

Richard Yorke's excellent article about his underwater photographic equipment journey makes poignant reading, is full of valid points and I think should apply to the majority of UwP readers.

At the back of his mind before considering any new purchase is 'What do I need from it or What do I want it for?'. Those are much more intelligent questions than the more often 'This is going to improve things for me'. The marketing department's dream is to create a desire which can overrule rational thought.

It also helps to be individualistic in your thinking and not swayed by those in your group who have upgraded to bigger and supposedly better outfits.

The other attribute to develop, and Richard has done this very well too, is to be underwater photographically contained and by that I mean non dominant on a dive. He is a keen marine biologist and Seasearch volunteer so his first aim is to observe and record the marine life and only then photograph it.

As a result, Richard is very comfortable with his level so if you go chasing another upper level always be aware that it might lead to a disappointment either photographically or financially.

## The eyes have it

I well remember a marine biologist we were diving with in the UK a while back saying that such and such a creature or some specific local marine life was very rare.

My dive buddies and I looked at each other quizzically until one of us came clean and said "Well, not where we've been diving. We see lots of them". And that's the point.

Even in local waters, let alone the open ocean, we cannot be everywhere and see everything and that is where, for once, underwater photographers can claim some good press. Within our ranks we have an incredible knowledge and experience base capable of spotting the unusual and providing important feedback to the marine biological world.

Take a recent case as an example. A small group of enthusiast macro photographers were diving in, and I will only be as specific as the west coast of Scotland to avoid a Twitching stampede, when one of the group came across a very unusual crinoid shrimp which was thought to be only in the Mediterranean; yet here it was and photographed to prove it. Then, blow

me down if another one was found on the east coast very shortly afterwards so it can't have been the same one on holiday.

So the point is that we are providing invaluable eyes and time underwater not only capturing life in all its beauty but also making new finds to add to the database of marine life whereabouts.

Take a bow, all, and keep looking.

## Parting Shot request

A few issues ago there was a sad faced emoji instead of a Parting Shot which resulted in a healthy response but the vaults are now empty so if you have a story within a story to go with an interesting image, I'd love to hear from you.

It only needs up to 500 words maximum and the image doesn't need to be super high res. Just an interesting twist to the story to close each issue.

I look forward to hearing from you.

A reasonably regular UwP contributor messaged me recently to tell me he was selling his bulky camera outfit and intending to replace it with a smaller and lighter 'lower format' system.

I highlighted 'lower format' there because there is a misguided perception that going down a format means going without photographically but nothing could be further from the truth.

True, full frame top of the line SLRs are amazingly fast and super high res but put them in a large housing with a wide aperture lens and you can say goodbye the hand baggage (remember that?) in a blink.

Even if you feel that full frame is the minimum you could put up with, all manufacturers, and typically Sony, are coming out with 'compact' full frame versions which can be housed in correspondingly smaller and lighter housings.

The result is we have to make very few compromises photographically to save size and weight even if there may still be a significant denting of the wallet.

We've never had it so good.

**Peter Rowlands**  
[peter@uwpmag.com](mailto:peter@uwpmag.com)