



I had to check the date of the article on the Daily Mail website in case it was an April Fools Day prank but it was dated April 8th so it can't have been.

The plan is to build a 30 mile bridge across the Red Sea between Saudi Arabia and Egypt. At first glance this seemed like a good idea but when you look at the map it is planned to span across the Straits of Tiran.

The bridge, to be named after King Salman of Saudi Arabia, will facilitate pilgrimages to Mecca and promote local industry, and is likely

to pass through the islands. Saudi newspaper Alriyadh described the project as the realisation of a great vision that would "join the two continents of Asia and Africa by connecting Saudi Arabia to Egypt over the water".

The problem is the effect such a major construction would have on the coral reefs which have for so many years attracted hundreds of thousands of divers.

Wouldn't it be much more sensible to build a tunnel?

Trident ROV

Open ROV is a long established project to develop small ROVs for a wider market and to help them become 'quadcopters of the sea'.

The first incarnation was quite basic but nevertheless very successful. I understand they have shipped in the order of thousands.

Back in September 2015 I was alerted to their second incarnation, Trident, by a colleague of mine who is a video engineer specialising in larger work ROVs such as Woods Hole use. He told me about their Kickstarter campaign to fund Trident but more importantly that he had put his name down for one.

I didn't need any more encouragement and followed suit. I have to say that the promotional video was very impressive and exciting. The only downside was that delivery wasn't promised until November 2016. However the first hundred orders were promised for March 2016 which seemed far less distant.

The deal was that if they get

www.kickstarter.com/projects/openrov/openrov-trident-an-underwater-drone-for-everyone/posts/1548733

their target fund amount they can start charging credit cards to get the project going. And so it was that a couple of weeks later my CC statement showed a charge of about £800 going out.

No problem. I haven't ordered anything so far ahead before but I was happy with that.

When March 2016 came round I looked out for any news of the first 100 units and possibly some online reviews but couldn't find any. Open ROV issue press releases every now and again to update progress but most until recently were slim on detail about Trident.

When I messaged their Facebook page about the first 100 units I was told that the delivery date was always November 2016. OK we all get overenthusiastic when pitching projects so I accepted their youthful exuberance and kept the faith.

Fortunately their latest press release and website is much more forthcoming with information and images and I feel more reassured about Nov 2016.

I think this is a very exciting project and I will keep you up to date on progress

You can find out more at

Peter Rowlands
peter@uwpmag.com

www.uwpmag.com

News, Travel & Events

Saudi Arabia to build a 30-mile bridge across Red Sea to Egypt



King Salman has announced that a bridge connecting Egypt and Saudi Arabia would be built across the Red Sea following a meeting with Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

There has been long-held suggestions of the construction of a 30 mile bridge, stretching from Ras

Nasrani, close to the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh to Ras Hamid in northwestern Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia is also expected to sign a \$20 billion deal to finance Egypt's oil needs for the next five years and a \$1.5 billion deal to develop its Sinai region.

www.uwpmag.com



2016 Basking Shark Season

Spring has now arrived and we're now working hard to be ready for the up and coming wildlife season in the Hebrides!

Right now, the ocean is stirring out in the Atlantic, the nutrients from winter storms are circulating in the water column. The plankton are awaiting the increase in light and temperature to begin the start of the summer food chain! i.e food for BIG FISH!

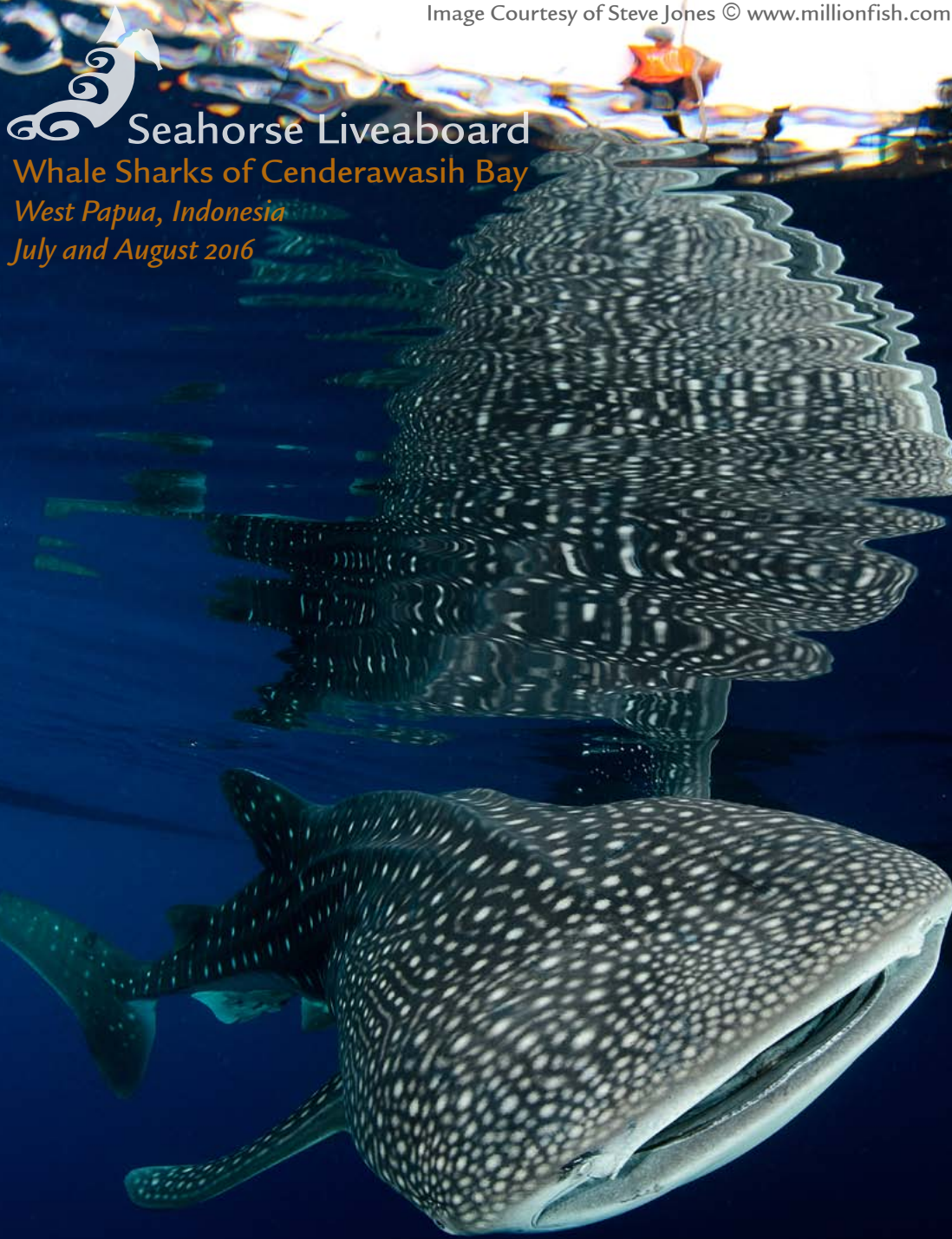
Last year we were blessed with the earliest ever arrival of basking sharks, only a few weeks from now! We'll be watching and waiting to head out if they decide to turn up early again - so be ready if you'd want to join us on a last minute trip out! This all depends on plankton production of course!

www.baskingsharkscotland.co.uk

The advertisement for Siren Fleet is a vertical collage. At the top, a sailboat with blue sails is shown on the water. Below it, the text 'Siren Fleet' is written in a large, stylized blue font, followed by 'in Fiji' in a smaller, simpler font. The middle section shows a close-up of a diver's head and mask underwater, surrounded by colorful fish. At the bottom, there's a close-up of a camera lens and underwater equipment. The text 'Specialists in Underwater Photography' is written in white over the bottom image. At the very bottom, the contact information 'info@sirenfleet.com • www.sirenfleet.com' is displayed in white.

Issue 90/5





Seahorse Liveaboard
Whale Sharks of Cenderawasih Bay
West Papua, Indonesia
July and August 2016

Last minute deals now available. Click here for more info!
www.seahorseliveaboard.com/cenderawasih-bay-2016/

Lembeh Strait
Photo Week
with Doug Sloss, Mike Veitch
and Luca Vaime



Next summer join Doug Sloss, Mike Veitch and Luca Vaime from the Underwater Tribe for an awesome week of photo fun at the best photo resort in Lembeh Strait, Nad Lembeh Resort. Seven days of incredible diving, one-on-one underwater instruction to help improve your shooting techniques and informative lectures throughout the day to hone your photo skills and post processing prowess.

July 30 - August 6 2016 at Nad Lembeh Resort - 7 nights/17 day dives - \$1466

www.nad-lembeh.com

Jack and Sue Drafaahl Digital
Photo Class in Bonaire
May 7 - 14, 2016



We have been offering this unique underwater photography course now for 15 years, but the 2016 class will take a new direction. We will address the problems encountered when shooting and editing, by lecturing utilizing images submitted by the students. We also will be covering how to edit your videos.

Sue will be available to help underwater during 3 dives a day, and Jack will be in the classroom for help on shooting or editing problems encountered during the week.

www.jackandsuedrafahl.com
www.uwpmag.com

UPY display at Chavonnes Battery Museum, Capetown, South Africa 1st May to 30th September 2016

Coming to South Africa for the first time, the UPY London Underwater Photographer of the Year 2016 exhibition will be showcased at the Chavonnes Battery Museum, Clock Tower, V&A Waterfront in Cape Town, from 1st May to 30th September 2016 in partnership with the National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI).

The 41 images cover 8 categories, 3 of which are exclusively in British Waters while the rest are entries received from 54 countries including South Africa, UK, Mexico, Russia, Indonesia, Egypt, Jordan, Malta and Italy.

These spectacular images invite you to explore fascinating

perspectives and interesting insights into our world underwater and on land from underwater.

“We are very excited to partner with the National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) and to host this fascinating Underwater Photography exhibition. The various themes will be incorporated into our school group visits along with the NSRI WaterWise Academy project which I know the learners enjoy.”, says Dale Dodgen, Business Executive of Chavonnes Battery Museum. “Thank goodness we have the NSRI now”

Visitors have the option to meander on their own or join a guide from local communities for a tour that lasts up to 2 hours.



www.chavonnesbattery.co.za

Wakatobi Getaway

April 10 - 17, 2017



Join Walt Stearns and the publishers at X-ray magazine for an unforgettable week at Wakatobi Dive Resort!

The trip will include:

Photo contest: Best Macro & Best Wide-angle with Top honors to include a cover shot on X-ray magazine (issue TBA); prizes TBA

Post Trip Photo Gallery on X-ray website featuring top images from participating photographers

Image clinic – Tips for improving composition

Shoot like a pro – Enhancing your skills and techniques for online (and print) publication

Getting the big picture – Capturing memorable wide-angle sciences

Working with models – How to best capture images of divers and snorkelers underwater

\$3,950 covers 7 nights / 6 days

of diving to include the following:

Round trip airfare between Bali and Wakatobi Dive Resort

Accommodations in Palm Bungalow (twin share)

All inclusive meal plan: breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks (sodas and alcohol excluded)

3 boat dives per day

Unlimited shore diving with taxi service on Wakatobi's famous House Reef

Nitrox on all dives - complements of X-ray magazine

All clinics and seminars plus photo contest participation

For more information or to reserve your spot please contact:

Henrik Rosén:
henrik@wakatobi.com
or Karen Stearns:
karen@wakatobi.com

Internet on Siren Palau



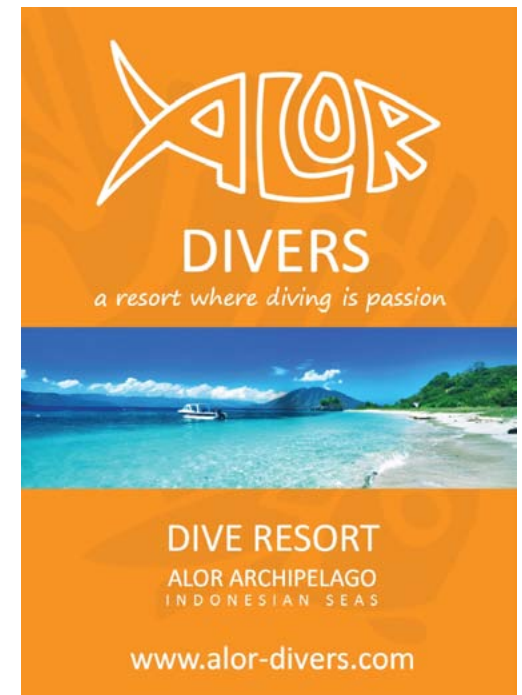
After public requests to have internet on board our yachts, Worldwide Dive and Sail has been working on a plan. We are now there and the first yacht to have satellite internet on board is the Palau Siren

We are all very excited about this and to celebrate we have launched a new contest! #MySirenFleetExperience

Share your experience while you are still on-board the Palau Siren by posting pictures to your facebook, instagram or twitter account with the hashtag #mysirenfleetexperience (make sure your post is public so we can see it :)).

Each month, we will publish them to the Siren Fleet facebook and the shot that gets the most likes will get a special discount on their next trip on board! You can share as many pictures as you want!

www.sirenfleet.com





THE SARDINE RUN

Shark & Shoal Diving Adventures

2016 Departures Still Available

www.TheSardineRun.co.za

UnderwaterPhotography.com photo contest

Another competition has ended with an impressive 6,339 entries out of which 972 became hotshots that we consider the first round of judging to the annual competition. We are so proud to be having a constant flow of new talent coming in. Our goal is and always have been to promote young talent and give them a stage to show off their photos and launch a career.

2015 World Champion Terry Steely

Terry has been a rising star in this year's competition with 165 Entries out of which 37 have been shortlisted and 7 are awarded in this annual competition. Terry's images stood out in multiple categories from Wide Angle to Macro and even fashion shots. His portfolio is diverse and impressive and we are proud to be presenting his images.



2015 Grand Master Raoul Caprez

Raoul is a long time member and has uploaded over 1099 images to the competition since. He has won multiple medals in the past and has contributed heaps to the site over the years.

This year Raoul entered 125 images out of which 20 have been shortlisted. Raoul has demonstrated great technique and creativity in multiple categories and we are happy to congratulate him on this well deserved title.



www.underwaterphotography.com

Issue 90/9



Environmental Photographer of the Year 2016



The Environmental Photographer of the Year competition is once again calling for entries from environmentally conscious photographers and filmmakers of all ages, nationalities and abilities.

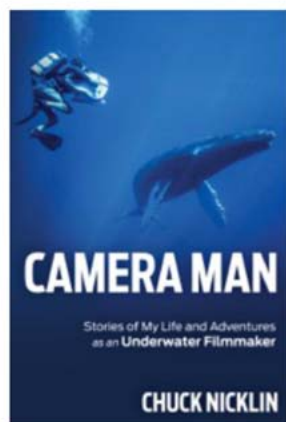
If successful, your work will be featured by major global media and at high profile events around the world.

The competition offers prize money of £6,000 and is FREE to enter.

This year there will be three specific prize themes to focus the entries – the Built Environment; the Changing Climate; and People, Nature and Economy.

<https://epoty.artopps.co.uk>

Now released on Amazon.com/Kindle



My Life and Adventures as an
Underwater Filmmaker
\$9.95 USD



www.chucknicklin.com

Fiji Siren



On the morning of February 20, Fiji encountered the most powerful cyclone in the Pacific nation's history.

Thanks to the bravery of the captain and crew on board, the damage to the boat was minimal and only one week after; the Fiji Siren was already up! The entire crew is currently working to have her up and running on the 14th of April. If you have booked a trip with us after that date, you can be sure that the Fiji Siren crew will be ready to welcome you on board and show you the Soft Coral Capital of the World!

From everything that we have seen so far it seems the damage to the reefs is minimal. Our Fiji ops manager and other dive shops all around Fiji have been checking the reefs in their area and everybody is happy to discover that most of the reefs haven't been damaged or if they have then only suffering minor damage.

www.sirenfleet.com

Humpback Whales in Tonga

August 29 - Sept. 8, 2016



Have you ever dreamed of swimming with the whales?

Come join us for trip of a lifetime in Tonga!

Swim with the planet's most mysterious and magical marine giants among remote and pristine coral atolls. NAI'A journeys every year to the exotic Kingdom of Tonga to bring guests the close whale encounters of a lifetime.

From the sight of the first breach at dawn, to the silhouette of whales resting at sundown, these expeditions are a special and rare kind of ocean adventure in a particularly picturesque part of the world.

This is a rare opportunity, so don't miss your chance to join us as space is limited.

www.jackandsuedrafahl.com

www.uwpmag.com

Gerald Rambert in Indonesia

S/Y Indo Siren - Raja Ampat, 15th -25th April 2017

After the success of his previous Underwater Photography Workshops, Gerald Rambert will be joining us again for a 10 night workshop in Raja Ampat.

Underwater photographers will delight in the range of photographic subjects – with both wide-angle and macro lenses used. Whether you are a beginner or more experienced photographer you can benefit from Gerald's instruction- or simply join a like-minded group.



www.geraldrambert.com



The Dive Travel Experts

www.scubadiveasia.com

☎ USA 1-888-333-3595 | ☎ EU +44(0)800-096-7416

Raja Ampat Expedition With Km Ambai

24 Nov to 05 Dec 2017

The biodiversity, the fish life the colorful coral reefs make Raja Ampat one of the best dive destination on the planet

For this expedition, the AMBAI was an obvious choice as it is one of the best quality/price offer on the market and arrangement are already made with the owner.

The dates of the cruise is from 24 November to 05 December 2017 The price is 3990 euro for 11 nights and we offer a 5% discount as we charter the all boat.

The Raja Ampat: the name says it all.... divers that were lucky to dive this part of Indonesia all make the same comment: it is one of the best diving destinations in the world. So let's just see it with our own eyes...

We ask for a minimum of 100 dives as experience to ease the dive organization and take most advantage of all the dives site that Raja Ampat has to offer.

Domestic airfare from Jakarta or Bali is around 300/350 euro/pax. Pack entry fee : 120 euro. Nitrox included. Our agent can arrange all domestics tickets



The boat

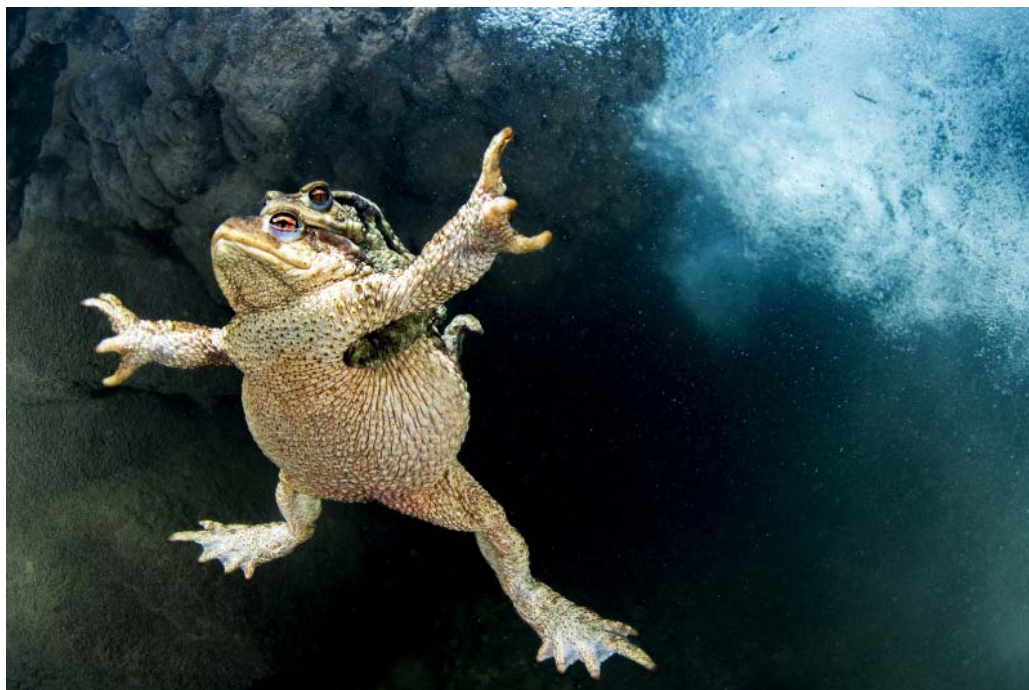
- 32 m long
- 7.5 m width
- 8 double cabin (with ensuite bathroom)
- Spacious lounge deck
- Dedicated camera room

For those that like to stay and dive longer in Indonesia after (or before) the cruise, we propose a extension to some famous muck diving in Ambon / Lembeh. Different wishes can also be organized.

As coming from Europe or another part of the world to Indonesia for a 11 nights cruise can seems short for some, we suggest a “after party” in Maluku or Lembeh for some famous muck . Optimal length would be 3 to 5 diving days and it is very flexible as flights from Ambon/ Manado are every day to Jakarta to Bali.

www.alor-divers.com

DEEP Indonesia 2016 Results Announced



DivePhotoGuide and Wetpixel are proud to announce the winners of the 2016 DEEP Indonesia International Underwater Photo Competition. In conjunction with the Our World Underwater International Photo and Video Competition, the contest makes up what is known as the “superbowl” of underwater imaging competitions, offering more than \$100,000 in prizes.

This year’s DEEP Indonesia contest attracted thousands of entries from all over the world, with photographers vying for awesome travel prizes.

Special congratulations to Mathieu Foulquié, who earned the “Best of Show” award with a wonderful image of mating toads, which was shot in France. This year’s judging panel included Aaron Wong, Daniel Botelho, Abi Smigel Mullens and Joseph Tepper.

The full set of winning images can be viewed below. As with all Underwater Competition contests, 15% of proceeds will be donated directly to marine conservation efforts.

www.underwatercompetition.com

The leading online resource for underwater photographers and videographers



TECHNIQUES

Learn the fundamentals of underwater photography and progress to the latest, most innovative techniques taught by the top pros in the industry

TRAVEL

Read about the experiences of accomplished shooters as they visit the world's most iconic dive spots, and get inside tips on maximizing your dive vacation

ARTICLES

Discover the world of underwater imaging through compelling features from photographers, filmmakers, ocean scientists, industry experts, and more

NEWS

Keep up to date with everything that matters to underwater photographers, from the latest gear and gadgets to the newest developments in marine research

GALLERIES

Browse the portfolios of the industry's biggest names in underwater photography and share your own work online with like-minded members

EXPEDITIONS

Journey with us to the hottest dive destinations on the planet and learn better technique from the most talented image makers in the scubaverse

DIVE PHOTO GUIDE

www.divephotoguide.com · contact@divephotoguide.com



Find an Authorized Ikelite Dealer at Ikelite.com.

Underwater Housing for

Sony Alpha a6300

A compact, full-featured waterproof housing for scuba diving, surf, pool, and creative photo opportunities anywhere there's water.

Superb Handling

The a6300 feels great in your hand with a simple and ergonomic control set. We extend this underwater, providing larger controls and push buttons which are easy to access even with thick gloves. Control symbols laser engraved into the back of the housing will never peel off or fade even with years of use. The camera's large, super-bright LCD screen is viewable edge-to-edge through the back of the housing.

True TTL Exposure

An integrated TTL circuit is fine-tuned to the Sony Alpha a6300 flash exposure protocol for the most accurate exposure possible. The circuit is powered by the strobe for zero maintenance and no batteries to change. At this time, only Ikelite DS strobes are capable of powering the circuitry. SEA&SEA, INON, and Nikonos strobes will still enjoy fast recycle times and improved battery life, but must be used in manual exposure modes only.

Lens Support

It couldn't be more simple to change ports than this system—just press the port on and tighten three thumb screws. Feel positive reinforcement that the port is secure with simple parts you can trust in a remote location. This housing accepts a variety of ports to accommodate all of the most popular zoom, macro, and wide angle lenses.

Durability and Corrosion Free Performance

Our brand new ABS-PC blend provides strength and corrosion free performance with minimal maintenance. The specially formulated color deflects the sun to keep your camera running cooler, longer. Compared to black or clear housings, the light gray color provides superior contrast for enhanced view of the camera, LCD screen, and o-ring seal.