



OCEAN VIEWS

NATURE'S
BEST
PHOTOGRAPHY



The editors of Nature's Best Photography, along with Stephen Frink of Divers Alert Network (DAN), and our guest judges David Doubilet and Jennifer Hayes, carefully reviewed this year's entries to help select this gallery of winners.

Grand Prize



Nuria Garcia

Atlantic Bobtails
Santa Cruz, Tenerife,
Canary Islands, Spain
By Pedro Carrillo
Santa Cruz, Tenerife,
Canary Islands, Spain

WWW.PEDROCARRILLO.NET

“Bobtail squids are elusive photo subjects; I’ve been unable to locate a single one during numerous night dives in Tenerife. Finally, I had a friend take me to a place where there had been sightings. After an extensive search, I saw this tiny couple mating. I did not have the right lens for the job—I never imagined they would be so small (approximately one half inch). I still managed to shoot a few keepers of that magic instant.”

Nikon D200; AF 60mm f/2.8D Micro lens;
1/180 sec at f/22; ISO 320; Seacam Seaflash
250TTL strobes (2); Seacam UW housing.

PREVIOUS PAGES

Green Sea Turtle
Adeje, Santa Cruz, Tenerife,
Canary Islands, Spain
By Eduardo Acevedo
Los Realejos, Tenerife,
Canary Islands, Spain
EDUACEVEDO72@GMAIL.COM

“The calm sea and clear visibility attracts underwater photographers from all over Europe to take pictures of the green turtles of Tenerife. I tried to show a unique spherical photo.”

Canon 5D Mark II; EF 8-15mm f/4L fisheye lens;
1/50 sec at f/8; ISO 320; Inon strobes (2);
Seacam 5D Mark II UW housing.



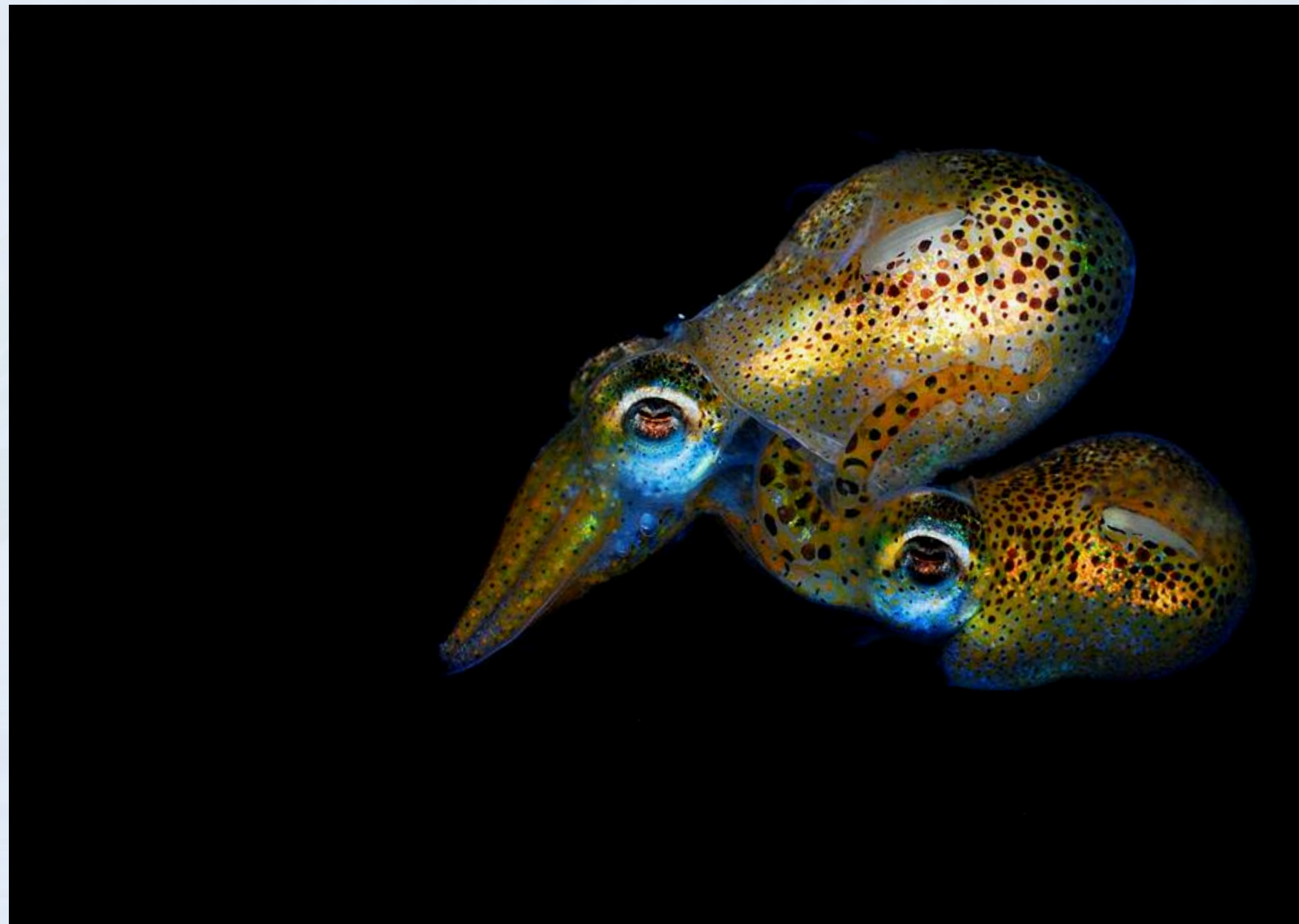
PREVIOUS PAGES

Wave at Angourie
New South Wales, Australia
By Deb Morris
Wooloweyah,
New South Wales, Australia

WWW.DEBMWAVEART.WEBS.COM

“It is always a pleasure to discover a new sand bar, the platform for water sculptures. This particular morning the conditions were prime: no wind, a decent swell, and an incoming tide with opal colors shining through the sunlit wave. Tempting fate by not using an underwater housing, I was crouched at the knees with my body submerged in three feet of water. As I steadied myself in preparation for the wave approaching, the crest formed the illusion of glass about to lick the bottom of the ocean floor.”

Nikon D7000; AF-S DX 55-300mm f/4.5-5.6G ED VR lens at 120mm;
1/1250 sec at f/9; ISO 400; hand-held.





Judging the Oceans Views photography contest took a long while, not because of indecision but because of extraordinary images that would stop you in your tracks or make you back up to take a second or third or fourth look. The experience is like reading a global visual atlas of the sea. The geographic range of the imagery in the contest is astounding, once hard to get to places are now mainstream destinations attracting curious and ambitious photographers with an appetite to improve their portfolio. Truly remote “edge of wilderness” areas are no longer for just seasoned professionals with a magazine budget behind them. If you can find it on a map you can get there, shoot, and bring back a set of images that stir the creative bones of others to reach farther, experiment, explore, and create.

The Oceans Views Photo Contest is a combination of passion and ambition that translates into a collective body of work that can make your head spin. I like images that make me want to go there, that motivate me. Several images in this competition got my attention, and immediately made me ask questions. That’s what good imagery does.

Our photographic IQ has quintupled in a decade, images are stronger, say more, and are more sophisticated. A picture has about two seconds to grab a viewers attention. BUT it has to be more than a strong subject, it has to have the illusive edge of art. Pictures are a universal language like music. They have the power to honor, to convince the unconvinced, and to create change. —Keep shooting, David Doubilet

2nd Place

BELOW

Thor’s Well
Cape Perpetua, Oregon, USA
By Craig Bill
Midland, Texas, USA
WWW.CRAIGBILL.COM

“Photographing a surf zone can be challenging due to the constant change in weather conditions and tidal cycles. Surf zones are created by jagged volcanic outcrops where the waves’ energy is funneled into chasms and are compressed until they detonate in explosions of sea and foam. To get the full effect of Thor’s Well, I had to photograph at high tide when the water’s force was on full display. By preserving the bluish overcast color and using a slow shutter speed, I created this photo that was all about the motion.”

Sony A77; 24-105mm f/3.5-4.5 lens at 24mm; 1-3 secs at f/22; ISO 500; Hoya CP; ND8 cir.; ND4 cir.; Benro tripod; Remote IR Release; Gitzo ball head; EZ leveler.
See the video <http://youtu.be/JPdAFidXbps>

1st Place

ABOVE

Napoleon Wrasse
and Ramsay’s Glassfish
Flynn Reef, Great Barrier Reef,
Queensland, Australia
By Christian Miller
Cairns, Queensland, Australia
WWW.CUCKOOCREW.COM.AU

“I took some friends onto a dive boat for their first dive in the Great Barrier Reef. We went to one of my favorite local reefs called ‘Tracy’s Bommie.’ It was the middle of the rain season, and the large quantity of fresh water turned the water green, reducing visibility to less than 30 feet. We came upon coral that was covered in a mass

of glassfish. I thought I could capture an interesting image by photographing through the schooling fish when, unexpectedly, a large Napoleon wrasse swam right through the school, which became a living frame.”

Nikon D90; Tokina 10-17mm Fisheye lens at 10mm; 1/160 at f/10; ISO 200; Ikelite DS161 strobes (2); Aquatica UW housing.





4th Place

OPPOSITE, TOP

Pilot Whales
Los Gigantes, Tenerife,
Canary Islands, Spain
By Eduardo Acevedo
Los Realejos, Tenerife,
Canary Islands, Spain
EDUACEVEDO72@GMAIL.COM
“The Canary Islands are one of the best places in the world to observe pilot whales. You need special permission from the public administration to swim and take pictures with them. Summer months are the best time because the sea is frequently calm and the visibility in the open ocean can be around 200 feet.”
Canon EOS 5D Mark II; EF 15mm f/2.8 Fisheye lens; 1/80 sec at f/9; ISO 200; Seacam UW Housing.



3rd Place

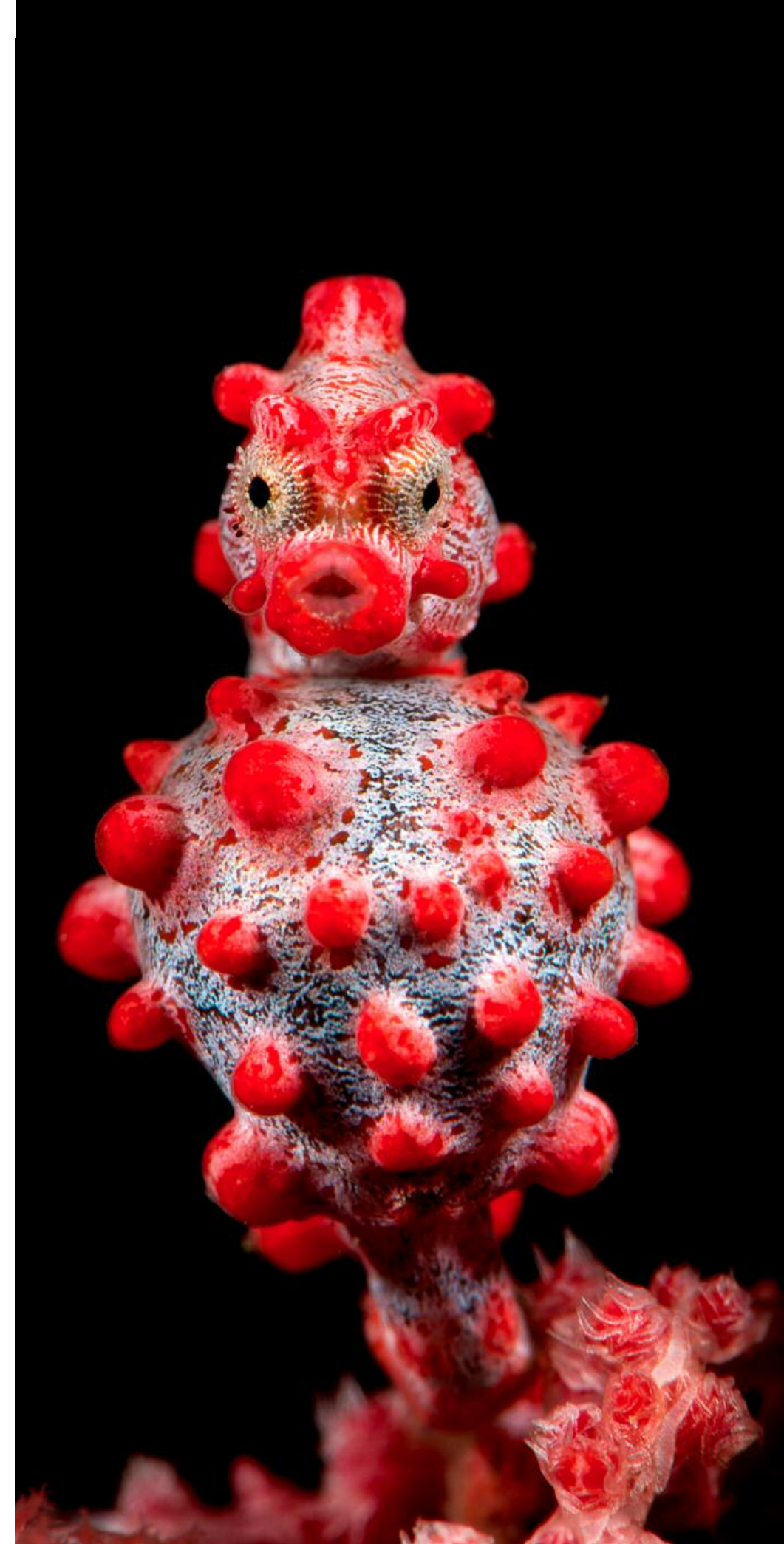
LEFT

King Penguin
Macquarie Island,
Subantarctic Ocean, Australia
By Tobias Bernhard
Munich, Germany
WILDIMAGES@HOTMAIL.COM
“The king penguins of Macquarie Island have come up with a safe way to avoid both the crushing surf and dangerous leopard seals. They use a tidal pool with a small, deep channel to the open ocean as a launching point where they scoured for food. They were unfazed by me and clambered over my back at times to dive into the freezing waters.”
Nikon D2X; AF 14mm f/2.8D ED lens; 1/20 sec at f/13; ISO 100; Sea & Sea YS300 strobes (2); Subal ND2 UW housing; 8-inch dome port and 20mm extension.

5th Place

RIGHT

Pygmy Seahorse
Nudi Retreat, Lembah, Indonesia
By Jeffrey Chua de Guzman
New Manila, Quezon City,
Philippines
JEFFDEGUZMAN@GMAIL.COM
“The tiny Bargibanti seahorse is one of the hardest subjects to photograph underwater. The first step is finding the host gorgonian, then the search is on for the half-inch-long fish that looks exactly like the coral’s polyps. I found this pregnant seahorse, and my goal was to take the best-ever super-macro shot with her looking directly at the camera and centered in the frame. Getting near perfect symmetry was difficult with the constant movement of the pygmy and swells.”
Nikon D800E; AF-S VR 105mm f/2.8G IF-ED Micro lens; 1/320 at f/45; ISO 80; Sea & Sea YS-250 strobes (2); Nauticam UW Housing; Nauticam Super Macro Converter (+15 Diopter).





6th Place

OPPOSITE

Jellyfish

Sorrento, Naples, Italy
By Domenico Roscigno
Torre Annunziata, Italy

WWW.MIMMOROSCIGNO.IT

“This type of jellyfish does not generally live in symbiosis with other fish, but this two-tone jelly—born just a few days earlier—was accompanied by a small horse mackerel hiding near its mantle. I approached with caution and managed to snap this photo using my wide-angle lens.”

Nikon D800E; 10.5mm f/2.8 lens; 1/320 sec at f/22; ISO 100; INON flash Z240 (2); Seacam UW housing; Seacam Fisheye macroport; Viewfinder 45°.



7th Place

OPPOSITE

Milky Way over Spouting Horn

Po'ipu, Kaua'i, Hawaii, USA
By Aaron Feinberg
Princeville, Hawaii, USA

WWW.EXPANDINGVISUALREALITY.COM

“Spouting Horn is a hugely popular attraction; the ocean is forced through an old lava tube and sprays upwards like a geyser, making a startling, whistling sound. I spent an hour rattling off 25-second exposures and playing with the lighting, all while waiting for the right wave to send the spray shooting upward but not blocking the stars.”

Nikon D800; 14-24 f/2.8 lens; 25 secs at f/3.2; ISO 3200; SB-900 speedlight; Manfrotto 055CXPROB tripod; gel.





8th Place

Octopus
Giannutri Island, Tuscany
Archipelago, Italy
By Filippo Borghi
Siena, Italy
FILIPPOBORGHI5@GMAIL.COM
“This curious octopus approached and began jumping with its tentacles spread. To capture the action, I shot from below to immortalize the impressive behavior.”
Nikon D800; Tokina 10-17mm f/3.5-4.5 DX lens; 1/125 at f/16; ISO 100; Ikelite DS 160 (2); Subal UW housing.

9th Place

OPPOSITE, TOP
Green Turtle
Armenime, Tenerife,
Canary Islands, Spain
By Sergi Garcia
Argentona, Catalunya, Spain
WWW.SGFOTO.EU
“The resemblance of plastic bags to jellyfish is a constant danger to turtles who ingest the bags by mistake. I took only three quick shots because removing the bag took precedence.”
Nikon D7000; Tokina 10-17mm f/3.5-4.5 Fisheye lens at 12mm; 1/100 sec at f/10; ISO 100; INON Z240 strobes (2); Nauticam UW housing.

10th Place

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM
Polar Bears
Churchill Wildlife Management Area,
Manitoba, Canada
by Linda Drake
San Luis Obispo, California
WWW.LINDADRRAKE.COM
“Each year, polar bears emerge with their cubs from a den in northern Canada. It continues to amaze me how these huge carnivorous animals can be so gentle with their playful young.”
Canon EOS-1D Mark II; 500mm f/4 lens with 1.4 tele-extender; 1/1000 sec at f/13; ISO 400;
Bogen CF tripod; Wimberley sidekick; Really Right Stuff ball head.





11th Place

LEFT
Gentoo Penguins
Wilhelmina Bay, Antarctica
By Gunther Riehle
Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany
GUNTHER.RIEHLE@T-ONLINE.DE
“While taking images of penguins already on the iceberg, I was hoping for more Gentoos to arrive. A few seconds later, about eight penguins had ‘landed’ and the action was over. For me it is always impressive to see the power with which these little birds propel themselves out of the water.”
Nikon; 80-400mm f/4.5-5.6 lens; B&W polarizing filter; hand-held from Zodiac.

13th Place

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM
Marine Iguana
Fernandina Island, Galapagos, Ecuador
By Filippo Borghi
Siena, Italy
FILIPPOBORGHI5@GMAIL.COM
“On the way back from the north islands of the Galapagos, we decided to head toward Fernandina for a day of taking pictures underwater of marine iguanas: an endemic species of these spectacular and enchanting islands. After more than a half hour of searching, we finally came across a couple that swam among the rocks. To my amazement this animal did not stray, but rather seemed intrigued, looking right into my camera lens between mouthfuls of algae.”
Nikon D800; Tokina 10-17mm f 3.5-4.5 DX lens; 1/125 at f/10; ISO 250; Ikelite DS 160 (2); Subal UW housing.

12th Place

RIGHT
Saltwater Crocodile
Gardens of the Queen, Cuba
By Noam Kortler
Eilat, Israel
NEMODIVE@NETVISION.NET.IL
“When we arrived at the mangrove lagoon, the divemaster started calling and after a few minutes this juvenile saltwater crocodile appeared. We were amazed to see it respond to his voice. After my third visit, I gained enough confidence to get close enough to the six and a half-foot-long crocodile to get this ‘half and half’ split shot I had in mind.”
Nikon D800, AF-S 16-35mm f/4G ED VR Wide Angle zoom lens set on 16mm, 1/200 sec at f/14, ISO 100, 2 X Seacam Flashgun 150 strobes; Seacam housing.





14th Place

OPPOSITE, TOP

Iceberg on Black Sand Beach
Jokulsarlon Lagoon, Iceland
 By Tim Aiken, age 18
 Stanford, California, USA

WWW.TIMAIKEN.ORG

“Instead of recreating shots previously taken of this beach, I hoped to capture something new. On the day I visited, large waves were pummeling marooned slabs of ice. As water spiraled into the air, it carried black sand that gave the icebergs a watery halo.”

Nikon D700; 70–200mm f/2.8 lens at 200mm; 1/5 sec at f/4; ISO 200; Manfrotto 293 tripod and Mini ball head.

15th Place

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM

Rock Arch and Kelp
Anacapa Islands, Channel Islands
National Park, California
 By Antonio Busiello
 Naples, Italy

WWW.ANTONIOBUSIELO.COM

“To capture a single photo of the beauty of Anacapa and the Channel Islands both above and below the water, I floated on the surface and used underwater strobes to light the kelp in front of my camera.”

Nikon D200; 10.5mm f/2.8 lens; 1/320 at f/9; ISO 200; Sea&Sea YS-250PRO strobes (2); Sea&Sea UW housing.

16th Place

RIGHT

Sperm Whales, Dominica
 By Phil Sokol
 San Diego, California, USA

WWW.PHILSOKOL.COM

“Out of the corner of my eye, I caught a small group of sperm whales diving below me. The largest one rolled over and I was only able to get a couple of shots before they glided silently out of range to join other whales.”

Canon 5D Mark III; Sigma 15mm fish eye lens; 1/160 sec at f/8; ISO 320; Nauticam UW housing.





Highly Honored

Grey Triggerfish
Gran Canaria, Spain
By Pedro Carrillo
Tenerife, Spain

WWW.PEDROCARRILLO.NET

“Triggerfish sometimes come quite close to my underwaterhousing to inspect their own reflection on the glass dome. This one was biting at it, annoyed at what looked to be another defiant triggerfish.”

Nikon D200; Tokina AF 10-17mm f/3.5-4.5 AT-X 107 DX Fisheye lens at 13mm; 1/250 at f/19; ISO 160; Seacam Seaflash 250TTL strobes (2); Seacam UW housing.

Highly Honored

OPPOSITE, TOP

Whale Shark
Waimea Bay, Oahu, Hawaii
By Juan Oliphant
Haleiwa, Hawaii, USA

WWW.BLUEAQUAPHOTOS.COM

“As soon as I got in the water with my free-diving partner, Ocean Ramsey, it came straight at us. The whale shark slowed down to get a close look at me and the camera as it gently swam over us into the deep blue.”

Canon EOS 5D Mark III; L 16-35mm f/2.8L II lens; 1/160 at f/11; ISO 400; Aquatech UW housing.

Highly Honored

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM

School of Mobula Rays
La Paz, Baja California, Mexico
By Greg Lecoeur
Nice, France

WWW.GREGLECOEUR.COM

“I discovered this massive, oversized sphere of mobula rays in foggy water. The visibility was terrible and I was very tense as mobula rays usually attract big predators. I took a few shots with my fisheye lens and got back on the boat before there was any trouble.”

Nikon D7000; Tokina AF 10-17mm f/3.5-4.5X DX Fisheye lens; 1/400 sec at f/3.5; ISO 200; Ikelite UW housing.





Highly Honored

ABOVE
 Scripp's Pier and Surfer
 La Jolla, California, USA
 By Craig Bill
 Midland, Texas, USA
 WWW.CRAIGBILL.COM

"I always thought Scripps Pier was a great photo subject, but when I arrived the air was hazy and thick, which made for a brassy and unremarkable sky. At

the end of the sun's journey, a fantastic display of color flashed across the sky, soaking the entire area with a warm glow. It was the sunset I had hoped for."
 Sony A77; 24-105mm f/3.5-4.5 lens at 24mm; stitched panorama; 1/25 sec at f/22; ISO 1600; Remote IR Release; Gitzo ball head; EZ Leveler.
 See the video at <http://youtu.be/0464FLPFAk>

Highly Honored

OPPOSITE, TOP
 Blue Shark
 Pico Island, Azores, Portugal
 By Franco Banfi
 Cadro, Switzerland
 WWW.BANFI.CH

"I was at Pico Island with a group of friends to photograph blue sharks. One time I was in the water with three or four sharks swimming around me, sometimes coming very near. This situation gave me the idea to photograph a shark up close using a fisheye lens and fill the rest of the frame with a diver. When this shark approached, I was ready to get the shot."

Canon 5 Mark II; 15mm f/2.8 fisheye lens; 1/160 sec at f/11; ISO 320; Subal UW Housing 5CII; Seacam 150 underwater flash (2); half power.

Highly Honored

LEFT
 Wonderpus Octopus
 Bangka Island,
 North Sulawesi, Indonesia
 By Goos van der Heide
 Groningen, Netherlands
 WWW.LIGHTSINBLUE.COM

"I found this swimming 'wonderpus' during a dive at the Bangka Island housereef at a depth of 32 feet."

Canon EOS 5D Mark II; EF 100mm f/2.8 Macro IS USM lens; 1/80 sec at f/20; ISO 100; Seacam UW housing; Seacam Seafish strobe 250 at 1/4 power.



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OCEAN VIEWS PHOTO CONTEST

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