

Editorial

Solo diving

For some reason we don't get many readers letters here at UwP HQ but it's always nice when we do as it confirms that someone is still out there.

Wade Hughes' response to Alex Tattersall's article on the Solo Diving SDI course was refreshing in that there are still people out there that can make their own mind up and prefer to live by their most reasoned and reasonable rules.

Wade's letter was a great excuse for me to contact Bob Halstead for his opinion. I met Bob on MV Golden Dawn for the first time a few years back and it was so refreshing to hear his views based of decades in the diving industry. As an ex-teacher he has an analytical mind that is not afraid to approach decisions differently and, more importantly, to stand up and be counted.

Unfortunately it seems the insurance companies are jumping on the bandwagon rubbing their hands in glee that they've found another get out clause.

Pigmy seahorses

The guidelines for pigmy seahorse photography produced by Dr Richard Smith and included on page 7 of this issue are a timely reminder of how delicate marine life can be and how clumsy and inconsiderate we can be at times.

From very early on in my UwP career I took a dislike to the widespread fascination for these tiny creatures and took a deliberate stance not to include pictures of them. Don't ask me why because I don't know. I just did. And don't ask me to change my mind because I won't. That way, as hindsight would have it, I've been doing my little bit for these cute creatures for quite a while.

And if I suddenly take a dislike to pictures of any other particular marine creature I will let you know so that, if you are submitting an illustrated article, you know not to include pictures of them.

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