

Editorial

Fish

UwP front covers have always given me a great deal of satisfaction for I am not restricted by the newsagent's shelf formulaic layout. This issue's front cover is no exception photographically but it also helps to illustrate a message.

On a recent trip to Indonesia I became acutely aware of the lack of decent sized fish on nearly every dive. I was told that, in recent years, foreign fishing fleets had bought the rights and came through with factory ships and virtually hoovered the sea.

Coincidentally I was loaned a DVD of Cousteau's 'Silent World' and noticed how many fish there were back in the 50's. Then I got a press release about www.fish4ever.org

who are campaigning to encourage sustainable fishing. Their site made me aware of the deep-sea bottom trawling concern which highlights the depths (pun intended) fishermen have to go and the indiscriminate methods they use.

Finally Alex Mustard wins a category at the BBC Wildlife Competition and sends me an illustrated article on the story behind his winning shot. In the folder was this front cover shot which sort of completed the circle.

Besides being a powerful shot it illustrates the benefits of marine parks with the shoal of fish congregating to spawn and continue their species in safety.

Then I thought back to Indonesia and imagined how a factory ship could remove this shoal right down to the last specimen.

This cover shot is not only good. It could also become rare.

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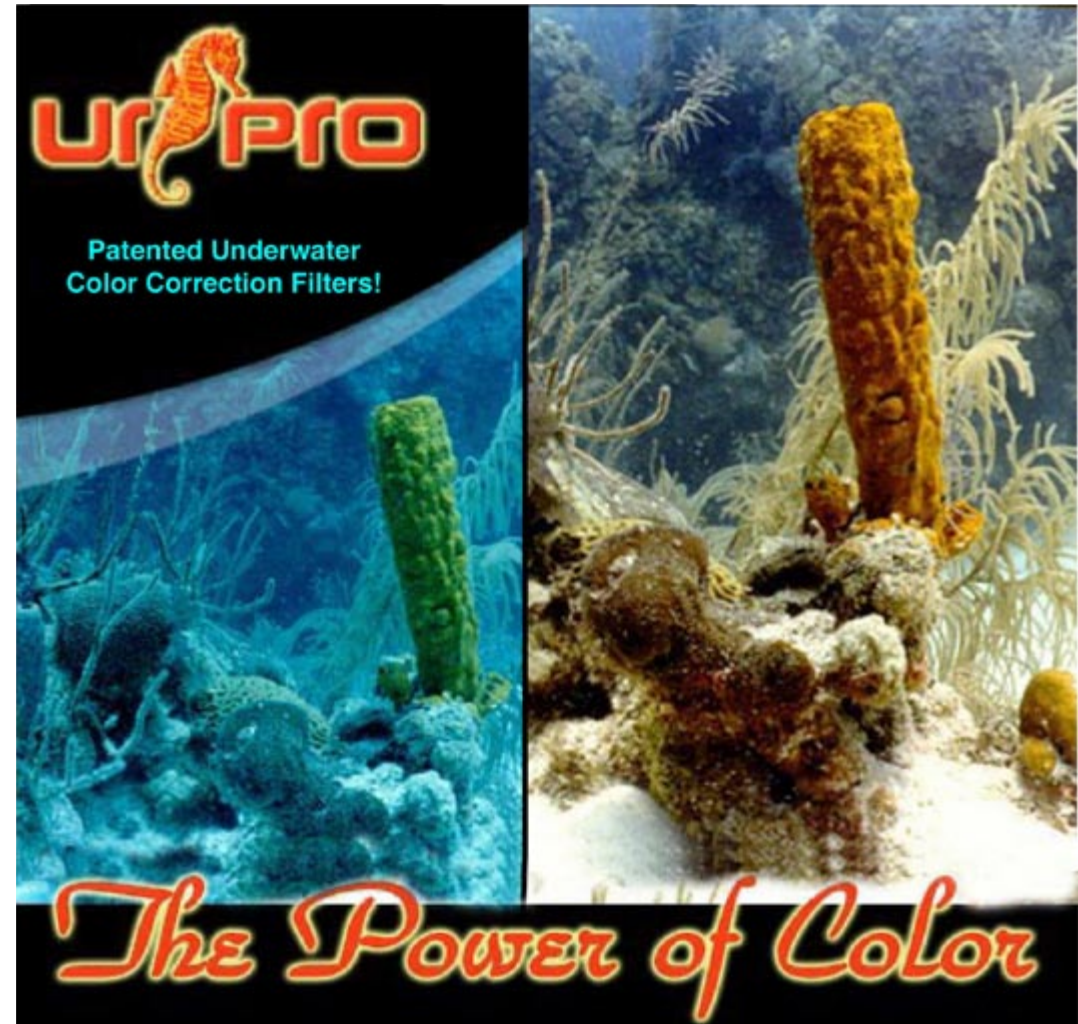
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