

Parting Shot 1

A long time ago in 2019 when it was authorized for continental French people to travel to the West Indies without any professional reason, I was with my wife diving in the south part of Guadeloupe at a place called Vieux Fort. The trip was reported in Issue 111 page 74 of UwP.

One of our favourite dives was a recreational one close to the beach in shallow water (less than 10m). In this typical Caribbean spot we were swimming between big boulders covered with all kind of corals sea fans and colourful sponges shooting the rich fauna gathered in this preserved area. Between the boulders there were also a lot of shoals of fishes.

Since in such location every kind of picture from wide angle to close up and macro is possible I decided to go for a Sigma 17-70mm lens.

In some places on the top of the boulders and close to the surface the brain corals were covered with colourful Christmas tree worms. So I was shooting many times at several locations trying to show the variety of colour of the worms moving in the flow of water without looking too carefully at the brain coral supporting the main subject of my pictures.

When I was back home and working on the raw pictures for publishing in UwP mag I was surprised to discover a very small blenny living in a tiny hole hidden by the spiral of the Christmas tree worm. The first consequence of this discovery was that I checked carefully a lot of other pictures looking for a similar surprise but I was unlucky and I could not find anything unseen other than the interesting feature.

Such blennies live in small holes and feed on



Nikon D2x, housing Aquatica sigma 17-70mm at 60mm, 1/125s, f20, ISO400. 2 strobes nikon Sb 910, Patima housings, 1/2 and 1/4 power

microscopic animals such as amphipods and copepods. One particularity of this small blenny is that the eggs are attached to the walls of the parent's shelter and are brooded by the male parent who guards the eggs until they hatch.

It's always amazing to discover what you did not see during the dive and also one more good reason to always dive with a camera.

**Do you have a shot
which has a story within a story?
If so e mail it with up to 500
words of text
and yours could be the next
Parting Shot.**

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Parting Shot 2

I was diving Northwest Double Ledges (also called Shark Canyon) at about 80-90' out of West Palm Beach, FL. I was about two thirds of the way through the dive and alone as I frequently am when drift diving since I stop to take pictures as the group drifts on.

When I first saw this male loggerhead turtle it was wedged in an overhang with most of its body sticking out, probably sleeping. After I took a few pictures, Shadow showed up. Shadow was a goliath grouper who has lived on this scarp for a few years and who was fed lionfish by lionfish hunters.

As a result of this feeding if you had something in your hands Shadow would follow (shadow) you down the reef, block your path, rub against you, etc. to try to get you to find, spear, and give it a lionfish.

Shadow began brushing against me and continuously swimming and turning between me and the turtle. While doing this Shadow hit the turtle with its tail and the turtle very slowly came out and swam to the top of the ledge and began to swim away.

I decided to get some video as it swam away (I am terrible at video and worse at editing it, so rarely do video). After the turtle swam about 15-20', to my surprise it turned around and swam back towards me and put its beak on my port. It then again swam about 10' away, turned and repeated this a second time before it finally slowly swam away.

Apparently, my attention to the turtle was annoying Shadow who kept trying to get my attention. At one point Shadow tried to bump the turtle as it was swimming towards me, but the turtle dodged, raised its head, and banged Shadow



Sony NEX-5N, 10Bar housing, single Inon Z-240, 1/125 sec., F9, ISO 400.

on the back with its beak. I got this picture with Shadow in the background as the turtle made its final turn to swim away. Certainly, an unusual and fascinating occurrence.

Richard W. Eaker

www.flickr.com/photos/8459071@N08/albums

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