

My Shots

The crab with one claw

by Dr. Martin Sczyrba

During Summer 2019 my family and I spent few days at the Baltic Sea in Eastern Germany. The typical shore line there features an underwater world of sandy ground with plenty of rocks in depths of 3-5m. Larger deeper dives can only be done by boat.

As these rocks are surrounded by all sorts of small life it is still fun to snorkel or dive there straight from the beach.

The true masters of this world undoubtedly are the crabs. They can be found around all of the rocks so I wanted to take some pictures of them.

The weather, though, was not in much favour with this idea. There was always strong wind causing waves and the respective current stirred up the sand leading to poor visibility. Combined with sun this is the ideal weather for all other fun stuff in the water except for diving and underwater photography...

Literally on the last day the wind was reduced to a level where there was still quite a current in the water but visibility at least allowed some photography. So I went out to look for the crabs.

But apparently the crabs also did not like the current as they were all hiding at the base of the rocks or in the sea weed between them. For this I could not really get in a perspective to the crabs showing them different than just top-down.

I dove from rock to rock and it was always the same. Suddenly, I saw one crab on top of a rock boldly facing the current.



Canon Powershot S120 in Ikelite Housing with FantaSea BigEye Lens M67 Mk2, f/8, 1/30, ISO160, Inon-D2000 strobe at -3 (manual)

Although the crab only got one claw left it seems to compensate this loss by bravery. Here was the image I was after! So I took a few shots showing this brave crab in the seaweed bent by the drift.

When I turned away the camera to move on, I saw the crab climbing down from the rock and coming towards me. So I laid the camera on the sand and watched what was to happen. I guess the crab saw its image in the front lens of my camera and boldly posed in front of the imaginary opponent, raising the remaining claw to defend its rock. Is there someone else out there who also gets reminded on the Black Knight at the bridge in Monty Python's Holy Grail...? I, at least, had to laugh quite a bit in that situation. And the crab wouldn't go away! Turning the camera a bit to the left or right made the crab to follow the lens. Only when I eventually moved away the camera from the rock the crab returned and continued watching over it from the top in the sea weed again.



What a great dive and nice images at last.
Thank you, one-claw crab!

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Guidelines for contributors

The response to UwP has been nothing short of fantastic. We are looking for interesting, well illustrated articles about underwater photography. We are looking for work from existing names but would also like to discover some of the new talent out there and that could be you! UwP is the perfect publication for you to increase your profile in the underwater photography community.

The type of articles we're looking for fall into five main categories:

Uw photo techniques - Balanced light, composition, etc

Locations - Photo friendly dive sites, countries or liveaboards,

Subjects -, Anything from whale sharks to nudibranchs in full detail

Equipment reviews - Detailed appraisals of the latest equipment

Personalities - Interviews/features about leading underwater photographers

**If you have an idea for an article,
contact me first before putting pen to paper.
E mail peter@uwpmag.com**

How to submit articles

To keep UwP simple and financially viable, we can only accept submissions by e mail and they need to be done in the following way:

1. The text should be saved as a TEXT file and attached to the e mail

2. Images must be attached to the e mail and they need to be 150dpi

Size - Maximum length 20cm i.e. horizontal pictures would be 20 cm wide and verticals would be 20cm high.

File type - Save your image as a JPG file and set the compression to "Medium" quality. This should result in images no larger than about 120k which can be transmitted quickly. If we want larger sizes we will contact you.

3. Captions - **Each and every image MUST have full photographic details** including camera, housing, lens, lighting, film, aperture, shutter speed and exposure mode. These must also be copied and pasted into the body of the e mail.