

Nearly every issue of UwP has what I think is a stand out article and this time it's Richard Davies' account of his involvement in the recent BBC series Wild Isles - the latest in a BBC/Silverback Productions collaboration highlighting the wildlife in the UK from mountain to plain and from freshwater to the sea.

As an ROV enthusiast it's obviously right up my waterway but it's a great example of longterm dedication to a subject matter which is often overlooked photographically but which, nonetheless, is iconically majestic - the Atlantic Salmon.

The other point is that Richard was using comparatively off the shelf equipment - a Chasing M2 ROV - but the important thing was his subject knowledge combined with a photographic thirst to attain better and better footage.

The goal, for him, was the launch of a salmon up a 3 metre rapid but, for the first time, from underwater. Being hired by the production team gave him the luxury of time but he nailed it for sure.

It's a great example of what one person can do to capture unique footage and place the final piece in the visual jigsaw that is the life of a Wild Atlantic Salmon.

Bad news comes in threes

It's not been a good time for the diving/underwater world recently, what with the Titanic ROV implosion, the fire on a Red Sea liveaboard which claimed three lives and the third, much less reported, fatal shark attack, again in the Red Sea.

The first incident received international media coverage - a perfect 'will they, won't they' scenario which filled miles of column inches and hours of experts' opinions, culminating in the sad loss on implosion. The second, probably given more UK coverage as it involved British diving tourists, was the liveaboard fire helped by images of the horrific fire and footage of someone leaping off the upper deck to safety. It would have certainly hit a nerve with all of us who have been on similar trips for decades.

And the third was the fatal shark attack at the same time as the two above tragedies which received virtually no coverage, which in a way is good, but why did they have to kill the shark and, more importantly, were they sure it was the right one?

Incremental differences

The news that Sony have just announced a 16k TV comes, to me, as no surprise at all - because they can - and good luck to them, I say.

The problem I have is that this 'carrot and stick' development encourages the image capturing manufacturers to produce compatible output cameras to tempt our wallets but, this time, it seems we will actually be getting very little more in terms of a visual experience compared to the inevitably large 'investment'.

Sure, the human is reputed to be the equivalent of 576 megapixels so there's a long way to go before we can be outperformed but, in the real world living room where the TV lives, the effect of such seemingly big incremental increases actually becomes less and less.

Personally I'm still impressed with well lit HD footage (that's 1080p in old money) and even in 2023, 4k output is limited by broadband speed practicalities so heaven knows what we'll need when we fall for it and buy a 16k TV.

Rest assured, when I get mine, I'll tell you all about it :-)

Unbelievable quality of macro images

The recent 8th Anilao Underwater Shootout covered in this issue has produced another set of amazing images (including our front cover).

I'd love to include all the images but that would upset the balance of the magazine but if I did, you would see a strength in depth and compositional perfection that nearly all of the images had, without fail, right down the list of images entered.

The overall standard was, to this 'seen quite a lot of images' old lag, absolutely extraordinary so if you want macro inspiration check out the winners later in this issue and at

www.facebook.com/anilaoshootout

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