

## SEA 2007 RULES AND REGULATIONS

### CONDITIONS OF ENTRY:

SEA 2007 is open to all amateur photographers and/or videographers. Industry professionals, including those who teach underwater photography, photo trip leaders, and previous judges are not eligible for the SEA competition. The competition officials reserve the right to determine the level of an industry professional.

New this year:

1. The Bob Commer Award of Excellence will be awarded to the SEA 2007 Best of Show in addition to a selected prize. The Bob Commer Award consists of \$500 and a hand-crafted glass trophy of a SCUBA diver.
2. Digital, video and print entries only will be accepted. **35 mm slide entries will not be accepted.** 35 mm slides may be entered as scanned digital images, with the same rules as images taken with a digital camera.
3. A new category has been added, Marine Conservation, with images being required to illustrate a marine conservation or environmental issue, to be accompanied by a no more than 75 word description of where the image was taken and what issue it relates to (see class description below).

Each entrant may enter up to five (5) images per category and may compete in all media (print, video and digital) categories.

Although all possible care will be exercised, Northern California Underwater Photographic Society (NCUPS) and competition officials will assume no responsibility for the loss or damage of entries before, during or after the competition.

Entrants must include correct return postage for return of entries.

Permission to reproduce any entry for the promotional purposes of NCUPS is inherently granted by the entrant. No reproduction fee will be paid. Due credit by name is given to the photographer and the photographer retains all rights to the image.

Entries must have been taken underwater in a natural environment. No pool or aquarium shots will be accepted. Fresh water shots taken in a natural environment are allowed.

Digital manipulation is restricted to RAW conversion as necessary, sharpening, cropping (no more than 20%), saturation, and contrast adjustment (levels and curves). Minor backscatter cleanup is allowed. Masking, compositing, cloning, multiple exposures, and other digital manipulation are not allowed except in the Creative category.

Any of the following will be basis for disqualification of one or all entries by an entrant at the sole discretion of the competition officials:

1. Aquarium, pool, book reproductions and split-images.
2. Images having won a Best of Show or first place award in any major competition (competitions not restricted to a club member only) prior to submission date (post date).
3. Images previously published commercially.
4. Improperly formatted prints, video or digital media.
5. Images derived from one original entered in more than one category.
6. Insufficient entry fees.
7. Misrepresentation of skill level.
8. Failure to provide on request the original negative, slide or digital file.
9. Images displaying breach of conservation and exploitation of wildlife and/or the ocean environment.

The judges and/or competition officials may disqualify any images exhibiting divers touching coral or animals, feeding animals, animals under stress or in an unnatural environment.

**DEADLINE: Entries must be received by October 12, 2007.**

### JUDGING:

All decisions of the judges are final.

Digital and video categories will be judged separately. Novice entries will be judged separately.

Competition officials reserve the right to regroup categories by skill level or subject if an insufficient number of qualifying entries are received in any one category. Novice categories are available in Digital Still categories, and the Print category.

05/09/2007

NCUPS reserves the right to separate classes (creative, video) by skill level if enough qualifying entries are received.

Winners will be announced on the NCUPS website in November 2007, and the winners notified by email or phone.

**PRIZES:**

Points are awarded for all places including honorable mentions. All first through third places will be awarded. Honorable mentions will be awarded, at the discretion of the judges, depending on quantity of entries in a category.

No entrant may receive more than one prize. After the judging, winning entrants will be contacted and asked to fill in their preferences for prizes, from the competition prize list. Prizes will then be awarded on a highest point-highest priority basis. In the case of a tie extra points (in ¼ point increments) may be added depending on skill level of entrant, difficulty of class, and/or quantity of entries in an individual class.

**ENTRY SPECIFICATIONS:**

**All entries must be accompanied by an entry form and payment.**

Print Entries:

- 1 Prints must be matted/mounted to an outside size of no more than 16 x 20".
- 2 To facilitate judging, prints must be mounted on mount board 3/16" – 1/4" thick and may be matted.
- 3 No framed or glass-covered prints will be accepted.
- 4 Entrant's name, title or number of print, and category should be written on the back.
- 5 Please indicate "UP" on the back at the top.
- 6 There will be a Novice and Advanced skill level class in traditional print and one skill level in creative print.

Video Entries:

- 1 The maximum time limit for a video entry will be four (4) minutes.
- 2 At least 80% of footage, exclusive of titles and credits must have been taken underwater.
- 3 The entrant is responsible for any copyright liabilities with regard to music and title formats.
- 4 Label each entry with the entrant's name and title of video.
- 5 DVD format only will be accepted.
- 6 There will be one skill level in video.

Digital Entries:

- 1 Images must be burned onto a writable CD or DVD and mailed along with the signed entry form. We will not accept email entries.
- 2 Write your name and e-mail address on the CD or DVD.
- 3 All digital entries need to be in JPEG format.
- 4 Scanned images are accepted.
- 5 All images will be judged on an up to **1680x1050 monitor** and will not be resized.
- 6 It is recommended that images be saved in the highest JPEG quality for optimum viewing.
- 7 Images should be saved in sRGB color space.
- 8 File name format:  
Skill level: nov or adv (nov = novice, adv = advanced)  
Category: macro, wa, ca, mc, cre (wa = wide-angle, ca = California, mc = marine conservation, cre = creative)  
Entrant name: first initial, last name (ex. jsmith)  
Number 1-5 if entering more than one entry per category.  
File name example: adv\_macro\_jsmith1.jpeg  
(Underscore between file name components and use lower case.)
- 9 Images without an entry form will not be judged.
- 10 There will be novice and advanced skill levels in the digital categories and one skill level in the creative digital category.

**SKILL LEVELS:**

Novice: Any amateur photographer who has been taking underwater photographs for two years or less, and has not won ANY best of, or first places in a major photography competition. A novice may enter the advanced skill level if they so desire.

Advanced: Any other amateur photographer.

**CATEGORIES:**

**STILL DIGITAL:**

No creative editing allowed. Only crop, dodge and burn, contrast adjustment. Please note entry specifications above.

Macro: Images where a full frame image has a maximum life size of 8 x 5".

W-A: Images where a full frame image has a minimum life size of 8 x 5".

U/W California: Any image taken in the California marine environment.

Marine Conservation: The entries in this class should illustrate a marine conservation issue; whether it is an endangered or rare species or environment, an illustration of a non-sustainable fishery; or something more positive such as re-growth of an environment, return of an endangered species, or an illustration of the benefits of artificial reefs. Open to still images taken underwater anywhere in the world. Entries should include a few sentences describing where the image was taken, what the story behind the image is, and why it was important to the photographer to take the image and tell the story. (Maximum of 75 words.) Still images only (for this first year). Proceeds to be donated to a marine conservation/environmental educational organization of NCUPS choosing. Winning images to be displayed with description, on a special marine conservation page on the NCUPS website.

PRINTS: Any qualifying image. Please see entry specifications above.

**CREATIVE:**

This category is for the photographer to showcase their individual creativity. The only restriction is that the original image must have been taken by the entrant, underwater. Entrants are encouraged to use any and all tools available to express their individual creativity.

Print: Any qualifying creative image. Please see entry specifications above.

Digital: Any qualifying image. Please see entry specifications above.

VIDEO: Any qualifying short subject. Please see entry specifications above.