

Underwater Images 2006

International Underwater Photo/Video Competition -
The Gavia Scuba Club of Cincinnati and the OCSSDI <http://www.uwimages.org>

I. The Judging Process: Conservation Criteria

All entries will be screened by a panel of conservation judges. Entries exhibiting the following behavior will be disqualified with no refunds:

1. Divers with gear dragging or visibly damaging the environment.
2. Divers kicking up sand.
3. Animals showing signs of stress.
4. Animals viewed in an unnatural environment or location.
5. Animals being fed.
6. Marine life being touched.
7. Divers exhibiting poor buoyancy control.

Judging Criteria The judging will be a two-stage process.

Slides and Digital Entries

All slides and digital entries will be judged on 1) technical image quality (lighting, exposure, and focus) 2) difficulty 3) composition and 4) overall impact.

Videos

All video entries will be judged on the basis of 1) Production values (camera, audio, lighting, and editing), 2) Message & storyline design. 3) The value of UW videography will weigh more than computer-generated graphics and animation. Entries may not be part of a commercial production.

II. Restrictions - No entry will be accepted that has won best of show or first, second, or third place in any major competition before its postmark date. In the event that an award winning entry is later found to have violated any rule, it will be disqualified, and officials of this competition reserve the right to recall prizes or request reimbursement of fair market value if non-returnable.

No entry may be entered in more than one category. Photography, videography, and editing must have been performed by the entrant. Images must have been taken in open water; no aquariums. Any subject is acceptable as long as it meets conservation rules and does not exploit a person's gender, race or religion. No optical image manipulation other than cropping, dodging, burning or minor changes in brightness and contrast as might occur during slide duplication are allowed.

Copyrights - In submitting any entry, the owner grants Underwater Images the right to use such photographs and videos for no more than two years for promotion of the competition in printed, slide show, video, and webpage formats; and non-profit educational purposes. Finalist and winning entries may be published on CD by **GoldenDolphin.com** with minimal royalties going to non-profits supported by this competition. All copyrights will be retained by the entrant and recognition will be given to the photographer/videographer.

Model releases and copyright-free music will be the responsibility of the person retaining copyright. UW Images officials and any other sponsoring entity cannot be held responsible for loss or damage of an entry before, during, or after the competition. Please be advised, send only dups. Entries will **NOT** be returned.

Eligibility - The competition is open to all amateur photographers and/or videographers. The intent of this competition is to give exposure and credibility to amateurs. Any industry professionals are ineligible for this competition. Novice categories are open only to photographers who have not earned more than two first places in any major competition. Contest officials and their immediate family are ineligible to enter.

III. CATEGORIES

1. **Conservation**-Videos, slides, or digital shots taken with any lens.
2. **Video**
3. **Wide Angle (Novice)**-Slides or digital shots taken with normal or wide angle lens.
4. **Wide Angle (Open)**-Slides or digital shots taken with normal or wide angle lens.
5. **Macro/Close Up (Novice)**-Slides or digital shots taken with reproduction ratio smaller than 1:6.
6. **Macro/Close Up (Open)**-Slides or digital shots taken with reproduction ratio smaller than 1:6.
7. **Majestic**-Slides or digital shots taken with any lens.
8. **Togetherness**-Slides or digital shots taken with any lens.

Conservation Entries

Open to video, slides, or a slide series. The subject matter must address a marine environmental concern. The purpose of this category is to increase the environmental awareness of man's impact on the marine environment, and therefore may include depictions of rejuvenation or damage.

Video Entries

Each video entry may not exceed three minutes in length. NTSC videos can be in VHS, 8mm, Hi-8mm, DVD, or miniDV formats. An audio track is required and at least 75% of video must take place in open water. Each videotape must be labeled on the tape cartridge and tape case with entrant's name, address, telephone number, title, location the video was shot and length of tape.

Video must not include entrant's name. Video entrants please send a *short* biography and story of your entry for our Friday Night Film Festival, Mar. 11, 2006.

Digital Entries-To email, have the **subject** line of your email include UW and your first initial and last name (e.g. UWRSsmith, UWBJones). For CD-Rom or email, **each file entry** submitted should include category number_title_your name (e.g. 4_Turtle mating_RSsmith.) A JPEG file with the highest quality setting where compression is kept to a minimum is recommended. The preferred image dimension for digital entries is 800 x 600 pixels (SVGA), however entries may be submitted where the long dimension is no less than 400 and no more than 1200 pixels.

Slide Entries

All mounted slides must be 2" x 2" (35mm). *Glass or other thick slide mounts will not be acceptable.* Please do not use gummed labels. Slides must be clearly marked with the title, entry form category, and number, and the entrant's name on the BACK (emulsion) SIDE. Slides are to be marked with a SPOT ON THE LOWER LEFT HAND CORNER ON THE FRONT SIDE as viewed upright on a light table. This should be the only marking on front.

Majestic

This category can be taken with any lens and should depict any sort of majestic display without having disturbed the natural order of the marine environment.

Togetherness

This category can be taken with any lens and should depict any sort of marine togetherness without having disturbed the natural order of the marine environment.

IV. To Enter

1. All entries must be received by Feb. 1, 2006 in care of:

Underwater Images 2006

10632 Cinderella Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45242-4911.

2. All slide, digital, and video entries must be properly labeled and accompanied by a completed entry form and check or money order payable to **Underwater Images 2006** for entry fees. For PayPal payments, see our website link.
3. Entry fee is \$10 USD per each entry with no limit of entries.
4. Late entries will be charged a \$5 USD late fee per each entry until Feb.10, 2006.

Entries submitted in a category that do not meet all the category criteria may be disqualified from the competition, or moved to a category deemed appropriate by the judges at their discretion. No refund for disqualified entries.

At least First, Second and Third Place awards will be given in each category. Valued prizes will be assigned according to the number of entrants in each category. No entrant will be awarded more than two major trip prizes. Winners will be announced and displayed at the Ohio Council of Skin and Scuba Diving's 47th annual Banquet Ball, Ohio ScubaFest 2006, on March 11, 2006 in Dublin, Ohio. Proceeds from this competition will benefit marine education and scholarship funds. Please note any last minute announcements on our website at www.uwimages.org

Please direct any questions to:
Phone: 513-793-9896

E-mail:
Director@uwimages.org

BEST OF OHIO: All Ohio entrants will have their non-winning entries judged against others from Ohio in a separate competition.

Please note: Many of our rules are consistent with those of EPIC and LAUPS in an attempt to standardize photo competition rules worldwide.