

Parting Shot

In September this year we went with some friends back to the Farnes islands (Northumberland, UK) for diving and photographing the seals. Of course they are here and almost everywhere always playing with the divers and biting their fins.

On one of the dives there were plenty of seals at the surface but almost none under, they seemed to be shy or they are not in a mood for playing. So, since there is also plenty of interesting life other than the seals, I decided to have a look under the kelp for trying to take some pictures of the hidden inhabitants of the Farnes.

This is not always easy to go inside the forest of kelp with all the diving equipment, but as soon as you go under the upper leafs of the kelp, at some places, you can find some very clean corridors on light pink sandstone.

Then I entered a few meters into one corridor (may be the habit of cave diving) with the idea to take a picture of the corridor and the sky over it at a place where the kelp allows the light to enter in it. So I arrange the setup of my camera for a vertical shot with the lower strobe close to the soil pointed in the direction of the sky and the upper strobe lightening in front of the camera.

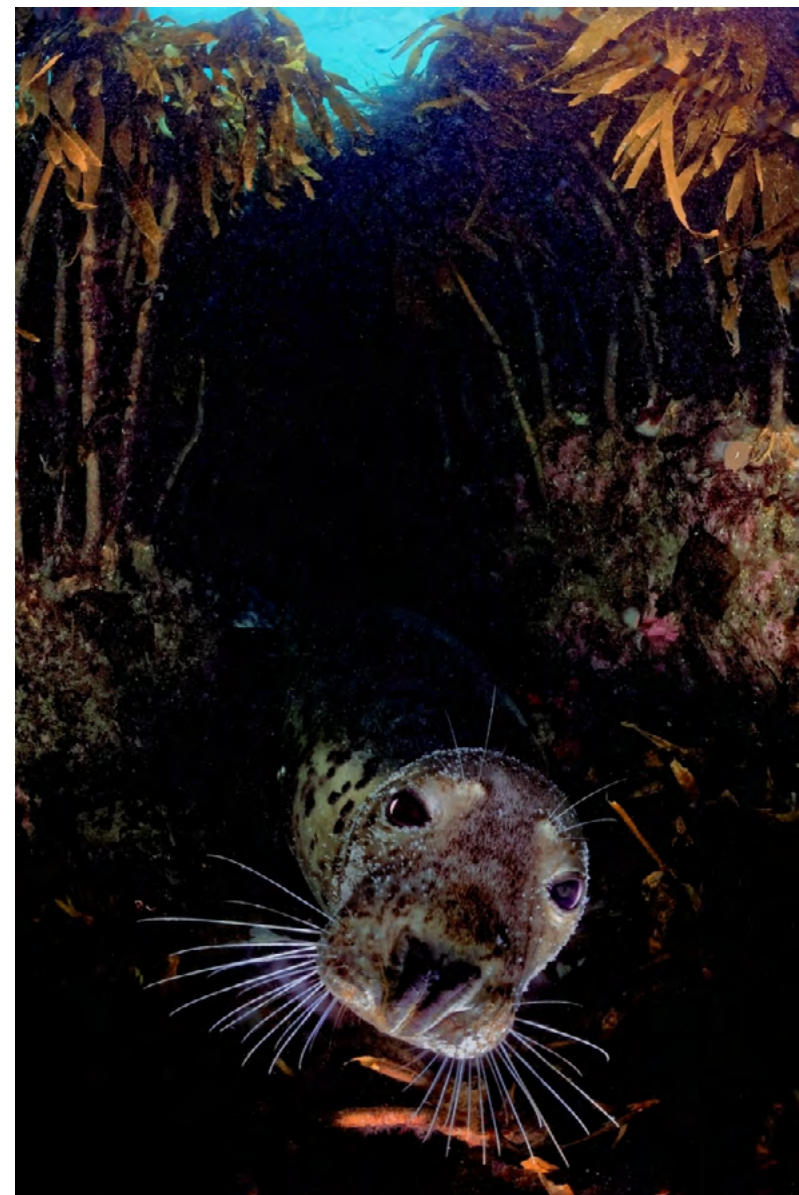
When I was making some lighting tests, all of a sudden a young seal came into the corridor from the dark end and he (or she) was almost as surprised as me and they

stopped right over my lower strobe set at ½ power. The position of the seal was by chance perfect for a kind of backlighting effect on the whiskers and also for lighting all the small bubbles trapped in the fur. Everything was then going very quick and after only few seconds the seal jumped over me still surprised to see that some other mammals are also using his tracks under the kelp without any authorisation from the usual user.

After this magic encounter, with nobody here and so after few minutes, I was going over the kelp forest and once again the same seal was then surging up out of the kelp just in front of me and then he (or she) went a few meters away, disappeared under the kelp before surging up in front of me. He (or she) repeated this several times and it was one more magic moment which these seals can offer to divers.

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*Nikon D2x, housing Aquatica, Nikon 10.5mm,
1/ 100, f11 , ISO 400 , 2 strobes Nikon SB 910
in Patima housings.*



**Do you have a shot which has a story within a story?
If so e mail it with up to 500 words of text
and yours could be the next Parting Shot.**

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