

Parting Shot

Even a failure may be good for your shot. A few years ago I visited Gulen, Norway to do some “good visibility” diving (compared to the muddy Baltic Sea). In cold Atlantic water one rather use a dry suit with dry gloves which means that the feel of camera and strobe controls is not the best.

Due to the low amount of light in Scandinavian waters I carry a 21 watt HID dive light. Despite it is a handy dive light I use it as a focus light, too, even it is a bit tricky. The lamp head has so called good man’s handle so it was handy to keep in my left hand. The camera housing leans on top of my left arm so that I can point the subject with the light, press the trigger half way to focus and then turn the light away before taking the actual picture.

This particular dive we made on a dive site called Stingray City. Our dive master advertised that there most probable would be an opportunity to photograph some stingrays even the density of them is not as high as in the more famous site with the same name in Grand Cayman. I had not seen any stingrays in tempered water so my expectations were quite high. Some of our group succeeded to see and photograph some stingrays but me and my buddy we did not see any at all.

However, having a wide angle lens and dome I start to look some wide angle subjects. After a while and some shots I found a sea star in nice position and decided to photograph it. I again pointed the light to the subject and pressed the trigger to focus. Due to the bulky gloves I pressed the trigger just a little bit too much so the light were still pointing to the star. Just this time - for a reason unknown to me - my strobes did not fire. I was disappointed but



decided to look the result - a habit. There was an image lighted only using the HID light. However even on the small screen it looked quite correctly exposed. The HID light has functioned like a snoot leaving most of the picture black.

I have tried later to take some close ups using only my dive light as the light source but I have not got anything as nice as this one.

Mikko Voipio

Canon EOS 50D in UK-Germany housing, Tokina 10-17@14mm with 8” dome port. No flash but 21W HID light .f/8, 1/45 sec, ISO200

Do you have an image which has a ‘story within a story’? If so we’d love to hear from you.

E mail us and yours could be the next “Parting shot”.

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