

Parting shots

Permit me a bit of indulgence in this issue but, to be honest, I haven't received any Parting Shot ideas for this issue!

Back in the early 90's I was recommended to Greenpeace by Peter Scoones as a stills photographer to accompany their driftnet campaign in mid Atlantic. Two weeks later I was on board MV Sirius heading out to sea with a team of scientists, observers and a surface video cameraman.

Prior to this I had really only taken pictures for myself which, if I was lucky enough, would be wanted by publishers and advertisers. This was to be one of my first high profile assignments, the results from which would be distributed worldwide by Greenpeace who had invested tens of thousands of pounds in the campaign so no pressure there then!

We spent several days looking for the Spanish driftnetters but eventually found them and approached to document their surface activities. It was soon very clear that, not surprisingly, there was a high percentage of bycatch including many sharks.

The plan was to combine this surface footage with underwater material shot on both video and stills. Both would be needed to cater for television and newspapers/magazines.

Our water time was limited as it took a while to locate the net and to get in the water before they recovered it. We dived from RIBs and after our first dive me and my buddy got separated from the boat. In mid Atlantic there is no sense of the enormous scale and we ended up on our own hanging onto the net on the surface while our boat crew happily looked for us in the opposite direction. At this



*Nikonos III with 15mm lens, Subatec S100 flashgun.
200asa Ektachrome slide film
1/6th @F5.6*

stage I would urge you not to e mail me about the advantages of surface marker buoys, please!

We were not too concerned as the net was slowly being recovered taking us ever nearer but when a sharks fin glided past us at close quarters our concern became very real. Funnily enough neither my buddy nor I said anything to eachother but every now and again we kept looking underwater imagining the worst at anytime.

Fortunately, after what seemed like an eternity, the boat sighted us and quickly came over and as it got nearer we both left the net and swam the fastest we had ever done towards it and there was no need to haul us in as we leapt out of the water, clean over the tubes and into the boat in one swift movement.

Fortunately our second dive was much calmer and we immediately dropped on this dolphin which I photographed from all angles until my film ran out.

The main picture has been used internationally by Greenpeace to further awareness of the menace



of driftnets and I was pleased to have been involved in a successful campaign.

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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A M E G A P I X E L E V O L U T I O N

Sea bathing -
 Marine iguana
(Amblypneustes platurus)
 Species: 0001
 I decided to pose on the orange
 blue to shoot this image -
 It sort of gives the shot an air
 of this world ambience.
 Camera: 100D/5.6
 Exposure: 1/250, f/11
 Lens: 16 mm Tokoyo
 Exposure Mode: A-DEP

[illegible]

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