

Editorial

Link to UwP

The fact that you are reading this means that you have subscribed to UwP and I thank you for that. Subscribing cost you nothing - just a very small amount of your time. In return you get a free magazine devoted to your favourite subject and that seems like a very fair deal to me.

Thus far UwP has asked very little of its readers but now I'm going to ask you for a small favour.

If you have a web site would you be so kind to include a link to UwP. This will help new readers to discover us and learn about all the new and exciting developments in the underwater photography world.

Thank you in anticipation.

Is Green is the new blue?

I cut my teeth in UK waters in the mid to late '70s. Back then there was very little commercial equipment available and just getting a full length diver in frame was a major breakthrough.

Fortunately lenses like the Nik 15mm came along as well as 16mm fisheyes and domes for

housed cameras which opened up our horizons considerably and electronic flashguns helped add light into the dark green corners.

Given the difficulty/limitations of low viz green water photography it is understandable that the majority of underwater photographers choose to hop on a plane to somewhere hot, clear and blue. Everything is easier, more comfortable and, in diving/photo terms, much more cost effective.

I'm as guilty as the next but having recently moved to Devon I suspect I will now be diving more in the UK than overseas and will have to relearn all the old tips and techniques to try and wring a decent image out of the green murk.

There's a very good website devoted to green water photography

www.digigreen.net

If you find yourself struggling to get decent images there's plenty of experienced members there to help with advice.

Photography in green/UK waters is not easy but sometimes the greater the challenge the greater the satisfaction in achieving a result.

Now then, where's my drysuit powder and flask of hot coffee...

Peter Rowlands

peter@uwpmag.com

Readers Lives

Come on down

Just a quick note in response to your editorial in UWP30, "Come on down". You've hit on a subject that's also been bothering me to no end - dramatization of the ocean's predators in order to hype a supposedly educational programme/show/exhibition.

It's not just the Plymouth Marine Aquarium; how many times have you seen Discovery Channel and even the National Geographic Channel airing shows with breathless, carnival side-show headlines as "Hunter Hunted" or "Jaws: Top Predator".

Invariably, the trailers for these shows use clips of a shark (usually a great white for impact), mouth agape, battering into a cage as if to devour the cameraman whole. The voiceover is usually done in a deep baritone, set to a soundtrack that would not be out of place in a B-grade Hollywood horror movie.

Cut to commercial, and there's a short advert by the WWF trying to educate the audience about the evils of shark fin soup (I live in Hong Kong, where this is a major problem). After watching the over-the-top, sharks-are-all-going-to-eat-you National

Geographic segment, it's not hard to see why the conservationists aren't getting anywhere.

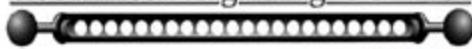
It's truly sickening that supposedly educational and conservation-minded companies such as National Geographic can't seem to resist the lure of sensationalism. Their mission is to entertain, yes, but not at the expense of their true mission, which is to educate and conserve.

Ok, I'll stop ranting. Is there any way we can organize a petition to Nat Geo and the Discovery Channel through UWP?

Cheers,

Benjamin Kao

Let not one o-ring get in the way
Use TLC arms for accurate
light positioning

Technical Lighting Control

www.aquatica.ca