

## Underwater Images 2009

International Non-Profit Underwater Photo/Video Competition -

<http://www.uwimages.org>

### I. The Judging Process:

The judging will be a two-stage process.

#### 1. 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.

#### 2. Judging Criteria

##### Digital Entries (No slides or prints)

All 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 normal slide duplication are allowed. This is not a competition to judge photoshop abilities.

**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. 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.*

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

**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. 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**, digital shots taken with any lens or DVD digital shot series show.
2. **Video**
3. **Video Documentary**
4. **Wide Angle (Novice)**-Digital shots taken with normal or wide angle lens.
5. **Wide Angle (Open)**-Digital shots taken with normal or wide angle lens.
6. **Macro/Close Up (Novice)**-Digital shots taken with reproduction ratio smaller than 1:6.
7. **Macro/Close Up (Open)**-Digital shots taken with reproduction ratio smaller than 1:6.
8. **Majestic**-Digital shots taken with any lens.
9. **Togetherness**-Digital shots taken with any lens.
10. **Divers and Marine Life**-Digital shots taken with any lens.

#### Conservation Entries

Open to video, digital, or digital shot series show. 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, and can violate conservation rules within reason.

#### Video Entries

Each video entry may not exceed three minutes in length. NTSC videos can be in VHS, DVD, or miniDV formats. (No PAL entries please.) 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 include a **short** biography and story of your entry(s).

#### Video Documentary entries

**Sponsored by [ImagingFoundation.org](http://ImagingFoundation.org)**  
These entries may not exceed 3 minutes and must follow all of the other rules stated above. The documentary must have a narration and tell a compelling story about travel, destinations, marine behaviors, or any other appropriate aspect of diving, marine environments, etc.

#### Digital Entries

To email, have the **subject** line of your email include UW and your first initial and last name (e.g. UWRSmith, 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.

**Digital Shot Series Entries - (Conservation only)** Digital shot series entries may not exceed three minutes in length and at least 75% must take place in open water. An audio track is suggested.

#### 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.

#### Divers and Marine Life

This category can be taken with any lens and should depict divers and marine life in the shot without having disturbed the natural order of the marine environment.

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, entries will **NOT** be returned.

### IV. To Enter

1. All entries and fees must be received by April 1, 2009 either electronically with payment via PayPal or by snail mail with check in care of: **Underwater Images 2009**  
**10632 Cinderella Drive**  
**Cincinnati, Ohio 45242-4911.**
2. All entries must be properly labeled and accompanied by a completed entry form and check or money order payable to **Underwater Images 2009** for entry fees or for PayPal entries and payments, please see our website link.
3. **Entry fees** are \$10 per entry with no limit of entries. For every 10 paid entries, entrants can submit one free entry.
4. **Late entries** will be charged a \$5 USD late fee per each entry until April 10, 2009.

*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 one major prize. Proceeds from this non-profit competition will benefit marine education and scholarship funds. Please note any last minute announcements on our website at [www.uwimages.org](http://www.uwimages.org)

**Please direct any questions to:**  
**Roger Roth, Founder/Director**  
**Phone: 513-793-9896**  
**E-mail:**  
**[Director2009@uwimages.org](mailto:Director2009@uwimages.org)**