

SHOTLINES



Jordi Chias Pujol /Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2008

30,000 Enter Photo Comp

THE 44TH ANNUAL Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition which is owned by the Natural History Museum and BBC Wildlife Magazine, attracted a record-breaking 32,351 images from 82 countries.

The latest visually stunning, sometimes humorous and often thought-provoking images will be unveiled at London's Natural History Museum in October of this year. The exhibition will showcase the category winning, runner-up and commended photographs, and will then tour regionally and internationally after its London debut.

Last year, the exhibition at the Natural History Museum attracted nearly 134,000 visitors (another record) and more than a million others are expected to have seen the 2007 images at international and regional venues when the tour concludes.

Competition spokesperson Heather Clark-Charrington said: "Over 44 years, this has grown to become the world's most prestigious wildlife photography competition. We are not only attracting

record entries, but also huge audiences. People come to see the world's best wildlife photographs, but they also gain new insights. Many of the images will challenge viewers to think about our natural world in different ways, which is central to the Museum's mission."

Chair of the judging panel Mark Carwardine said: "The judges spend weeks in a darkened room, looking at thousands of beautiful images, but the final exhibition photographs have a creativity, originality and sheer drama that set them apart. The competition plays an increasingly crucial role in raising the profile of wildlife photography and generating awareness of conservation. Nothing speaks louder than an evocative photograph that stirs the imagination, tugs at the heart strings and engages the mind."

SCOTTISH DIVER was sent a sneak preview of one of this year's fantastic images - Spain's Jordi Chias Pujol's specially commended underwater image entitled 'Daddy Long Legs'. Jordi came across this strange arrangement of spikes and

spines while diving near Puerto de Mogán off the southern coast of Grand Canary in the Canary Islands. As he moved in closer, he realised they were a male and female arrow crab backed against long-spined sea urchins. The female had eggs in her swollen abdomen, and her mate was standing over her, clasping her with his claws to stop other males from mating with her. Arrow crabs are often found with sea urchins, presumably using them as protection from predators - their impossibly long legs useful for avoiding actual contact with the urchins.

"The spikes and tangle of long legs made a wonderfully graphic image," says Jordi "and the cobalt-blue background with a school of small silver fish flitting past was like a sky of stars. I also found their behaviour very interesting - this image is not just a portrait, it's a story."

Check out the November/December edition of **SCOTTISH DIVER** for more winning images and details of tour dates and venues.

'Norfed' Is 50

NORFED, THE organisation which promotes the interests of divers from the north of England, celebrates its 50th anniversary later in the year. To mark the occasion NORFED is inviting all past and present members to a special weekend (Friday, October 31 until Sunday, November 2) at the Heath Cottage Hotel, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire. NORFED has a strong

Scottish connection having held its first meeting at St Abbs which was attended by founder member Derek Bacon, a keen Scottish diver.

The weekend's programme is yet to be finalised but will include an exhibition of old diving memorabilia, a photographic collage of the Federation over the years' and films and video. If you can help with items for any of the displays, NORFED would like to hear from you. Please contact Ken Crow on 0113 257 2112 or by email: k.crow@ntlworld.com, to arrange this.

Highlights of the weekend will be the celebration dinner dance on Saturday night and various guest speakers who will share their memories of NORFED over the past 50 years. Further details will be posted on the NORFED website at www.norfed.org.uk.

Accommodation for Friday and Saturday night has been arranged at a rate of £40 per room, per night and can be booked by calling 01924 494002 or mobile 07799 894493.



Wrecks At Risk

ENGLISH HERITAGE has revealed the findings of a massive survey which was conducted to find out how many of England's important historical sites are at risk of loss through neglect or decay.

The Heritage at Risk (HAR) project, explains the dangers and what can be done to save them and is based on the success of English Heritage's Buildings at Risk Register.

There are 45 protected wrecks included in the HAR Register, and of those, 19 historic shipwrecks are at a high or medium risk from a variety of threats including vandalism, authorised access or significant natural decline. This means that some of these protected wrecks may eventually be lost for good.

Among the 45 protected wreck sites that are most at risk, Salcombe Cannon site in Devon is one of the 10 at the top of the list. It was severely damaged and vandalised by an unauthorised fishing vessel last year.

The 54-gun warship *Hazardous* in Bracklesham Bay, West Sussex is also at high risk from erosion and the 1685 90-gun warship *Coronation* at Penlee Point, Cornwall, is in peril due to potentially damaging unauthorised diving.

In total, there are more than 32,700 pre-1945 recorded wrecks and maritime casualties in England's territorial sea. Only 45 wrecks are designated under the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973. Because of their often remote locations, these wreck sites are difficult to manage and vulnerable to both erosion and unauthorised diving.

All the Protected Wreck Sites are

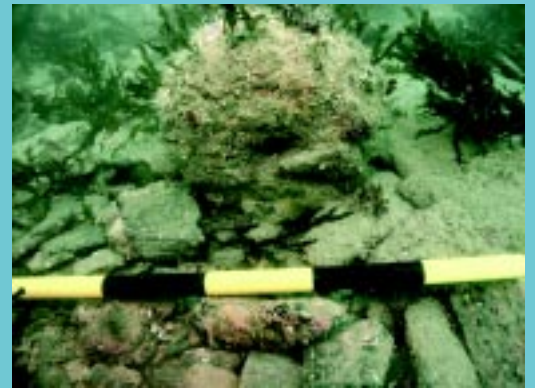
accepted as being of special national interest for a variety of reasons such as the story they can tell about their past, their association with notable people or events or their distinctive design or construction.

To ensure they continue to be enjoyed for future generations, English Heritage has carried out an audit of the 45 Protected Wreck Sites in order to understand better their current condition and vulnerability, the way they are being managed and what needs to be done to ensure that their significance is maintained. The audit looks at the condition, setting and stability of the wrecks.

Finding solutions to the issues identified by the Protected Wreck Sites at Risk audit will not be easy. Although English Heritage has a statutory power to allocate funds to promote the preservation and maintenance of protected wreck sites, other partners such as local and national government, owners and main users will also need to play a vital role in conserving and managing these important sites

English Heritage Maritime Archaeologist Mark Dunkley said: "Our Heritage at Risk register is at the heart of what English Heritage does; identifying what is important and vulnerable and devising ways to save them. This new register will enable us to prioritise the Protected Wreck Sites that are most at risk. We want to reduce each year the number of protected historic shipwrecks on the HAR register to ensure their value and significance is maintained for future generations."

Vandalism Worries At Top Site



ARCHAEOLOGISTS RECORDING the Salcombe Cannon site, which, in 1995, yielded a rich assemblage of 17th-century artefacts including more than 400 gold coins, now held by the British Museum as the largest assemblage of Islamic coins ever found in the UK. In addition, a late Middle Bronze Age assemblage of artefacts was recovered in 2004. The protected area is at risk from vandalism.



'Under the Sea' At North Berwick

AN EXHIBITION entitled 'Under The Sea' will be running from August to November in the Scottish Seabird Centre at North Berwick on Scotland's east coast. Its aim is to teach youngsters and people who aren't in the know about the fantastic marine life that can be found in Scottish waters.

Regular contributor Mike Clark will be displaying 10 of his most recent images (including the image shown right), which complement this theme; there will also be other displays and activities to keep the kids happy as well as all the other attractions at the Scottish Seabird Centre

So if you have run out of ideas to keep the young ones happy this autumn, or if the fickle east wind blows and ruins that east coast dive trip, the 'Under The Sea' exhibition could certainly make for an interesting day out.



Apeks Recall

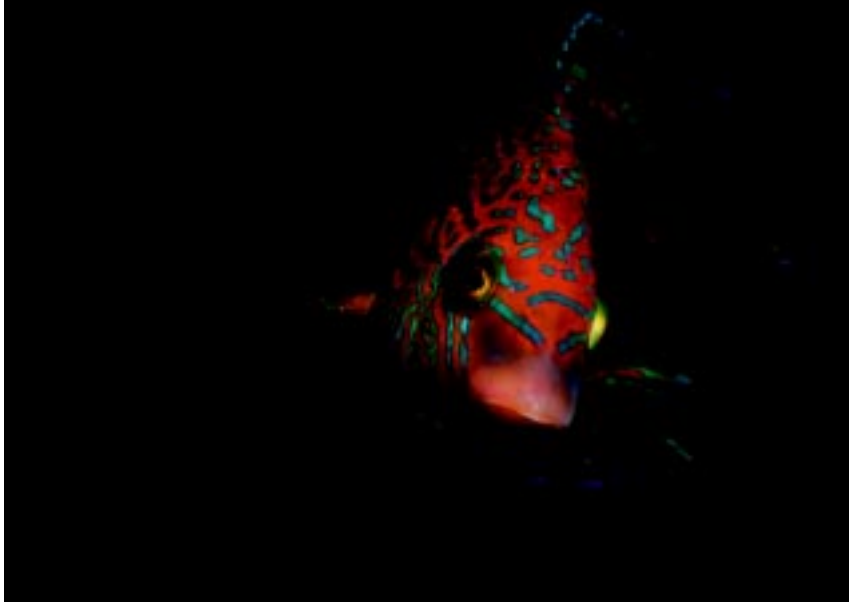
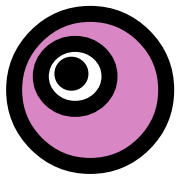
APEKS HAS asked **SCOTTISH DIVER** to tell our readers that there may be an issue with 2nd stages/octopus purchased before July 2008 that have not undergone an authorised annual service. Apeks has become aware that an incorrectly assembled 2nd stage has been purchased.

If you have an Apeks regulator or octopus that has never had an authorised annual service, regardless of how recently purchased, please take the regulator/octopus to your Apeks dealer to be visually inspected. All Apeks dealers and distributors have been made aware of this issue.

Do not dive with the regulator until it has been visually inspected. If it is not possible for you to return the regulator for inspection then please contact Apeks' Customer Service Department for assistance.

Apeks apologises for any inconvenience. Tel: 01254 692200.





Best Of British

The Wildlife Trust's print competition photos show the surprising side of Britain's marvellous marine life ...

WITH ITS bright orange scales and amazing azure-blue markings, the corkwing wrasse may look like it belongs in a tropical reef. But the colourful little fish is a perfect example of the surprising array of marine life hidden beneath the UK's seas.

The incredible image (shown above), captured by underwater photographer Sally Sharrock, is the winner of The Wildlife Trusts' special award in the British Society of Underwater Photographers' annual Print Competition.

The Wildlife Trusts set the brief for the category: "I can't believe it's the UK!" and asked BSoUP's under-sea snappers to submit their shots of colourful and exotic-looking marine wildlife captured around our shores. Judges from The Wildlife Trusts picked out the worthy winners, with three striking photographs shedding new light on the fascinating world beneath the waves.

The winners were, in 1st place Sally Sharrock – Corkwing wrasse, 2nd place for Dave Peake – Spider crabs and 3rd place to Arthur Kingdon – Grey seal

Sally's image of a corkwing wrasse will now feature in The Wildlife Trusts' publicity material – particularly for the ongoing Marine Bill Campaign, which calls for better protection for our seas.

Sally said: "Corkwing wrasse are absolutely beautiful. I try to get down and concentrate on them in the breeding season when they're nesting. They tend to be more protective then so they come towards you more. They are just brilliant to watch, fascinating fish. I watched the male build his nest, going out to pick up bits of seaweed, and then chasing the females into the nest. It's a fascinating cycle of life – corkwing wrasse is a very modern male."

Dave Peake's image of a huge gathering of spider crabs is particularly eye-catching. The image was picked because it shows spider crabs in their natural living space – and the water around them looks so clear, blue and tropical. Dave, from Plymouth, said:

"I took the photo while snorkelling, there were thousands of spider crab congregating in the bay for mating. It was quite an unusual sight, you see them in the water but not like that - I was amazed. The water was very clear with a nice bluey tinge and it was a great opportunity to take some pictures. I expected to see the odd

one but I didn't expect to see a huge mass like that. It was quite an interesting spectacle – I've been diving for 50 years and had never seen anything like it."

Third-placed Arthur Kingdon perfectly captured the playfulness of one of our most endearing coastal creatures: the grey seal. His amazing image shows a grey seal gliding through seaweed and rocks, its distinguished whiskers and beautiful black-rimmed puppy-dog eyes superbly summing up why our marine life is so precious.

Arthur, from Wiltshire, took the snap off the Isles of Scilly in May. He said: "It's the first time I've been down there for about 10 years, but I knew it was seals I was after. There were one or two around, this one was quite bold and he came and had a quick peek at me then he swam off. The shot is a little bit different because I shot it into the sun. The backlighting on the whiskers makes them really stand out, and that's exactly what I was hoping for, so I was pleased with the way it worked out."

Sally has received a trophy for her winning photograph, along with a year's free membership to The Wildlife Trusts, and a copy of *The Unnatural History of the Sea*, signed by the author, Professor Callum Roberts.



Spiny spider crabs, Port Quinn Bay, Cornwall - by Dave Peake



Grey seal, Isles of Scilly - by Arthur Kingdon