

A long time coming

The past eighteen months have been a bit like a multi lane motorway pile up with very little forward movement and lots piling up behind.

Well to continue the metaphor, hopefully a couple of lanes are now opening up and we are able to move further afield to capture our images underwater. Safety guidelines must still be observed and obeyed in everyone's interest but with a double jab we should be able to avoid catching Covid or, if not, to not be too adversely affected by it.

For those who have had little access to local diving, their camera (and dive) equipment will have seen very little use for quite some time so it would be prudent to check it over yourself or have it done through your local dealer.

In addition, your underwater imaging brain could well be a bit rusty so don't expect to leap off the plane and be taking award winning images on the first dive.

Take it steady, enjoy the reimmersion and get back up to speed. Then, once you have, why not write a story about your first trip back and the images you took and you could be featured in UwP for we haven't had many travel articles for quite a while now :-)

Editorial

Plymouth Marine National Park

We have an exciting development near where I live in the south west of the UK to create the UK's first National Marine Park.

The concept was first established in 2012 as part of Plymouth city's image rebranding and since 2019 there has been a process of open discussions to receive suggestions on how to move things forward.

One such suggestion is a network of underwater webcams so viewers can see exactly what's happening in the waters of Plymouth Sound. Now anyone who has ever looked at webcams on land from beauty spots and points of interest will know how, in general, they are mostly terrible; and that's in perfect visibility.

Take those webcams underwater where we consider 10 metres viz as way above average and the views will be quite limited and far from inspirational. In addition when you think about it, in real time, not a lot happens underwater. There aren't the big shoals of fish in clear blue water being chased by speeding tuna all the

time but it's definitely not all negative.

We do have some amazing and varied marine life and special habitats here in Plymouth but webcams are not the solution. What they need is quality underwater images both stills and video taken in good conditions to engage with and inspire the land viewer. Such images need to be produced by serious underwater photographers rather than 'Steve dives and has got a GoPro' (with apologies to all Steve's out there with GoPros. It's not personal but I had to use someone's name).

The point I am eventually getting to is that WE are those underwater photographers so I will be making representations to the governing bodies and budget managers to bring about a meeting of minds where they understand what will be most effective for them and how they can achieve it by harnessing our considerable talents.

I will keep you posted along the way and hope that underwater images will play a big part in how the marine world is seen from the surface.

Housing manufacturing

I read with interest recently that INON are about to market their new housing for the Canon EOS R5.

Nothing new in that, I hear you say and you'd be quite right but this housing will be cast in aluminium rather than machined from a solid block.

The cast method was how housings were originally produced but, by the time the mold was made and tested and then the cast aluminium machined for fixings and controls, the waiting time was usually months.

The advantage of solid machining is rather like 3D printing in that you can make one at a time and the machine can be left to run 24/7.

It will be interesting to see how INON's cast housing differs from the solid machined variety and whether it spawns a new dawn in housing production.

Parting Shot and My Shot

As usual the cupboard is now bare for these two sections of the magazine so I'd encourage you (that's the nice word for plead!) to submit your favourite shot with a story :-)

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