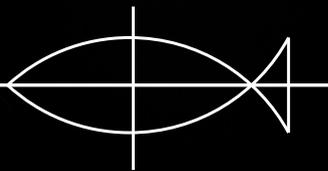


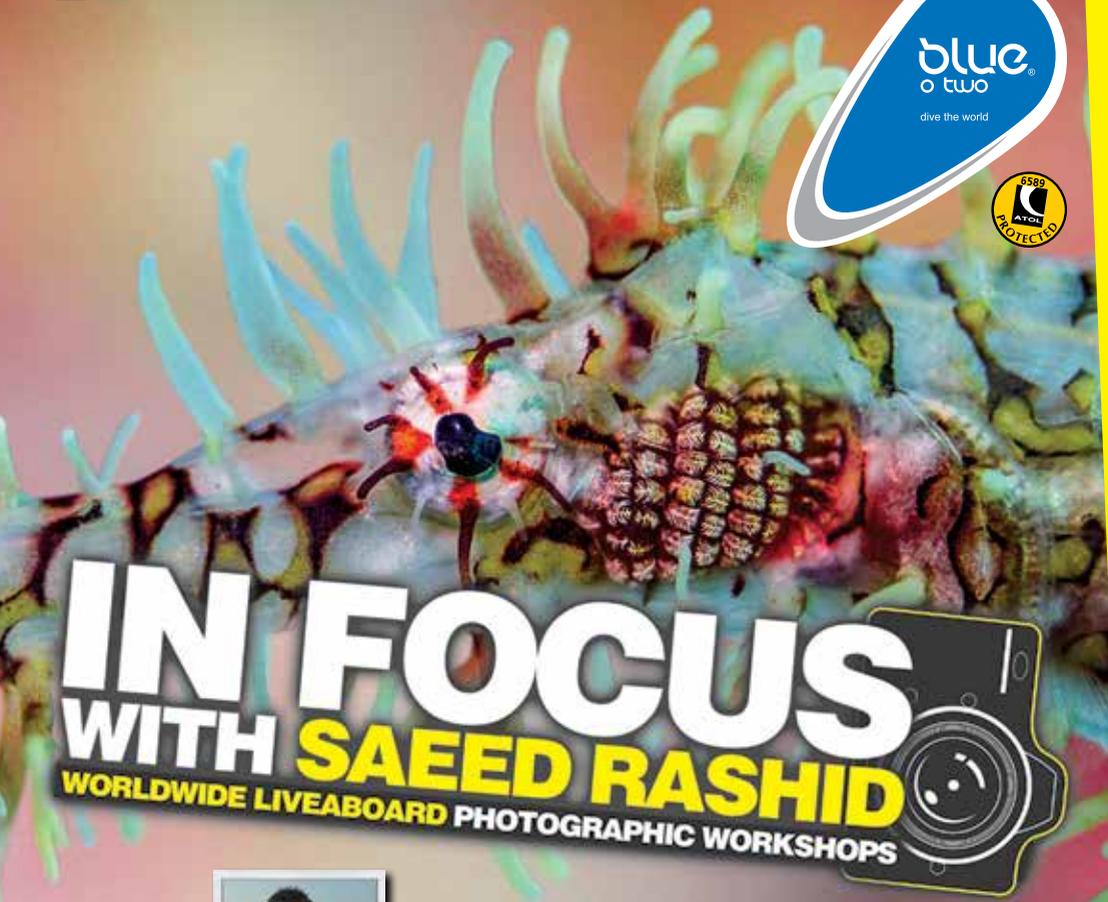
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Winter 2014 no 104



The British Society of
Underwater Photographers





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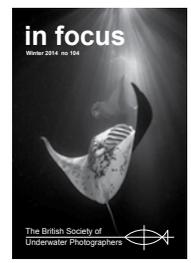
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in focus Winter 2014/15

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Editorial

by Joss Woolf, Winter 2014/15



Many apologies for this rather late edition of "in focus". Sometimes, quite unexpected changes take place in our lives for which we are unprepared. The good news is that we have been able to print more of your competition images than ever before.

Talking of BSoUP competitions, there are going to be some changes ahead there too; breaking away from audience voting with sometimes mystifying outcomes, we are moving towards judged competitions where a well-known, respected photographer or photographers will be able to offer feed-back on their decisions; something we feel will be widely welcomed. How many times does an image get rejected and you never get to find out why?

And our annual "Splash-in" competition; now in the safe hands of our Competition Secretary, Paul Colley, and his team, will also be subject to change. For several years now numbers have been dwindling to the point where we struggle to justify the effort. With the advancement of technology at our disposal today, the new British and Irish Underwater Photography Championship will be accessible to many more people. Details are being finalised.

Thanks again to the "in focus" team, Chris, Mike and Paul.

Joss
Editor



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‘Through Snell’s Window’

Joss Woolf interviews Super Jolly who’s been having Jolly Good Success with a compact camera



JW: What made you start taking pictures underwater?

SJ: Like most people, I initially started taking relatively simple snapshots. Now I’m constantly stimulated to produce creative and artistic images, such as the sea-plane image at the end of this article, using different techniques, including back-lighting and unusual perspectives in a bid to portray common subjects in a different way.

I don’t always produce winning images; the image of the sea-plane

was considered not to have enough underwater content and as a result, my portfolio was disqualified in the first BSoUP contest I entered. However, not one to give up easily, I got lucky second time around with my winning image of a red jelly-fish.

I’ve been incredibly lucky to have travelled the world and I have found a natural home beneath the waves. While I’m diving I see strange looking marine creatures and something magical happens. By capturing what I see, I like to share this with other people so that they too can share in



Above: Jelly Fish taken in Jelly Fish Lake, Palau. The image won the June ‘In Focus’ competition - Red

the magic I feel.

JW: What equipment do you use?

A large number of underwater photographers use cameras, lenses and lighting equipment costing many thousands of pounds. However, I have found that it is possible to get outstanding results with a relatively inexpensive set-up by applying some simple rules and techniques around composition and creativity.

I use a three-year-old Canon S95 which is a basic point and shoot camera placed inside a special underwater camera housing – essentially a plastic, water-tight box.



Underwater photography is a very exciting field and technology is constantly changing. Instead of buying a new camera every year I try to gain inspiration from my surroundings, creatively using the sun in different positions or asking my fellow divers to model for me.

JW: What do you look for when you are taking a picture?

Photography gives me a huge capacity to be creative both on land and beneath the ocean waves. Having a passion for my subject is the greatest motivator so, being fascinated by the underwater world allows me to strive to do my best and try to inspire others along the way.

JW: What advice would you give to a beginner?

We are not all motivated by the same thing; you need to find out what you have passion and enthusiasm for and then build up your confidence over time. Try experimenting with things you are familiar with and then, don't hesitate to move into foreign territory; just go for it and don't underestimate your potential. And most of all, don't think that you need the latest and most expensive camera equipment to take great shots.

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year I realised that these resident Egyptian Geese in my garden made extremely photogenic and willing models.

JW: You've been very busy entering competitions lately; tell me about some of your successes...

On New Year's Day I learned that I had won the Guardian Newspaper's Travel Photographer of the Year award for an image taken in Jellyfish Lake,



Palau. It was a great honour to have my image chosen by judges out of thousands of entries submitted during the previous twelve months. I won a phenomenal prize of a trip to northern Canada to see the polar bears and to swim with and photograph beluga whales, which has long been a dream of mine.

The image which has won the most prizes is that of a turtle taken in the Maldives. It is difficult to get both eyes of any marine creature looking directly into the lens of a camera in equal measure. The ripples of the water on the surface give the image some texture which fades into a deep blue colour of the ocean.

I also won the Emirates Airlines annual Indian Ocean contest; Scubatravel's holiday photo contest, a host of dive magazine competitions and I am very proud to have won one of the prestigious BSoUP's Focus On competitions.

JW: The message I'm getting here loud and clear is that you crave publicity and love winning! Clearly, you have to be in it to win it. Do you ever sell any of your images?

Getty Image Curators invited me to become a contributor and my images are now selling within the Getty Images collection. I have also had sales on Dreamstime and, after a five week screening process, my gallery is now live on Getty Images.

Also, the Siren Fleet builds and runs



the world's grandest fleet of dive boats and they are using my pictures to promote a new boat in Truck, Micronesia. In return, the Siren Fleet are co-funding my trips to the Philippines and to Fiji.

In 2014 I have had articles in the Mail Online, which is the widest-read online news publication around the globe, BBC News highlighting the

plight of the flood victims living along the River Thames and the Metro which is read daily by thousands of commuters within London. I am also very proud to be listed on UWPhotographer.net which lists the great underwater photographers around the world.

You can view my images on my website and read my blog at: www.superjolly.com and my Facebook page can be found at: www.alcoholicfish.com



British Underwater Photography Championship

The annual British Underwater Photography Championship (Splash-In) 2014, organised by the British Society of Underwater Photographers took place at Portland, Dorset on Saturday 5th July.

This year's event was sponsored by Scuba Tours Worldwide, O'Three, Under Water Visions, AP Valves, Scimitar Diving, Marine Conservation Society, Paul Colley Underwater Photography and South West Nudibranchs to whom BSoUP is extremely grateful.

Many of the competitors dived from Scimitar Diving boats, whilst a few dived under Swanage Pier. All had from midnight Friday until 6.00 p.m. on Saturday to capture underwater images before selecting one image to enter in each of three main categories; Marine Life, Mankind in the Sea and Compact Cameras. Competitors could, if they chose, also enter one image in the Humorous category.

Following a BBQ at the Harbour Lights entries were projected to the assembled audience whilst the panel of judges, comprising underwater photographers Dan Bolt, Gavin Parsons and Stuart Philpott, made their

selection of a winner and runner-up in each category; entries in the Humorous category were judged by the audience.

Overall winner – **Cathy Lewis** – Snakelocks anemone shrimp.

Cathy's winning image of a Snakelocks shrimp (*Periclimenes sagittifer*) was taken with a Nikon D7000 with a 105 mm macro lens and flash at 1/80th sec @ f18. The image beautifully captures the behaviour of this pretty little shrimp hiding amongst the tentacles of its host anemone.

MARINE LIFE

Winner – **Cathy Lewis** - Snakelocks anemone shrimp.

Cathy was also the winner of the Marine Life category with the same image. She was presented with the Under Water Visions Trophy, a one week diving holiday for two in the Maldives (exclusive of flights and taxes) courtesy of Scuba Tours Worldwide, a bag full of goodies courtesy of O'Three and a copy of 'A photographic guide to Nudibranchs of the South West' by Bernard Picton, Dan Bolt & Terry Griffiths courtesy



Snakelocks anemone shrimp by Cathy Lewis, Winner, Marine Life category

of Dan Bolt

Runner-up - **Colin Whyte** – Leach's spider crab.

Colin's image of Leach's spider crab in a Snakelocks anemone was taken with a Canon PowerShot G9 compact camera at 1/400th sec @ f6.3.

MANKIND IN THE SEA

Winner - **Terry Griffiths** – Diver at surface.

Terry's image was taken with a Nikon D7000 with a 10 mm fisheye lens at 1/125th sec @ f18. It shows a diver with all his hoses neatly secured with Snell's window and delicate rays of light in the background; an excellent example of an image depicting 'Mankind in the Sea'.

Terry won the Sport Diver Trophy, a voucher for £250 courtesy of Under Water Visions, two days diving for two people courtesy of Scimitar Divers, a bag full of goodies courtesy of O'Three, a voucher for £100 courtesy of DiveLife and a copy of the iBook 'A photographic guide to Nudibranchs of the South West' by Bernard Picton, Dan Bolt & Terry Griffiths courtesy of Dan Bolt.

Runner-up – **Rick Ayrton** – Diver on wreck.

Rick's shot of a diver exploring a

wreck was taken with a Nikon D610 with a 15mm lens at 1/80th sec at f6.3.

Rick won a copy of 'Winning Images with Any Underwater Camera: The Essential Guide to Creating Vibrant Photos' by Paul Colley courtesy of Paul Colley and a year's membership to the Marine Conservation Society.

COMPACT CAMERAS

Winner – **Colin Whyte** – Black faced anemone fish.

Colin proved that compact cameras can be used to take striking images of small marine subjects. His image of a black-faced blenny placed just off centre is beautifully composed and lit. It was taken using a Canon PowerShot G9 at 1/125th sec @ f5.6 on Saturday morning.

Colin won a drysuit and a bag full of goodies courtesy of O'Three, a day's tuition for compact camera users courtesy of Stuart Philpott, and a copy of the iBook 'A photographic guide to Nudibranchs of the South West' by Bernard Picton, Dan Bolt & Terry Griffiths courtesy of Dan Bolt.

Runner-up – **Paul Colley** – a pair of Shanny .

Paul's image of a pair of Shanny was taken with an Olympus XZ-2 compact camera at 1/160th sec at f8.



Above: Diver at surface by Terry Griffiths, Winner, Mankind in the Sea Category



Above: Black faced blenny by Colin Whyte, Winner, Compact Cameras Category
Below: A pair of Shannies by Paul Colley, Runner-up



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Paul won a copy of his own book 'Winning Images with Any Underwater Camera: The Essential Guide to Creating Vibrant Photos' and a year's membership to the Marine Conservation Society.

HUMOROUS

Winner – **Trevor Rees** – Underwater photographer and leek.

Trevor, best known for his amazing marine life images, rose to the challenge to take a humorous shot. The perfectly exposed and in focus image depicts his shocked buddy and underwater photographer Charles Erb coming across a leek underwater. It was taken with a Nikon D600 with a

15 mm lens at 1/60th sec @ f16 on Saturday morning.

Trevor won the AP Valves Trophy, dive goods to the value of £200 courtesy of AP Valves and a goody bag full of goodies courtesy of O'Three.

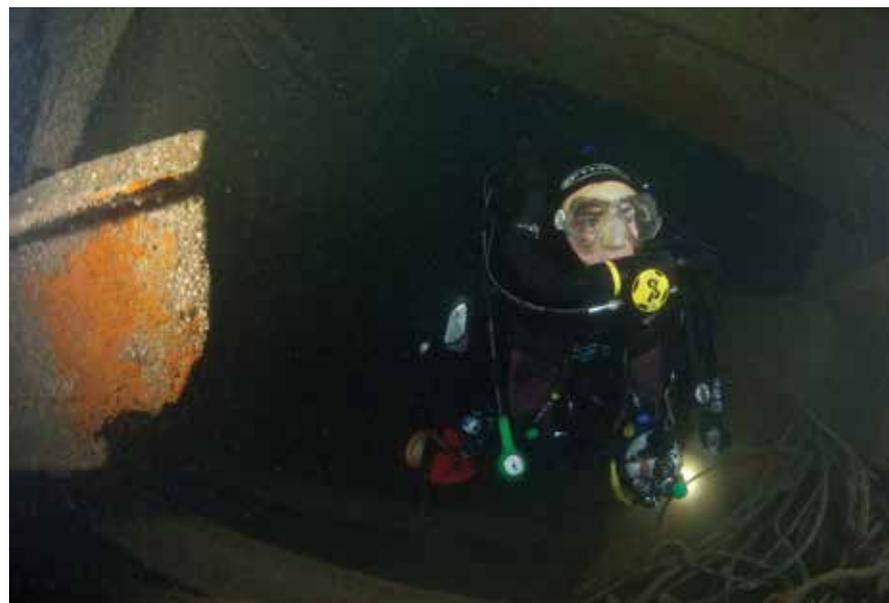
Runner-up by **Paul Colley** 'Pink-lipped' Shanny.

Paul's image was taken with an Olympus XZ-2 compact camera at 1/200th sec at f8. The 'lips' have been enhanced post shooting, allowable under the rules governing Humorous images only.

Below: Underwater photographer and leek by Trevor Rees, Winner Humorous Category



Above: 'Pink-lipped' Shanny by Paul Colley, Runner-up, Humorous Category
Below: Diver on wreck by Rick Ayrton, Runner-up, Mankind in the Sea Category





Above: Leach's spider crab by Colin Whyte, Runner-up, Marine Life Category

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Focus On

Competition Results

MAY 2014

FOCUS ON-SILHOUETTES

Congratulations to **Laura Storm** who was the winner of this month's Focus On Competition.

Laura's notes: Mid-morning sunburst of a Lemon shark cruising the ocean superhighway. Taken at Tiger Beach, The Bahamas. This one was taken with a Sigma 15mm fish-eye lens at 1/1000 sec @ f/16 and ISO 200.

2nd Mark Drayton

Early May at Tubbataha Reef in the Philippines. The photo was taken with a Nikon D7100 using a rectilinear ultra-wide-angle Nikkor 10-24 lens used at it's widest zoom behind a 230mm Nauticam dome.

3rd Arthur Kingdon.

Diver in Cenote was taken in Mexico at 1/80th sec @ f6.3 ISO 200

How the top six scored:

Pos'n	Photographer	Points	Firsts
1	Laura Storm	35	5
2	Mark Drayton	26	4
3	Arthur Kingdon	24	5
4	Dougie Souness	24	4
5	Paul Colley	23	2
6	Theresa Cloake	20	5

JUNE 2014

FOCUS ON-RED

Congratulations to **Super Jolly** June Focus On - Red winner with an image of a jellyfish taken in Jellyfish Lake, Palau with a Canon S95 1/800 @ f8.

Arthur Kingdon 2nd with a Sunstar and hermit crab passenger taken at Loch Creran, near Oban with a Nikon D7000, Sigma 17-70mm, 125th @ f16.

Mark Drayton 3rd with a Pygmy Seahorse on red sea fan at Jo-Jo's, Lembeh with a Nikon D7100, twin Inon Z240, Nauticam Housing, 60mm Micro Nikkor, 1/125 @ f13.0, ISO 250.

How the top six scored:

Pos'n	Photographer	Points	Firsts
1	Super Jolly	35	3
2	Arthur Kingdon	12	3
3	Mark Drayton	12	2
4	Mark Feldman	24	4
5=	Nicholas Godfrey	9	1
5=	Dougie Souness	9	1



Above: Lemon shark by Laura Storm, 1st place May competition. Below right: Tubbataha Reef, by Mark Drayton, 2nd. Below left: Diver in Cenote, by Arthur Kingdon, 3rd



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Above: Jelly fish by Super Jolly, 1st place June competition. Top: Sunstar and hermit crab by Arthur Kingdon, 2nd. Left: Pygmy seahorse by Mark Drayton, 3rd



JULY 2014 FOCUS ON-GREEN WATERS

Congratulations to **Charles Hood** July Focus On winner - Green Waters - with an image of a Blue Shark (top left) at the surface taken with a housed Nikon D3 with a 20mm lens at 1/200th sec @ f8 in Cornwall.

Trevor Rees 2nd with an image of a nudibranch (left) taken with a housed Nikon D90 with a 60 mm lens at 1/200th sec @ f16 in Wemyss Bay, The Clyde, Scotland.

Warren Williams 3rd place image (top right) was taken with a Nikon D90, Tokina 10-17 lens, on a weir drop-off. Using a Pole-cam configuration of his design and construction.

How the top six scored:

Pos'n	Photographer	Points	Firsts
1	Charles Hood	31	6
2	Trevor Rees	20	3
3	Warren Williams	17	3
4	Robert Bailey	17	1
5	David Smith	16	4
6	Nicholas Watson	15	2



AUGUST 2014 FOCUS ON-WRECKS

Congratulations to **Clive Allcorn** August Focus On winner – Wrecks with an image of a diver on the Salem Express, Red Sea, Egypt (left) taken with an Olympus XZ2 at 1/250 @ f4.

Trevor Rees 2nd his image features the tugboat Rozi, taken at Cirkewwa, Malta (above) with a Nikon D600 with Sigma 15mm lens 1/125sec @ f8 ISO 640.

Paul Colley 3rd who dived to 60m off North Cornwall onto the wreck of a WWI U-Boat (right), shooting across the light at ISO 2000, f7.1 and 1/50s to enable a high contrast natural light image.



How the top six scored:-

Pos'n	Photographer	Points	Firsts
1	Clive Allcorn	32	5
2	Trevor Rees	18	4
3	Paul Colley	15	2
4	Robert Bailey	11	2
5	David Smith	10	3
6	Nicholas Watson	9	2

Underwater Excellence



Congratulations to **Joe Daniels** September Focus On winner - Underwater Excellence with a diver exploring a huge underwater archway off the coast of Ambon, Indonesia. A half and half image of Bait fish at sunset in Baie Ternay, Seychelles. Lemon Gobies, Ambon Indonesia. Joe won a trophy and a cheque for £250 courtesy of DiveQuest.

Alex Tattersall 2nd images of Sweetlips - Philippines
Nudi - Flabellina in the Philippines.
Split - Ras Katy.

Peter Tatton 3rd images of Moon jellyfish - Anglesey.
Coryphella browni - Sound of Mull.
The Chalk river - Mimram.

How the top six scored:-

Pos'n	Photographer	Points	Firts
1	Jo Daniels	46	10
2	Alex Tattersall	35	8
3	Peter Tatton	35	6
4	Pedro Viera	35	4
5	Nicholas More	29	4
6	Arthur Kingdon	22	3

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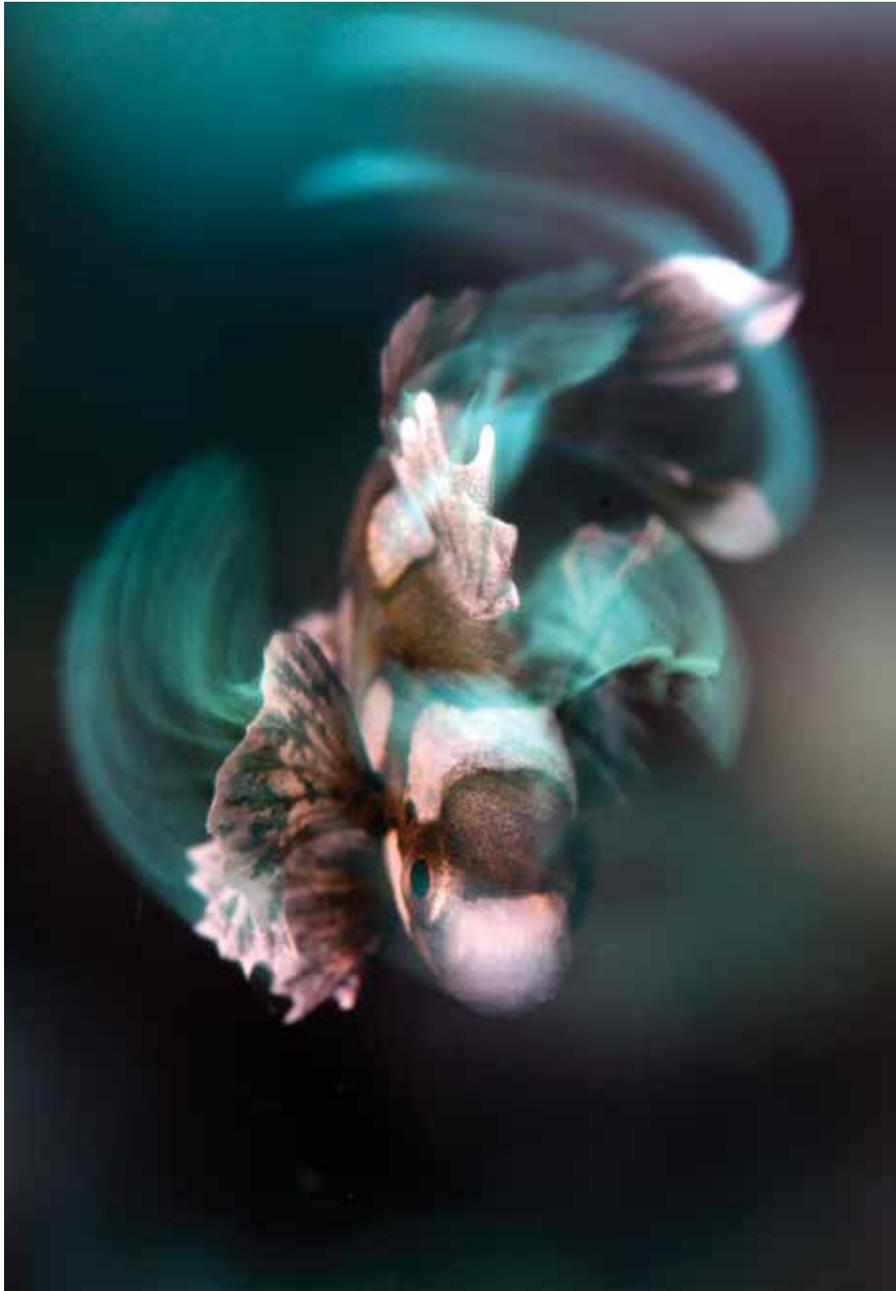
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Above: Split image at Ras Katy by Alex Tattersall, 2nd place, Underwater Excellence

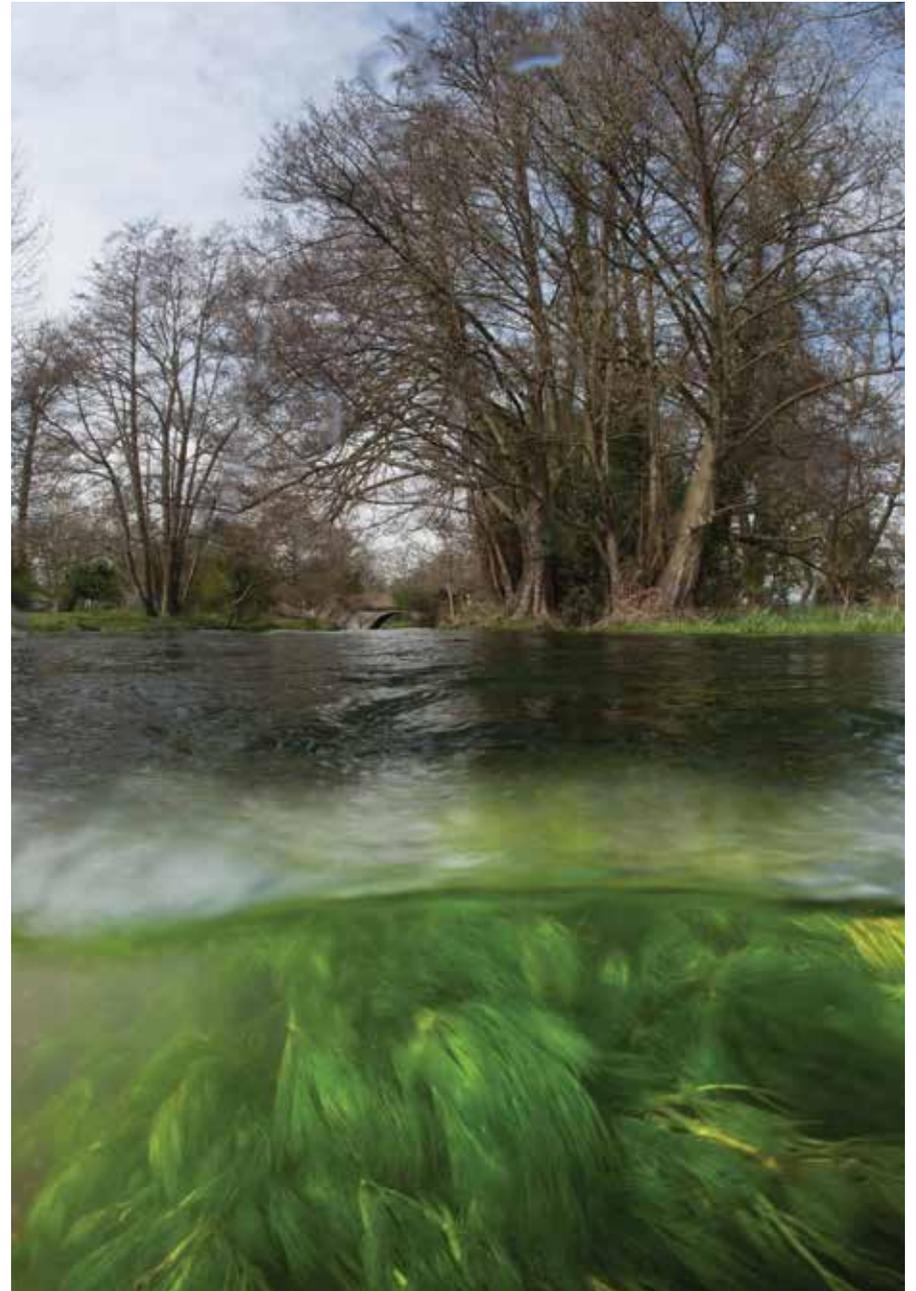


Left: Juvenile Sweetlips and above: Nudi-Flabellina by Alex Tattersall
Below: Moon Jelly Fish by Peter Tatton, 3rd Underwater Excellence



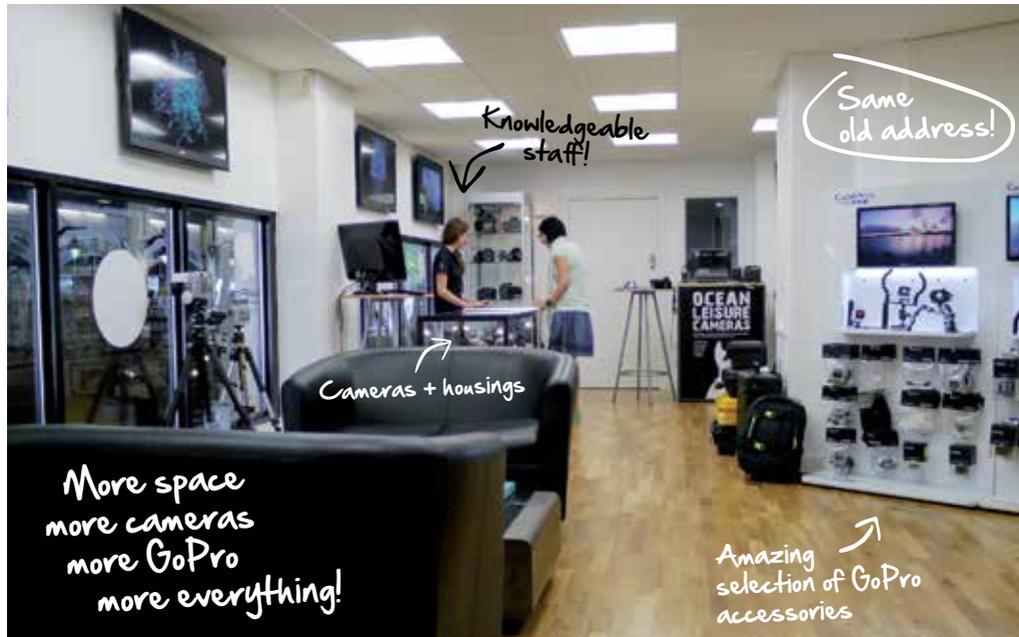


Above: *Coryphella brownie* and right: split image Chalk river Mimran by Peter Tatton



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Focus On

Best of British Portfolio

Congratulations to **Robert Bailey** the winner of this year's Best of British Portfolio Competition.

Grey Seal - Nikon D300 f7.1 @1/100. ISO 400, Tokina 10-17 mm, Two Inon z240 Strobes. Farne Islands. Settling down in 6 meters of water at a site called Big Harker.

John Dory - Nikon D300 f10 @ 1/80 ISO 320, Sigma 17-70mm, two Inon Z240 Strobes. Porth Kerris, Cornwall. With the sun behind to help light this beautiful fish.

Amphipod - Nikon D300 f22 @1/320 ISO 200, Nikon 105mm, +5 FIT wet diopter, one Inon Z240 Strobe with snoot. Loch Corran, Scotland. These tiny crustaceans (about a quarter the size of a finger nail) were found on dead man's fingers where the polyps were retracted.

2nd Arthur Kingdon

1. Flabellina Pellucida. Loch Creran in May 2014. Nikon D7000 in an Aquatica housing. A Sigma 17-70mm lens worked well with this nudibranch. Twin Inon Z240 strobes, f16, 1/160 sec.

2. Newquay in July as this jellyfish passed by the boat, a photo bomb by Paul Colley added an element of fun. Nikon D7000 in an Aquatica housing,

Tokina 10-17mm, twin Inon Z240 strobes, f22, 1/320th sec.

3. Leach's spider crab Swanage pier in July 2014. Nikon D7000 in Aquatica housing, Nikkor 60mm macro lens, Twin Inon s2000 strobes, f22, 1/160th sec.

3rd Paul Colley

Image 1 (Blue Sharks) Penzance. Paul was experimenting with a flash lighting technique exploiting high ISO and a high frame rate.

Image 2 (Spider Crab) This spider crab was on the wreck of the SS Sphene off north Cornwall. ISO 400, at 1/40sec

Image 3 (Grey Seal) Farne Islands 60mm macro lens.

How they scored:-

Pos'n	Photographer	Points	Firsts
1	Robert Bailey	49	11
2	Arthur Kingdon	42	6
3	Paul Colley	29	5
4	Alex Tattersall	28	5
5	Waren Williams	28	4
6	Trevor Rees	19	3



**Above: Best of British Portfolio winner, Robert Bailey.
Top right: 2nd place, Arthur Kingdon.
3rd place, Paul Colley**

BSoUP / Diver Print Competition

The annual BSoUP / DIVER Print Competition was held at Dive 2014 at the NEC, Birmingham over the weekend of 25th-26th October. Eighty of the best prints in four categories were mounted for display and judging by the visiting public. This year more than a thousand visitors completed voting slips and 4,046 valid votes were counted.

The best of show and winner of the Grand Prize was selected by an independent panel of judges comprising Nigel Eaton, Chief Editor of DIVER Magazine, Martin Edge, author and underwater photo-journalist, and Steve Jones, underwater photo-journalist. For full details of the prizes visit www.bsoup.org

Overall Winner, Terry Steeley

Navigating through the tunnels to Bill's Hole provided a real treat, the intimately lit cavern set against a backdrop of energetically dancing light beams layered with vivid hues of colour forged as the sun shone brightly on the mangroves above.

Terry won the Grand Prize of a week in Marsa Shagra or Marsa Nakari including flights, transfers, 7 nights full board in a tent and 5 days unlimited shore diving courtesy of Oonasdivers and an individual BSoUP glass trophy.



Taj Mahal Cenote and diver by Terry Steeley, overall winner



HIGHLY COMMENDED

The judges highly commended three prints:

Highly Commended: Fireworks anemone by **Kirsty Andrews**. Kirsty was also a winner in the British and Irish category with the same image (see below for further details).

Highly Commended: **Elaine White** with her print 'Diver on Land rover'.

Elaine was also a winner in the Overseas category with a different print (see below for further details). Her print of a Land rover was taken in Chepstow N.D.C. with a Nikon D7000.

Highly Commended: **Nick More** with a print of a Blue shark.

Nick was also a winner in the Advanced British category (see below for further details).

Nick used an Olympus OM-D E-M1 with Panasonic 8mm Fish-eye lens in a Nauticam housing with dual Sea & Sea YS-D1 strobes. 'We had flat, calm conditions 20 miles out in the Atlantic, which allowed me to capture the shark's reflection and also its bow wave as it patrolled the surface'.





Above: Yarrell's blenny by Kirsty Andrews Runner-up in this British & Irish category

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THE BRITISH & IRISH CATEGORY

This category was for underwater photographers who had never won a national or international competition.

Winner: **Kirsty Andrews** with a print of a Fireworks anemone taken in Loch Duich with a Nikon D300.

Her image was taken on a trip to the Scottish sea lochs at Easter when the climate was verging on tropical and the visibility was better than anywhere else in the country this year.

Runner-up in this category was also **Kirsty Andrews** with a print of a Yarrell's blenny taken in Scotland with a Nikon D300.

OVERSEAS

This category was for underwater photographers who had never won a national or international competition.

Winner: **Elaine White** with a print entitled 'Light show in Kulkukan Cenote' taken in Mexico with a Nikon D7000. Her Cenotes image was taken in February this year using a Tokina 10-17, ISO 1100, 1/60 f5.6 in natural light. Kulkukan is part of the Chac-Mool system and is said to be one of the best for the amazing lighting effects, the image was taken in an area that has a spectacular 10 metre curtain of sun rays cutting through beautiful, crystal clear blue water.

Winter 2014/15

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Above: Light show in Kulkukan Cenote by Elaine White, Winner in the Overseas prints
 Below: Blue shark by Nick More, Highly Commended by the judges



Runner-up: **Pash Baker** with a print of a Clownfish in an anemone taken in the Maldives with a Nikon D300s.

THE ADVANCED BRITISH & IRISH CATEGORY

This category was for underwater photographers who had previously won a national or international competition.

Winner: **Nick Blake** with a print of a Jellyfish and sunburst taken in Lundy with a Nikon D700.

The Jellyfish and Sunburst image was taken at Lundy Island in June 2014 with a Nikon D700 camera in a Hugyfot housing, Sigma 15mm fisheye lens and Kenko Teleconverter.

Runner-up: **Dan Bolt** with the print of Grey seal taken in Lundy Island with an Olympus E-PL5.

ADVANCED OVERSEAS

This category was for underwater photographers who had previously won a national or international competition.

Winner: **Ellen Cuylaerts** with a print entitled 'Manta Magic' taken at Kona Hawaii, with a Nikon D800 during a night dive.

Runner-up: **Nick More** with a print of a Porcelain crab feeding taken in Indonesia, Manado with a Olympus

OM-D E-M1.

Nick used an Olympus OM-D E-M5 with 60mm macro lens in a Nauticam housing with F.I.T Pro +10 diopter with dual Sea & Sea YS-D1 strobes to capture the image of the porcelain crab feeding. He used one strobe to backlight the crab and to bring out the detail of its arms and the second strobe to lightly 'kiss' the crab from the front to bring out the colour of its shell.

SUBAL

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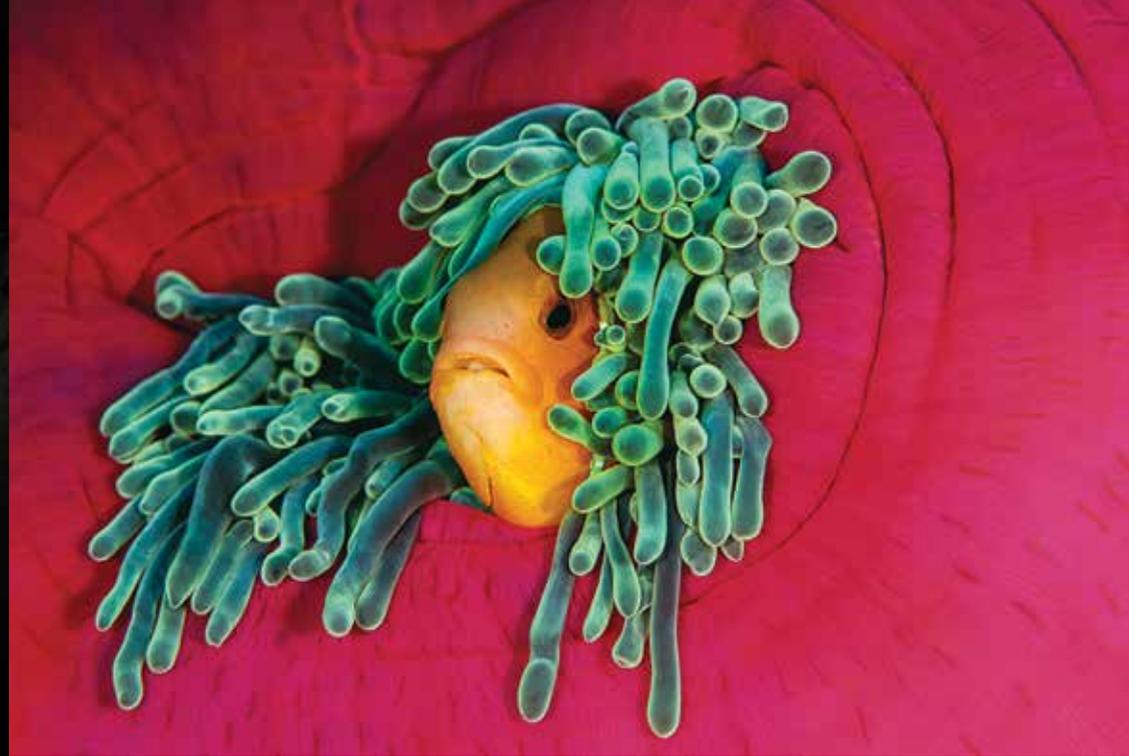


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Above: Clownfish in an anemone by Pash Baker, Runner-up in the Overseas print category
Below: Porcelain crab feeding by Nick More Runner-up in the Advanced Overseas prints





Jellyfish and sunburst by Nick Blake, Winner of the British & Irish print category



Grey seal by Dan Bolt, Runner-up in the British & Irish print category



Above: 'Manta Magic' by Ellen Cuylaerts Winner of the Overseas print category



Reflections of an Old Sea Dog

by Mike Maloney

In June 2014 I had planned to go on a Red Sea live-aboard with the usual group from BSoUP who have been making the same trip for many years. Due to a surprise medical problem in January, namely Atrial Fibrillation, and on the advice of my cardiologist, I was advised not to dive. The solution to the problem was to still go ahead with the trip but to snorkel instead of diving. Of course, I took my trusty Nikon D200 with its Subal housing and a 16mm fish-eye lens and the large Subal dome port. The plan was to concentrate on half and half or "split" shots. Easier said than done. I was using a 7mm wetsuit with my usual weights but it was much harder than I thought it would be to get my buoyancy correct; even staying in the right position. What would really have helped would have been ankle weights but who takes ankle weights with a 7mm wet suit to the Red Sea? Even trying in the shallows when the boat was moored up was problematic. How you really miss being correctly weighted, with

a tank and demand valve just to be able to do what you want to do. I did take an old-type large orange circular SMB which at least gave me a certain amount of stability but even then it was hard work. I concentrated on using the dive boat as my model, shooting masses of images, a few of which were to my liking. Having a week on a live-aboard without diving went well in the end. I made a very good camera caddy for my wife, Jan and I was at least with my old diving buddies. Maybe it wasn't planned but really enjoyable nevertheless.

The second event was land-based but with plenty of shooting opportunities. My Dive club, Holborn BS-AC meets at the Oasis Pool in Endell Street where we have been in residence for the last 54 years. The venue, ideally positioned, being in central London, and having both an outdoor and indoor pool, was chosen for the changeover, in July, of the BS-AC Presidency from Prince Charles to Prince William. On the day we were



blessed with glorious weather and on arrival, all the guests were met with very high security and had to sign in between 9.00 and 9.30am. Anyone arriving outside the stated time was not allowed in. Both Prince Charles and Prince William arrived and all the guests were gathered on the patio overlooking the outdoor pool. Both were keen to meet all the guests and they moved amongst us all freely, shaking hands with each individual and having a friendly chat about diving and how long we had been involved with it. There were three members from Holborn BS-AC; Mark Brill, Diving Officer, Richard Elliot, the Chairman and myself as President. For some inexplicable reason, Mary Tetley, BS-AC's Chief Executive, introduced



us to Prince Charles as the Holborn Mafia. It made him smile and laugh. Prince Charles was invited to go into the water with Prince William but he declined. Prince William went in first, snorkelling, and then joined some of the young people invited on scuba for a few lengths.



Campaign for Sea Change

How you can help
Introduction by Joss Woolf

At the recent Dive Show in Birmingham, October 2014, I was approached by Alyx Elliott of World Animal Protection who asked if we at BSoUP might be able to help their cause, described below. If you have any recent images that depict discarded fishing gear or entangled marine life from either the British Isles or overseas, they would be most grateful to receive them. All photographers would be properly credited for their work and agreement reached with each individual as to how their images would be used. Please contact Alyx at AlyxElliott@worldanimalprotection.org.uk.

The problem

A staggering 640,000 tonnes of discarded fishing gear is left in our oceans each year.

Every year this 'ghost gear' traps, injures and kills hundreds of thousands of whales, seals, turtles and birds.

The solution

By bringing together governments, industry and the public, we can protect

sea life and move towards a future free from ghost gear.

What they're doing

They are launching the Sea Change campaign to make sure ghost gear stays out of the sea and to protect over 8,000 British species.

Out at sea, hidden from view, marine animals share waters with the UK fishing fleet. The commercial fisheries

operating here accidentally lose or may deliberately discard fishing nets and lines which either stay at sea or wash up on our beaches.

Although the size of the ghost gear problem in UK waters remains poorly understood, it is clear that entanglement in ghost fishing gear is a threat to animal welfare.

They are working to uncover what this issue really looks like in the UK; bringing together partners to stop fishing gear entering our seas

They are also supporting new ways to remove ghost gear and helping to replicate successful local sea animal rescue efforts.

A death trap for animals

Ghost gear can cause serious suffering to animals that find themselves caught in it. Once in the sea, fishing gear can stay there for 600 years.

Thin pieces of fishing line can wrap around a limb or the neck of an animal, causing infections, constrictions and sometimes death. Other animals are trapped by nets, leading to drowning, decapitation, amputation or starvation.

Animals in the UK

The Sea Change campaign will protect more than 8,000 British

marine species including whales, dolphins, porpoises, seals, seabirds and turtles.

Effects of ghost gear on sea animals

Seabirds such as gannets are known to make nests with small pieces of netting, which can prevent them from flying, nesting and diving

Young seals are curious animals which can lead to them playing with fishing net. Seals trapped in netting often find themselves unable to move as it tightens around their neck or flipper.

Whales, dolphins and porpoises of all sizes can become entangled in and killed by fishing gear, floating rope, ghost nets and lines attached to pots and creels, which is a rope attached to cages on the seabed used to catch lobsters and crabs.

The Leatherback turtle is the most common species of turtle found in British waters and its global status is critically endangered. Between July and October, when the turtles migrate to our waters to feast on jellyfish, they often become entangled in rope.

See more at: <http://www.worldanimalprotection.org.uk/campaigns/wildlife/sea-change-marine-litter#sthash.HftmvMQ7.dpuf>

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Indonesia - Ultimate Manado with Nick and Caroline Robertson-Brown 6-20th September 2015

Philippines - Thresher Shark Expedition with Ocean Geographic Photographer Amanda Cotton 17-27th August 2015

Indonesia - Sunfish Safari with Steve Jones 20-30th October 2015

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