

The World's Best Nature Pictures 2011

LE FESTIVAL MONDIAL DE L'IMAGE SOUS-MARINE - MARSEILLE 2010
 (The World Underwater Pictures Festival), now in its 37th year and the Veolia Environment Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2010 competition, an annual event, organized by the Natural History Museum (UK) and BBC Worldwide to recognise the world's best nature image makers. The 2010 winning imagery celebrates the beauty of our natural world, awakening humanity to our unsustainable harvesting of our very finite resources. In this Nautilus Window, is a special selection - the best picks from 2010's best!

"Sailing through these profundities, where human kind has ever been; look at those splendid rocks, captain; those uninhabited grottos, the last receptacles of the earth, where life is impossible! What unknown sites are here, and how impossible it is that we should retain any souvenir of them!...nothing is easier than to take a photograph of this submarine view."

Jules Verne,
 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea



WORLD UNDERWATER
 PICTURES FESTIVAL
 2010, MARSEILLES

VEOLIA ENVIRONMENT WILDLIFE
 PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2010



Bridgena Barnard
 South Africa

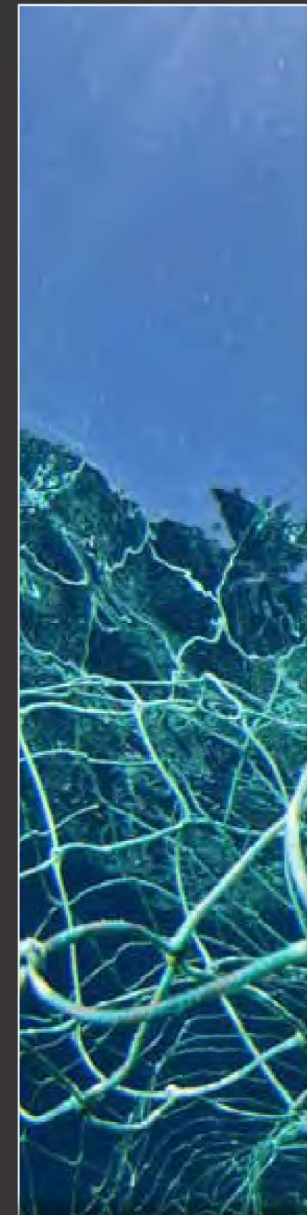
BEHAVIOUR: MAMMALS - WINNER

"The moment"
 "Today, as it's Christmas Day, we'll photograph a cheetah kill," Bridgena announced to her family. They promptly fell about laughing. They had, after all, spent five days watching a trio of cheetahs in South Africa's Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park without seeing any activity. But Bridgena had discovered that the cheetah brothers had a favourite watch-out dune and a routine. By driving out at dawn to the spot, she hoped to be in position before rather than after any hunt. It was a good call. The cheetahs were positioned up on the dune, only the tops of their heads visible. When a trail of springbok passed by below, the brothers ignored the adults. But the moment a young springbok appeared, they sprinted after it, one heading it off, one tripping it up and the third making the kill. Within ten seconds it was over. The cheetahs had their meal and Bridgena had a phenomenal shot. (top)

Jordi Chias Pujol
 Spain

ONE EARTH AWARD - WINNER

"Turtle in trouble"
 It's an image that communicates in one emotive hit the damage being done to the world's oceans. Jordi came across this desperate scene when sailing between Barcelona and the Balearic Islands, hoping to photograph dolphins. 'I spotted the abandoned net drifting along the surface,' says Jordi. As he dived down to investigate, he could see the loggerhead turtle tangled up in the netting. 'The poor creature must have been trapped for some days, it was so badly knotted up.' Though it could just reach the surface to breathe by extending its neck, it was still sentenced to a long, cruel death. 'I felt as though it were looking at me for help as it tried to bite through the netting.' Jordi released it, allowing one individual a second chance. Given that all species of sea turtles are endangered, they need all the help they can get. (right)





Marcello Calandrini

Italy

BEHAVIOUR: BIRDS – HIGHLY COMMENDED

“Pickings from puffins”

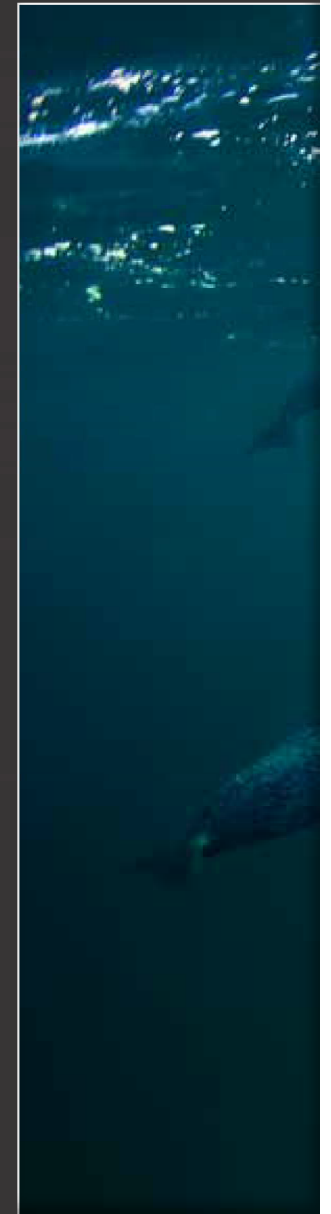
It was the puffins in particular that Marcello had come to photograph on the Farne Islands, Northumberland, renowned for its breeding colonies of seabirds. ‘I was busy photographing a group of puffins,’ says Marcello, ‘but sensed a commotion to one side – a gaggle of black-headed gulls attempting to steal sand eels out of the beak of a returning puffin. Framing the scene in an instant, he pushed the shutter just once before the puffin escaped with its catch intact. ‘Everything came together in that single moment,’ he adds, ‘action, composition, soft light and, most important, a pin-sharp puffin eye.’

GAZZAROLI-Claudio



PORTFOLIO OF FESTIVAL
Bronze Diver

“Dolphins Evening”
(right)





WORLD UNDERWATER
PICTURES FESTIVAL
2010, MARSEILLES



○ NAUTILUS'S WINDOW



WORLD UNDERWATER
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GAZZAROLI-Claudio

PORTFOLIO OF FESTIVAL
Bronze Diver

"Sunbathing Croc"



BALNIS-Bettina

OCEAN GEOGRAPHIC SEA JELLY AWARD



"Sea Jelly Trap"
(right)



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WORLD UNDERWATER
PICTURES FESTIVAL
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BALNIS-Bettina

PORTFOLIO OF FESTIVAL
Silver Diver



"Face to Face, seahorse"

BALNIS-Bettina

PORTFOLIO OF FESTIVAL
Silver Diver



"Skeleton Shrimp"
(opp. page)



WORLD UNDERWATER
PICTURES FESTIVAL
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NAUTILUS'S WINDOW

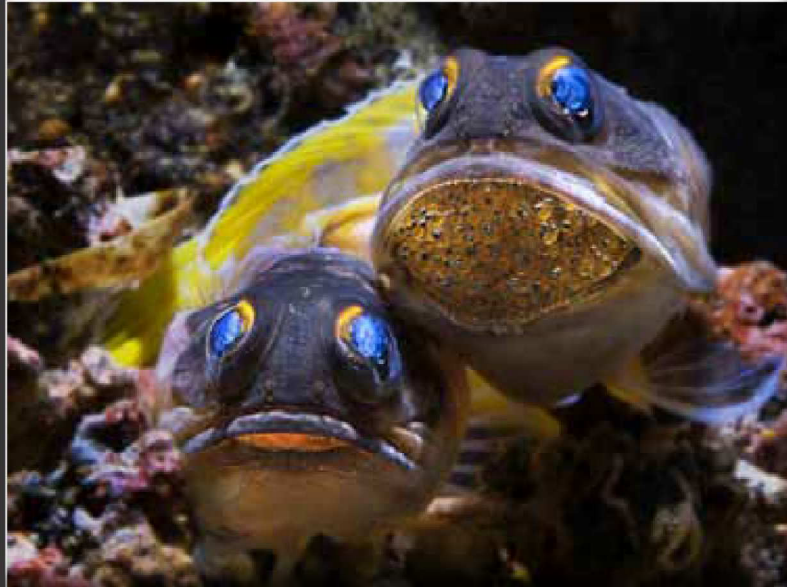


WORLD UNDERWATER
PICTURES FESTIVAL
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WORLD UNDERWATER
PICTURES FESTIVAL
2010, MARSEILLES



BALNIS-Bettina



PORTFOLIO OF FESTIVAL
Silver Diver

“Parenting Jawfish”

BALNIS-Bettina



PORTFOLIO OF FESTIVAL
Silver Diver

“Snail on the Grass - nudibranch”
(left)

NAUTILUS'S WINDOW



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VEOLIA ENVIRONMENT WILDLIFE
PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2010



Pascal Kobeh

France

BEHAVIOUR: ALL OTHER ANIMALS - WINNER

"March of the crabs"

Each year, thousands of deep-sea Australian majid spider crabs set off to walk over the seabed to shallow waters off South Australia. In their drive to migrate, they climb over each other, sometimes forming great piles. 'They walked like an army on the march,' says Pascal. 'If I lay on the bottom, they would just clamber over me as though I was a lump of rock or coral.' Once in shallow water, many of them moult out of their exoskeletons (shells), emerging with soft new ones. It takes a while for the new, expanded shell to harden - a very vulnerable time for a crab. And this may be one reason for the great congregation: there is safety in numbers from predators such as rays. Great gatherings are also great places to find mates, and receptive females will attract large numbers of males. But aggregations don't always include receptive females, and males can't mate when they have soft shells. So the reason for the great migration is still partly a mystery.

Michael AW

WINNER DIAPORAMA SLIDE SHOW
Gold Diver



"EXODUS"
(right)

NAUTILUS'S WINDOW



WORLD UNDERWATER
PICTURES FESTIVAL
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Michael AW

PORTFOLIO OF FESTIVAL
Gold Diver



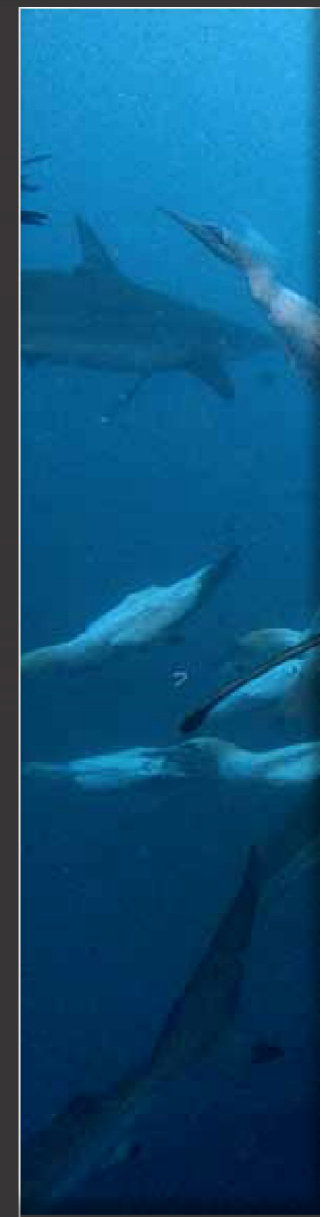
"The Sardine Run - Brydes Whale"

Michael AW

PORTFOLIO OF FESTIVAL
Gold Diver



"Hey You !"
(right)





Brian Skerry

USA

WILDLIFE PHOTOJOURNALIST OF THE YEAR - RUNNER-UP

The Sacrifice; part of a six image story entitled "The most shocking story of all"
The oceans are in deep trouble. We treat them as if their resources are infinite and their capacity to deal with whatever we throw into them is unlimited. But though millions of people depend on fish for protein, fish populations worldwide are crashing. This photo-story was shot to help raise awareness of the issues surrounding industrial fisheries - in particular, the methods used to gather fish, and the rapidly dwindling stocks. Entangled in a gillnet, this bigeye thresher shark is just one of an estimated 100 million sharks killed each year, many unintentionally, in the thousands of kilometres of gillnets strung out in the world's oceans. Sharks play a vital role in maintaining healthy ecosystems, and so their removal has long-lasting repercussions on fish stocks. Brian struggled for months to think of a way to represent the slaughter of sharks that would move people rather than just shock them. When he saw this scene, he knew he had found the symbolic image he needed. He was on a dive documenting the bycatch of gillnets in the Sea of Cortez. 'The shark had only just died, and it seemed to be looking directly at me, its pectoral fins outstretched as if in crucifixion.' Gillnets and longlines set by commercial fishing operations have wiped out more than 90 per cent of the predatory fish species in the Sea of Cortez.

Ocean Geographic encourage all wildlife photographers to compete in the following competitions:

Veolia Environnement Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2011 - <http://www.nhm.ac.uk> ; competition open 12 Jan 2011

Celebrate the Sea Festival Imageries Festival 2011 - www.CelebrateTheSea.com ; competition open 2 Jan 2011

World Underwater Pictures Festival - <http://www.underwater-festival.com> ; competition open March 2011