

News, Travel & Events

World Shootout winner



Hundreds of photographers from 54 countries competed across nine categories, pushing the boundaries of creativity and technical skill.

Grand Prize Winners:

Picture of the Year: Spanish photographer Eduardo Acevedo “secured” the top Honor with the prestigious prize the “boot Dusseldorf Director’s Prize, earning an Andromeda statuette and a €2,000 cash prize.

Best 5 Images Portfolio: Luc Rooman from Belgium triumphed in

this category, winning a dream 4-week diving trip for two to Papua New Guinea, valued at \$18,900.

Amateur Photographer:

Alexandra Ceurvorst from the USA impressed the judges with her talent, taking home the 1,000 € cash prize award.

Celebrating Diversity and Innovation:

This year’s competition saw 11,680 entries from 964 photographers, showcasing a remarkable spectrum of skills and



perspectives.

From the intricate wonders of Macro photography to the beauty of “Black Water”, the “Underwater Fashion” category added a touch of artistry and innovation, while the ever-important “Environmental & Conservation” category served as a powerful reminder of the need to protect these fragile ecosystems.

Looking Ahead: AI and Ocean Conservation:

World Shootout founder and producer David Pilosof unveiled an exciting addition for the 2024 competition: this year the Environmental category will be focusing on the impact of plastic on our oceans and future. This category

will embrace the potential of AI or other editing software as a tool to amplify the conservation message.

Entrants will submit campaigns of three original underwater photographs dealing with plastic pollution, along with their final AI assistance processing. This innovative approach encourages artistic expression while raising awareness about a critical environmental issue.

www.worldshootout.org

UPY winners 2024

Alex Dawson has been named Underwater Photographer of the Year 2024, for his image of a free diver examining the aftermath of whaling.

Whale Bones beat more than 6,500 photographs from around the world.

“Whale Bones was photographed in the toughest conditions, as a breath-hold diver descends below the Greenland ice sheet to bear witness to the carcasses,” Alex Mustard, who chaired the judging panel, said.

“The diver’s suit and torch give it a ‘visiting alien’ feel.

“The composition flows effortlessly and takes your eye on the right journey to tell the story.”

The contest has 13 categories, including Macro, Wide-Angle, Behaviour and Wreck, as well as four for photos in British waters.



Jenny Stock was named as British Underwater Photographer of the Year 2024, for Star Attraction.

A carpet of marine life, brittle stars and sea urchin, in Loch Leven, Oban, Scotland.

IMAGE SOURCE, “Loch Leven is a Scottish dive site near Oban,” she said.

“As I descended into the dark green depths of the sea loch, on a dusk dive, I approached an area where my torch picked out the vivid colours of a living carpet of thousands of brittle stars.

“I was happily snapping away, when I spotted this purple sea urchin and I got really excited.

“A dominant star next to this graphic invertebrate created a beautifully balanced pair, perfectly surrounded by an entanglement of the background.”



Lisa Stengel, from the United States, was named Up & Coming Underwater Photographer of the Year 2024, for her image of a mahimahi catching a sardine, in Mexico.

A mahi-mahi catching a sardine, in Mexico

“If you listen closely, there’s an enormous amount of sound in the ocean, especially surrounding bait balls,” Stengel said.

“I honed in on the sound of mahi attacks and followed this unmistakable sound with my camera.

“This technique, coupled with serendipitous conditions, gave me the window of opportunity to capture this special moment.”



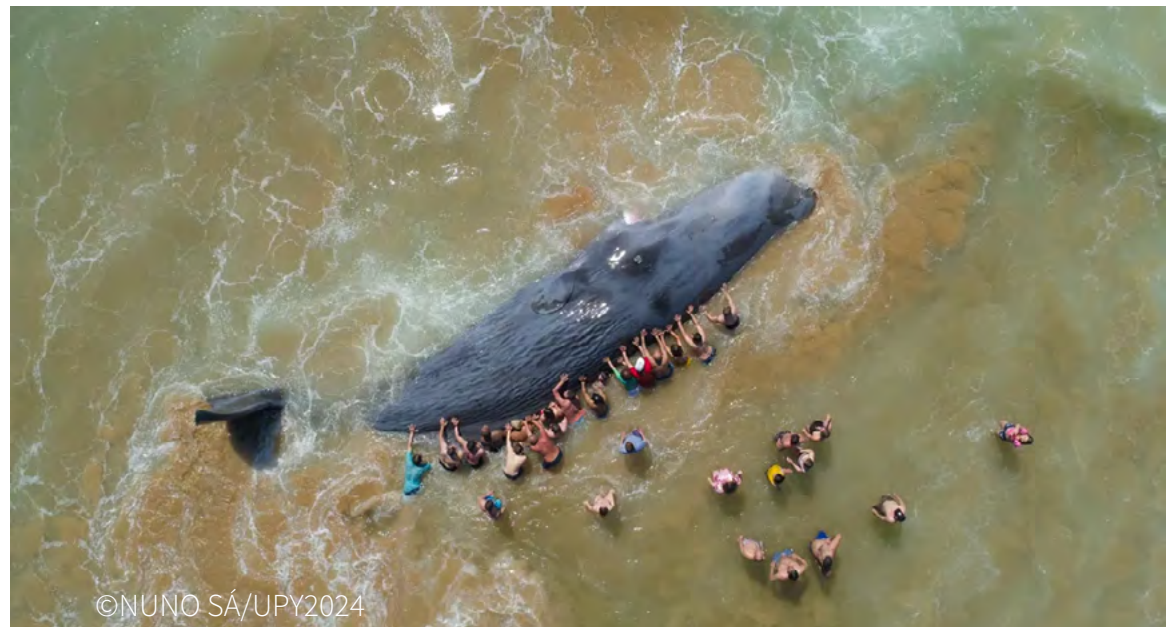
Portuguese photographer Nuno Sá was named Save Our Seas Foundation Marine Conservation Photographer of the Year 2024, for Saving Goliath, showing beachgoers trying to save a sperm whale stranded near Costa da Caparica, just across the river from Lisbon.

Beachgoers try to save a stranded sperm whale in Portugal

“A massive sperm whale seemed to be struggling to swim as it slowly moved towards the coast, reaching the shallow waters of the beach,” Sá said.

“Together, they try to help the giant back into the sea.

“Several hours later, the whale takes its last breath, its body crushed by gravity as it lays on the sand.”



www.underwaterphotographeroftheyear.com

Students impress industry judges at underwater photography Red Sea exhibition

In December 2023, a group of Marine & Natural History Photography BA students embarked on an underwater photography trip to the Red Sea. From dolphins and turtles to sharks and rare 'Shaun the Sheep' nudibranchs, the students captured a wealth of wildlife on camera, and their final images impressed industry experts at last month's exhibition.

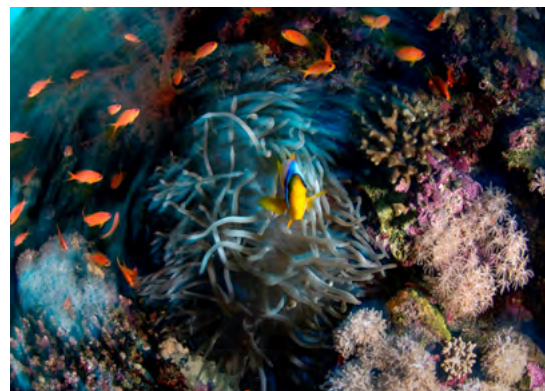
Reflecting on the trip, Marine & Natural History Photography BA lecturer Gina Goodman said: "Egypt is always a special trip for so many reasons: the wildlife, the setting, the people, but mainly because during those two weeks we get to bear witness to those special photographic moments. Not just the ones where we encounter big awe-inspiring wildlife, but the smaller moments, when students get out of the water with wide smiles and you know that

something has just clicked for them. That after that one dive they suddenly have a grasp on a principal they didn't quite have the hour before. It's an incredible, wonderful moment to be a part of. It's the start of a career."

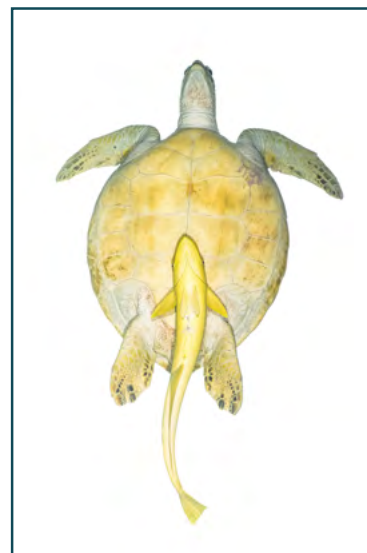
Upon returning to the UK, the students got to work preparing for the Red Sea exhibition, which has become a notable date on the local calendar, drawing attendees from both the dive and photography industries across Cornwall. This year, the photography competition returned with even greater support and sponsorship from brands including Finisterre, Fouth Element, Nauticam UK, Magic Filters and Seaways Diving.

Inspired by this work?

Falmouth University offers an ideal setting for mastering the art of capturing nature's beauty.



Top right: BBC Wildlife cameraman Doug Anderson addresses the audience
Left. Imagination category winner: Flora Tomlinson-Pilley
Below left. Wide Angle winner: Ben Lindberg
Below centre. Macro winner: Connor McGuinness-Dean
Below right. Most Promising award winner: Victoria Ward



11th Annual Photo Competition For UN World Oceans Day

2024 Theme “Awaken New Depths”

Closing date April 7th 2024

DivePhotoGuide (DPG) is pleased to announce the opening of the 11th annual Photo Competition for UN World Oceans Day, surrounding the 2024 theme “Awaken New Depths.” Complementing the UN’s day-long World Oceans Day celebration at the UN Headquarters in New York.

This year’s competition draws on the power of the arts to expand our perspectives and appreciation for our blue planet, build new foundations for our relationship to the ocean, and ignite a wave of action towards necessary change.

The 2024 Photo Competition for UN World Oceans Day is a free and open-to-the-public competition coordinated in collaboration between the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, DPG, Oceanic Global, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, and

Nausicaá.

The 11th annual competition presents a unique opportunity for photographers to showcase the immense breadth and depth of the ocean’s beauty as well as to shed light on the lesser-known promise and potential brimming beneath its waves.

From now until April 7th, the following five categories are open for submissions: “Awaken New Depths,” “Small Island Developing States,” “Big and Small Underwater Faces,” “Underwater Seascapes,” and “Above Water Seascapes.” Winners will be announced during the hybrid UN World Oceans Day event – this year celebrated on June 7th in New York – hosted by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, in partnership with Oceanic Global, and published shortly afterwards on:

www.UNWorldOceansDay.org
www.DivePhotoGuide.com



Underwater Landscapes winner 2023 - Andy Schmid (Switzerland).



Putting the Ocean First winner 2023 - Tom Shlesinger (Israel).

Gregory Sweeney Photography Adventures



Underwater Safari in Baja, Mexico

A Striped Marlin & Baitball Frenzy at Mag Bay
with Diving at Cabo Pulmo

www.GregorySweeney.com November 2024

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www.grandblueproject.com

Grand Cayman UW Photo Workshop September 28-Oct 5, 2024



Grand Cayman is the ideal place to learn everything you need to know to take great underwater images.

The water is warm, the reefs are colorful, the fish are plentiful and there are some bonuses too! Grand Cayman is well known for the friendly Southern Stingrays at Stingray City. We will have the opportunity to spend a sunrise with them practicing split shots, (over-under or half/half) and other techniques that are only possible on these shallow sandy banks.

Grand Cayman is also home to the Kittiwake wreck, a ship that was purpose sunk for divers in 60 feet of clear water offering endless

possibilities for learning techniques for shooting shipwrecks.

Join award winning photographers, Luca Crudeli and Brook Peterson on a workshop designed to change the way you approach underwater photography. We will have image reviews in the evenings along with presentations designed to elevate your photography skills. This workshop is intended for beginners through professionals who want to join a group of individuals who love underwater photography.

Includes all room taxes.

www.waterdogphotographyblog.com

Baja Mexico Dive Safari including Magdalena Bay for Striped Marlin



In November 2024 Photographer Gregory Sweeney will be leading this peak season photography trip to dive and photograph the best locations in Baja, Mexico.

Port San Carlos and Magdalena Bay is host to the largest striped marlin migration in the world. We will be on our own boat from 7am to 4pm looking for sea birds who will point us to the epic hunting action underwater. The marlins hunt the sardines as do the sharks and seals. Under the surface will be a frenzy of action as marlin hunt in cooperation maneuvering the bait balls until one by one they attack and take their

meal. We often get a static bait ball for over half an hour.

Our 2023 season surprised us with more whale encounters on Magdalena Bay and many static schools of sardines. Under the water we were surprised by brilliant shiny gold dorado / mahi-mahi fish joining the attack on the sardines. With marlin, sea lions, dorado, a whale, and dolphins all joining the frenzy, it was a dream to photograph. The sardines were using our bodies and cameras to hide from the predators.

After the sardine run action, we go to 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. Bull sharks lurk and patrol on the scattered remains of ship wrecks and abundant sea life lives on the pristine reefs of the protected area.

This unique and action packed trip showcases the best of Baja Mexico and has plenty of marine wildlife encounters and photo opportunities.

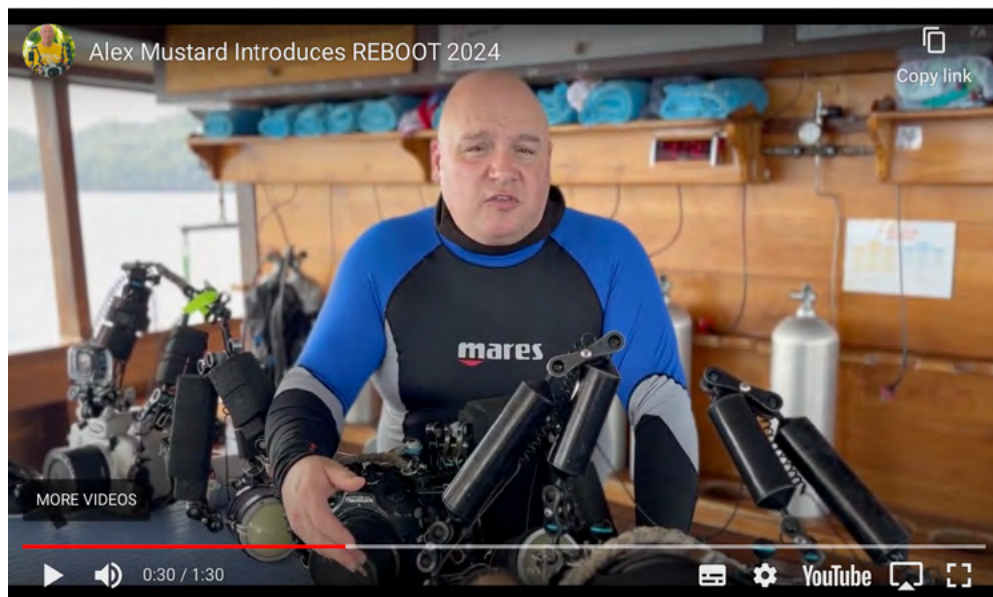
Contact Gregory Sweeney for



more information

info@gregorysweeney.com
www.gregorysweeney.com

Alex Mustard introduces REBOOT 2024



Reboot is an extensive course covering the fundamental topics of wide angle, macro, composition and lighting underwater. Quite simply Alex has packed everything he feels is important to producing stunning underwater images into this course, it is a total course on excelling at underwater photography. The course is for photographers new to Alex's teaching as well as who have attended his workshops in the past.

Alex Mustard wrote the Reboot course during 2020 and presented it live and interactive for 7 groups of photographers during 2021.

The live Reboot course cost £245 GBP. In 2024, Alex refreshed and

updated the Reboot materials and made these master recordings, which are now available for just £95 for 5 years of unlimited online access.

"There is a massive amount in this course," says Alex. "The course covers 4 broad topics: Wide Angle, Macro, Composition and Lighting. Each topic is divided into two presentations, each an hour long. Reboot is based on research: I re-read my own books, articles and talks and also those of others, I looked at 100s of stunning images and noted down every nugget that I felt was important for stand out pictures. I then structured this advice into the Reboot presentations. The final part was more



organic. I found that as I ran this masterclass for the 7 groups of photographers in the live sessions, the content evolved with their queries, and I added slides to answer their questions before they asked them. This meant that Reboot grew and with some updates from 2021 to 2024 tech it is now split into 8 presentations! I'd never try and teach so much in a talk on a workshop. But with Reboot I know you are watching a video and expect you to pause and re-watch the material, and really absorb all the advice."

Alex uses beautiful images, stills of photographers in action, some underwater video and practical demonstrations with underwater camera gear to aid teaching.



<https://www.photographyexperts.com/courses-subscriptions/underwater-photography-reboot>



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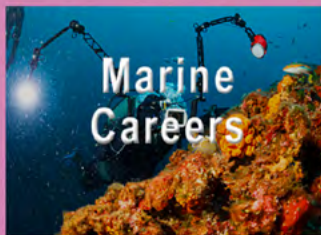
What's
Happening
This Weekend



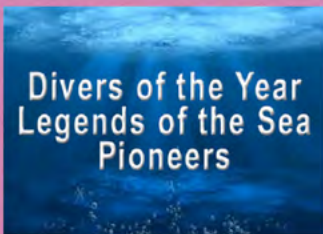
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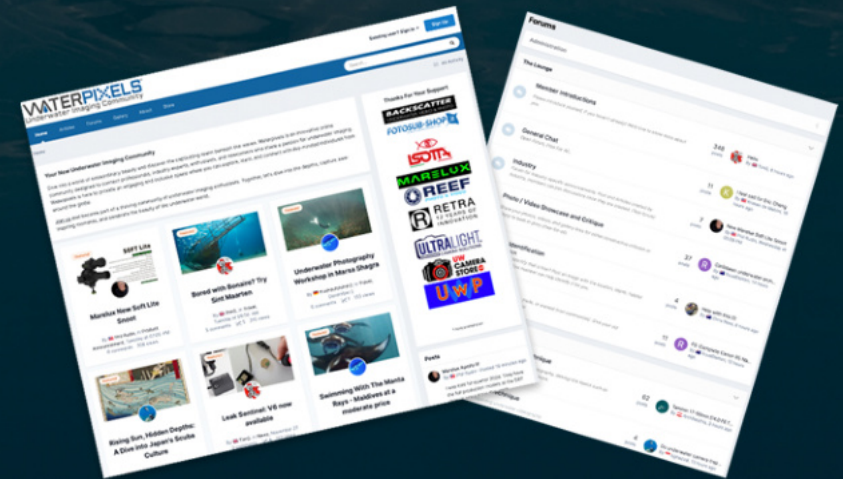


<https://beneaththesea.us>



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www.waterpixels.net

2024 Digital Shootout, Little Cayman

June 15-29, 2024



The Digital Shootout, hosted by Backscatter, is a renowned annual event for underwater photography and videography enthusiasts.

This immersive experience offers workshops, seminars, hands-on demonstration gear, and personal instruction in stunning underwater locations. It allows participants to refine their skills and stay up-to-date with the latest techniques and underwater photography equipment.

Our on-site staff includes top-level experts from Backscatter, top brands, and world-renowned experts.

More than just a learning event, The Digital Shootout creates a vibrant community of like-minded individuals who share a passion for capturing the beauty of the underwater world, making it an unmissable opportunity for beginners and experienced photographers and videographers.

There's even a friendly competition with outstanding prizes to keep things fun! Take it seriously or take it slow, the Digital Shootout is an underwater photography/videography vacation designed to take the shooter in the group to the next level.

If you're a new or an intermediate shooter, the Digital Shootout is our fast-track to better underwater imaging. In six days of seminars and diving, the Digital Shootout team will help dial in your underwater system and shooting techniques. Enter your best images in the final contest to win trips and gear from our sponsors.

In early 2009, Little Cayman Beach Resort completed major room renovations to its popular dive resort. Guestroom upgrades include new furnishings inspired by tropical colors and textures, Caribbean themed artwork, newly decorated



bathrooms, fixtures and flooring. We have a total of 40 air-conditioned, spacious rooms situated in two-story 'palm-tree height' buildings and surrounded by lush tropical foliage.

Each afternoon we offer professionally produced seminars on basic and advanced photo and video techniques. Just learning how to assemble your camera for the first time? Looking for the secrets of exposure and strobe placement? Our seminars are world renowned for their simple delivery of complex topics and will take you to the next level.

The workshops and experts



assembled at this event will whisk you along the learning curve of underwater photography. By the end of the week, you will be shooting well enough to enter our friendly competition. The best images shot during the week will be awarded over \$30,000 in prizes.

www.backscatter.com
www.thedigitalshootout.com

www.uwpmag.com

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