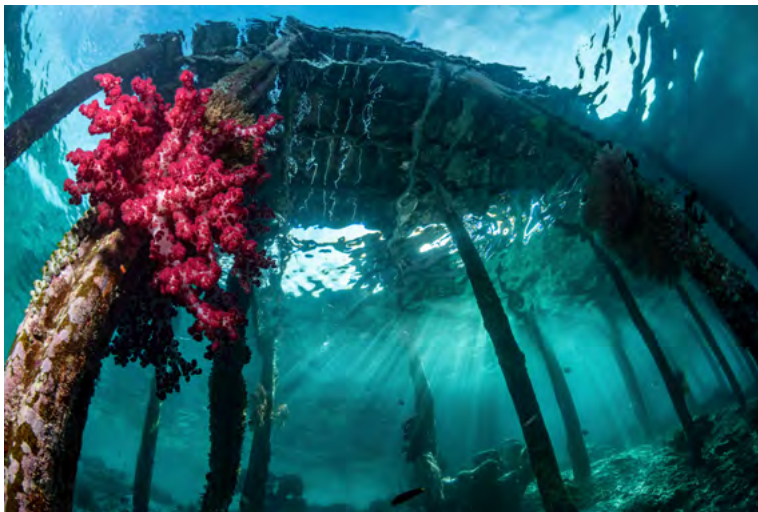


# News, Travel & Events

## 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



Henley Spiers//Dive into the Pink

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



Eduardo Arribada//Dive into the Pink

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

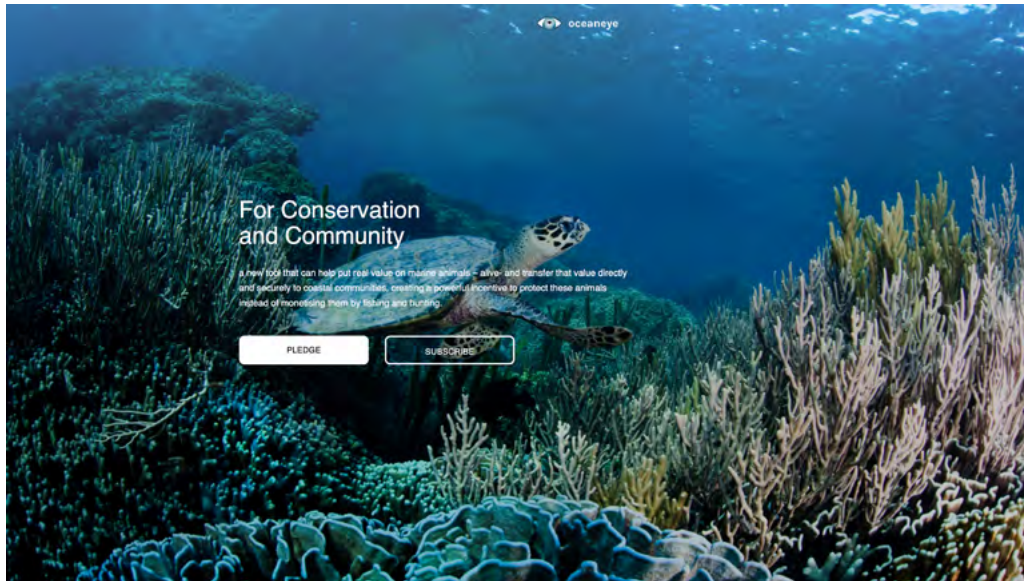
£150 per adult (minimum of 6)

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

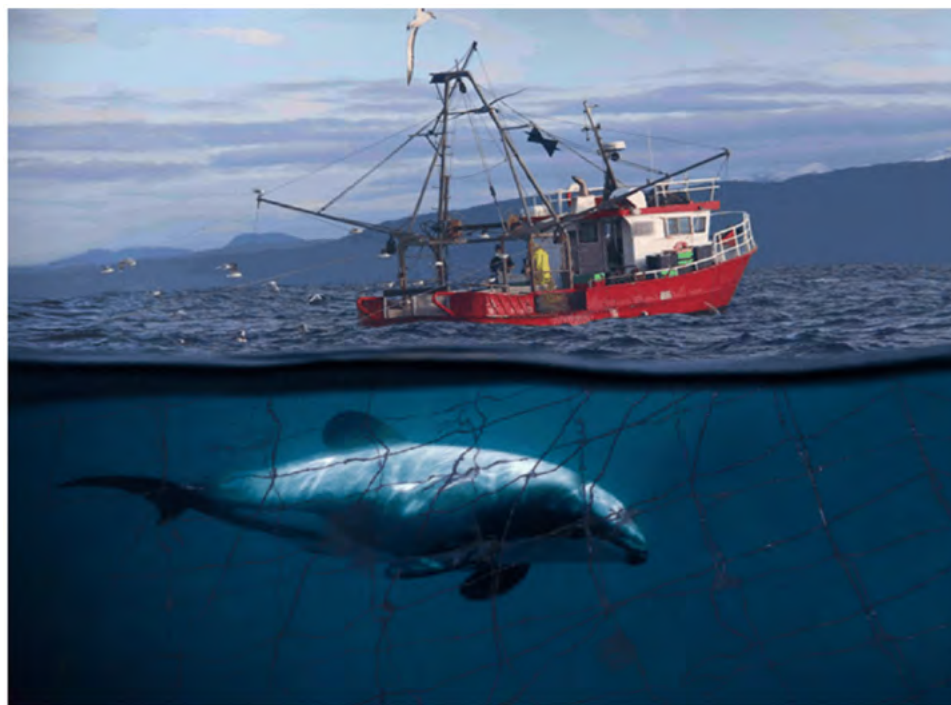
Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, Sea Shepherd New Zealand Ltd., and Sea Shepherd Legal (collectively, Sea Shepherd) refuse to allow New Zealand's Māui dolphin to follow the same tragic path as the vaquita in Mexico. Today, Sea Shepherd took decisive action to defend the Māui dolphin by formally demanding 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)





BASKING SHARK  
SCOTLAND



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

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



- Biggest Numbers & Most Consistent Worldwide Basking Shark Hotspot
- Based in Hebridean Isles
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- 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.

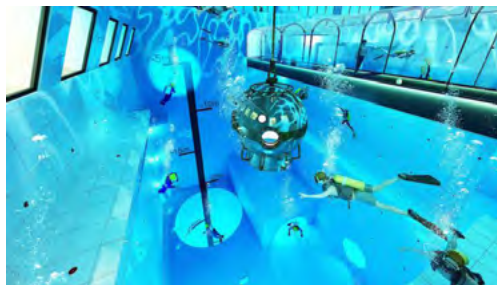
Welcoming the development, Tourism CEO, Josefa 'Jo' Tuamoto underlined the important role a strong, united dive operators' association can play in helping to shape the country's tourism future.

[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.

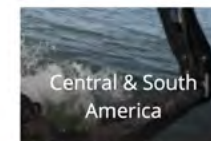
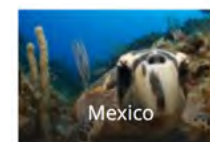
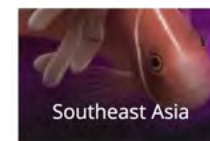
Deepspot won't hold its crown for long, however. The Blue Abyss swimming pool in the English city of Colchester is already poised to snatch the world record with a 50-metre-deep pool, set to open in 2020.

[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.



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

# 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.

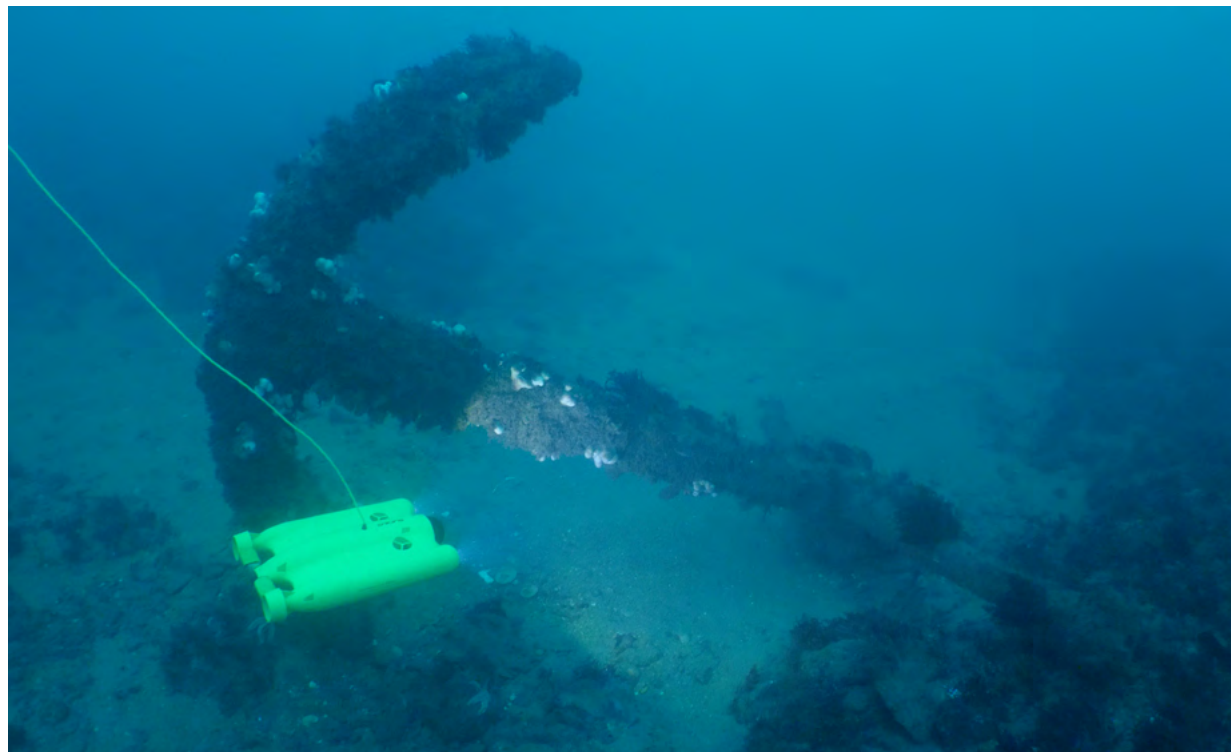
"We are looking forward to seeing new anchor records from every corner of the globe," says NAS CEO Mark Beattie-Edwards. "We want to showcase the amazing range of anchors out there."

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)