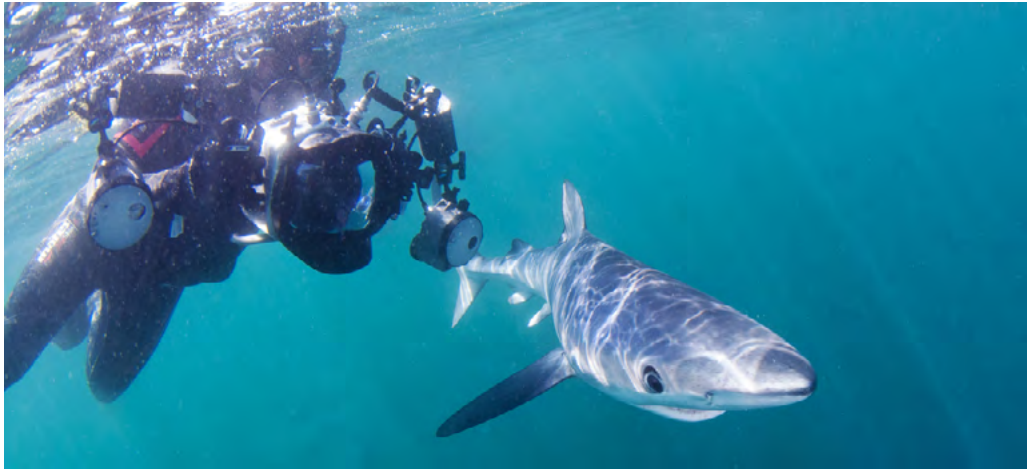


News, Travel & Events

Shark Trust Launches Photography Competition



Have you snapped any stunning images of sharks or rays? Or even the intricate eggcases produced by many species? Perhaps you've been lucky enough to encounter a chimaera? Then you could be the next Shark Photography Champion! The Shark Trust has just launched their photography competition designed to celebrate the diversity and beauty of these animals.

From now until the 15th May 2025 – photographers can enter up to four images into the photo competition. And this competition is a little different. There are no categories to have to decide where to enter your images. But there will be awards for the overall champion, and also winners selected for the following:

British Isles and Overseas. In addition, we'll be looking for entries for the Best Eggcase, Young Shark Photographer (U18), and entries relating to the Shark Trust's programmes: Mediterranean, Living with Sharks, and Oceanics.

A host of great prizes are up for grabs! Including a shark dive & stay package in Nassau with accommodation at Breezes and diving with Stuart Cove's Dive Bahamas courtesy of Diverse Travel and The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism. Perfect for creating a shark diving trip of a lifetime around. Two Mares Quad 2 computers, Scapa Joe Sculpture, Shark Trust Teemill merchandise and more.



The finalists will be selected by a panel of judges (Charles Hood, Nick Robertson-Brown, and Simon Rogerson), be printed by Astralis Print and Design, and put on display at Ocean Studios at Royal William Yard in Plymouth for the whole of July during Shark Month. Here, members of the public will be able to vote for their favourite image from the finalists on display. All the winners will be revealed at the end of July.

You don't have much time to enter! Dig out your best images of sharks, rays, skates, chimaeras or eggcases, and follow the link to enter before the 15th May 2025.

www.sharktrust.org/photocomp25

Mo'orea Humpback Expedition

September 13 - 20 2025

September 20 - 27 2025

October 4 - 11 2025

\$4500



Join us for a week in the South Pacific to snorkel with gentle giants - humpback whales!

Enjoy the comforts of a seaside luxury resort and uncover the beauty of French Polynesia.

Get face to face with some of the most intelligent ocean animals!

The first two people to book will receive a \$200 discount

www.apexoceantravel.com

www.uwpmag.com

Sea Shepherd saving the krill in Antarctica



Watch the 2024 Campaign Video

In 2025, SSCS is proud to partner with Sea Shepherd Global, including Sea Shepherd Germany and Switzerland, to lead a unified campaign for the protection of Antarctic wildlife. This partnership will strengthen our efforts to safeguard krill, the cornerstone of the Antarctic ecosystem, which supports baleen whales, penguins, seals, and seabirds. Together, we will bring world-renowned whale and krill scientists to the Southern Ocean to collect data and advocate for marine protected areas (MPAs), aiming to protect the region from industrial fishing.

The threats to Antarctica have never been more severe. With an industrial fleet of 14 supertrawlers targeting krill for Omega-3 supplements and salmon farming, the stakes for marine life and the balance of this fragile ecosystem continue to rise. In response, SSCS and our partners are returning to the Southern Ocean aboard the Allankay to track and expose the harmful activities of these fleets. This mission is a call to action for protecting Antarctica's last great wilderness and ensuring the survival of the species that depend on it.

www.seashepherd.org/antarctica/



Issue 144/6



Solitude Lembeh workshop with Tobias Friedrich and Simon Lorenz 12/7/25 to 19/7/25

Want to advance your photography skills, learn how to shoot black backgrounds, how to work full manual, snoot, or backlighting. Or are you completely new to photography? This workshop suits all levels. We will also do Lightroom and Photoshop, introductions, basics as well as advanced training sessions. Learn from award-winning photographers Tobias Friedrich and Simon Lorenz everything you need to get better at your photography.

What place is better for photography training than Lembeh?

Home to the rarest critters of the underwater world, you can lie comfortably in the sand while shooting Mimic Octopus, Wanderpus, Hairy Frogfish or Rhinopias, just to name a few.

Your Photo Coaches Tobias Friedrich and Simon Lorenz are professional underwater photographers and experienced photo coaches. They will aim to advance each photographers level of photography from where they are at the given moment.

www.insiderdivers.com/lembah

www.uwpmag.com

Ghost Fishing Summer Free Prize Draw!

Win a GFUK Prize Bundle worth up to £100 including a Hoodie, Tee and Bracelet.

From now until the end of August, every ghost gear report you submit will count as an entry into our prize draw! Report at www.ghostfishing.co.uk/report

The more you submit the more entries you get! No limit!

We're looking for high quality, genuine reports. Please don't make them up!

Entries close 31.08.2025

The Prize Bundle will be awarded to a randomly selected winner from all valid entries on the 06.09.2025

Full terms and conditions can be found at: www.ghostfishing.co.uk/competition/terms

Report Now and Win!

We're an award-winning British charity (no: 1174396), and since 2015, we've been on a mission to clean our oceans by removing Abandoned, Lost, and Discarded Fishing Gear, also known as 'Ghost Gear'.



Our team is a dedicated group of volunteer scuba divers trained in advanced diving techniques to minimize environmental impact. We're passionate about making our waters safer for marine life and scuba divers by eliminating these hazardous entanglements.

With over 70 volunteers, we're proud to be an independent organization tirelessly tackling the ghost gear problem.

www.ghostfishing.co.uk/report/

Trump executive order opens up marine protected areas in Pacific waters



The US President has signed a proclamation to unleash American commercial fishing in the Pacific Ocean, a key component of the America First Fishing Policy.

It allows commercial fishing in areas long considered off-limits due to their ecological significance—despite overwhelming scientific consensus that marine sanctuaries are essential for rebuilding fish stocks and maintaining ocean health.

These actions threaten some of the most sensitive and pristine marine ecosystems in the world.

In response to the announcement, Arlo Hemphill, Greenpeace USA project lead on

ocean sanctuaries, said:

“Opening the Pacific Islands Heritage Marine National Monument to commercial fishing puts one of the most pristine ocean ecosystems on the planet at risk. Almost 90 percent of global marine fish stocks are fully exploited or overfished.

The few places in the world ocean set aside as large, fully protected ocean sanctuaries serve as ‘fish banks’, allowing fish populations to recover, while protecting the habitats in which they thrive.

www.rnz.co.nz

alamBatu Resort, Bali



When Doris Vierkötter came to Bali in 2002, she fell in love with the island and its inhabitants. Intent on setting up her own resort, she traveled far and wide before finally discovering the bay with the black rocks that gave the resort its name. Together with her Indonesian friend Sri, she was able to lease the bay that – until then – was a barren, bleak spot with a saltworks. With passion, dedication and great flair, Doris designed the resort and employed native workers to build it, bungalow by bungalow. The fruit of their labors: a wonderful place for diving and also a haven of wellbeing and relaxation.

The underwater world in Bali offers a great variety of species. Located in the southwestern part of the coral triangle, the richness of the coral reefs is unique. More than 3.500 species have been discovered here. The Indonesian current is in charge of transporting plankton to the reefs around Bali. This very important



current transports the water from the Pacific Ocean, via Java and Banda Sea, to the Indian Ocean. This optimal geographic situation guarantees the great diversity of fish, coral, and critters; including nudibranchs, rhinopias, ghost pipe fish, cowries, boxer crabs, mimic octopus, wonderpus and many more.

The alamBatu house reef, situated directly off the resort, is a wonderful and mostly untouched reef of over 800 meters. The coral diversity varies from soft corals, black corals, table corals and gorgonians up to 2 meters in diameter. The corals shelter a fantastic underwater world with many schools of fish (including



juvenile barracudas, snappers), reef sharks, sea horses, harlequin shrimps and other critters.

With a bit of luck you can also see dolphins, pilot whales and ocean sunfish passing by.

Snorkeling is also possible and is a good alternative to scuba diving. The top of the reef offers you to see many different sea creatures.

Night dives and fluo-diving are also offered. Equipped with a blue light and a special filter for your mask, the fluorescent animals glow in different colors; providing a glowing underwater experience that you will love.

Aside from the beautiful house

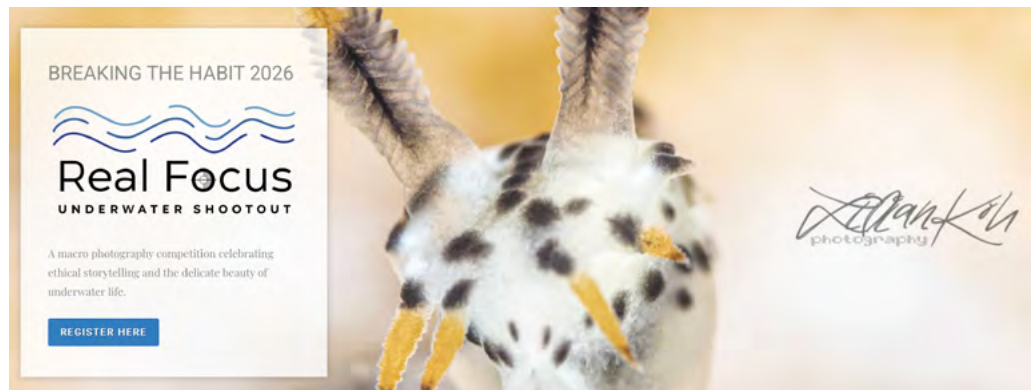


Doris Vierkötter, Owner | Danny Byland, Manager | Sri Kusuma Dewi, Manager

reef, there are numerous nearby dive sites that offer a variety of diving options including coral diving, muck diving and wreck diving. By Boat it only takes 15 minutes to get to the “Liberty” wreck or to the famous dive spots “Drop off”, “Ulami” and “Coral Garden” in Tulamben.

alamBatu is also an outstanding place for macro photographers. Our dive guides are great at spotting micro critters such as pygmy sea horses and other small species.

Real Focus, February 15, 2026 – April 30, 2026
Solitude Acacia Resort (Anilao) & Solitude Lembeh Resort (Lembah)



REAL FOCUS bridges photography, science, and ethics—uniting conscious divers in a one-of-a-kind shootout and marine research initiative.

Join us for the REAL FOCUS: Underwater Photography Shootout 2026, an underwater macro photography competition held across two of the world's most iconic muck diving destinations—Anilao, Philippines, and the Lembah Strait, Indonesia. These legendary sites, known for their astonishing biodiversity and charismatic critters, set the stage for a photo competition unlike any other.

For the first time, each image you submit—and every thoughtful frame you offer beyond it—will help shape a groundbreaking 3-year marine species behaviour study, led by globally renowned marine biologist Dr Dave Harasti. By gathering data on species,

sightings, habitats, and conditions across two parallel ecosystems, we're building a living visual record—one that serves science as deeply as it celebrates creativity.

This Year's Theme: Breaking the Habit

Can beauty be captured without manipulation? Can photography drive change?

Breaking the Habit challenges participants to rethink their underwater approach—letting go of staging, chasing, or touching—and instead, honouring the moment and the subject.

The goal? Images that are not only stunning but Honest. Ethical. Transformative.

Whether you're an experienced shooter or dipping your fins into the macro world for the first time, this is your chance to grow, connect, and create something that matters.



Guests staying at either resort during the competition period for at least 3 nights are eligible to enter. Dive into this exciting opportunity to capture stunning images, connect with a vibrant community of underwater photographers, and contribute to a competition that's as rewarding as it is transformative.

This isn't just about the perfect shot. It's about honouring the moment, respecting the subject, and telling stories that matter.

www.solitude.world/realfocus/

Palau with Nigel Marsh
13 - 21 September, 2025



Join Nigel Marsh for an incredible dive trip to Palau to explore rich coral reefs covered in fish and sharks, wonderful World War II plane and shipwrecks, colourful walls, mysterious blue holes and incredible sea caves.

Over five diving days we will be exploring dive sites like Blue Corner, which is famous for its sharks and schooling fish, Chandelier Cave, one of the few ocean caves where you can see stalactites, German Channel, where you can watch manta rays being cleaned and watch the early morning spawning of thousands of bumphead parrotfish at Ulong Sand Bar.

During our stay we will also be diving many other amazing reefs like Ulong Channel, Blue Holes and New Drop-off and also exploring a number of World War II shipwrecks like the Helmet Wreck, Iro and the Teshio Maru.

www.nigelmarshphotography.com



New Thai regulations for less experienced underwater photographers

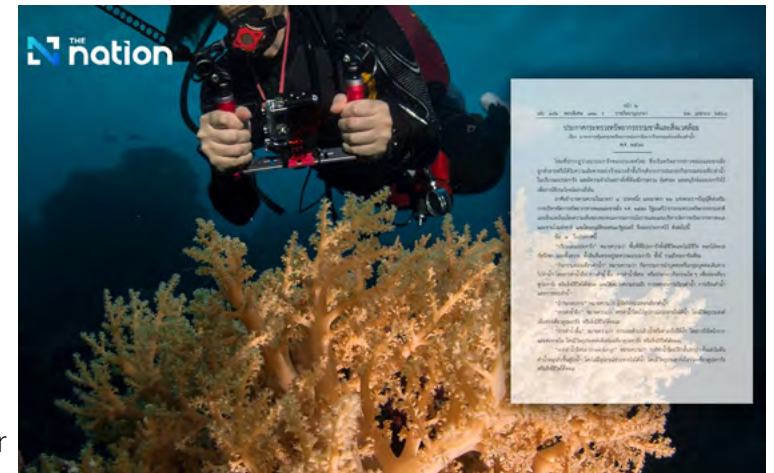
Holidaymakers planning to scuba dive in Thailand's coral reefs face new restrictions on underwater photography.

The Royal Gazette has announced a ban on carrying cameras during deep dives for most divers, in a bid to protect the country's fragile marine ecosystems.

The new measures, issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, state that only divers certified to Advanced Open Water level or those with a logbook proving at least 40 deep dives will be permitted to take cameras underwater. They must also be able to present their certification or logbook to officials upon request.

The authorities have cited the severe damage to Thailand's coral reefs from diving tourism as the reason for the stringent regulations, emphasising the urgent need for conservation to ensure sustainable use of these vital marine resources.

For snorkellers, the rules



stipulate that the water level must be at least two metres above the coral to minimise disturbance. Dive operators, licensed instructors, and their assistants are empowered to immediately halt the diving activities of anyone who disregards their guidance.

Furthermore, instructors and assistants who fail to warn non-compliant tourists could face the revocation of their licences.

The new rules will not apply to diving activities undertaken for academic research, education, or marine conservation and restoration projects carried out under the supervision of relevant authorities.

www.nationthailand.com

www.uwpmag.com



The 20th World Shootout Awards Are Open!

Calling all underwater photographers!

The prestigious 20th World Shootout Awards are officially open for entries in 8 still categories and a video clip!

We invite you to submit your most impressive underwater photographs captured between **November 2nd, 2024, and November 1st, 2025.**

Cash and Dreamy prizes

ENTER TODAY >>>>

www.worldshootout.org

Second Underwater Awards Australasia Imaging Competition Launching in June 2025

DPG is thrilled to announce the second edition of the Underwater Awards Australasia—the premier underwater imaging competition focused on the Australasian region. Like the hugely successful inaugural edition, the 2025 competition is a three-way collaboration between the long-established Underwater Australasia, DPG, and underwater imaging equipment and dive gear distributor UW Images.

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 9 categories, including the unique “Reels Showcase” video category. The top image or video among the category winners receives the distinction of “Best of Show.” This year's prestigious judging panel comprises photo judges Tobias Friedrich, Jayne Jenkins, Matty Smith, Tanya Houppermans, Scott Portelli and William Tan; and video judges Philip Hamilton and Ross Long.

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. Shooters are invited to immerse themselves in the challenge of capturing the essence of this extraordinary realm, where every frame tells a story of the delicate balance and breathtaking beauty that characterises our oceans.

The competition opens on June 1 and closes on July 20, 2025. Winners will be revealed during an awards ceremony at the Go Diving Show ANZ, September 6–7, and subsequently on UnderwaterCompetition.com. The results will be published by supporting media partners worldwide shortly thereafter. The entry fees are US\$10 per image or video entered.

www.underwatercompetition.com

Jacob Guy joins the Scubaverse Underwater Photography Team



Jacob Guy

We're thrilled to announce the final addition to our new Scubaverse Underwater Photography Team: multi-award-winning underwater filmmaker and photographer Jacob Guy.

Jacob represents the next generation of underwater image-makers, bringing fresh energy and a seriously impressive set of credentials to the team. A Fourth Element ambassador, teacher at The Underwater Club, and co-founder of 71%, Jacob is passionate about conservation and natural history storytelling, using his lens to inspire a deeper connection to the ocean.

Jacob has filmed and self-produced award-winning documentaries and worked as a photo and video pro in Lembeh and on liveaboards throughout Indonesia. Most recently, he was named Young Ocean Photographer of the Year,



Shannon Moran

further cementing his reputation as one of the most exciting emerging talents in underwater media today.

Shannon Moran is an award-winning underwater photographer and visual storyteller based in Falmouth, Cornwall. A graduate of Falmouth University, she specializes in capturing the vibrant and often unseen beauty of marine life in British waters and beyond. In addition to her photography, Shannon is a PADI MSDT and works for Fourth Element as a Drysuit Specialist.

With a deep passion for ocean conservation and a keen eye for detail, Shannon's work has been featured in Underwater Photographer of the Year and the British Wildlife Photography Awards, among others. She is also published in outlets such as SCUBA, NatureTTL, and UWP Magazine.

With a career spanning over two



Jane Morgan

decades, Jane Morgan brings a wealth of experience, creativity, and passion for the ocean. After learning to dive in 1991, Jane's early work in marine conservation and scuba instruction in the Philippines and Borneo laid the foundation for what would become a distinguished career in underwater photojournalism.

Now based in Cornwall, Jane dives the UK coast year-round, championing its often-overlooked marine biodiversity. She is also a proud ambassador for DYNAMICNORD and Fathoms Free, lending her voice and lens to ocean conservation efforts.

Saeed Rashid brings with him a wealth of experience from the worlds of photography, diving, and education. A senior lecturer at Bournemouth University, he teaches photography, journalism, and media, guiding students to develop strong creative and technical skills. He's also a passionate diver and works closely



Saeed Rashid

with industry-leading brands like Fourth Element and Suunto.

Beyond his academic and commercial work, Saeed serves as one of the European Coordinators for the Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society, helping young people pursue careers in marine science, conservation, and exploration. Through his company, Focus Visuals, Saeed runs popular underwater photography workshops, and he's also part of the team behind the prestigious Underwater Photographer of the Year competition.

The Scubaverse team is made up of a group of divers who collectively have over 50 years worth of experience in dive media, and are totally committed to bringing you the very best and latest news, reviews, articles, blogs, photos and video from every corner of the diving world.

www.scubaverse.com