

# 2012 DIGITAL ONLINE REGULATIONS

**COMPETITION OPENS:** 1st January 2012 **DEADLINE:** 30th APRIL 2012 @ MIDNIGHT

Digital Online's main objectives are:

- To gather information on the number of underwater photographers in the UAE (both professional and amateur).
- To discover new promising underwater photographers in the UAE.
- To develop the human interaction with the underwater environment and highlight the beauty of its fauna and flora.

*Digital Online is open to UAE Nationals and all people living in the UAE under a valid Residence Visa and of any diving qualification with a valid EDA membership.*

## **SPONSORS AND PRIZES**

- Biosphere Expeditions – Maldives Expedition
- Biosphere Expeditions – Musandam Expedition
- Dievas Watches – Dievas Watches
- Discover Orient Holidays – Dive Package Destinations
- Tourism Malaysia – Diving Destination to Sipadan for 2
- Atlantis Dive Centre – PADI Rebreather Course
- Nomad Ocean Adventures – 2 Day, 2 Night Package with a Rebreather DSD Dive
- Sheesa Beach Dive Center – Camp and Dive Package
- Al Boom Diving – Day Dive Trip for 2 on the East Coast
- Al Boom Diving – (3) Shark Dives in Dubai Aquarium
- Al Mahara Diving Center – Day Dive Trip in Abu Dhabi
- Freestyle Divers – PADI Fluorescent Aware Course
- EDA – The Underwater Photographer by Martin Edge

The prizes, certificates and trophies will be presented to the winners on Wednesday, May 30th 2012 at 19:00 (*Venue TBC*).

## **THE RULES**

By entering the competition, entrants declare that they own copyright of the submitted photographs and films and it entails an automatic acceptance of all the rules and regulations. EDA reserves the right to publish winning images in both, the 'Divers For The Environment' magazine and on the EDA website. Winning images will also be used in any future promotional material for EDA, events and competitions royalty free, but copyright remains with the photographer. Use of images or video will require no additional written or verbal permissions from the photographer or videographer.

Competition organizers will take the utmost care in handling digital files submitted to the competition. However, competition organizers will not be held responsible for any loss of the submitted material at the time of uploading images. No media such as CD's, DVD's, memory cards and sticks will be returned to the participants unless fully stamped and self addressed return envelopes are provided with the submission of the original files.

Images must not have already been submitted to previous Digital Online Competitions.

Manipulation is restricted to colour correction, brightness, contrast, sharpening and cropping. The Digital Online judges reserve the right to examine untouched images if requested.

Removing backscatter is allowed to an extent, this does not include the removal of subjects such as fish or divers or cutting and pasting sections of images from one to another.

Participants are obligated to follow environmental conservation regulations and to share respect for the underwater world during the process of taking their stills and film. Be advised that any damage to the protected underwater world, including the disruption of the natural habitat of the marine life, provocation through touching, displacing, feeding or annoying, is prohibited

and will disqualify the images or the photographer/videographer. Our marine biologist will help us identify images or video where subjects have been 'moved to a better background' etc.

The final deadline for submitting images and video for the 5 different categories is Monday, April 30th 2012, at 23:59 pm.

The finalists will be announced and their work displayed at the event on May 30th 2012. Participants who do not make it to the evening of the event will be asked to collect their prizes from the EDA offices.

We pledge to run this regional photography competition ethically and with integrity. Our judges have volunteered their time to help and to some it might be important to note that the photographers' details remain hidden to the judges during the judging process.

## **CATEGORIES**

### PHOTOGRAPHY

- **Worldwide Images:** Photographers can enter their photographs into 3 categories, Fish, Macro and Wide Angle. Entrants may enter a maximum of two images into each category.
  - **Amateur Section:** Amateur underwater photographers to state so at registration – Restrictions for point and shoot photographers only with built in strobe. No external/additional strobes/lighting.
1. **Fish:** Photographs of whole fish and/or fish parts as the main visual element (not mammals, crustaceans, molluscs etc.) taken with any lens, portraying its natural behavior and environment.
  2. **Macro:** Photographs taken with close up-equipment, portraying underwater flora and/or fauna. The main element not being fish. The photographer may not crop the original more than 20%. The original image may be requested.
  3. **Wide Angle:** Photographs taken with a wide-angle lens (or

adapters that provide an equal field-of-view), with or without human presence, portraying the natural beauty of the underwater environment.

## VIDEO

1. **Marine Life Video Category:** Show off your creative and editing skills. Maximum duration including credits – 5 minutes.
2. **Wrecks Video Category:** Getting good wreck footage can be a challenge due to the size of most wrecks and the generally limited ambient light. Maximum duration including credits – 5 minutes.

## PRIZES

- The winner of each of the 8 categories will receive a certificate, trophy and **voucher/prize** from **SPONSOR**.
- The runner-up of each of the 8 categories will also receive a certificate, trophy and **voucher/prize** from **SPONSOR**.
- Third place of each of the 8 categories will receive a certificate, trophy and **voucher/prize** from **SPONSOR**.

The list of prizes/sponsors may change due to unforeseen circumstances.

Prizes are awarded to the winners in person and only they are permitted to make use of them unless stated otherwise.

Dive resort stays and livaboard trips awarded as prizes do not include air travel, taxes and other expenses, unless stated otherwise by the relevant sponsor.

A participant can win multiple times in each category but only the top prize in each category will be awarded. The next prize will be passed on to the next winner down the line and so forth.

## PERSONAL SAFETY

Participants are responsible for their own safety and for the proper use of their diving and photography/video equipment.

Divers must dive within the limits of their own dive certification level and according to the local diving regulations (remember to take your dive certification and diving insurance with you on all your trips).

Competition organizers and sponsors do not accept responsibility for the safety of participants during their diving activity, nor do they accept responsibility for any damage or loss to personal equipment that may occur as a result of diving activities.

### **REGISTRATION AND IMAGE UPLOAD**

Registration is open from January 1st, 2012 and closes on Monday, April 30th 2012, at 23:59pm. Registration to Digital Online is free.

The participant must be an active EDA member and send their details and images via email to [photo@emiratesdiving.com](mailto:photo@emiratesdiving.com) with the following information:

1. Full Name
2. EDA Membership Number
3. Camera Model

Images must be submitted by email in JPEG format at a maximum size of 1024 pixels wide (landscape) or 768 pixels high (portrait). Resolution must be 72dpi. File names should comprise the photographers name and the category, eg. JSmithWideAngle1.jpg or JSmithMacro2.jpg, etc.

Video submissions must be in PAL format on DVD and sent to the following address:

EDA Magazine  
Emirates Diving Association  
P.O. Box 33220  
Dubai  
UAE

You will receive an email to confirm your registration and image upload. If you do not receive one within 24 hours, your email may not have come through and you may need to try again

unless it has passed the deadline. We will also send an email in receipt of receiving videos.

## **DIGITAL ONLINE JUDGES**

### **ALLY LANDES – EDA**

*EDA Events Coordinator, Graphic Designer, Photographer and Videographer*

Ally has been working with EDA since December 2004 where she created and introduced the quarterly magazine, 'Divers for the Environment' and is the magazine's Editor. She branded and helped foresee the development of Digital Online from its launch in 2009 and has since managed the event. She is a graphic designer photographer and underwater videographer and keeps busy within her fields of passion always looking to fill gaps with new improvements, developing EDA's brand and designs. She is also a PADI Instructor, using the experience within everyday life at EDA. Her love affair with the ocean started before she could walk and she has been diving in Omani and UAE waters since 1991.

### **REEMA ABBAS – EDA**

*EDA Projects Manager*

Reema is a UAE national who has an insatiable passion for life. She paints, practices yoga and travels extensively in search of adventure. An enthusiastic diver; she quotes, 'Diving gives you a feeling of exhilaration as well as tranquility'. Her work with EDA as Projects Manager gives her a sense of fulfillment, knowing that she's with like-minded people working together for a positive cause.

### **MARCELO MARIOZI – UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHER**

Marcelo Mariozi was born and raised close to the sea in Rio de Janeiro, shooting underwater since 1999. He is a CMAS Dive and UW Photo Instructor and Captain of the Brazilian UW Photo Team. Marcelo is an airline pilot living in Dubai and created the set up of EDA's Digital Online Underwater Photography Competition in 2009.

### **JONATHAN ALI KHAN – WILD PLANET PRODUCTIONS**

*Managing Director – Natural History TV Production, Underwater*

*filming specialists, video production and photography.*

JAK is a topside wildlife and underwater cameraman, producer, director and editor with a strong passion for the natural world having worked on a wide range of unique projects in the region and is recognized as an authority on environmental, conservation and diving related issues. His fascination with filming all started after years of working as a photojournalist and shooting underwater stills. His primary interest is in marine subjects that led to the creation of Ocean World Productions in 2003. In 2008, JAK left Ocean World Productions in order to focus entirely on natural history TV development, leading to the recent creation of Wild Planet Productions.

### **NUNO SÁ – WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER**

*Professional Photographer Specializing in Marine Life*

Nuno has been a professional photographer since 2004, specialized in marine life photography. He is the author of three books and several dozens of articles published in National and International magazines. He is the co-author of the "Azores Diving Guide" – Portugal's first published diving guide, and a regular collaborator of several magazines, such as National Geographic Portugal. He is the first Portuguese wildlife photographer nominated in some of Europe's major nature photography competitions, such as: Wildlife Photographer of the Year and Asferico International Nature Photography Competition, amongst others. Nuno is also on the Wild Wonders of Europe's team of top European nature photographers. This is the world's biggest ever nature photography project with an expected public of over 100 million people, a project supported by the National Geographic Society.