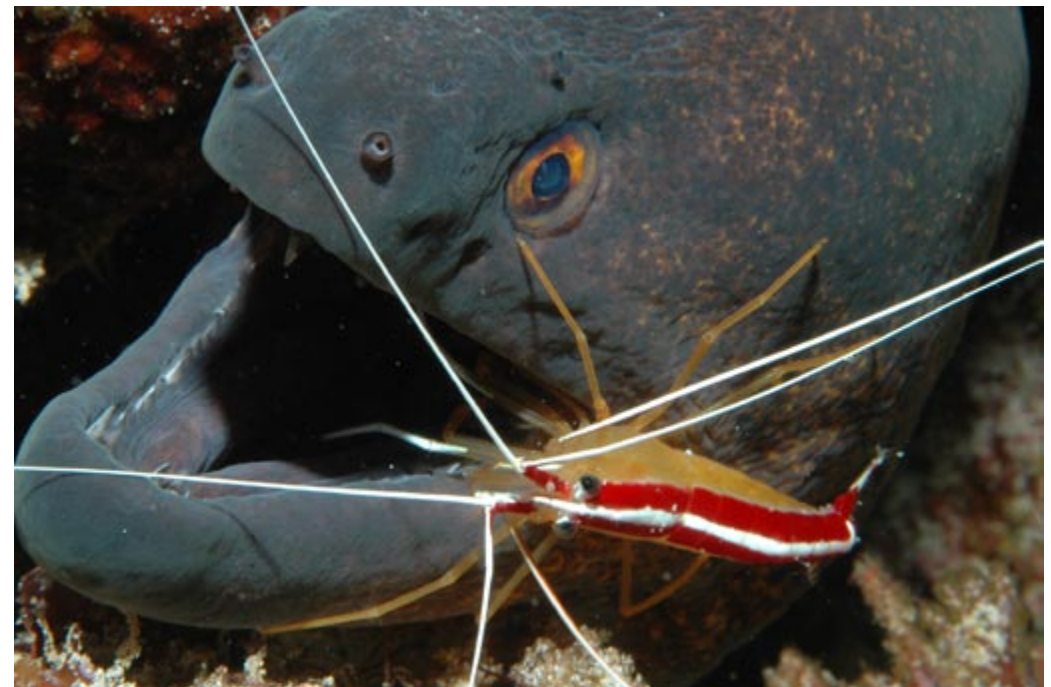




(Above) Rhinopias Eschmeyeri – Nikon D70 in Seacam housing- Nikon 105 mm - Iso 200 – Sb 800 in Seacam housing – 1/250 @ f8

(Top right) Diver with a turtle inside a pass – Nikon D70 in Seacam housing- Nikon 12-24 mm - Iso 200 – Sb 800 in Seacam housing – 1/160 @ f9

(Right) Moray eel being cleaned by a shrimp – Nikon D70 in Seacam housing- Nikon 105 mm - Iso 200 – Sb 800 in Seacam housing – 1/100 @ f4



enough to have the Mauritius Marine Conservation Society who has been working for many years on sinking boats to create artificial reefs.

One of the first wrecks sunk in Mauritius known as “Tug 2” off the west coast is a very good example of how such projects attract fish and other animals. As its name says, it is a little tugboat, 19 meters long, lying on the sand at 20 meters.

Surrounded by a sandy seabed, you wonder how on earth so many fish found it. But they have, and now on Tug 2 you can find nearly all the species of scorpionfish in Mauritius, going from the leaf fish to the very rare Rhinopias also called Mauritian weedy scorpionfish, unique to Mauritius.

Another good example of an artificial reef is the wreck of the



Anemone growing on dead coral - - Nikon D70 in Seacam housing- Nikon 105 mm - Iso 200 – Sb 800 in Seacam housing – 1/125 @ f22

Stella Maru, off Trou aux Biches in the north. A wonderful steel structure of 44.5 meters long lying at 22 meters. It shelters all sorts of reef fishes, and its massive giant moray eel, has grown accustomed to and loves gentle strokes from divers.



Cathedral, Dive site on the west coast – Nikon D70 in Seacam housing- Fisheye Nikon 10.5 mm - Iso 200 – Sb 800 in Seacam housing – 1/50 @ f4.5

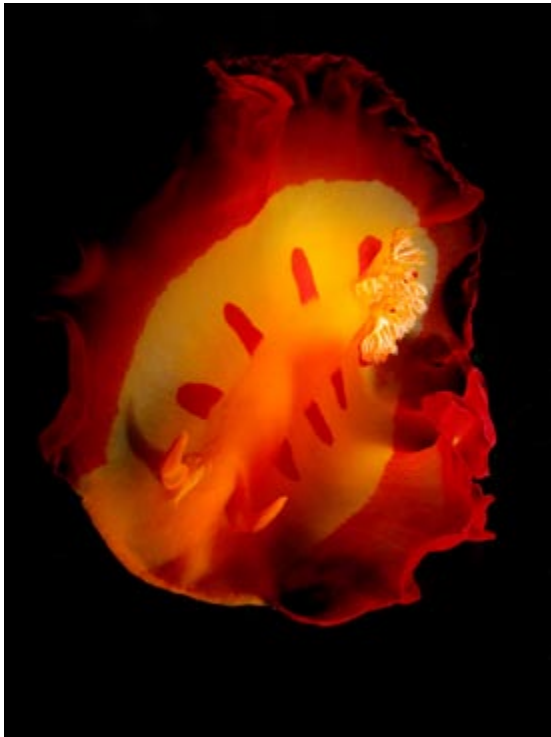
But the adventure of diving in Mauritius does not end here. We can also offer some very good reef dives. Other the years, corals growing and dying over layers and layers have formed today's great underwater structures which together with small



Drop off with huge seafan growing – Nikon D70 in Seacam housing- Fisheye Nikon 10.5 mm - Iso 200 – Sb 800 in Seacam housing – 1/250 @ f11

rock structures probably coming from big volcanic explosions, give homes in holes and offer habitats to everything from lobsters to eels.

These reefs are a very fragile ecosystem and each has their own respective fishes. You see them



station you can be amazed to find a sudden big explosion all other shoals of fish going in every direction or see the sudden appearance out of the blue of a group of hunting kingfish or tuna....these are the bad boys of the sea, give them a pair of black sunglasses, a Harley Davidson, and Brad Pitt will need to start worrying.

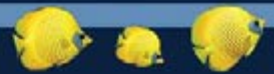
So the next time someone wonders if you can dive in Mauritius you know the answer. Yes. And if you are wondering yourself whether to give it a try, then my answer will again have to be yes. You simply do not know what you are missing.

Spanish dancer - Compact Canon powershot A95 in canon casing - Iso 50 - inon Z220 - Fisheye inon -1/50 @ f4

everyday and with experienced dive masters and instructors some even build relationships, like the large moray eels who in spite of their reputation can be very docile.

On every reef you will find a very important relationship between the fish with cleaner wrasse or the cleaner shrimp busy at work in the mouth of an eel or climbing on the back of a large grouper to give it a quick tidy up. As you are absorbed in the activities of the cleaning

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