

# News, Travel & Events

## 2024 Monterey Shootout - August 23-25, 2024

The Monterey Shootout is an underwater photo event focused on fun, education, and the goal is to inspire new underwater image-makers.

Are you new to underwater photography or Monterey diving? Come meet a supportive group of die-hard Monterey divers, learn new shooting techniques in our shooting seminars, and maybe even discover a new dive site.



Our friendly shooting competition not only rewards advanced shooters with amazing prizes but also bestows fantastic prizes to the newest shooters in the ranks. Join us for a weekend diving and seminars!

First time underwater shooters will enjoy our introductory seminars held on Friday. All skill levels will get inspired with our more advanced seminars held on Sunday. Come meet fellow enthusiasts and learn from our professional presenters.

You don't need to be a pro to have fun and win big in our friendly competition. You just need to get in the water this weekend. Our 32 hour photo and video competition has categories for beginner, intermediate, and advanced shooters with great prizes from our sponsors. All competition entrants must register for a full weekend pass to enter.

Monterey diving is second to none when the conditions are right. We can't control the weather, but we can help you find good dive boats, great dives, and places to stay during your visit. You'll also find all event locations at this link.

Registration Only \$35

One low price gets you into the Competition, cocktail party, and all Seminars

[www.backscatter.com](http://www.backscatter.com)

## Inaugural Underwater Awards Australasia Imaging Competition

The Underwater Awards Australasia 2024 is a new underwater imaging competition focused on the Australasian region—an industry-first three-way collaboration between the long-established Underwater Australasia, leading underwater photography and videography resource DivePhotoGuide, and underwater imaging equipment and dive gear distributor UW Images.

The competition will culminate in an exhibition at Go Diving Show ANZ in September 2024 —the inaugural Australian edition of the hugely successful Go Diving Show in the UK.

The prestigious judging panel comprises Tobias Friedrich, Jayne Jenkins, Brett Lobwein, Ross Long, Matty Smith and William Tan.

The prizes, worth more than A\$50,000 in total, include dive trips with the world's top resorts and liveaboards, as well as the latest underwater photo and video gear. Entrants compete for prizes in 8 categories, including the unique



“Reels Showcase” video category. The top image or video among the category winners receives the distinction of “Best of Show.”

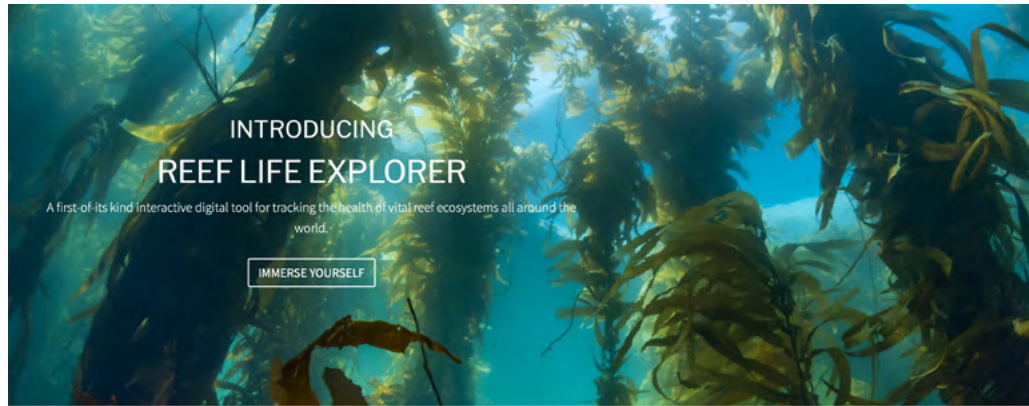
The competition calls for passionate underwater shooters from around the world to submit their most captivating and compelling images and videos from the Australasian region.

The competition opens on June 15th and closes on August 1st, 2024. Winners will be revealed on UnderwaterCompetition.com and published by supporting media partners worldwide shortly thereafter. The entry fees are US\$10 per image or video entered.

[www.underwatercompetition.com/uwaa](http://www.underwatercompetition.com/uwaa)

[www.uwpmag.com](http://www.uwpmag.com)

## Reef Species of the World



Our citizen science organisation Reef Life Survey has recently developed some free online species identification tools that we'd love to share with the broader diving community.

The Reef Species of the World is an online collection of images and data covering every marine species that Reef Life Survey divers have recorded over the years, drawing on data from over 30,000 surveys globally.

The RSoW allows users to generate a list or field guide of all species for a given location, a global list of a taxonomic group of interest, or even identify a species from their own photo using our 'search by image' recognition tool.

Each species has its own page, with most including photos taken by

RLS divers, a brief description, a list of similar species, and some biological info from our database.

This is a really wonderful (and free!) tool that our team of volunteer divers use to hone their species identification skills for biodiversity surveys. It appeals to all marine users who are interested in learning about the species they encounter.

RLS depends on the support & commitment of volunteers to conduct essential monitoring of the condition of our planet's reefs.

Volunteer your time, funds, resources or voice to Reef Life Survey and help us continue the essential work that we do to present the true story of the world's oceans and the life within them.

[www.reeflifesurvey.com](http://www.reeflifesurvey.com)

<https://youtu.be/qvupU10syLg?si=xcB9-vZt5PO9uPwn>

## Bunaken Oasis 2025 Photography Workshop with Alex Tattersall

Dive into an underwater photography paradise with Alex Tattersall at Bunaken Oasis!

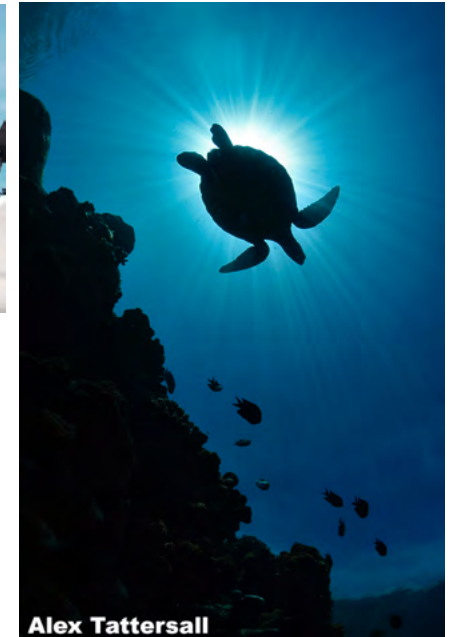
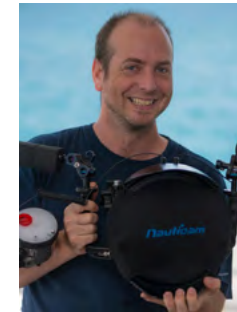
We are thrilled to announce our 2025 Photography Workshop, a unique opportunity for enthusiasts to elevate their skills amidst the stunning marine landscapes of Bunaken, Indonesia.

Departing the UK on 23rd September 2025, this 9-night adventure includes 8 days of diving, featuring 23 Nitrox dives and 2-night dives.

At Bunaken Oasis Dive Resort and Spa, you will receive expert instruction from Alex Tattersall, renowned for his passion and expertise in underwater photography. Immerse yourself in crystal-clear waters teeming with vibrant coral reefs and diverse marine life, while enjoying the luxury and serenity of Bunaken Oasis.

Don't miss out on this unforgettable journey for more information or call us at 01323 648924 to secure your spot today.

Join us for the ultimate underwater photography adventure and capture the ocean's beauty like never before!



2017 Alex Tattersall

[www.bunakenoasis.com](http://www.bunakenoasis.com)

## 'Word on the Reef' podcast dives into Great Barrier Reef stories

A new podcast series telling the stories of divers and conservationists on the Great Barrier Reef aims to inspire urgent action to protect the natural wonder.

With a background in journalism and 12 years' experience working as a marine naturalist, dive instructor and conservationist on the Reef, host Tanya Murphy has plenty of expertise to share, and a range of exciting guests joining her on the show.

"Despite recently suffering through its fifth mass coral bleaching event in eight years, the Reef still has areas which are in healthy condition and there is still hope for us to save it, but we need to act quickly," said Tanya.

"There's a lot of confusion out there about the Reef, with some people believing it's already dead and others saying it's completely fine - the real story is much more complicated and the best way to understand it is to listen to the stories of those who are diving on it every day.

"Through this podcast series I take people on a journey to see the Reef through the eyes of those who know it best, exploring the enduring wonders it still holds - while also sharing some of the threats it's facing,

and the things we can all do to help protect it."

Episodes include deep dives into First Nations conservation knowledge, hair-raising encounters with marine life like sharks, whales and sea turtles, and first-hand reports of this summer's devastating coral bleaching event from scientists who live and work on the Reef's most remote islands.

"The podcast series is a not-for-profit passion project aimed at raising awareness about the Reef, so it's been amazing to see so many people around the world tuning in," said Tanya.

"And this is just the beginning! There's plenty more to explore as we dive deeper into some of the Reef's amazing marine life and what we can do to protect it, so start listening now to join the adventure!"

'Word on the Reef' podcast is available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, YouTube, and all other major podcast platforms.

If you'd like to support this podcast, please consider becoming a sponsor or patron. For more information, please contact:



Reef host Tanya Murphy

[info@wordonthereef.org](mailto:info@wordonthereef.org)

[www.buzzsprout.com/2311255](http://www.buzzsprout.com/2311255)

Banda Sea with Grant Thomas  
November 3-10, 2024



Join Ikelite Ambassador Grant Thomas aboard the Calico Jack Liveaboard in the Banda Sea. This region is in the heart of the Indonesian archipelago and is known for its vibrant marine life, healthy reefs, and pelagic fish - most notably large schools of hammerhead sharks! You'll also see unique critters like the Olive Sea Snake which are famous in the Banda Sea Islands.

Divers can expect 2-4 dives per day including: Reef dives, Drift dives, Shark dives, Manta dives, Night dives, Free nitrox.

Macro divers looking to extend their trip can register for the 3-5 day Ambon Muck Diving extension. This area is notable for its regular sightings of blue-ring, mototi, and wonderpus octopuses as well as the Psychedelic Frogfish.

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## The 19th World Shootout Awards Are Open!

Calling all underwater photographers!  
The prestigious 19th World Shootout Awards  
are officially open for entries!

- **Submit your most impressive underwater photographs** taken anywhere between November 2nd, 2023 and November 1st, 2024.

**Cash and Dreamy prizes**

**ENTER TODAY >>>>>**



### Theme: The Impact of Plastic on Our Oceans

This year's Environmental category focuses on the critical issue of plastic pollution in our oceans. We invite you to showcase the impact of plastic, from large debris to microplastics, on marine life and ecosystems. Let your creativity flow to raise awareness and inspire action!

*Don't settle for 2nd best*



Film - No Filter;  
No White Balance



Digital - No Filter;  
Manual White Balance



Digital - Magic Filter; Manual  
White Balance

Digital cameras have opened up new possibilities to underwater photographers. For available light photography manual white balance is an invaluable tool for restoring colours. But when you use it without a filter you are not making the most of the technique. You're doing all the hard work without reaping the full rewards.

These three photos are all taken of the same wreck in the Red Sea. The left hand image was taken on slide film, which rendered the scene completely blue. The middle image is taken with a digital SLR without a filter, using manual white balance. The white balance has brought out some of the colour of the wreck, but it has also sucked all the blue out of the water behind the wreck, making it almost grey. The right hand image is taken with the same digital camera and lens, but this time using an original Magic Filter. The filter attenuates blue light meaning that the colours of the wreck are brought out and it stands out from the background water, which is recorded as an accurate blue.

Simple and inexpensive, yet so effective.

*[www.magic-filters.com](http://www.magic-filters.com)*

digital

DiVELOG

AUSTRALASIA

JUNE 2024 | No 406

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cuttlefish Aggregation<br><b>CARL CHARTERS</b>                         | Advocating for Grey Nurse Sharks<br><b>VALERIE TAYLOR - AM</b> |
| Hammerheads and Spice - Banda Sea<br><b>NIGEL MARSH and HELEN ROSE</b> | Rapid Bay<br><b>KEN HOPPEN</b>                                 |
| Nudi Notes - Eubranchus<br><b>DAVID MULLINS</b>                        | Fish Id - Wobbegong Sharks<br><b>MIKE SCOTLAND</b>             |

## WildPhotos, Bristol , Sunday 13th October



Wildscreen is joining with Natural History Museum, London's Wildlife Photographer of the Year to host WildPhotos in Bristol on Sunday 13th October. Delegates will be able to join the event both in person and online.

A world-class line-up of speakers will come together for a unique programme of talks and panels at Bristol Aquarium that will explore the triumphs and challenges of capturing nature in photography, as well as the future of the genre.

Kathy Moran, current Jury Chair for Wildlife Photographer of the Year and formerly National Geographic Magazine's Deputy Director of Photography, will produce and host the event. The line-up will feature unique talks and panels featuring more than a dozen of the world's leading wildlife photographers. The event is aimed at professional and amateur photographers, industry

thought leaders, photography suppliers, and conservationists.

Headlining at the event will be Thomas P Peschak, National Geographic Photographer, Explorer and NGS Storytelling Fellow who specialises in documenting both the beauty and fragility of the world's oceans, islands and coasts. Originally trained as a marine biologist, he embraced photojournalism 15 years ago and is now Director of Storytelling for Save Our Seas Foundation. His images and stories have been awarded 17 times in Wildlife Photographer of the Year and received seven World Press Photo Awards.

The event will also feature a specially curated selection of images from Wildlife Photographer of the Year's community collection celebrating the best of the world's wildlife and conservation photographers.

<https://bit.ly/WPY60-WildPhotos>

# INTRODUCING REEF LIFE EXPLORER

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## REEF SPECIES OF THE WORLD

Search the world's most comprehensive online field guide to reef-dwelling species.

SEARCH SPECIES



## BIODIVERSITY DATA

Download raw abundance & occurrence data from the RLS database.

DOWNLOAD DATA



## RESEARCH & MANAGEMENT

Browse scientific papers & management reports that use RLS data.

BROWSE PAPERS



## NEWS & ACTIVITIES

View the latest RLS news & activities from Australia and around the world.

VIEW BLOG POSTS

[www.reeflifesurvey.com](http://www.reeflifesurvey.com)

**Dive & More 7-night trip onboard Emperor Serenity,  
“Best of Maldives” route  
October 26th - November 2nd, 2025**

Dive into the turquoise waters of the Maldives and discover a world of unparalleled underwater beauty. With its pristine coral reefs, vibrant marine life, and crystal-clear visibility, the Maldives is a diver's paradise like no other!

Late October is the perfect time to visit the Maldives, as it is the transition period between the wet and dry seasons, which attracts plenty of cool marine creatures. Visibility improves significantly from the rainy season and the mantas and whale sharks are still around!

In addition to those beautiful giants, we'll encounter plenty of turtles, moray eels, sting rays, eagle rays, sharks, numerous species of reef fish (schools of Moorish Idols are my fav!) and lots of colorful critters.

On this trip, we will offer three classes on underwater photography, covering camera settings, strobes and video lights, light positioning, composition, wide-angle, macro, and post-processing. Throughout the trip, we will constantly review our photos and learn how to improve for the next day, getting even better shots with every dive!

Tiani Dun will be our photography trip leader, you'll receive



personalized guidance and expert advice from her to capture stunning images throughout the trip.

She will conduct a full photography workshop and photo review sessions with each participant, ensuring individualized attention for photographers of all levels.

Tiani is an underwater photographer from Australia. She studied a Master of Marine Biology (MS) at James Cook University and has brought her passion for science and the arts together into the work she does today.

For further details contact:

[ran@diveandmore.com](mailto:ran@diveandmore.com)

[www.diveandmore.com](http://www.diveandmore.com)



  
**WATERPIXELS™**  
Underwater Imaging Community



Dive into a world of extraordinary beauty and discover the captivating realm beneath the waves.

Waterpixels is an innovative online community designed to connect professionals, industry experts, enthusiasts, and newcomers who share a passion for underwater imaging. Waterpixels is here to provide an engaging and inclusive space where you can explore, learn, and connect with like-minded individuals from around the globe.

Join us and become part of a thriving community of underwater imaging enthusiasts. Together, let's dive into the depths, capture awe-inspiring moments, and celebrate the beauty of the underwater world.

[www.waterpixels.net](http://www.waterpixels.net)

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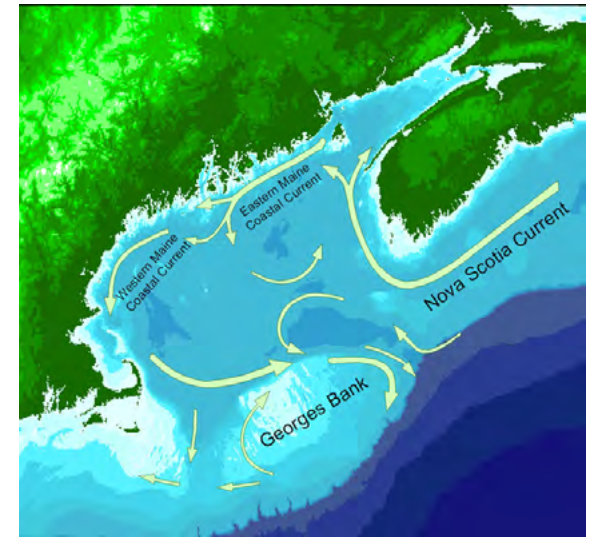
## Sea Change: The Gulf of Maine, a NOVA Special Presentation to Premiere Wednesday, July 24 on PBS

Sea Change explores a body of water that is warming 97 percent faster than the global ocean, and what that means for the Gulf of Maine – for the animals, for the jobs dependent upon it, and the millions of people along its shores – and may serve as a preview of what could happen worldwide due to climate change.

The acclaimed underwater photographer Brian Skerry is a producer of the series, which features his work capturing the beauty of the area in spite of the devastating impact of climate change over the last 40 years. This series is part of a larger project by Skerry to document how warming waters are affecting this unique ecosystem, and includes his cover story on the Gulf of Maine in National Geographic's June issue.

Sea Change blends science, exploration, stunning natural history, and stories of human experience, to illuminate how what happens here could have profound global implications. Viewers will encounter the spectacular wilderness and wildlife that still teems in these waters.

A marine treasure of some 36,000 square miles, the Gulf of Maine stretches from the tip of Cape Cod to Nova Scotia and is more than a thousand feet deep at its lowest point. It courses with cold, nutrient-rich water, mixed by the world's biggest tides. This rich environment feeds a web of over 3,000 species ranging from microscopic plankton to massive right whales. Millions of people have lived along the Gulf, drawing their sustenance and livelihood from its plentiful depths. It is a seminal



body of water, a cradle to ancient peoples, and a lifeline to fragile marine ecosystems. But for all its storied bounty – and because of it – the Gulf is also in peril, with some of its fisheries now depleted to extreme levels.

“I’ve always had a deep love for the Gulf of Maine as a New England native and a current resident,” said Brian Skerry, one of the producers of Sea Change and a longtime National Geographic photographer. “Every other breath we take is of oxygen that was generated from our oceans. But they are now in peril, something that we can document deeply in the Gulf of Maine, an area that has provided for this continent long-before the arrival of Europeans and far into the last century. What once provided a seemingly endless supply of cod fish, lobsters, and clams, now allows us to witness firsthand the devastating changes brought on by climate change. It’s my hope that this series serves as a cautionary tale, as well as a tribute to one of my favorite places.”

We are at a crossroads for the future of the

Gulf of Maine – and our oceans. Does the Gulf retain enough of its biodiversity and regenerative strength to weather the human-induced storm? Is the sheer beauty of the place and spectacular range of its creatures enough to wake us to the stakes? Sea Change tells this epic oceanic story, with stunning photography to drive home the endless wonder of this unmatched natural resource.

[www.brianskerry.com](http://www.brianskerry.com)





# UNDERWATER AWARDS

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ORGANISERS

### **JUDGING PANEL**

- Tobias Friedrich
- Jayne Jenkins
- Brett Lobwein
- Ross Long
- Matty Smith
- William Tan

**SUBMISSIONS**  
**JUNE 15-AUGUST 1, 2024**