

# ScotSAC's New Award

SUUNTO



*Do you know someone who deserves recognition and a Suunto D6?*

SHOTLINES

SCOTSAC IS DELIGHTED to announce a new award to recognise the contribution of volunteers in our sport. The Suunto Diver Award 2008 is designed to reward an individual's exceptional contribution to diving in Scotland.

This contribution could be effort that has encouraged new people to become divers; encouraged existing divers to complete further development training; the organisation of dive expeditions; or some other activity that has raised the profile of diving in a positive way. It may also be an Instructor who has encouraged and developed new divers and delivered training.

There will be 6 prizes of Suunto D6 watch size dive computers with nitrox gas switching and compass; worth £570 each. Winners will also be presented with a personalised certificate and embroidered ScotSAC jacket.

Nominations will be judged by a panel consisting of the Chairman,

National Diving Officer and General Manager of Suunto Diving UK.

John Sinclair, General Manager of Suunto Diving UK said: "I never thanked my training officer of 30 years ago, Miles Huckle, but the fact that I still remember his name speaks volumes. To me he was magnificent. I hope that those who receive this award will get as much satisfaction as their club members will in nominating them."

Andy Murray, chairman of ScotSAC commented: "This award is a key method of recognising volunteers within our organisation. We rely heavily on volunteers to deliver all aspects of training and coordination. We are delighted to partner with Suunto Diving UK to recognise those with significant contribution."

If you know of any individual within ScotSAC who has made a

significant contribution to the sport, in any way, then now is your chance to nominate them for recognition. All nominees must hold current membership of the Scottish Sub Aqua Club and may not be current members of the Board or National Diving Council.

The closing date for nominations is August 31, 2008 with the winners being announced and prizes presented at the Dive Conference in November 2008.

Nomination forms are available from [www.scotsac.com](http://www.scotsac.com) or by calling ScotSAC HQ on 0141 425 1021.



*Grey seal by Martha Tressler*

## Putting Sea Life In The Frame

a dip and capture this incredible wildlife on camera.

"We hope these images will put some unusual, unfamiliar and exotic-looking creatures in the

spotlight, which will help convince the Government of the urgent need to provide better protection for the habitats and wildlife in our seas with a robust Marine Bill."

Last year's winning picture – a grey seal taken by Martha Tressler - was used on the cover of The Wildlife Trusts' report 'Marine Reserves – TLC for our seas and sea life', which calls for the establishment of a suite of highly-protected marine reserves in UK waters.

For more information and details on how to enter this year's competition, visit [www.bsoup.org/](http://www.bsoup.org/) splash, but hurry – the deadline for

receiving the print images is Wednesday, May 21.

All photographs received in The Wildlife Trusts' category 'I can't believe it's the UK' will be put on display at the National Marine Aquarium, Plymouth from June 21 with all of the entries in BSoUP's print photography competition. The winner selected in The Wildlife Trusts' category will receive a year's free membership to their local Wildlife Trust, plus a copy of The Unnatural History of the Sea, signed by the author, Professor Callum Roberts.

The winning image will also be used in The Wildlife Trusts' members' magazine, Natural World, and on the website [www.wildlifetrusts.org](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org)

This competition is run in conjunction with the BSoUP's British Splash-In championships being staged at Plymouth on Saturday, July 12.

THE WILDLIFE TRUSTS are asking adventurous photographers to pull on their wetsuits and bring UK sea-life into crystal clear focus.

In conjunction with the British Society of Underwater Photographers (BSOUP), The Wildlife Trusts are hosting a print photography competition with the theme 'I can't believe it's the UK'.

Lisa Chilton, marine development manager, said: "There are around 44,000 plant and animal species beneath the waves around the UK, and many of them are so colourful that they'd look at home on a tropical coral reef. We're calling for adventurous photographers to take

# Alison Conquers Macchu Picchu



Adventurous Alison reaches the end of the trail

BACK IN 2007 **SCOTTISH DIVER** reported that Alison Aitchison, better known as one half of the Alison and Billy team at Rock House Dive Centre at St Abbs, was about

to embark on a fundraising challenge to raise money for the Fisherman's Mission by walking the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu.

Alison started her journey last November, leaving Glasgow for Amsterdam, then arriving in Lima, before starting her four day trek to Machu Picchu. She had hoped to raise £2,500 for the Fisherman's Mission, but thanks to the generous support of all the visiting divers, raised a fantastic £2,747.

Walking for 8 hours a day, the training she put in around the cliff top paths above St Abbs paid off and although hard work, Alison suffered no blisters or sore feet. She said the highlight of the walk was on day two when she reached 4,200m at the 'Dead Women's Pass'. Alison would like to say a huge thank you to all the divers who supported her.

The money raised by Alison for the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen will go towards providing care, compassion and support to working, retired and disabled fishermen and their families. Deep-sea fishing is dangerous and unpredictable and the Fishermen's Mission is the only charity that fishermen and their families can turn to when they need financial, practical and emotional support.

**Alison Fuller-Shapcott**



The recently elected Board of the Scottish Sub-Aqua Club for 2008. Full report from the ScotSAC AGM on Page 36. Photo shows new Chair Andy Murray (centre) and (l to r) Kevin Miller, Jim Anderson, Jack Morrison, Archie Gillies, Douglas Forman & Iain Graham.

# Not So Good Friday For Dunbar Lifeboat



THE EASTER Bank Holiday weekend was not only a wash out for Scottish east coast diving, with strong northerly winds and wild seas, but even worse was the awful news of the loss of the Dunbar off shore lifeboat.

The Trent class lifeboat, the *Sir Ronald Pechell Bt*, which was kept at a low water mooring off Torness Nuclear Power Station, broke free from its mooring and ended up on the nearby rocks in the early hours of Saturday Morning (March 22). Security staff at the power station spotted that the boat was in trouble and alerted the coastguard. Fortunately no one was on the boat and there were no casualties. The boat was recovered on Saturday with a crane supplied through British Energy, who own and run the power station.

Unfortunately the hull of the boat has been so badly damaged by the rocks, that it is probable that the boat will be written off. Dunbar Lifeboat Station also has an inshore class D boat, but until a relief off shore boat can be sourced and the mooring replaced, the area will be covered jointly by Eyemouth and Anstruther Lifeboat Stations.

**Alison Fuller-Shapcott**

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# Looking Ahead At Our Maritime History

ON MARCH 5, 2008 Scottish Ministers launched a consultation on their proposals for policies on the marine historic environment and potential new legislation to protect it.

It is the latest in the Scottish Government's Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP) series produced by Historic Scotland.

Culture Minister Linda Fabiani MSP said:

"The launch of the SHEP consultation is a significant step forward in establishing and safeguarding the future of Scotland's marine historic environment. By enabling discussion with stakeholders, this consultation will help to provide the Scottish Government with informed policies to work towards our aspiration for a

marine historic environment that is better-defined and recorded, safeguarded and understood, with a positive contribution to make to the economic and cultural fabric of today's Scotland."

New legislation to protect the marine historic environment is proposed for England and Wales. This consultation proposes broadly similar legislation for Scotland that would broaden the range of marine historic assets that can be designated on the basis of 'national importance', establish mechanisms for consultation prior to designation, and appeal procedures.

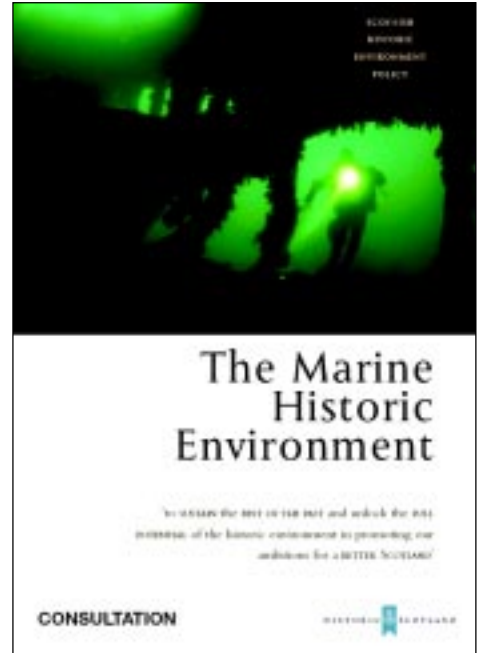
Dr Gordon Barclay, Head of National Policy, said:

"Our marine environment has a historical dimension that contributes to its quality and character. People want to see the most important marine historic assets safeguarded and used sustainably for the benefit of current and future generations. These policies and proposals for more effective legislation – within the wider Scottish Marine Bill – provide us with a framework to achieve this."

Philip Robertson, a Senior Inspector of Marine Archaeology at Historic Scotland, said:

"Scottish Ministers fully recognise the positive role played by the recreational diving community in identifying and recording marine historic sites, and in promoting a conservation-minded approach.

Therefore, policies of inclusion and

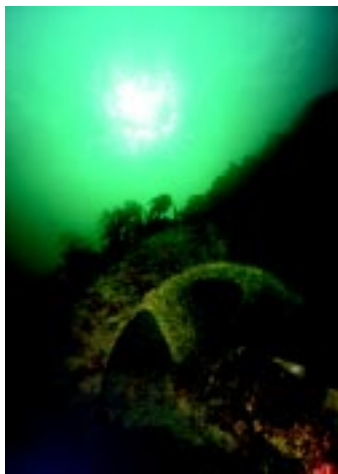


accessibility are considered of the utmost importance if the marine historic environment is to reach its full potential."

Regarding the proposals for new legislation, Philip added:

"It is not the intention of Scottish ministers substantially or rapidly to increase the number of designated marine historic sites, rather to introduce more effective legislation that would allow us to target controls more effectively, but without requiring burdensome licensing where at all possible. In Scapa Flow for instance, divers visiting the scheduled German Fleet wrecks would certainly not require a licence to dive on a 'look but don't touch' basis."

The 12 week consultation period invites views, from the public via online, written submission or by email. The responses from the consultation will help form the basis of the policy paper which will be released, by Scottish ministers, in final form in 2009. A copy of the consultation can be downloaded at [www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/news-full-article.htm?articleid=28078](http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/news-full-article.htm?articleid=28078)



German Fleet at Scapa Flow

## Protection Needed



THE COALITION of Scotland's major environment groups, Scottish Environment LINK (LINK), has welcomed the publication of the Draft UK Marine Bill as an important step towards streamlining legislation across the UK for better management and protection of our seas.

A spokesperson for LINK said: "The UK Bill will cover all matters, which are the responsibility of Westminster. Therefore, to properly protect all UK seas, a Scottish Marine Bill is also needed for devolved responsibilities in Scottish waters, as is appropriate legislation in Northern Ireland.

Together, reserved and devolved marine legislation must deliver: proper protection for UK's marine wildlife including a comprehensive network of marine protected areas, an effective new planning system to integrate and coordinate all activities in UK seas, coordinated marine management and clear targets to measure the recovery of our seas."

Speaking on behalf of LINK's campaign for a Scottish Marine Bill, Calum Duncan of the Marine Conservation Society, added: "We welcome the publication of a Draft UK Marine Bill. It is now critical that Westmin-

ster works closely with the devolved administrations to ensure a tight mesh between UK and devolved legislation in order to deliver effective management and proper protection for marine life throughout UK waters.

"Without robust protection, the loss of wildlife in UK waters will continue, unravelling the marine ecosystem and jeopardising the livelihoods of coastal communities. Cross-border coordination is the key to properly looking after the UK seas in their entirety."