

Parting Shot 1

Back in 2000, I was new to underwater photography and I purchased an Epoque 35mm film camera at the dive show in Birmingham in preparation for a trip to the Maldives. One of my sons had found himself a job as a snorkel guide on Kuredu for a year so it was our onerous duty to visit him. The camera was very basic, fixed everything, but was simple to use and served as a good start point for me.

My son had been very enthusiastic about the dive sites and the wildlife that was around. He wasn't wrong. I enjoyed the diving, the water was clear, the coral was bleached in places but there was a profusion of all the usual écommoní stuff. Turtles, sharks, eagle ray were in abundance around the island and in one hour we saw ten turtles whilst snorkelling.

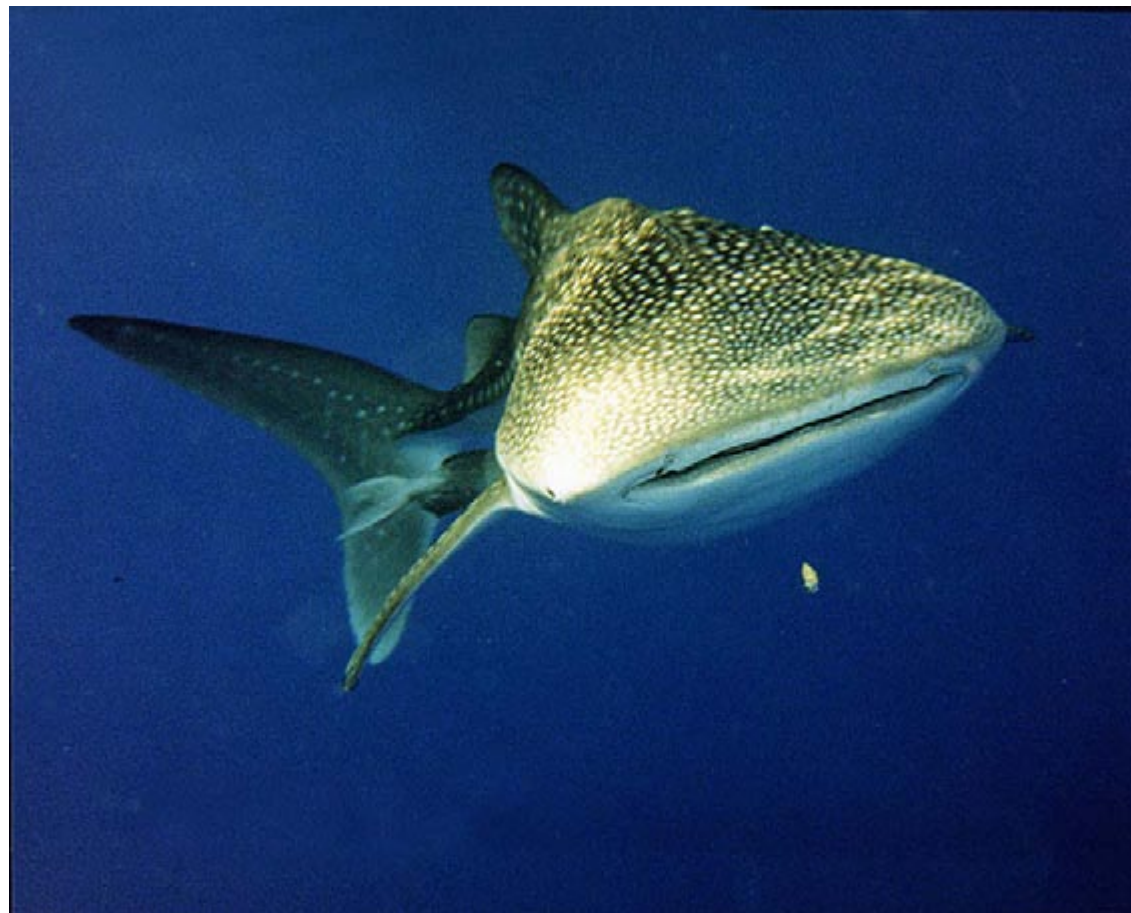
As the holiday drew to a close, we went off for a two dive daytrip to a Fushivaru.

The first dive was in a channel and provided everything one could want. Visibility was wonderful and I clicked away happily on the basis that something would come out if I took enough shots. I had learned a lot from

talking to other divers and had even been introduced to one of the first digital cameras in an underwater housing by one of the Seaplane pilots. To be able to see what you had taken immediately was a revelation back then.

The second dive was on a thila in the channel which came to about 10m of the surface. As I had been clicking away with abandon, I changed the film for the second dive. I was using Fuji colour film 200 ISO. There was a strong current and, hanging in the current at the leading edge of the thila were a couple of grey reef sharks. Moving on, we came across a pair of eagle rays and some green morays and a large shoal of oriental sweet lips.

My dive drew to a close and me & my buddy were first up onto the boat. After we had taken our kit off, we relaxed waiting for the rest of the divers to surface & be picked up. Some activity from the crew drew our attention to a large shape in the water approaching us. The words Whale Shark were heard and there was a mad



Epoque-ET100, 24 x 36mm 34mm , F3.5, 1/125, Fujicolour 200 ISO

scramble for kit. I grabbed my fins, mask, snorkel and camera and jumped ship. We were fortunate to be directly in the path of the approaching whale shark and spent some 10 minutes swimming with it. It was a truly wonderful experience and I was very fortunate to be in the right place. I clicked away until I finished the film

however, it wasn't until I got home & had the film developed that I found out quite what I had captured.

Patrick Mitchell-Jones

Parting Shot 2

Many fantastic images are taken underwater in the tropics, but relatively few images are taken in the freshwater northern ecosystems. This is my particular interest in underwater photography. To document the fresh water lakes in all seasons, to answer questions like what does a lake look like under the ice in winter? The resulting images are used as illustration in science books and magazines. To archive images under the ice I use a number of remote triggered camera designs, as well as the age old technique of cutting a hole in the ice, holding the camera under water and taking a picture with my hands. This past year I decided to upgrade my equipment and I sold my old Nikon film – Ocean eye rig and bought an Ikelite housing for a canon 30D. The 30D is now an out dated camera (being older than a year a camera is now outdated!) and thus a lot less expensive, and I could afford a spare camera for the case. This is a big issue for underwater photographers, since each housing is unique to the camera and the housing is often equal in price to the camera. I settled on a camera and case that I hope will last me for three years.

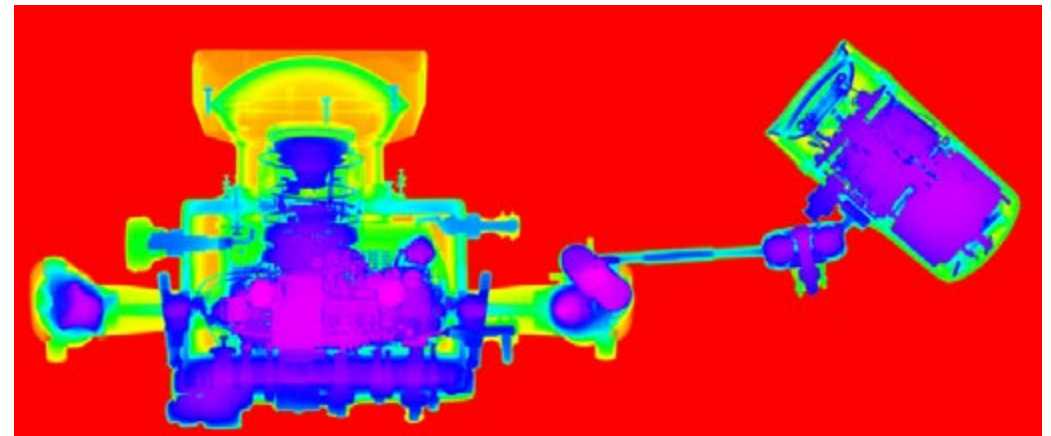
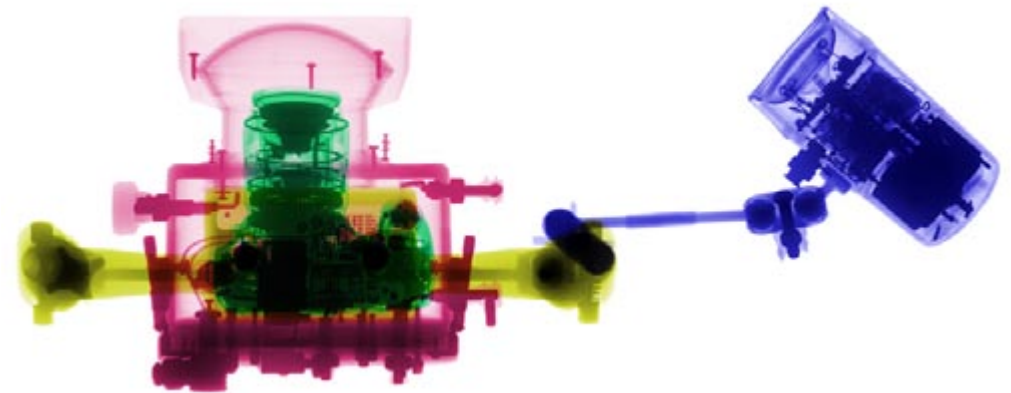
As a scientific photographer, I often wonder what something will

look like when photographed in different light. My different light was x-rays. This image is of a Ikelite camera housing for a canon 30d with a 125 watt flash. This is the image that an airport security officer would see if you traveled with your underwater camera set up. To take this picture I used a high resolution research x-ray machine located at a local university. This machine is usually used to check circuits during manufacturing. To achieve the high resolution the machine uses a special tube that has an extremely small point source of x-rays. Lower resolution but faster machines are used in airports to check luggage for security purposes. The specifics are this image was taken at 110 kilovolts, 1.5 milli-amp current for 3 min.

I often x-ray fish, birds, snakes, and lots of electronics for science magazines, but in this case I wondered what my underwater rig would look like in x-rays.

Ted Kinsman

www.sciencephotography.com



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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