

News, Travel & Events

UPY 2022 is now open

The search is on for the world's best underwater photographs. UPY - the Underwater Photographer of the Year 2022 contest opens for entries on 1st November closes on 4th January 2022.

The contest is widely regarded as the world's leading underwater photography competition, attracting thousands of entries, with the winners showcased around the world in the mainstream media. The previous edition attracted entries from over 500 photographers and was won by Renee Capozzola from the USA.

We are well aware that international travel continues to be restricted but many photographers have still been able to dive more locally. The My Backyard Award will celebrate your images taken close to home, wherever that may be.

We are also delighted to have the prizes reinstated for UPY 2022. The response from our traditional sponsors has been reassuringly upbeat so to them we are most grateful.

We feel positive that the competition this year will run to schedule. You can rest assured that we will respond responsibly and keep you



informed at every stage if changes need to occur.

As with every year the whole UPY team is very excited and looking forward to seeing more of your amazing images. They inspire us, the underwater photographic community and the worldwide media who look forward to the winning images as much as we do! Check out the 2021 results or download the UPY2021 Yearbook for inspiration.

<http://underwaterphotographeroftheyear.com>



Issue 123/5



Ocean Storytelling Photography Grant 2021



We are delighted to introduce our new emerging Ocean Storyteller Grant, which will focus on photography in its inaugural year. The photography grant is led by our own director of storytelling and National Geographic photographer Thomas Peschak, in collaboration with Kathy Moran and Jennifer Samuel from National Geographic.

This grant builds on the legacy of our previous Marine Conservation Photography Grant and is dedicated to finding and supporting a new and diverse generation of conservation storytellers.

While we are looking specifically for photographers who can tell

conservation stories about our oceans, the call is not limited to underwater photography.

Applicants should think broadly – story topics can range from the animals themselves to fisheries or the communities whose lives are intertwined with marine life.

Four successful grantees will each receive a fully funded assignment to shoot a conservation photo story on location (including day rate and travel), under the direct mentorship of the Ocean Storytelling Grant team.

The closing date for entries is November 30th.

<https://saveourseas.com/ocean-storytelling-photography-grant/>

www.uwpmag.com



Lembah Photo & Video Workshop December 1-11, 2022

We are very excited to offer this 10 night trip to Indonesia to participate in a one of our photography workshops.

Price includes transfer from Manado to the resort, nitrox, and 26 daytime boat dives. This resort offers a 2:1 diver to guide ratio + Reef Photo staff will be there too for photo support and expert guidance. Don't miss your chance to come along, so reserve your spot by putting down \$1000 deposit today.



www.reefphoto.com

Baja Mexico Dive Safari November 2022

Magdalena Bay at Port San Carlos in Baja Mexico is a hot destination during November to see the striped marlin and other ocean predators such as sea lions in action as they prey on the sardine migration.

In November 2022 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. Early starts on our own boat with excellent experienced crew rewards us with epic hunting action going on underwater.

The marlins hunt in coordinated attacks as do the sharks and seals. Under the surface will be a frenzy of action as marlin maneuver 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.

After the action and surprises (we might see humpbacked whales) in Mag Bay, We transfer to La Paz where



we do a dive unique to La Paz: a night dive with mobula rays. 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.

info@gregorysweeney.com

2nd Annual Huff Underwater Film Festival April 2-3, 2022

The second annual Houston Underwater Film Festival (HUFF) is now open for submissions of original underwater videos. Anyone can enter and there are no entry fees!

HUFF aims to promote underwater film making and appreciation of the beauty and diversity of all things underwater as well as encouraging the art of underwater film making. Underwater videographers from around the world are invited to submit entries for consideration for screening.

The festival will take place in April 2022 at the Midtown Arts and Theater Center Houston (MATCH).

Categories:

- Novice - Open to new filmmakers who seek assistance in post processing. Each film will be assigned to an experienced videographer from the Houston Underwater Photographic



Society who will help edit and color correct the film, add titles, music, etc.

- Fixed Lens - Films shot with cameras without interchangeable lenses. (Go Pro, SeaLife, etc.)
- Short Video - Films that are under 2 minutes length.
- Feature Length - Films that are 2-5 minutes length.
- Made in Texas - Films made by underwater videographers living in Texas

The deadline for entries is January 11, 2022.

www.filmfreeway.com/HoustonUnderwaterFilmFestival

Dive into the Pink 2021 Auction Have your image portfolio published in Underwater Photography Magazine

This prize gives you an opportunity to demonstrate your abilities as a kick@\$\$ shooter - WHILE SHOWING EVERYONE HOW AMAZINGLY GENEROUS YOU ARE. I repeat - you're not just a gal or guy who knows your way around a camera - but you're also a philanthropist of the highest order. And we love you for it!

The winner of this prize will have a portfolio of underwater images published in an upcoming issue of Underwater Photography Magazine. Peter Rowlands, renowned underwater photographer, is your publisher - and will help to ensure that your portfolio showcases the very best of your abilities. And since Peter is a veteran shooter who has written books on the topic and judged some pretty high profile competitions (he's part of the judging panel for the Underwater Photographer of the Year competition,



which may sound familiar), this is not just an opportunity for exposure - that's a given!! - it's also a great opportunity to learn from a true master.

UWP is published every two months and every great issue is packed with all the latest underwater photo equipment news, reviews, dive site reports, personality profiles and photo portfolios, plus tips for better pictures, making it the essential read for all underwater photographers, everywhere.

https://www.32auctions.com/organizations/26422/auctions/76632/auction_items/3174534

1428 Dolphins Slaughtered in the Faroe Islands

On Sunday night, September 12th, a super-pod of 1428 Atlantic White-Sided Dolphins was driven for many hours and for around 45 km by speed boats and jet-skis into the shallow water at Skálabotnur beach in the Danish Faroe Islands, where every single one of them was killed.

While Sea Shepherd has been fighting to stop the 'Grind' since the early 1980's, this latest dolphin massacre was so brutal and badly mishandled that it is no surprise the hunt is being criticized in the Faroese media and even by many outspoken pro-whalers and politicians in the Faroe Islands.

Normally meat from a grindadrap is shared amongst the participants and any remainder among the locals in the district where the hunt takes place. However there is more dolphin meat from this hunt than anyone wants to take, so the dolphins are being offered to other districts in the hopes of not having to dump it.

The Danish newspaper Ekstra Bladet published interviews with locals, whose full names are redacted for their families' safety, explaining how a lot of Faroese are furious with what happened. "My guess is that most of the dolphins will be thrown in the trash or in a hole in the ground,"

said one. "We should have quotas per district, and we should not kill dolphins," said another. One local has asked Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen to investigate the matter, saying "If she expresses her criticism, then it will also be easier for the locals who want this barbaric tradition stopped." Others express worry that the international press showing the slaughtered dolphins put their exports at risk (the Faroe Islands export salmon to the UK, US, and Russia).

Even the local Faroese press, usually reluctant to publish anything against the hunt, quotes Hans Jacob Hermansen, former chairman of the Grind, saying the killing was unnecessary.

"For such a hunt to take place in 2021 in a very wealthy European island community just 230 miles from the UK with no need or use for such a vast quantity of contaminated meat is outrageous."

To get a sense of scale; this single hunt of 1428 Atlantic White Sided Dolphins at Skálabotnur approaches the Japanese government quota for the entire six-month dolphins killing/capture at the infamous 'Cove' at Taiji in Japan, and



significantly exceeds the numbers actually killed in any recent years of the Taiji killing season.

This cruel and unnecessary hunt was carried out towards the end of the summer when the Faroese have already killed 615 long-finned pilot whales, bringing the total number of cetaceans killed in 2021 in the Faroe Islands to a shocking 2043.

Each year, Sea Shepherd

encounters more and more locals in the Faroe Islands who are opposed to the Grind, but who are unable to speak out publicly for fear of reprisals. We will continue to support their efforts to bring an end to the ongoing slaughter of pilot whales and other dolphins.

For more information, statistics, and the latest news about the grind hunts, visit Sea Shepherd's Operation Bloody Fjords website.

<https://seashepherduk.myportfolio.com/op-bloody-fjords-faroe-islands-2021>

Whales sharks, Isla Mujeres, Mexico

The annual feeding aggregation of hundreds of whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*) and giant manta rays off the coast of Isla Mujeres, a tiny island near Cancun, Mexico has been a must – do event among underwater photographers and marine wildlife lovers. I have been sharing this great event with guests and underwater photographers for over 10 years now and still find it a thrill and a grand opportunity for close up wildlife encounters.

I schedule our trips at the peak of the season. In both July and August the weather is typically warm with smooth water, great visibility and hundreds of whale sharks which are easily found by our experienced crew. The Water is clear and warm allowing us to swim with just light wetsuit. Guests take turns in the water all day allowing for much more time in the water than a typical tourist boat.

The whale sharks arrive in large numbers every summer to feed on the abundant supply of plankton and bonito eggs. On several peak



days hundred whale sharks would congregate in the space of a couple soccer fields. I have photographed whale sharks in locations around the world (Honduras, Mozambique, Western Australia), but never had the experience of being in the water with such a large aggregation and the large individuals who seemed unfazed by my presence.

A unique destination that is easy to travel to, Isla Mujeres delivers a high quality in water encounter with whale sharks and giant mantas with reliability each summer.

info@gregorysweeney.com

Anilao Underwater Shootout Dec 1 to 5, 2021

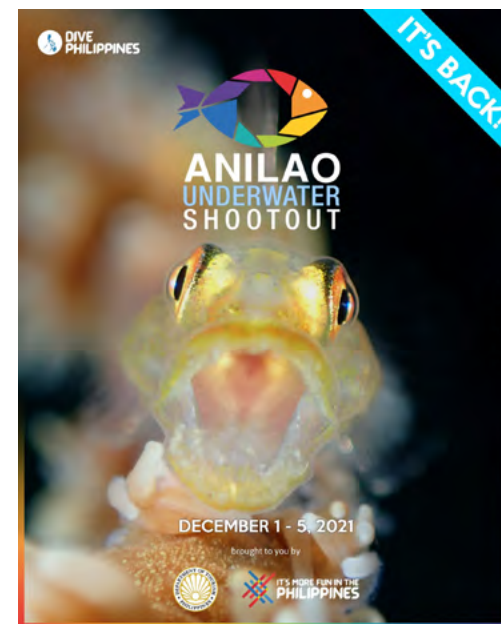
The much-awaited Anilao Underwater Shootout is back!

The Anilao Underwater Shootout (AUS) is an annual underwater photography competition organized by the Philippine Department of Tourism (PDOT) in Mabini, Batangas, which aims to sustain the Philippines' standing as a premier underwater photography destination.

After a two-year hiatus, PDOT is bringing back the event to restart domestic tourism and showcase our destination's readiness to accept our dive tourists in the new normal, following health and safety protocols prescribed by the National and Local Government.

This year's competition will be a mixed/hybrid format of an on-site and online event, with some of the event components conducted via online video conferencing or livestreamed on our social media platforms. The 2021 Shootout official venue will be at the Solitude Acacia Resort, and will run from December 1 to 5, 2021. Participants may book at any DOT and/or PCSSD accredited establishment to join the competition.

Safety protocols as required by the DOT, PCSSD and the LGU



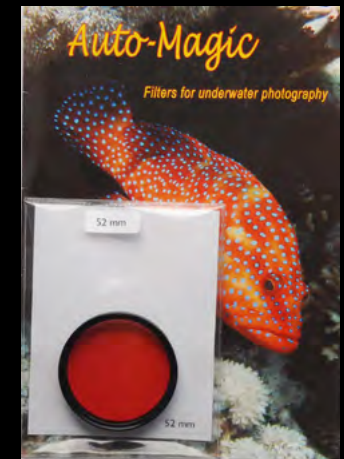
Whip coral goby by Regie Casia, DOT Compact Class Photographer of the Year at the 6th Anilao Underwater Shootout

shall be strictly implemented. Guidelines and requirements may change at any time at the discretion of abovementioned offices.

To register for the Anilao Underwater Shootout 2021, you may click this link

<https://bit.ly/AUS2021Registration>

We've got you covered!



Magic filters are now available in 3 options. Original Magic for use in blue water with DSLR and compact cameras with Manual White Balance, Auto-Magic for compact cameras in automatic point and shoot mode. GreenWater Magic for use in green water with DSLR and compact cameras with Manual White Balance. Prices start at just £22.

The Auto-Magic formula is now available in a Plexiglass filter that can be added or removed underwater.

www.magic-filters.com