



photo &
videography

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Peter Symes and
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*Avoid ice
covered with
snow and opt
for good sunlight
to get well lit
images.*



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Translation by Arnold Weisz

Ice diving is always something out of the ordinary. The atmosphere, colors, flora and fauna—it definitely pays off to endure the icy temperatures for a while. However, there are a few things you need to be aware of. If you are not afraid of the cold water and you can overcome the anxiety of diving under ice, you will enjoy photographing the sometimes bizarre formations under the ice.

photo &
Ice Diving



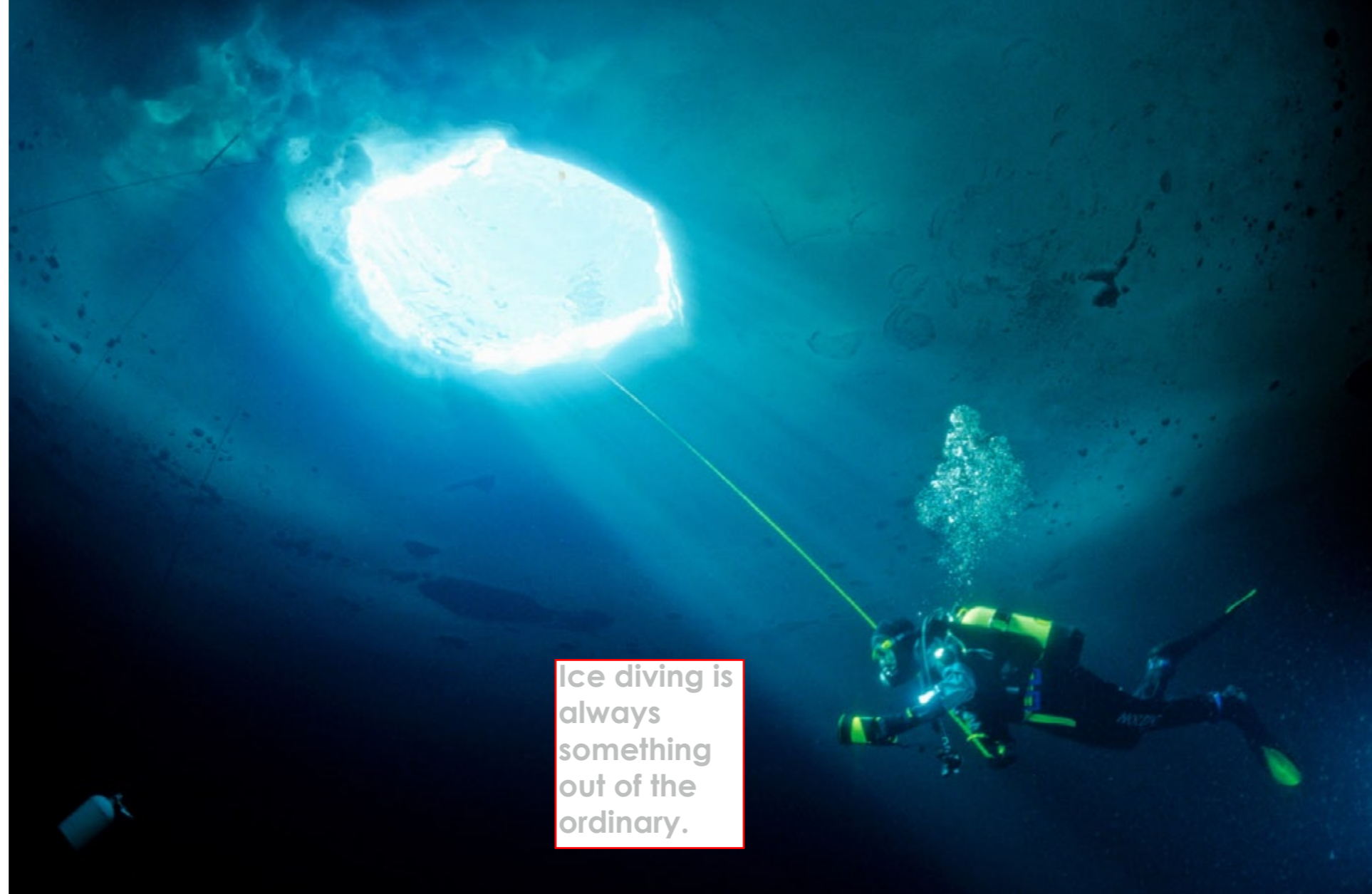
photo & video

Most ice diving will take place near the entry/exit hole, as you will find the best light conditions here.

When and where

The best images captured under ice are usually done near the entry and exit hole, because you find the best light conditions here. Another advantage is safety, as diving under ice is more risky than diving in open water. Even though you seldom dive very deeply under ice, but mostly keep directly under the ice, it is recommended that you take a special ice diving course before you go. In addition you need to have equipment that is prepared for low temperatures.

The most spectacular images are often taken with rocky ice formations. These ice conditions arise when water is partly frozen, and the wind starts to shift the ice, so it piles up on each other. The temperature then drops low enough so that the ice forms fantastic structures. Combine this



Ice diving is always something out of the ordinary.

with sunlight, and you have some fantastic scenery for your photographs. Just make sure that (as with normal flat ice) the snow doesn't cover the area where you want to photograph. As this will greatly diminish the sunlight.

The equipment

What kind of camera you use for ice diving doesn't matter. More importantly are the batteries. These need to be new or fully charged, as extreme temperatures

tend to deplete batteries more quickly.

Whether you should use one or two strobes depends on how wide your lenses are—which can never get wide enough. And you certainly have enough free space under the ice to work with.

The subject

You are not going to make any close up or detailed images under the ice. Here, we are literally speaking about the "big picture". For example, pictures of your dive buddy swimming in diffuse light under the ice. Or images that capture the atmosphere of the light coming through the ice.

For best results, mix strobe light with natural light. Set the camera on manual, set your focus on the immediate area in front

of the camera for the flash, and regulate the shutter speed, so it takes into consideration the ambient light. The most ideal cameras for this kind of photography are digital cameras, as you can check the result immediately and make necessary corrections before the next shot.

When using an analog camera, you should always make a series of images with different settings. Just remember to use fast shutter speeds as you would use in the Caribbean—this is easy to forget.

Normally, set your aperture between 3.5 to 4, and set the shutter speed for 1/30 to 1/15 seconds. The advantage of this is that the light rays from the dive lights will appear more intense. Don't use too strong flash as this will reflect of the particles in the

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Don't forget to make some shots through the water or the surface of the ice of the people on top of the ice.





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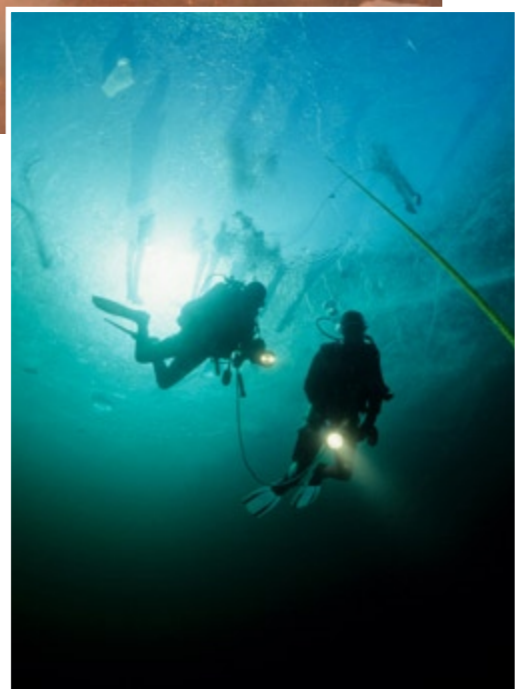
The prevailing color in a image taken under the ice is often "cold blue". You can add some warmer colors and create a different ambience in the image by using divers with colored suits and lamps.



and briefings should be done indoors. Plan the dive well within safe limits and dive the plan. If you are getting cold underwater, get out immediately.

An underwater photographer shivering is of no use.

Underwater ice photography can only be successful if it is done safely and well organized. This type of diving offers the underwater photographer a completely different environment and new subject matter, which you can never find in tropical waters.



water and ruin the image.

The prevailing color in a image taken under the ice is often "cold blue". You can add some warmer colors and create a different ambience in the image by using divers with colored suits and lamps.

Working under ice is restricted by your safety line. Hence you shouldn't move around too much, and neither should your models, to avoid entanglement.

Thermal protection

The freezing temperatures are also an important factor. Avoid prolonged stays out of the water in below zero (°C) temperatures. Preparing the camera

Practical tips for ice diving photography:

- To get good images under the ice, conditions play a vital role. Avoid ice covered with snow and opt for good



sunlight to get well lit images.

- Because of the extreme conditions, you should only use camera equipment and techniques you are very familiar with.
- To avoid being cold even before entering the water, do all your preparations indoors.
- Batteries lose power much faster in low temperatures. Try to keep your camera equipment out of the cold as much as possible, to avoid the batteries giving out mid-dive.
- You will still have to apply basic photography rules under water. The



only real changes are the light conditions, and you have to set lower shutter speeds, such as 1/15 second. Keep your camera steady.

- Most ice diving will take place near the entry/exit hole, as you will find the best light conditions here. Don't forget to make some shots through the water or the surface of the ice of the people on top of the ice.
- Don't plan too many maneuvers during an ice dive. The safety lines restrict movement, and you have to work more slowly. Low temperatures can chill your body quickly and make you lose your concentration.
- The cool blue ambience is part of under ice photography. But avoid divers just appearing as dark shadows. It's always good to have models with bright colored dive suits. Don't underexpose the images.
- Ice diving can be dangerous. Never dive without a safety line, and enforce all other safe diving rules. This way you will be able to concentrate on the imaging and surface with good shots.

For more information on Kurt Amsler and his UWP workshops, visit: Photosub.com ■

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Backup

The NEXTO eXtreme enables users to backup any camcorder or camera without a laptop - using the built-in memory card reader or direct connect USB-OTG (On-The-Go) feature. The NEXTO eXtreme was designed for use in the field, shooting on location, or when traveling. All you have to do is insert the memory card or connect the USB port to the eXtreme, and at the touch of a single button, you can copy, delete, browse, and backup your video or photos. www.nextodiusa.com

Seatool

The Seatool SR11/SR12 underwater housing for the Sony HDV Handycam HDR-SR11/SR12 is machined from pure, solid blocks of aluminum and polycarbonate. The end result of this meticulous attention to detail is one of the smallest, lightest underwater video housings ever produced.



This housing features rugged aluminum construction yet only weighs 1.5kg. Small and light enough to hand carry on aircraft, it's the perfect tool for the travelling diver faced with strict airline weight restrictions. www.h2ophotopros.com

Ring LED

These groundbreaking new LED ringlights from German Werner-LED are designed with both video and still photography in mind. Depth rated at 100m these sturdy units have an expected life time of 50,000 hours. The Ring-LED comes in a 18W version with 36 diodes and a 36W version with 72 diodes. Output is rated at 650 and 1300 lumen respectively. Colour temperature is 9000-10,000 K. Price starts at € 497 (excl. accumulator and accessories) werner-led.de



Watershot

Designed for the Canon EOS 450D/XSi Rebel DSLR camera, the Watershot WDS-450D underwater housing features the highest quality in camera housing design and manufacturing. Machined out of a solid block of 6061 aluminum, this housing is ergonomically designed for utmost comfort and function accessibility. The Watershot WDS-450D is S-TTL and DS-TTL compatible with INON Z-240, D-2000 series, and Sea & Sea YS-110a strobes via fiber optic connection. Watershot housings are also compatible with INON's 45 degree and Straight Viewfinder system (with Watershot's Viewfinder Adapter). www.watershousings.com



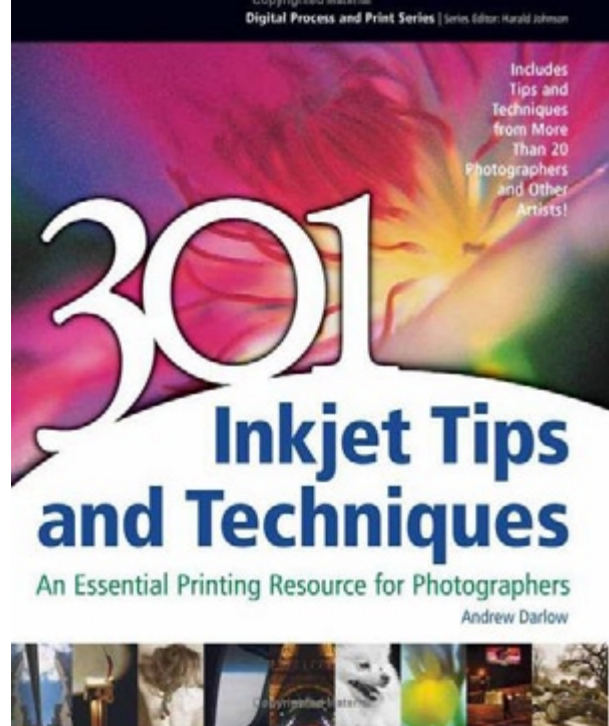
D90

French Fradotec sent us a very brief press release notifying us about this new housing for the Nikon D90, which is depth rated to 60 m fradotec.com

Aquatica Canon 5D Mk II housing

Aquatica is proud to announce its latest addition, the housing for the incredible Canon 5D mark II, with 21 mega pixels and HD video this camera/housing combination will change the rules of underwater imaging. The Aquatica housing is equipped with a hydrophone to take full advantage of the Canon 5D Mk II potential. Machined from solid aluminum, treated and anodized to military specification, then painted with a robust weather and wear resistant finish, this addition to our already wide selection of housings will benefit from the same 300 ft. depth rating that set us apart from our competitors. www.aquatica.ca



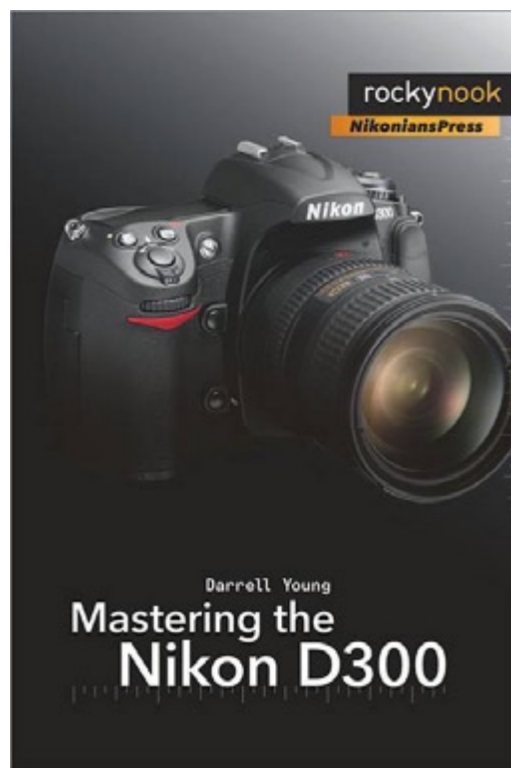


301 Inkjet Tips and Techniques was chosen as the winner in the 'Photography: Instructional/How-To' category of The National Best Books 2008 Awards, sponsored by USA Book News

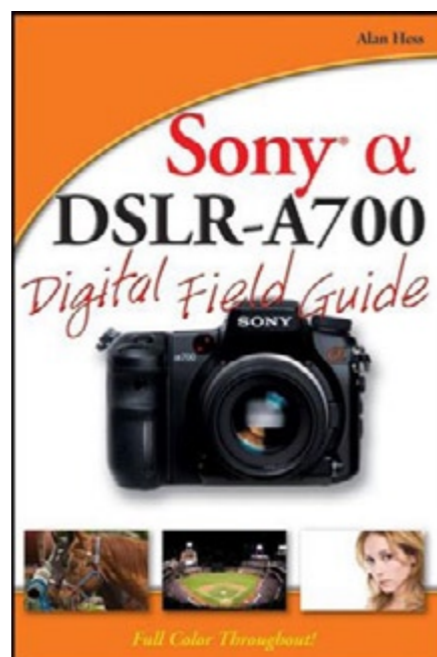
"301 Inkjet Tips and Techniques," is a comprehensive, how-to guide to high-quality digital output that shows photographers of all levels how to make high-quality prints through detailed instructions and hundreds of full-color examples from more than 20 professional photographers and other artists. The book is available in most bookstores, at Amazon.com and other online retailers. The Table of Contents, Introduction and a full chapter can be read at the book's companion site, www.inkjettips.com.

In Mastering the Nikon D300 (Rocky Nook, \$39.95 USD), author Darrell Young leads you on an exploration of the features and capabilities of the powerful new Nikon D300 camera.

The learning experience for D300 beginners (and refresher information for professionals) goes beyond the camera itself, covering additional Nikon equipment, such as the use of optional Speedlights. Frequent references to the user manual provided by Nikon (with specific page references) allow the reader to easily navigate past the confusion that often comes with new equipment.



Shooting Magic, a DVD guide designed to help you get stunning underwater filter images with either SLR or Compact digital cameras. Price is just £15 (approx \$23, €18). All Magic Filters come with detailed instructions on how to use them. This film takes you further and gives you an 1:1 demonstration of the techniques with Alex Mustard and shows you the results you can expect from typical dives.



The Sony Alpha DSLR-A700 Digital Field Guide is filled with everything you need to know in order to take amazing photographs using your Sony Alpha A700 digital SLR camera. This full-color portable guide walks you through the essential controls, features, and functions of the A700 using step-by-step instructions and full-color images of each menu screen. This robust guide not only shows you how to adjust white balance, autofocus, exposure, and choose lenses, it also teaches you when and why you should adjust each of these key settings.

ISSUE #3
MEGAMERICAN

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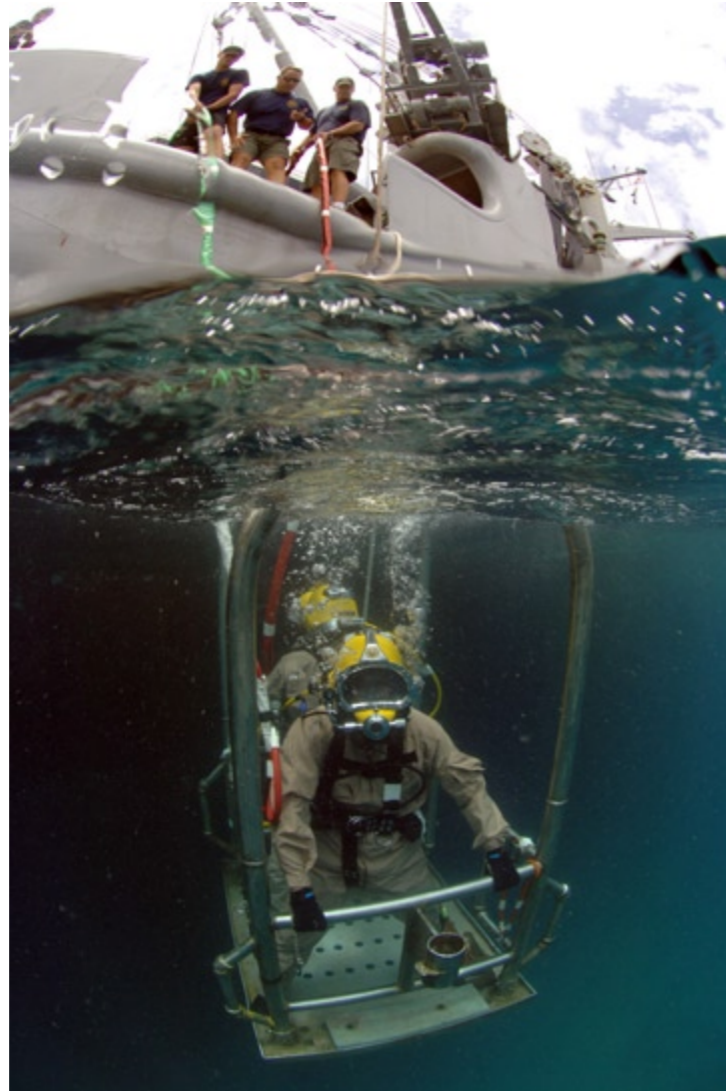
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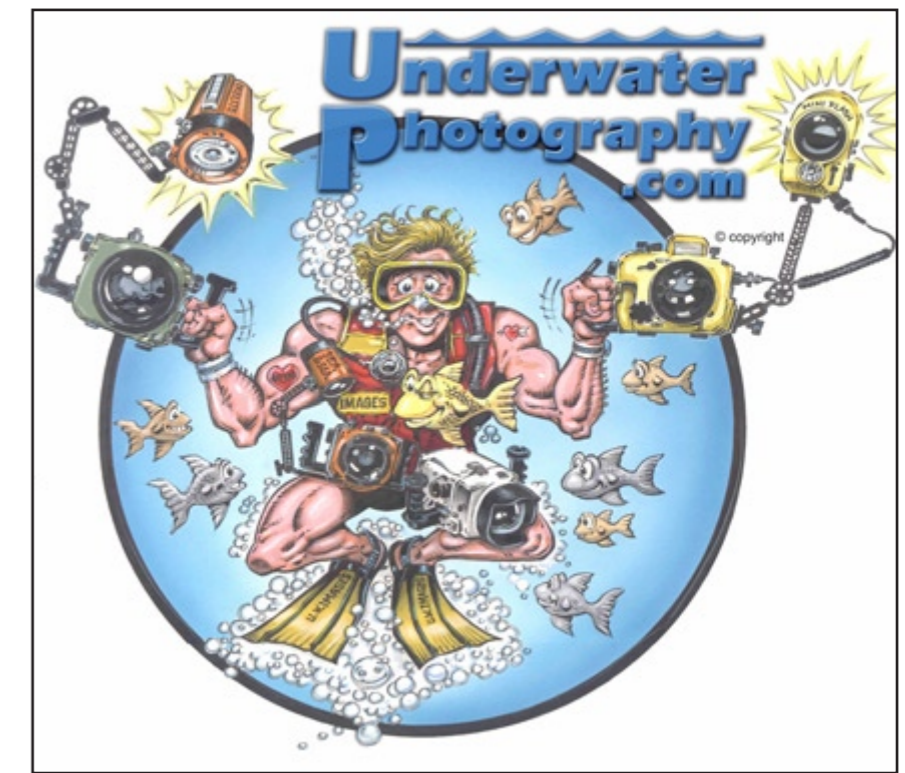
And the 2008/9 Gold Winners Are...



GOLD MEDAL Over/Under Category:
Andrew Mckaskle, USA



GOLD MEDAL Wide-angle Wrecks Category:
Jim Garland, Ireland



GOLD MEDAL Freshwater Category: Dejan Sarman, Slovenia



GOLD MEDAL Wide-angle Marine Life Category: Christian Loader, UK



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UW Photography Gold Winners...



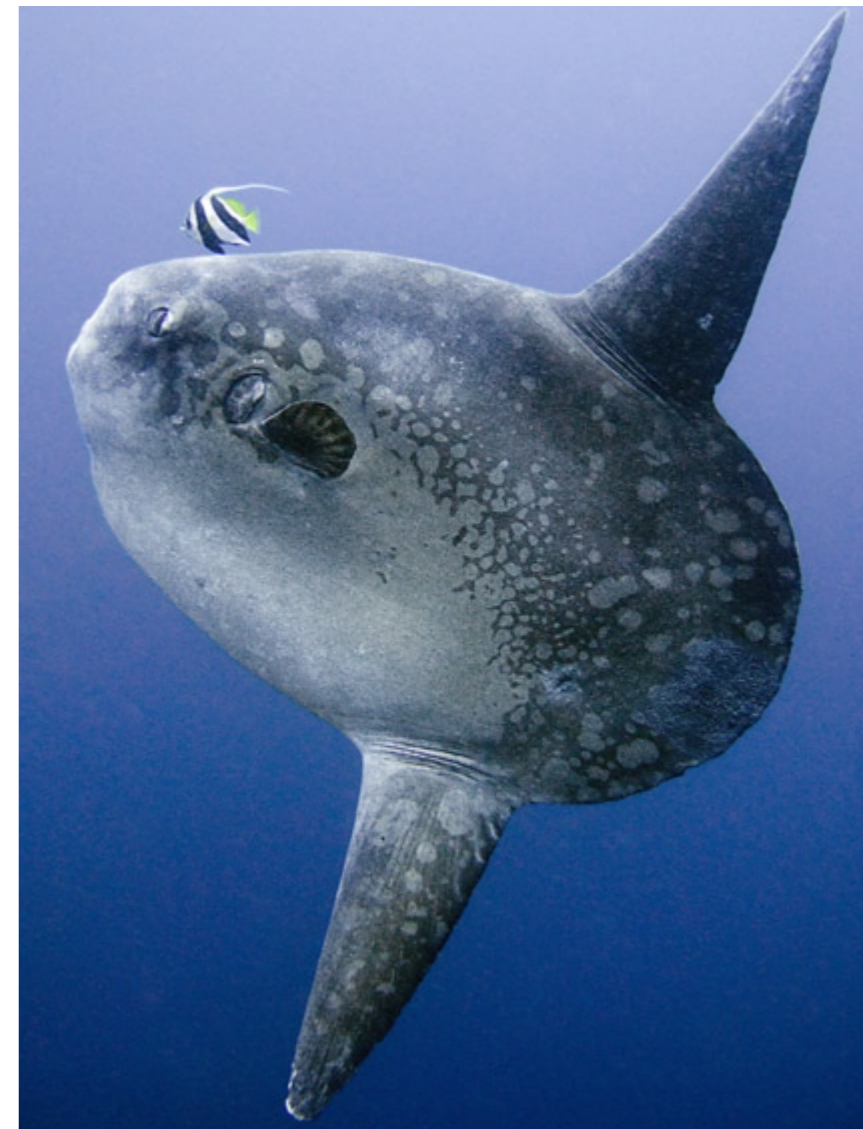
GOLD MEDAL Macro Swimming Category:
Michel Lonfat, Switzerland



GOLD MEDAL Nudibranchs Category:
Marco Waagmeester, Netherlands



GOLD MEDAL Wide-angle Close Focus Category:
Marchione Giacomo, Italy



GOLD MEDAL Wide-angle Natural Light Category:
Marco Waagmeester, Netherlands



GOLD MEDAL Macro Not Swimming Category:
Aleksandr Marinicev, Latvia

GOLD MEDAL
Topside
Category:
Andrew
Macleod

GOLD MEDAL
Super Macro
Category:
Yves
Antonizzo,
Switzerland





GOLD MEDAL
Creative-Manipulated
Category:
Zena Holloway, UK

UW Photography Gold Winners...



GOLD MEDAL Temperate Water Category:
Geoff Spiby, South Africa



GOLD MEDAL Wide-angle Divers Category:
Sergio Loppel, Italy



Celebrate & discover Byron Bay underwater during a week of marine themed fun, arts & activities - over \$30,000 in prizes to be won!

- Underwater Photo & Video Shootout Competition - nearly \$25,000 in prizes
- Marine Visions international art competition - over \$5,000 in prizes
- Marine Wildlife Presentations
- Loads of marine activities including: snorkeling with turtles, kayaking with dolphins, night dives, introductory SCUBA dives, discover the wreck of the Tassie II
- SeaDoo Seascooter adventures
- Underwater Camera and other equipment try-outs
- Underwater Naturalist Course with Underwater Pioneer Neville Coleman
- Underwater Photography Clinics with Mathieu Meur from Singapore
- Underwater Film Festival
- BBQs, dinners, and Underwater Party

Contact festival organisers: Tim & Wandy Hochgrebe
Ph 02 6680 9134 info@underwaterfestival.com.au

underwaterfestival.com.au

