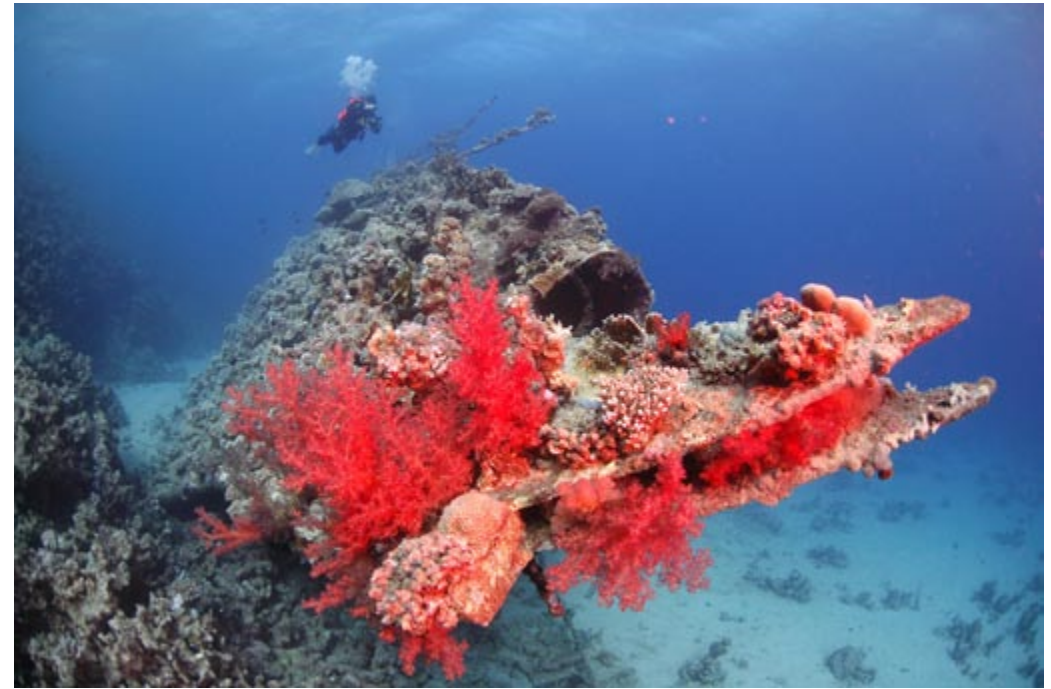




Parting shots

In June this year I was helping Alex Mustard test a variety of filter combinations for what would eventually become his Magic filters.

The beauty of these filters is that you don't use strobes so your camera outfit is small and easy to handle yet you still get very subtle, colourful results. A wreck was the ideal subject to test the filter and I used a 10.5 fisheye lens on a Nikon D70 in a Subal housing, aperture priority @ F5.6.

The bows of this wreck lie in about 15 metres and I set the manual white balance on the

camera and started to take some shots. Unbeknown to me, a fellow underwater photographer, 'JP' Trenque, was just to my right.

I took the shot on the left, checked the LCD screen and was pleased with the result. I then took another shot a little bit closer and was amazed to see the shot on the right jump out of my screen. At first I couldn't understand what had happened but then I turned slightly and saw 'JP' to my right. He was using a D100 in a Sea & Sea housing with twin strobes. It was then that the penny dropped.

We had both taken a picture at exactly the same time and his strobes had lit my shot as well!

I doubt we could have ever done this again even if we'd tried and I'm not good enough at maths to work out the odds it happening.

The result, incidentally, shows

why you shouldn't use strobes with a Magic filter for it has made the foreground soft corals unnaturally red.

I very nearly deleted the second shot but then I thought it would be perfect for Parting Shots!

Peter Rowlands

**Do you have a nice shot with a short story behind it?
If so e mail me and yours could be the next "Parting shot".**

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