

2024 United Nations World Oceans Day winners

The winners of the eleventh annual Photo Competition for United Nations World Oceans Day were announced during the United Nations World Oceans Day celebration at the UN Headquarters in New York.

A panel of worldrenowned judges selected five (5) first place winners from thousands of global entries made by both amateur and professional photographers.

The 2024 categories for photography aligned with the United Nations World Oceans Day's 2024 theme "Awaken New Depths" and included:

Underwater Seascapes, Small Island Developing States, Big and Small Underwater Faces, Awaken New Depths, and Above Water Seascapes.

With each first place winner hailing from a different country, the winning photographers are: Renee Grinnell Capozzola (USA), Taryn Schulz (Canada), Andrea Marandino (Brazil), Mathieu Macias (France), Michael Sswat (Germany).

The first place winners, along with the second and third place winners for each category, will be featured in the competition's virtual gallery at www.UNWorldOceansDay.org starting June 7th as well as displayed during next year's UN World Oceans Day event in 2025.

<https://unworldoceansday.org>

Awaken new depths category winner: **Renee Grinnell Capozzola**



Bringing Up The Net

This large discarded fishing net was found lying on the reef at about 30 meters in Kona, Hawaii. Volunteers from Ocean Defenders Alliance, also known as ODA, brought up this net by working closely together, using lift bags, and the net was then raised onto a boat provided by Kona Honu Divers. Earlier that day ODA had raised and extracted large volumes of fishing line (ultimately filling large buckets for removal) that had been snarled upon the reef. Unfortunately, our ocean suffers from large amounts of debris, which can destroy reefs, entangle marine life, and release harmful chemicals. Many thanks to organizations such as ODA for helping to clean our ocean and preserve marine ecosystems for future generations.

Underwater Seascapes category winner:

Taryn Schulz



Cormorant love

This image was taken in Baja California at Isla Islotes, a location known for its sea lion colony. The day we dived here there happened to be a large amount of sardines taking refuge by the island, which became an exciting spectacle in the water with pelicans and cormorants like in this photo flying around and torpedoing themselves in the water. Moments before this shot the sardines were swimming very quickly, so I turned around as I knew something was coming and I was so happy to capture the heart shape of the sardines as they fled from the cormorants.

Small Island Developing States category

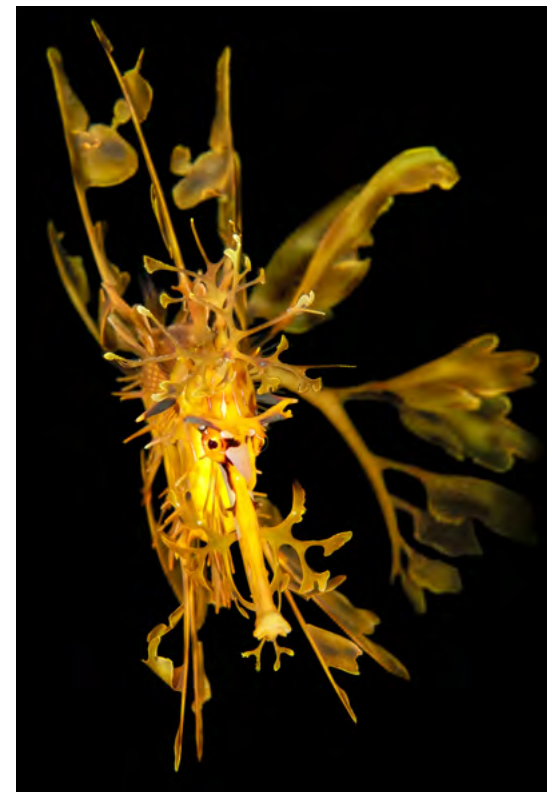
winner: Andrea Marandino



Image was taken in Abatao, North Tarawa, Kiribati. The children of Kiribati have a close relationship to the ocean and play in the water from a young age. Tarawa, the capital of Kiribati, is a narrow strip of land that lies between the Pacific and an enormous lagoon that depends on a freshwater lens. The kids are always smiling and happily interact with the few visitors, but their future is uncertain. Kiribati's coral atolls are very low-lying, with a maximum elevation of 3 to 4 meters above sea level, making it one of the countries most threatened by climate change.

Big And Small Underwater Faces category

winner: Mathieu Macias



This photograph is a portrait of a leafy sea dragon taken in Rapid Bay, South Australia, where it is endemic. I was absolutely charmed by this creature as soon as I saw it for the first time in the first photo and it became a dream for me to meet one. Although the first try was a failure, I decided to come back a few months later and my dream came true. I was so happy to meet this animal that is so cute and almost unreal, with its amazing ability to camouflage itself. Its shyness it was a big challenge in making this portrait, but I am delighted with the result.