

SHOTLINES



View over No Take Zone (image courtesy of Howard Wood COAST)

No Take Zone At Lamlash

CAMPAIGNERS ON Arran are delighted that Scotland's first 'No-Take Zone' has been created at Lamlash Bay on the Isle of Arran. A spokesperson from COAST (the Community of Arran Seabed Trust) told **SCOTTISH DIVER:**

"A new dawn has broken over the troubled waters around Arran, bringing new hope to the island's community for a better future for their marine heritage and environment. The Scottish government has created Scotland's first 'No-Take Zone' in Lamlash Bay on the Isle of Arran.

"All fishing within the specified area will be banned while a scientific trial will be carried out to investigate the fishery and biodiversity benefits of leaving the

seabed to regenerate naturally without any disturbance. The passing of the law was the final keystone of the bridge the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) has spent 13 years building between islanders, fishermen, SNH, the Marine Directorate, politicians and the Scottish government.

"The Community of Arran Seabed Trust was formed to try and redress the dramatic collapse of marine life around the island's shores and in the Firth of Clyde. Using positive examples from around the world, including the Isle of Man, Lundy Island and New Zealand, they choose the No-Take Zone and natural regeneration. The project's significance increased when the

commercial fishermen of the area added their support to the scheme.

"The underwater scientific baseline survey starts next month and with constant monitoring, the results will hopefully inform the management of Scotland's seas in the future. The scheme is unique in Scotland as it combines all the forces of the local stakeholders involved including conservationists and fishermen. It is hoped it may be used as a template where a similar situation is involved.

"Now that all the talking, arguing, discussing, campaigning, press coverage and celebrating is over the beautiful waters of Lamlash Bay now can return to the sounds of silence."



Diving star - Monty Halls

Win A Trip With Monty

SCUBA DIVING tour operator, blue o two is adding the Maldives to their ever expanding destinations. As well as their fleet of luxury Red Sea liveaboards, blue o two are now offering exclusive liveaboard and shorebased holidays to this diver's paradise.

To launch this new destination blue o two has teamed up with scuba diving adventurer Monty Halls and are running a competition to win a luxury liveaboard holiday for two in the Maldives accompanied by Monty himself.

To enter the Maldives launch competition and be in with a chance of winning, simply visit www.blueotwo.com/maldives_comp and enter your details.

Company Director Jason Strickland said: "Launching blue o

two in the Maldives is a big step forward for us and we are very excited about it. Many of our guests have been asking us to provide our services in this destination and the time has come to expand."

blue o two will be offering the luxury Maldives liveaboards *Adventurer II* and *Sachika* as well as resorts Sun Island, Paradise Island, Royal Island and Bandos for shorebased holidays.

Jason continued: "Our clients now have more choice of diving destinations, with the same high level of service quality that is the blue o two standard."

blue o two is already taking bookings for Maldives holidays, so for more information and prices please visit www.blueotwo.com or call the sales team on 01752 480808.

MCS French Alliance

THE MARINE CONSERVATION Society (MCS) has teamed up with French professional skincare brand Thalgo in a new fund-raising initiative to support their important work for UK seas, shores and wildlife.

Thalgo has committed to raise a minimum of £10,000 between 2008 and 2009 via a donation from the sale of five key products. The monies will go towards supporting MCS work in three core areas: clean seas, sustainable fisheries and protecting marine wildlife.

Marian Green, MD of the Thalgo Group (UK) said:

"Thalgo applauds MCS's work in highlighting the needless damage being done to marine life and our coastline through careless littering and pollution, and also in demonstrating to the public practical ways in which they can help to alleviate the multitude of problems it causes.

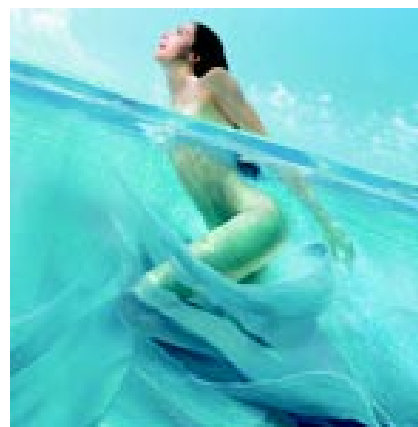
"MCS is a natural and sympathetic partner with Thalgo, as our unique selling

point of using marine active ingredients is wholly dependent upon taking elements from clean and unpolluted seas, in an environmentally sustainable way.

"We're also keen to demonstrate that this joint initiative isn't just part of the Thalgo marketing mix but a very real involvement and on-going commitment to raising funds and building awareness of the issues highlighted by MCS."

The Thalgo Group UK team will be participating in an MCS Beach Clean-up day in the spring; 'adopting' a beach and inviting staff, customers and possibly even some journalists to join in surveying the littering and pollution, before doing a thorough beach clean-up.

Thalgo will also be co-marketing the 'Sea and Me' initiative with MCS, which encourages people to upload a favourite beach/sea image, together with a favourite memory of the sea, in association with the new Thalgo Ocean Memory body treatment and product range.



MCS is working in partnership with Thalgo

Finally, to educate customers and end consumers, Thalgo will be producing special point-of-sale material, highlighting the products involved in the fund-raising offer. There will also be MCS content within Thalgo's email newsletters, and in the twice-yearly Thalgo News magazine sent to Thalgo's 600 UK accounts.

Underwater Hero Honoured

THE FRENCH Institute – Fine Arts Academy elected French sea-architect Jacques Rougerie under its dome on the June 25, 2008. This award honours the work of the architect himself and also reflects the entire community of sea and underwater world for which he has so often dedicated his work.

Born in 1945, Jacques Rougerie graduated in architecture and oceanography. An architect in 1972, he started his own company and initiated marine architecture projects beginning with the great adventure of underwater habitats. In 1974 he created the Centre for Sea and Space Architecture, later labelled Space and Sea Association.

He specifically worked on technical and scientific projects that led him to his first underwater house (Galathee in 1977, Hippocampe, Aquabulle, Aqualab ...) and undersea observation boats and vessels (Aquaspace, Aquascope etc).

An experienced diver, he is much involved with children and education and considers teaching the underwater world as a key for building tomorrow's society. He is the architect of the main Sea Centres in France (Nausicaa in Boulogne sur Mer, Oceanopolis in Brest) and the main culture and science museum abroad (Sea Pavilion in Osaka).

Jacques still spends a lot of time in sea related projects. He is currently working on the Underwater Archaeological Museum of Alexandria (Egypt) and on the City in The Ocean project in Abu Dhabi. He is also involved in space exploration and participates in the underwater training programme for Nasa astronauts (Neemo) with his friend Bill Todd.

A synthesis of all his work and experience, the SeaOrbiter project combines underwater observation, scientific monitoring of the ocean and human and scientific



French sea-architect - Jacques Rougerie

adventure through the main oceans of our planet.



Dolphins by Paul Duxfield

Expert Help In Kelso

KELSO SUB-Aqua Club is organising a digital workshop on Wednesday, December 10. The workshop is being held at Kelso Ace Centre (next door to the Ice Rink) and starts at 7.30pm. Digital compact expert, Paul Duxfield from Cameras Underwater will be giving a presentation on how to get the best results from your underwater camera or be more creative with a few simple techniques.

Anyone and everyone is welcome;

from complete beginners to advanced snappers. So bring yourself and your questions along, for what promises to be a very informative evening.

For more detail see the Kelsac web site www.kelsac.co.uk or phone Alison on: 01573 470678.





Amber's Secret Mission

When Amber Williamson was asked to don her drysuit and take part in an elaborate marriage proposal that involved turquoise waters, a white sandy beach, the Orient Express and plenty of champagne she was keen to be involved - there was only one worry, would the girl say 'yes'...

I HAVE HAD many unusual requests but none more unusual than the request I got from ScotSAC headquarters at the beginning of August. Romance was in the air for Malcolm Hendry, general manager The Rubens Hotel in London who had contacted Michael Andrews of the Orient Express to arrange a breathtaking day in the west coast of Scotland in order to propose to his girlfriend Astell.

He was looking for a diver to emerge from the beautiful turquoise waters of Morar and leave a secret package in front of them on the beach. The package was to be investigated and opened by Malcolm – the contents, a diamond engagement ring. Now this was a proposal and a half.

I agreed to the unusual request only because I know the area so well, it's very beautiful and I had not visited there for many years. It was an early start, out of the house by 6am with a 3 hour drive ahead of me. I fuelled myself with coffee and dark chocolate and enjoyed the trip. The weather was beautiful, even though the forecast was rain (what a surprise). Mist lay thick over Rannoch Moor – typically, in my hurry to leave I'd forgotten my camera.

I arrived at Morar in plenty of time to find the right spot in front of the yacht and the wee blue dive boat called *Dave*, in the estuary of the River Morar. My contacts for the event were Marilyn and Malcolm from the Orient Express who were to arrive shortly before Malcolm and Astell, they were there to co-ordinate the timing of the event and ensuring everything went smoothly.

There was just time to get zipped into my suit, take a quick bearing and get in



Newly engaged Malcolm and Astell celebrate with Amber

position under the yacht – in a whole 3m of water. I had anticipated the usual problems associated with shallow diving and timing my exit to the correct moment, but trying to appear walking from the sea with fins (and diamond ring) in hand and appear to look elegant was not so easy. Getting my fins off while still fully submerged and walking out of the water and up through the beautiful white sand to the waiting couple was exhausting – and I thought I was fit. All the time I was thinking: "will she say yes?"

I laid the package down in front of the couple who were chatting and sipping champagne. I guess Malcolm was also busy praying I would just hurry up and drop off the ring. I was glad to get back into the sea to get the weight of my kit off my back and my breath back. I finned back down to 3–4 metres to give Malcolm time to pop the question before I re-emerged from the Morar waters. (By the way – the visibility was about 5m and the bottom was covered in oyster shells)

I'm sure Malcolm was nervous; my only fear was losing the ring. As it was everything went quite smoothly. The groom to be opened the mystery package, asked Astell to marry him, and like all good fairy tail endings, the lady said "Yes".

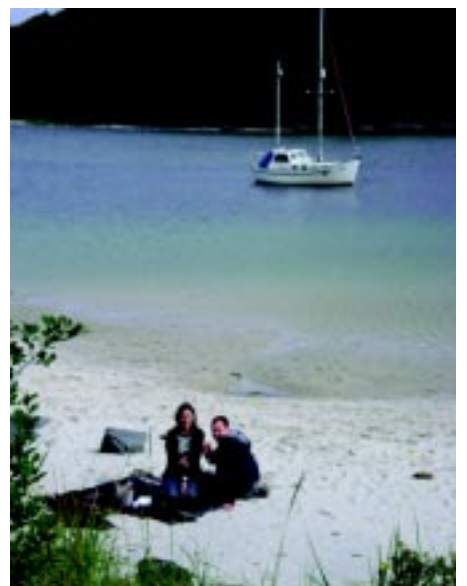
There were tears and champagne and more tears and more champagne. The weather blessed the couple by staying dry and showing our west coast off at her best and I got a VERY short visit onto the most beautiful train I've ever been on - and a little glass of bucks-fizz for medicinal purposes only. Then the newly engaged couple were off to enjoy the rest of their day.

I had one question to ask Malcolm: "Why the diver?" And apparently there was no real reason, Malcolm and Michael

had been talking about the engagement plans and there it was – not quite 007 but a diver with a mystery package all the same - and a day to remember for everyone.



Amber emerges from the sea - with the unexpected package!



Malcolm and Astell enjoy the picturesque surroundings