

News, Travel & Events

UPY 2026 Awards Ceremony aka The UW Oscars
Crown Estate, Heddon St, London W1



UPY team at the Awards Ceremony. LtoR - Saeed, Toby, Alex, Dan, Sharon and Peter





DPG

Immerse Yourself in the World of Underwater Imaging

NEWS

Keep up to date with everything that matters to underwater photographers, from the latest gear and gadgets to the newest developments in marine research

TECHNIQUES

Learn the fundamentals of underwater photography and progress to the latest, most innovative techniques taught by the top pros in the industry

ARTICLES

Discover the world of underwater imaging through compelling features from photographers, filmmakers, ocean scientists, industry experts, and more

TRAVEL

Read about the experiences of accomplished shooters as they visit the world's most iconic dive spots, and get inside tips on maximizing your dive vacation

EQUIPMENT

Use our comprehensive underwater photography and videography gear guide to find the best camera, lenses, housing, lighting, and accessories for you

CONTESTS

Submit your best underwater images and short films to our annual contests, including the prestigious DPG Masters Underwater Imaging Competition

DIVE PHOTO GUIDE

www.divephotoguide.com · contact@divephotoguide.com

SUFOD

SUFOD, or the Underwater Photographers and Filmmakers Association of Turkey (Su Altı Fotoğrafçıları ve Filmcileri Derneği), is a voluntary civil society organization. Founded to promote underwater photography and filmmaking in Turkey, it organizes exhibitions, fosters a diving community, and showcases the beauty of the underwater world.

One of SUFOD's main missions in 2025 was to carry out an awareness project in the Sea of Marmara entitled "Nine Islands: Nine Lives of Istanbul." This project was designed to document the underwater world surrounding the Princes' Islands and to raise public awareness about the increasing environmental threats in the region. During the summer of 2025, a selection of these images was shared with the public through an exhibition. Following a jury selection, the chosen photographs were exhibited at Taş Mektep in Büyükada, opening on September 27 and



remaining open to visitors until April 19, 2026.

Our hope is to preserve a moment in time and pass it on to future generations—as both a reminder and an inspiration.

The enthusiastic public response made it clear that this visual record deserved a more permanent form. For this reason, three SUFOD members revisited the material collected between June and September 2025, re-evaluated it according to the exhibition criteria, and selected 104 high-resolution photographs representing 38 species to create an e-book. This week, we published the e-book electronically in both Turkish and English, in PDF and EPUB formats. It is freely available for download at the following link:

www.sufod.org.tr/2026/01/12/dokuz-ada-istanbulun-dokuz-cani-sergi-kitabi/

www.uwpmag.com

48. ročník
10. – 12. dubna 2026

PAF
Tachov

48th Year
April 10th – 12th 2026

Mezinárodní festival potápěčského filmu, fotografie, kresleného humoru a dětské výtvarné tvorby.
International Festival of Underwater Photography, Films, Cartoon humor, and Children's Artwork.

Ceny pro vítězné autory

Grand Prix v kategorii Film

Pobyt na lodi S.M.Y. Ondina včetně potápění a 50% sleva pro doprovázející osobu.

Nejúspěšnější fotograf

Pobyt na lodi S.M.Y. Ondina včetně potápění a 50% sleva pro doprovázející osobu.

Nejlepší fotografie z moří a oceánů

Týdenní potápěčský pobyt v resortu Nakaela Lodge na ostrově Seram a 50% sleva pro doprovázející osobu.

Nejúspěšnější amatérský film

Potápěčské safari na lodi v Rudém moři



Prizes for winning authors

Grand Prix in the Film category

Tour on the boat S.M.Y. Ondina including diving and 50% discount for accompanying person.

TOP Photographer

Tour on the boat S.M.Y. Ondina including diving and 50% discount for accompanying person.

The best photo of sea and ocean

A week-long diving stay at the Nakaela Lodge resort on Seram Island and a 50% discount for accompanying persons.

Most successful amateur film

Diving safari on a boat in the Red Sea



Pro každého autora je připravena autorská porcelánová plaketa z výtvarné dílny Aleny Růžickové. Jako jediný festival zasíláme každému autorovi unikátní nástěnnou plaketu z českého porcelánu o průměru 12 cm se symbolem festivalu. Jedná se o ojedinelou sbírkovou sérii festivalového symbolu. Tato sbírka čítá za 48 let existence festivalu stejný počet unikátních plaket.

Each author will receive a porcelain plaque designed by Alena Růžicková. PAF Tachov is the only festival to send each author a unique wall plaque of 12 cm diameter, with our traditional festival's symbol - Cochtanka.

This plaque is one of the unique parts of the collection including all together 48 pcs of plaques which is the same as years of the festival's existence.



Své soutěžní fotografie a filmy zasílejte do půlnoci 1. března 2026.
You can send your competition photos and films till midnight of March 1st 2026.

www.paftachov.cz

Muck & Magic Philippines with Saeed Rashid, Sep 2026



Join the latest dive adventure in our popular Muck & Magic series with journalist and underwater photographer Saeed Rashid for great diving and plenty of fun on this holiday to the Philippines.

Travel with like-minded divers to the central region of the Philippines, where you spend time at two iconic dive resorts. The itinerary begins at Magic Oceans Resort in Anda, with unlimited diving and a half day whale shark excursion included. After six memorable nights, continue to the beautiful Atmosphere Resort & Spa, dive the famous house reef, take in the incredible critter diving of Dauin,

and enjoy the beautiful Apo Island during your 6-night stay.

Saeed will be by your side throughout the trip providing entertaining evening talks and tips for any budding photographers.

"I first dived this stunning region of the Philippines 12 years ago, and it instantly captured a piece of my heart. From mesmerising muck diving to swirling schools of jacks and majestic whale sharks, the Bohol and Dauin coast offers it all. I can't wait to return for this very special workshop!"

www.diveworldwide.com

ABOFA

Aqaba Blue Ocean Future in Action

9 - 12 September 2026
Aqaba International Exhibition Center (AIEC)
+962793131319
+962797979793

ABOFA- Aqaba Blue Ocean Future in action 2026 is a comprehensive international exhibition and experience platform dedicated to Diving, Marine Technology, Water Sports, Adventure Tourism, and Ocean Lifestyle.

Taking place in the heart of the Red Sea, ABOFA aims to transform Aqaba into the region's leading hub for diving, marine innovation, and coastal adventure industries.

The event brings together global brands, innovators, researchers, divers, investors, and marine professionals to connect, collaborate, showcase technology, conduct demonstrations, and engage in B2B and B2C experiences.

TARGET SECTOR



SHOW BRIEF



FEATURE AREAS

- Workshop
- Live Stage
- VR Gaming
- Networking Areas
- Demo Area
- Aqua Shutter

Scan For Register



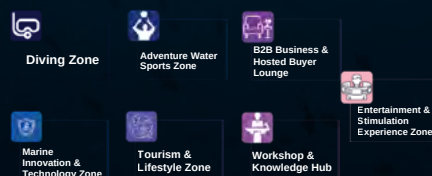
SHOW SUMMARY

- 80+ Exhibitors
- 20+ Workshops / day
- 50+ Speakers
- 4000+ visitors

EXHIBITOR CATEGORY

- Marine technology companies
- Diving equipment distributors
- Ports, marinas, shipyards
- Government institutions
- Environmental agencies
- Tourism boards
- Yacht operators
- Dive centers & instructors

FLOOR PLAN



Anilao with Alex Tattersall 21-30 April 2027

Anilao is macro heaven—nudis, critters, textures, behaviours—and Alex is, frankly, a force of nature. Since teaming up with Oonasdivers in 2010, Alex has run hit workshops across Egypt, Indonesia, and the Philippines. The formula? Creative techniques, zero ego, and a Mary Poppins-sized bag of underwater toys.

Anilao is an absolutely 'must dive' destination for the underwater photographer, offering a breathtaking myriad of photographic opportunities on every dive.

The beautiful Aiyanar resort is the perfect base for our group, and we will be diving with some of the best dive guides in the area. Dives will be unhurried, productive dive sites will be revisited and I'm confident in saying that you will come away with a deeper understanding of your own photography and a set of beautiful images to add to your portfolio.

It will also be a good laugh!

Expect hands-on coaching and guided dives focused on technique, creativity, and problem-solving and his "toy box" often including Light-shaping gizmos & laser snoots for dramatic, controlled lighting and the infamous "magic ball"

Daily diving: Up to 24 guided



dives over the trip—think critter hunts, creative lighting sessions, and plenty of time to practise

Workshops & reviews: On-resort sessions with image reviews, technique deep-dives, and practical demos you'll apply the same day

Full board: You concentrate on photos; Aiyanar keeps you fed, watered, and spoiled with surface-interval views

This workshop is aimed at intermediate to advanced photographers who are ready to take their underwater imagery to the next level.

www.oonasdivers.com

Organized by
1st ARABIA
Fira Barcelona

Int Partner
www.abofa.jo
info@abofa.jo

Hosted By
ADC
AQABA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



The Masters Class Series of Workshops for 2026

All workshops are fully inclusive of all meals, group ground transport, nitrox, guide, boat, diving fees
2 daily seminars, coaching and more!

Critterfest- January 27-FEB 6 + The Blackwater Edition FEB 6-Feb. 14

Bruce Shafer, Mike Bartick and Walter Marti-Photo, Editing and Video

Insider Divers-Simon Lprenz and Tobias Friedrich Feb 16-24th

Macro + Blackwater, Photo and Editing

Backscatter Macro Intensive + Blackwater March 8-18/18-22

Mike Bartick- Photo, Editing, Coaching



Bluewater Photo and Travel 2 sessions, April 16-26 | April 26-May 3

Photo, Editing, Coaching

Stephen Frink - Limited- May 9-16

Macro and Blackwater, Digital Darkroom

May 18-28 + The Blackwater Edition May 28-June 5th

Bruce Shafer, Mike Bartick, Walter Marti

Contact Mike Bartick for more details or questions- Groups are welcome

mike@DiveCBR.com or saltwaterphoto@live.com

Crystal Blue Resort, Anilao

www.DiveCBR.com

mike@DiveCBR.com saltwaterphoto@live.com

Get Your Macro On!





REAL FOCUS Underwater Photography Shootout



The REAL FOCUS Underwater Photography Shootout will run from February 15 through May 31, 2026, offering photographers a ten-week opportunity to participate in a competition that places ethics, authenticity, and mindful image-making at its core.

The shootout is open to guests staying a minimum of three nights at either Solitude Resort Anilao in the Philippines or Solitude Lembeh Resort in Indonesia during the competition period. Both destinations are internationally recognized for their rich marine biodiversity and macro photography opportunities, making them ideal settings for a contest centered on observation rather than intervention.

More than a traditional photography competition, the REAL FOCUS Shootout positions itself as a platform for reflection and change within the underwater

imaging community. The initiative encourages photographers to move away from staged or manipulated encounters and instead embrace a respectful, non-invasive approach to documenting marine life. Participants are challenged to create images that are visually compelling while remaining truthful to the natural behavior of their subjects.

The total prize pool exceeds USD \$25,000, featuring a curated selection of awards that include advanced photography equipment, travel experiences, and specialty items designed for underwater photographers. The prizes are intended not only to reward excellence, but to support continued growth and creativity within the field.

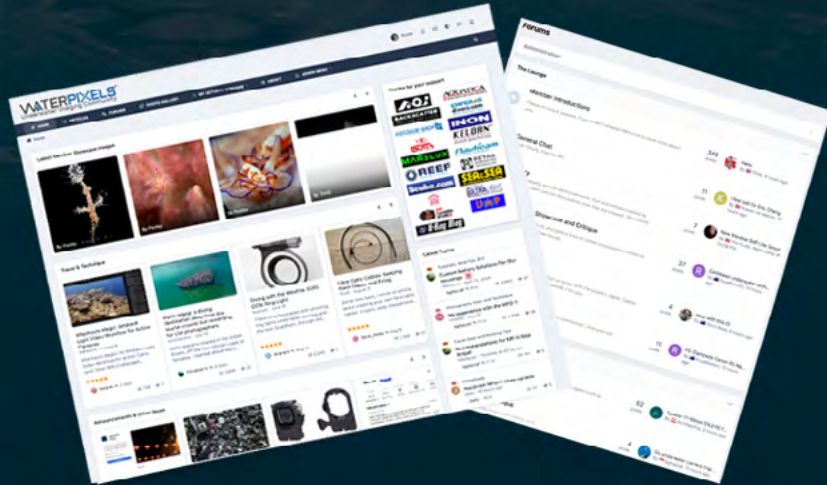
Further details, including entry requirements and judging criteria, are on the official competition website:

www.solitude.world/realfocus/



WATERPIXELS™

Underwater Imaging Community



Setup in late 2023, Waterpixels is a thriving online community for underwater image makers.

With over a 1000 members, the forum is run by a small, dedicated team of individuals who share a passion for underwater photography and who want to support the underwater imaging community.

Our objective is to provide members with a free community website and share advice, experience, knowledge and ideas that can enhance skills and creativity.

To support our commitment to keeping Waterpixels accessible to everyone, there is no charge for membership. We aim to cover running costs through sales of Waterpixels merchandise, donations from our community members, and, perhaps in time to come, carefully selected advertising partnerships. We do not sell or pass on data.

By joining Waterpixels, you become part of a vibrant community that is driven by a common love for underwater imaging. Whether you're a seasoned professional or just starting your journey, whether you use a large mirrorless or DSLR system, a GoPro or a compact, we welcome you to explore our platform, engage with fellow members, and take advantage of the wealth of resources available to you.

www.waterpixels.net

Monterey Shootout

July 24-26, 2026



This three day weekend features seminars, a fabulous social mixer, and a friendly photo and video contest that makes us dive a little harder and push our creativity alongside new and old friends just a bit longer. Join us for the greatest dive weekend of the year.

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!

Registration Only \$35

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.

www.backscatter.com

www.uwpmag.com



Antarctica's Whales Under Threat

Dear Peter,

The Southern Ocean is one of the most remote places on Earth, yet the pressure on it has never been greater.

Every year, fleets of massive industrial trawlers descend on Antarctic waters and haul in staggering amounts of krill, billions of these tiny crustaceans that whales, penguins, seals, and seabirds depend on for survival. In fact, this year's haul was one of the largest ever recorded.



Krill are the foundation of the Antarctic food web. Remove them, and entire ecosystems collapse. For whales in particular, krill mean life itself.

www.seashepherd.org

www.seashepherd.org/donate/

Rockpool Photography Workshop Plymouth, UK

A strong foundation in basic photography is key to achieving good results. If you're new to photography, this session covers the fundamentals: understanding exposure, aperture, shutter speed, and ISO, as well as composition tips like framing and using leading lines to draw attention to your subject. We'll also cover how to adjust your settings for different light conditions and how to work with close-up subjects.

This session focuses on the specific environment of rockpools. You'll learn how to identify interesting subjects like marine life, seaweed, and rocks, and how to use the natural light available to your advantage. We'll also discuss the challenges of photographing small, often moving subjects and how to stay mindful of the delicate ecosystems you're working within. I will share tips on how to approach and photograph wildlife without disturbing it, maintaining respect for the environment.

Under my guidance, you'll practice composing shots, using natural light, and capturing both still subjects and those in motion (such as crabs or fish). We'll help you



experiment with different angles and perspectives, so you can discover the most creative and effective ways to photograph the rockpool environment.

After the field session, we'll review the photos you've taken. We'll go through each participant's images, offering constructive feedback on composition, lighting, and subject matter. You'll also get an introduction to basic editing techniques, where we'll show you how to enhance your photos, improve exposure, and bring out the colours and details of your rockpool images. You'll leave with a better understanding of how to edit your photos to reflect the natural beauty of the environment.

1:1 - £200. 2+ people: £100 pp

www.jamesharrisunderwater.co.uk