



Dive Satisfaction Guaranteed

Frustrated when you can't dive because of bad weather? An adrenaline junkie at heart? If so then **SCOTTISH DIVER's** regular contributor, Mike Clark may have the answer to your prayers ...



Thornback ray



Cuckoo wrasse



Conger eel

ONE OF my favourite dive destinations is North Queensferry in Fife. All year round you get perfect diving conditions - no danger of foul weather fouling your plans! This Scottish diving nirvana - Deep Sea World!

I regularly make the pilgrimage across the Forth Road Bridge into the kingdom of Fife for a regal dive - and that means only one thing - a shark dive. It's great at any time of the year to get underwater and surround yourself with hundreds of fish and vis of around 20 metres. Add to that the thrill of getting in the water with big sand tiger sharks that look even bigger through the glass of your mask than they do through the curved perspex lens of the aquarium's underwater walkway.

There are Tope and Angel Sharks to be seen too, as well as a variety of rays. Mackerel, bass and bream also buzz close and I found some of the Cuckoo Wrasse got too close to the lens to let me photograph them. A large female Conger eel was doing laps of the aquarium, her biological clock telling her that she should be in the Sargasso Sea, spawning.

There is certainly plenty to see here once you get used to bouncing along the floor, as fins aren't worn in the aquarium. There should soon be even more to see as I was told that Deep Sea World are planning to add to their collection of fish in the main aquarium and also increase the numbers of sand tiger sharks. I can't wait for my next trip when I can meet the new arrivals.

On the upper floor at Deep Sea World there are other exhibits from more exotic locations displayed in some beautiful aquaria and this is a great appetiser for the main event if you are diving in the big tank.

Photography in the aquarium can be challenging as there is very little available light but the fish do come close, so if you have a flash you will be able to catch some amazing results.

It's a great experience and I thoroughly recommend it. Getting close to the big sharks is an unforgettable experience. Dive nights are priced at £65 per person or you can make extra savings by booking as a group. You can find further information about dive nights at www.sharkdives.deepseaworld.com.

To find the aquarium just head north over the Forth Road Bridge and it's the first turn off - it's well sign posted.

So there we are then! My perfect way to go diving at any time of year and put yourself in the mood for diving in the real world.