

My Shot

by David Fleetham

How do you feel your maturing eggs without hands? You use your mouth as this dusky anemonefish, *Amphiprion melanopus*, is demonstrating off the island of Guam, Micronesia, Mariana Islands, Philippines Sea.

Initially when I approached their anemone, both parents ducked for cover. After a few minutes with my camera hovering over them they figured out that I was not a threat and went about their various chores in the small section of reef they call home. Both parents would take turns tending to their, about to hatch young, which included aeration by pectoral fin. They would stop and turn sideways and vigorously flap these fins which would blow the eggs back and forth. I am unsure why, but several times they would nip at the tentacles of the anemone and even pull on them. Regularly one would stop at a spot on the patch of eggs and put several gently into its mouth as pictured here.

I returned a few days later to find the remnants of the egg casings. It is likely that the eggs



Canon EOS R5 mirrorless in an Ikelite dry-lock housing with a Canon RF 100mm macro lens, 1/160 sec, F32, ISO 320, with two Ikelite 230 strobes on TTL.

hatch at night to avoid predators and have the best chance of survival.

Do you have a favourite shot or an image/s which made a dive special?
E mail yours with some text to
peter@uwpmag.com

and yours could be the next My Shot/s

(It's very easy. Images can be any size bigger than 20cm (horizontal or vertical) @ 150dpi saved as jpeg format and about 500 - 750 words would be fine.)

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