

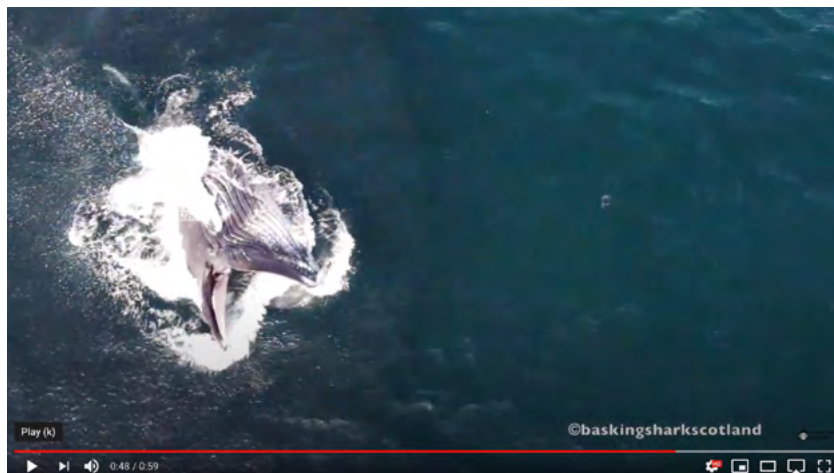
News, Travel & Events

Basking Sharks

2020 has been a very challenging year for us and we wondered whether we would survive as a business. Thankfully the lockdowns eased at the start of our planned peak basking shark season. Operating in the Hebrides, where they local community were largely isolated from Covid, it was a tricky balance with many people reliant on tourism but were very worried about the lack of medical facilities. However with well prepared clients and a number of measures we eased our way into our season and have been going strong since. It has turned out to be our best basking shark season to date with record breaking sightings! Not only have the sharks been great, but there seems to be an explosion of sand eels which in turn have attracted a large number of cetaceans. Our most memorable encounter was spending 6 hours with three humpbacks. Along with dozens on minke whales and common dolphins, they had all corralled a huge bait bait of sand eels which created a feeding frenzy! If you haven't seen the drone footage then check it out here -

<https://youtu.be/yxT0uV5vcyw>

We do undertake a lot of science work alongside our tours and still have some spaces to join us on our autumn research which goes through till October. However due to many reschedules



we are getting busy already with groups booking summer 2021 and 2022.

We still have some dates for individuals joining but we would encourage people to book asap to obtain the remaining spots.

www.baskingsharkscotland.co.uk

Sea Shepherd Attacked in Vaquita Refuge on World Wildlife Day

On the morning of March 3rd, Sea Shepherd crews were confronted by a large group of skiffs fishing illegally inside the Vaquita Refuge, a UNESCO World Heritage Site located in Mexico's Upper Gulf of California.

The incident began at approximately 08:40 AM inside the Vaquita Refuge, a federally protected region that is home to the critically endangered vaquita porpoise. Mexican authorities from the Federal Attorney for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA) and the National Commission of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CONAPESCA) on board the M/V Sharpie asked the fishermen to remove the net from the refuge. The skiffs refused.

Approximately 20-25 skiffs swarmed the Sea Shepherd vessels, throwing rocks, lead weights, and other objects at the conservation ships in an effort to force them to leave the area. Poachers on board one skiff launched a molotov cocktail at the starboard side of the M/V Sharpie but were not able to successfully hit the ship.

Sea Shepherd carried out anti-piracy procedures, including high-speed maneuvering and the defensive use of water cannons. As poachers attempted to light a second molotov cocktail, military personnel on board the M/V Sharpie fired a warning shot, at which time the skiffs disbanded and the attack ended.

www.seashepherd.org

Striped Marlin Baja Mexico Dive Safari November 2020

In November 2020 Photographer Gregory Sweeney will be leading this peak season photography trip to dive and photograph the best locations in Baja, Mexico.

We start in Port San Carlos where Magdalena Bay is host to the largest striped marlin migration in the world. We will be on our own boat from 7am to 4pm looking for sea birds who will point us to the epic hunting action going on underwater. The marlins hunt the sardines as do the sharks and seals.

Under the surface will be a frenzy of action as marlin hunt in cooperation maneuvering the bait balls until one by one they attack and take their meal. We often get a static bait ball and stay in the water for over half an hour.

We transfer to La Paz where we do a dive unique to La Paz: a night dive with mobula rays. Plankton are drawn like a magnet to our lights and schools of rays come swooping in to dive down to feed in the sand. It is non-stop swirling action at night. We also dive at a sealion colony where these friendly mammals swirl around us and interact.

We end in Cabo Pulmo National



Park where protected marine habitat and pristine coral draws an enormous amount of tropical fish, seals, turtles, and more. Large schools of jacks are an awesome sight as the formation pulses and morphs before us. We do dives specifically for bull sharks who lurk and patrol on the scattered remains of ship wrecks.

This unique and action packed trip showcases the best of Baja Mexico and has plenty of marine wildlife encounters and photo opportunities.

www.gregorysweeney.com

Tiger shark & Great Hammerhead Live Aboard

Tiger Beach, Bahamas is known as one of the best shark diving locations in the world. The encounters with large Tiger Shark, Lemon, reef, and bull sharks are up close and without the use of a cage. Our charter also dives at nearby Bimini, where migrating great hammerheads arrive to snack on stingrays while bull sharks lurk in the same waters.

Diving without a cage allows you to get up close and personal for a thrilling adventure full of action. Seeing this many species of sharks is an opportunity to appreciate and value their role in our oceans.

Join us on a 9 Day live aboard cruise to first Tiger Beach in the Bahamas for tiger, lemon, and reef shark action then down to Bimini Island for Great Hammerheads and bull sharks

Our charters are in prime shark season. We depart/return to West Palm, Beach Florida making for easy flight connections to any southeast Florida airport.

Our boat is the MV Dolphin Dream, a 86' expedition charter yacht with 5 shared cabins, diving platform, and a large galley with plenty of deck and upper deck space.



It holds 10 guests plus crew and is very stable and comfortable to ride through the Caribbean waters. Divers must be experienced: these are long and multiple dives with no cages and filled with the consuming action of sharks swirling around you.

Underwater photographer host Gregory Sweeney is your host and is available to offer photography help and tips during the trip and while preparing for travel.

www.TigerSharkDive.com



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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



Orca Norway, November 2020

With autumn fast approaching we are thinking ahead to our Norwegian orca expedition. Although still a few months away, the current Covid crisis still creates many unknowns but we are hoping that travel within Europe may have recovered by then.

Our tour there is primarily focussed on snorkelling with orca and humpbacks, along with opportunities for evening northern lights photography.

Now in our 8th season running, we have honed our operation well to try and avoid the crowds and find our own space of fjord wilderness. Our accommodation is lodge based with single rooms, plenty of space and fully catered meals.

2019 was an incredible experience for us with our last day spent with corral feeding orca at

sunset all by ourselves!

In November the water is relatively warm (~6deg) and although not the best kit for swimming efficiency, drysuits are the best all rounder for the tour. The light levels do make it challenging for photography but it's a quest each year to perfect our setups to chase those elusive orca shots!

We run for three week long tours during November with the peak of action and light levels and have some spaces left. There is a reasonable amount of logistics with getting geared up for this expedition but please do chat to us if you are up for the challenge of the arctic!

www.baskingsharkscotland.co.uk

www.uwpmag.com

Meet the Sharks of Tiger Beach & Bimini



March 2021

TigerSharkDive.com Info@GregorySweeney.com

Gregory Sweeney Photography Adventures



Underwater Safari in Baja, Mexico

A Striped Marlin & Baitball Frenzy with Shark Diving and Mobula Rays

Magdalena Bay in Port San Carlos, La Paz, and Cabo Pulmo

www.GregorySweeney.com November 2020 & 2021

Wetpixel Live



Powered by a huge community of enthusiasts that generously share their experiences and knowledge, Wetpixel is the world's premium source for information about everything to do with underwater imaging. To help make this information more available to all, we are proud to announce Wetpixel Live.

Hosted by Wetpixel editor Adam Hanlon, with regular contributions from Wetpixel Associate Editor and renown photographer, Alex Mustard, Wetpixel Live is a regularly refreshed series of video conversations with leading underwater image makers about topics that are of interest to all those that venture beneath the surface with a camera. It is full of hard-edged

technical information and practical advice with the goal of helping people create memorable images.

Adam says: "Wetpixel Live aims to answer some of the questions that are frequently asked on the forum and to make this amazing resource more accessible to image makers."

The first episode is now live on the Wetpixel YouTube channel. It lists and explains 5 important tips for those staring out as underwater photographers.

Please head on over and check the episode out. If you enjoy it, subscribe to the channel to receive notifications as we add more video content in future.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3Rf_mU-wBuBXas7fBRJrMQ

The 200DL Underwater Housing for Canon EOS R5 is now shipping...

- 200 ft (60m) depth rating
- Extendable trigger-style shutter release lever and AF-ON button thumb lever for back button focus
- Interchangeable Dry Lock port system including flat ports, compact and full-size 8" dome ports
- ABS-PC construction is significantly lighter than aluminum and corrosion-proof
- Clear view back with laser engraved control markings
- Ergonomic direct-drive controls with soft-touch control knobs
- Manual flash bulkhead and hotshoe with option to add TrueTTL strobe exposure via the DL5 DS Link TTL Converter
- Wi-fi transfer is possible through the housing above the surface of the water
- Built in vacuum valve
- Made in the USA



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