

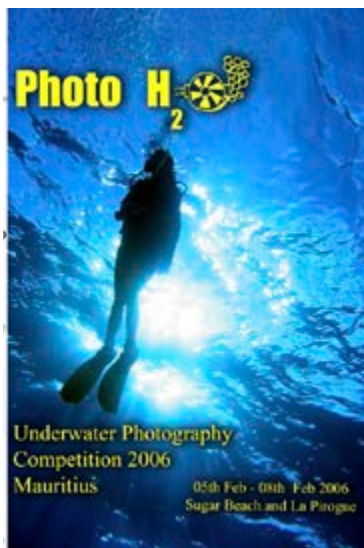
Mauritius 2nd Underwater Photo Competition

By Mathieu Meur

Held over 4 days in early February 2006, the 2nd Mauritius Underwater Photo Competition, Photo H2O, gathered 15 participants from 3 countries at La Pirogue and Sugar Beach Hotels, in the scenic Southwest of Mauritius.

Organised by One&Only Resorts and Sun Divers for the second year running, the competition was held under the watchful eyes of 5 international judges, including world-renowned photographers Henri Eskenazi, Hugues Vitry and Mathieu Meur, as well as editors of dive publications Steve Weinman and Fiona McIntosh. The overall event was extremely well organised, always keeping safety in mind (each photographer was paired with a non-photographer buddy), and with a plethora of fantastic prizes including Air Mauritius tickets, One&Only hotel stays and dive equipments from Saekodive, Scubapro and Inon, amongst others.

Having been involved with the first edition of this competition, it was interesting for me to see that although most participants used consumer or prosumer cameras with slave strobe units,



*First prize winner in Animals of the Reef category
(Photo by Jean-Michel Langlois, Fuji F10 with Inon D2000 strobe)*

the general quality of the pictures showed much improvement this time round. In fact, the overall winner of the competition, Jean-Michel Langlois carried a simple point-and-shoot Fuji camera, with an external strobe. This goes to show that with a keen eye for composition and with creative use of light in mind, one can achieve interesting results even with the simplest camera set-up.



*First prize winner in Beauty of the Sea category
(Photo by Jean-Michel Langlois, Fuji F10 with Inon D2000 strobe)*

Photo H2O aims at becoming an even more international event in years to come, with more participants joining in the fun. If you're interested in taking part, contact Gérald Rambert of Sun Divers

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