

Editorial

UK Tuna and UPY

Believe it or not there was a healthy (?) tuna fishing hub in Scarborough on the east coast of the UK from the 1930's for three decades until the fish numbers dwindled and made it impractical.

The exact cause must surely have been overfishing of tunas food choice so it was a pleasant surprise to read that tuna sightings in the SouthWest part of the English Channel have seen a significant increase in recent years.

The Thunnus UK project is trying to find out as much as they can about why bluefin are back in our waters. Over the next two years, they'll be compiling sightings and mapping their migrations using satellite-communicating electronic tags.

And what's all this got to do with underwater photography? I can already hear you asking; well each year the amazing UPY winners have included images of some subjects which have never been photographed well underwater in UK waters so do see where I'm going?

There have been excellent images of Humpbacks, Orca, sea otters and several more so, wait for it, could be UPY 2021 be the year of the tuna image!?

My backyard (again)

I make no apology for bringing this subject up again for three reasons.

Firstly, as I write, there have been two UK flights which have returned with positive Covid passengers who have gone on to pass it to others upon their return or caused establishments to go back into 14 day isolation.

Secondly the UK government, and other Governments, are announcing overnight that returning passengers must isolate for 14 days as the country they are coming back from has seen a rise in cases. This must cause uncertainty for future travellers.

Fortunately the thirdly is nothing but positive news, for if you follow the link below, you'll see what Basking Shark Scotland clients were privvy to earlier this year. I'll say no more. Just watch it and realise that in our backyard, and every backyard in every country throughout the world there is amazing wildlife to be encountered.

If Covid could claim to have had a positive outcome it will be a renewed appreciation of all that is in our comparatively immediate marine surroundings.

Enjoy.

<https://youtu.be/yxT0uV5vcyw>

UP the past

The inclusion of old issues of Underwater Photography magazine at the end of each issue of UwP has brought a significant amount of feedback and all positive, thankfully.

The most inciteful was the observation "How so much has changed and yet how so little" which I thought hit it on the proverbial button and was right on the nail.

The other detail which may, or of course may not, interest you is that I decided not to scan all 12 issues at once to have them in stock for slotting into future issues; rather I only scan the issue required just prior to the imminent UwP's publication date so that I too can re-savour each issue as it comes out.

One of the downsides of producing UwP is that I know what's in it weeks before you do and I've worked with it for days laying it out but you (hopefully) get a tinge of anticipation when a new issue is available.

And that's just like I was a kid on a Monday morning when the latest Beano and Dandy comics were available in the newsagents :-)

Happy days.

UPY's crunchy bits

One of the good things to come out of Covid is thanks to Laura Storm and Mark Harris and their amazing analysis of the UPY 2020 winning images.

Rather like the UPY Yearbook it will be an invaluable reference tool for those interested in entering future UPY competitions and I can say, but please keep it quiet, that barring any last minute lockdowns (and hopefully no Covid 20), there will be a UPY 2021 and a detailed announcement will be made in the Nov/Dec issue of UwP :-)

The data in Laura and Mark's article is absolutely fascinating, as data always is, but just because vertebrates were far more successful than invertebrates shouldn't mean that you downgrade your invertebrate shots.

Always be aware that at the end of the day, strange as it may sound, it is the image that is judged and not the subject.

Bring it on.

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