacturers display the latest equipment.

Focusing on photo equipment and education a large seating area in the center of the IRC is used for hourly seminars by some of the worlds leading photographers and videographers. If you are planning to attend DEMA 2018 I would encourage you to consult the IRC Guest Speaker schedule and arrive early because the seats will go fast.

New products coming out of the DEMA 2018 show will undoubtedly be featured prominently in 2019 issues of uwpmag.com. One of the most interesting new stories for 2019 will be the competition in what has been broadly referred to as the “Mirrorless Wars”.

Sony has owned the mirrorless “full frame” market for over five years now gaining higher levels of market share and product credibility each year. They now occupy the number



one spot in the 35mm full frame market segment outselling all other mirrorless and DSLR camera bodies.

During the past two or three months other established manufacturers have all announced the intention to take the full frame mirrorless plunge creating the largest transformation in the camera industry since post World War II.

This sudden leap into the mirrorless market with the announcement of the Canon R-mount, Nikon-Z mount and Panasonic-L mount cameras has produced quite a ripple effect across the entire photography community. All three of these new lens mount designs require new native lenses and it is unlikely that the first wave or two of new lenses will be suited to underwater

photography.

A prime example of new lens rollouts is that after five years Sony still doesn't offer a Full frame FE Fisheye lens or Fisheye zoom. Like the first Sony FF mirrorless cameras when they were introduced Canon and Nikon have launched a verity of lens adapters for use with their current full frame DSLR lenses.

One of the advantages of these new camera systems is that current Canon and Nikon DSLR users can move DSLR glass, ports, extensions and more over to a new mirrorless housing system while waiting for new native glass to be introduced. Canon and Nikon have each taken a different approach to the rollout of new full frame mirrorless system.

Nikon was first to announce



two new mirrorless bodies the 24.5MP Z6 for \$2000.00/£2100.00 and the 45.7MP Z7 for \$3400.00/£3400.00. Introductory Kit packages include the body only, the body and optional FTZ DSLR lens adapter and body, adapter and native Z lens or lenses.

Within weeks Canon introduced the EOS R a 30.3MP mirrorless body for \$2300.00/£2350.00 which also offers an optional EF-EOS-R adapter and kit with lens. Nikon offers the Z6 & Z7 kits with a 24-70 F/4 lens and Canon EOS R offers a 24-105 F/4 kit lens package.

Panasonic has taken a different full frame approach entering into a lens mount alliance with Leica and Sigma which extends the current Leica-L lens line rather than introducing a completely new lens mount. This is an approach much like the one taken by Olympus and Panasonic when they first introduced the M4/3 open lens alliance. The open M43 lens platform has allowed dozens of lens manufactures to compete in the M43 space and now hundreds of different lenses are offered.

While the Canon EOS R and Nikon Z bodies



are now available world wide the Panasonic L-mount is still in the development stage with no rollout date or pricing at this time. That may change by the time this article is published but I'm not holding my breath.

Fujifilm has announced its intention to pass on the 35mm full frame segment of the camera market and concentrate on their current APS-C and medium format camera offerings. The Fuji line includes some excellent cameras like the APS-C XH-1 and XT-2 along with the medium format GFX 50S, which are all currently supported for underwater use by Nauticam.

Finally Olympus appears to be sticking to M43ds, not choosing to join the L-mount alliance with Panasonic, Leica and Sigma at this time.

## Nauticam's NA-Z7 Housing

Nauticam USA sent me a demo Nauticam NA-Z7 housing and Nikon Z7 camera prior to its introduction for a short trial run.

The NA-A7 housing is impressive and the

first thing that caught my attention was the large N-120 port mount which offers full support for Nikon Z-mount and F-mount lenses. For Nikon shooters this means that all of their current DSLR lenses can be used with the same Nauticam ports and extensions they already own. This makes the jump into NA-Z7 housing much more cost effective and as Z-mount lenses become available support for those lenses will be integrated into the port system.

The Nauticam NA-Z7's N-120 port mount extends about 25mm from the front of the housing to allow space for the Nikon FTZ DSLR lens adapter with its tripod mount. This means no port adapter will be required between current DSLR ports and the housing. The large N-120 port mount also allows room for oversized lenses like the Nikon AF-S 14-24mm F/2.8 ED with its large fixed hood.

The NA-Z7 housing has very intelligent control placement with a nifty ISO thumb control lever and Z-lens and F-lens levers to install and remove lenses from the front of the housing. Other well thought out controls include the LCD to EVF control switch which is frequently used



on mirrorless camera housings and the well placed in/out zoom control.

The Nikon Z7 Electronic Viewfinder is excellent and looks massive when viewed through one of Nauticam's optional 45 or 180 degree optical viewfinders. The NA-Z7 housing includes Nauticam's preinstalled and independently powered manual flash trigger for use with optically triggered strobes like the Inon Z-330. Nauticam also offers their optional optical TTL converter for Nikon. The Nauticam NA-Z7/Z6 housing retails for \$3450.00/£3190.00.

## Nauticam MWL-1 Macro to Wide Angle Lens

The Nauticam MWL-1 Macro to Wide Angle Lens is also being introduced at DEMA 2018. This lens has been added to Nauticam's excellent lineup of water contact optics which includes the Flagship WACP, WWL-1, SMC-1 & 2, CMC-1 & 2 plus more.

My NA-Z7 test housing included the Nikon Z7 body a Nikon AF-S



*Snowflake Coral, Blue Heron Bridge, Florida, Nauticam NA-Z7 Housing, Nikon Z7, Nikon 60mm F/2.8 macro with FTZ Adapter, Two Inon-330 Strobes, ISO-640, F/22, 1/200th sec*

60mm F/2.8G ED Micro lens with Nikon's FTZ DSLR lens adapter and the N-120 macro port 60. When using the Nikon 60mm macro with the Z7 body the angle of view with the MWL-1 lens is 150 degrees.

This lens can focus all the way to the front lens element, so talk about close focus wide angle. The MWL-1 has a total diameter of only 108mm including the built-in adjustable lens hood and an overall length of 120mm. It weighs 1.20kg in air and 0.58kg in water with a maximum depth rating of 100 meters.

The MWL-1 macro lens can be mounted to Nauticam's current single and dual flip adapters using



the M67 threads or used with the bayonet mount converter and bayonet mounting ring included with the MWL-1.

The MWL-1 includes a neoprene port cover, a rear cap, a fiber cleaning cloth, and the bayonet mounting system which all ship in a neoprene protective storage and transport bag.

Similar to other Nauticam water contact optics the MWL-1 is made from precision ground optical glass with an advanced anti-reflective coating that eliminates glare and internal reflections.

With the addition of the Nauticam MWL-1 wet lens photographers will no longer be



*Blue Heron Bridge, Florida, Nauticam NA-Z7 Housing, Nikon Z7, Nikon 60mm F/2.8 macro with FTZ Adapter, MWL-1, Two Inon-330 Strobes, ISO-640, F/22, 1/200th sec.*

locked into choosing between a macro or wide angle lens for each dive. When paired with the recommended optics like the Nikon 60mm F/2.8G ED macro the MWL-1 will allow you to shoot super wide angle, macro and CFWA all on the same dive. Imagine being able to carry only one lens and one small port on a dive holiday.

Adding one of Nauticam's



*Cushion Sea Star, Blue Heron Bridge, Florida, Nauticam NA-Z7 Housing, Nikon Z7, Nikon 60mm F/2.8 macro with FTZ Adapter, Two Inon-330 Strobes, ISO-640, F/22, 1/200th sec.*

impressive SMC/CMC-1 or SMC/CMC-2 macro accessory lenses can expand the system even further to include super macro while maintaining a compact and light weight system.

With the Olympus and Panasonic 30mm macro lenses the MWL-1 maintains the 150 degree AOV on M43's.

With APS-C sensor cameras and recommended macro lenses most have a 115 degree AOV while compatible compact cameras have a 130 degree AOV. The Sony DSC-RX100 VI has a 150 degree AOV when used with the N-50 short port. The MWL-1 macro to wide angle lens retails for \$1850.00/£1710.00.

## Nauticam SMC-2 Macro Accessory Lens

Nauticam revealed prototypes for the N100 0.36X Wide Angle Converter Port and the SMC-2 4X magnification accessory macro lens at the 2017



*Shot as left plus the Nauticam SMC-2 macro lens*

DEMA show. While both finished products are now available and shipping world wide I can tell you from my own observations that the development of these stellar optics takes a lot of time and design effort.

Nauticam USA sent me a prototype of the WWL-1 water contact optic for testing more than eighteen months before the final product release. The prototype by the way only vaguely resembled the final product when it was released.

Nauticam's SMC-2 four times magnification accessory macro lens is a total breakthrough in water contact optics building on the success of the SMC-1 macro lens. Nauticam's SMC-2 fully addresses the complicated physics involved with designing lenses for in water shooting and the end product has once again raised the bar for Nauticam super macro optics.

The SMC-2 has higher magnification on full frame cameras than any of the other popular super macro optic now available. The SMC-2 also has better edge to edge image quality while maintaining



higher contrast and less color fringing. What also impressed me is the increased working distance between the subject and lens with such a high level of magnification. This is a huge advantage when working close to fragile subject and adds more room for better creative lighting.

Combined with 100 or 105mm macro lenses on full frame cameras like the Nikon Z7 the SMC-2 converts the optical system to increase magnification from 1:1 to around 4:1. The Nauticam SMC-2 is depth rated to 100 meters, weights 0.54kg, retails for \$850.00/£796.00 including the front and rear storage caps, protective neoprene storage bag and a 67mm ring for mounting the lens directly to the macro port.

Contact your local Nauticam retailer for further information or consult the [nauticam.com](http://nauticam.com) web site for further details on all of the Nauticam products listed above.

I trust that in the new year [uwpmag.com](http://uwpmag.com) will be bring more detailed field reviews for these and the many other new products we expect will revealed at DEMA 2018.

**Phil Rudin**





[martinha.org](http://martinha.org)

## WHERE IS MARTINHA?

Martinha is a female common dolphin who was rescued following a stranding in 2007, on the Portuguese coast. She underwent rehabilitation at a local marine wildlife rescue centre. However, she was not released back into the wild and was kept for years in a tiny concrete tank. We are gravely concerned for her welfare, as we do not know where she is currently being held. We are asking "Where is Martinha?"

*[You can help us find her! Sign the petition.](#)*



Martinha's

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MEDIA



PETITION

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