

UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY 2.0



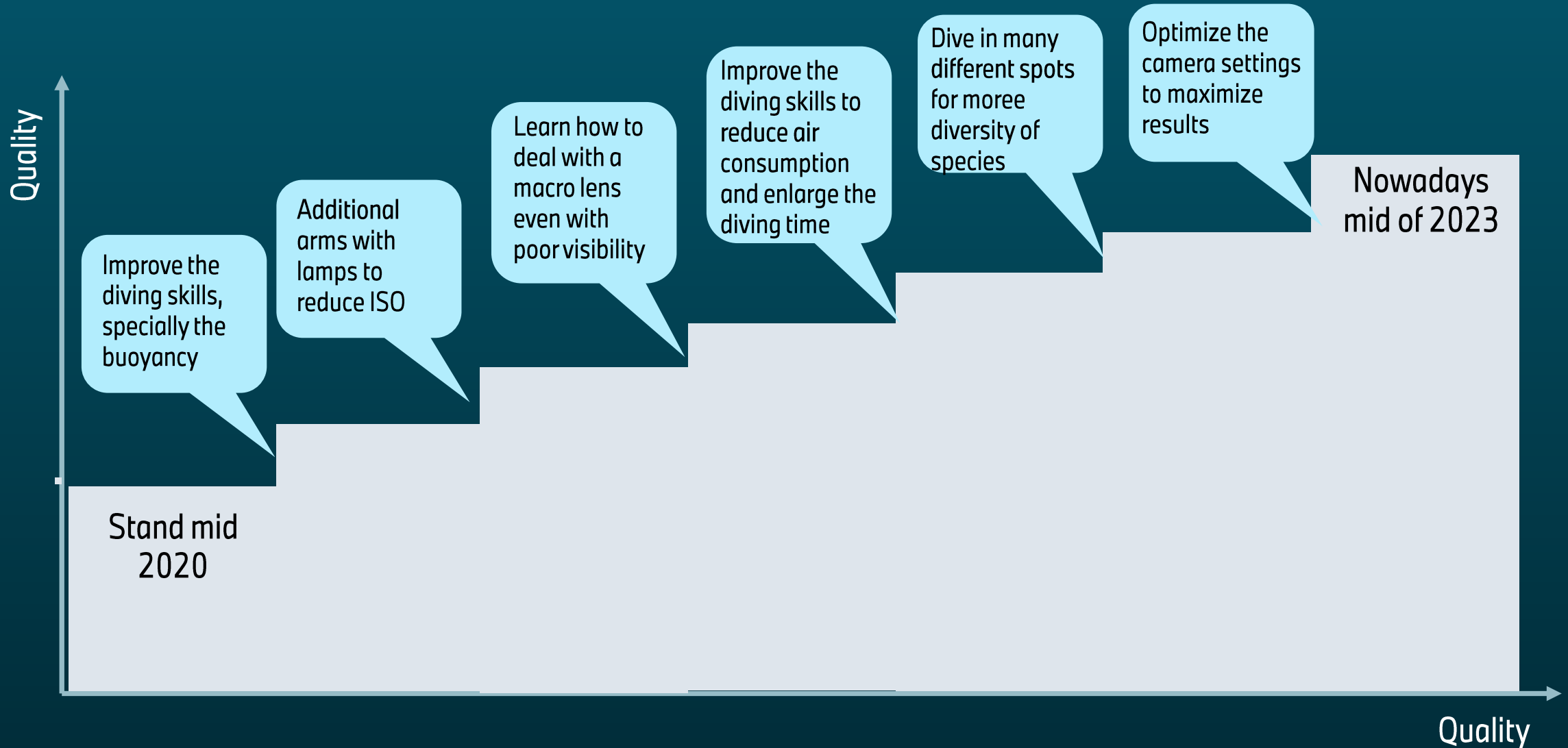
A brief experience report about how I managed to improve the quality of my underwater pictures since my first (and only) talk about this topic during the first virtual meeting of the CPUUG back in May 2020.

NOWADAYS VS MY FIRST REPORT HERE

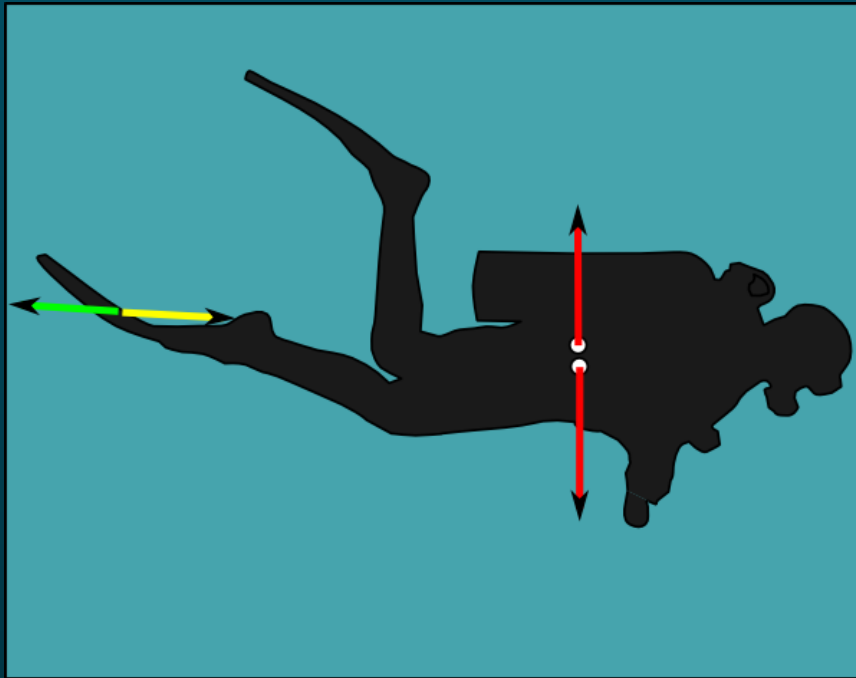


Back in May 2020 I had just started to dive (11 dives till then). In the meanwhile I've over 120 dives in 10 different environments so that I could improve my diving skills notably. I've also improved my equipment (mostly the lighting) and I switched the lens I use, now mainly my 100mm macro lens instead of the 16-35 mm wide angle lens back in 2020.

WHAT HAPPENED TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY?



DIVING SKILLS: BUOYANCY & AIR CONSUMPTION



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Buoyancy is essential for many reasons: you move smoother, consume less air, hardly move when taking the pictures, can easier move around the subject to find a better POV.

LIGHTING, AS USUAL, THE KEY FACTOR



As I mostly search for small stuff I use a continuous light made of 2 arms with 6500 lumen each and 3000 lumens in a ring light. No flash. This powerful lighting holds the whole dive and allows a reduction of substantial reduction of the required ISO

LENSES: WIDE ANGLE VS MACRO



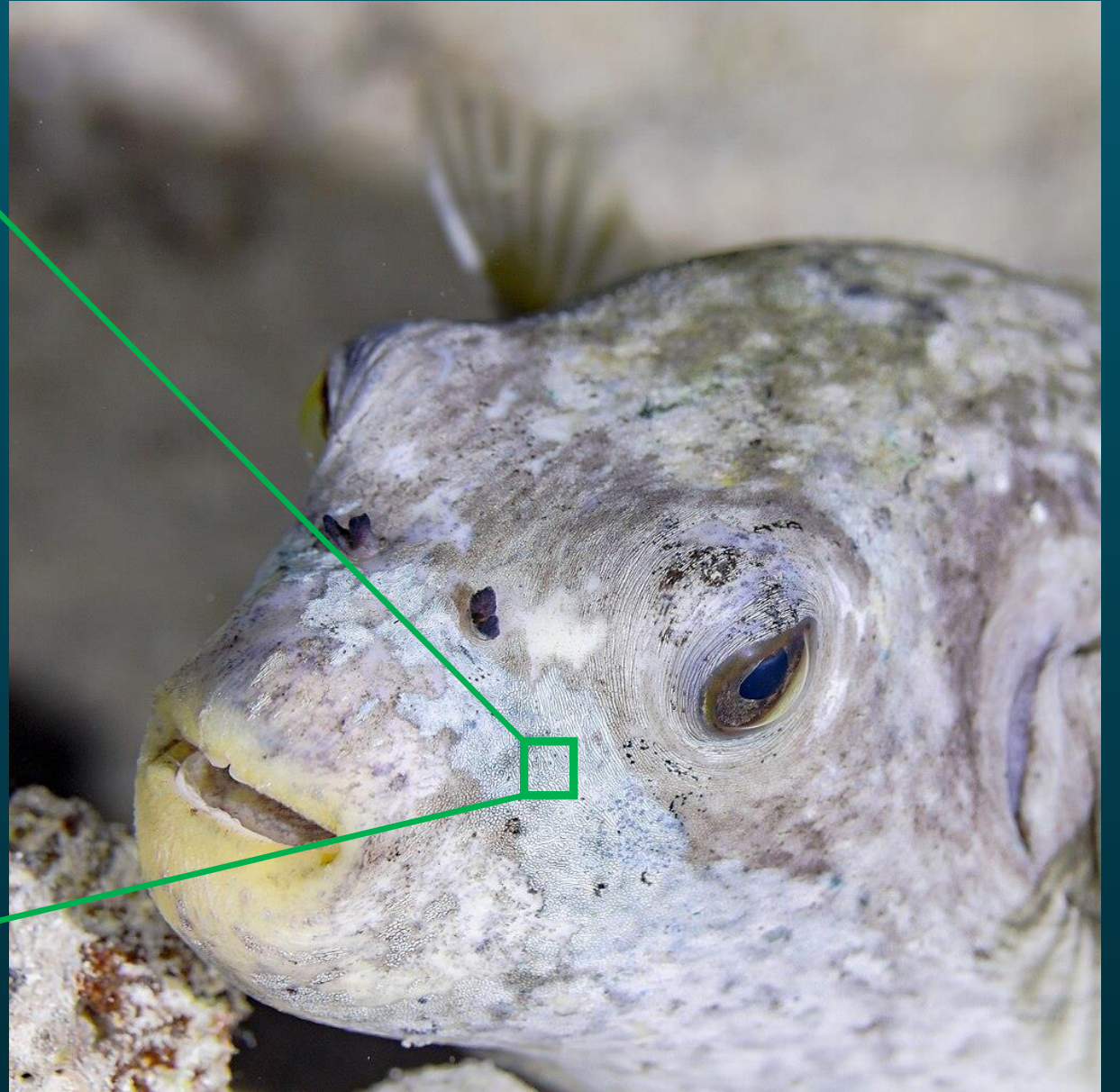
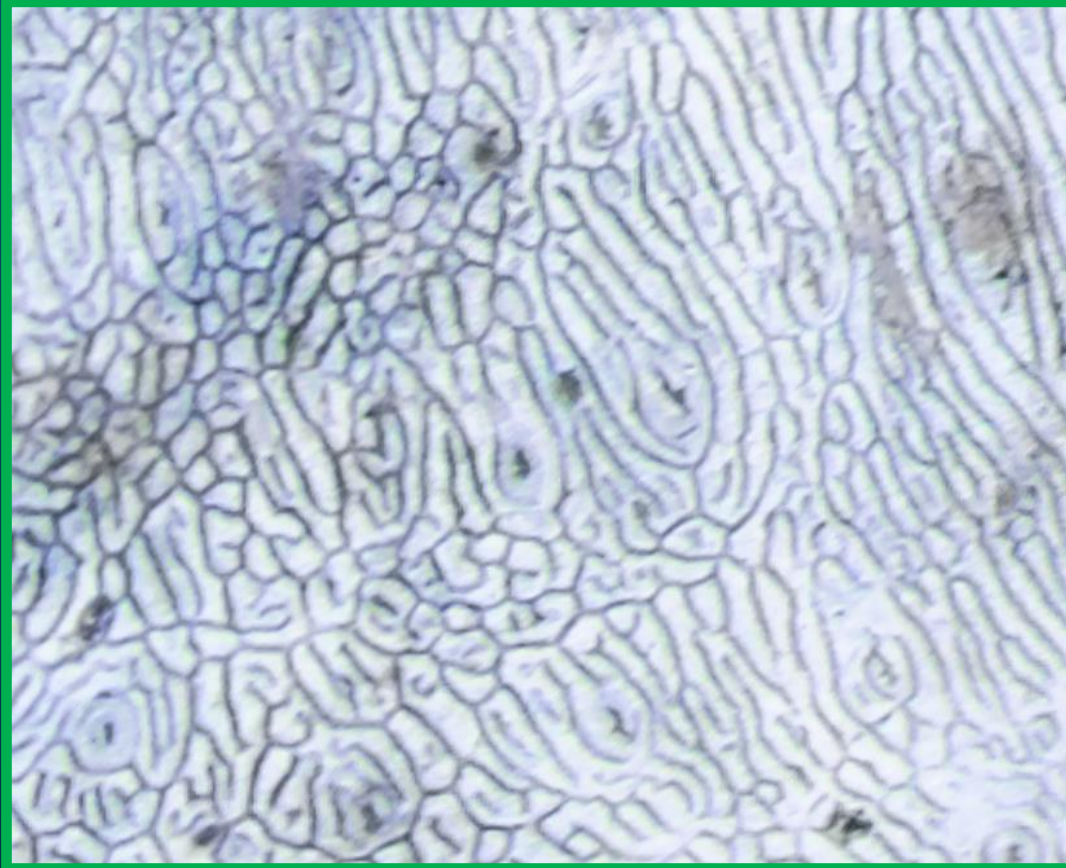
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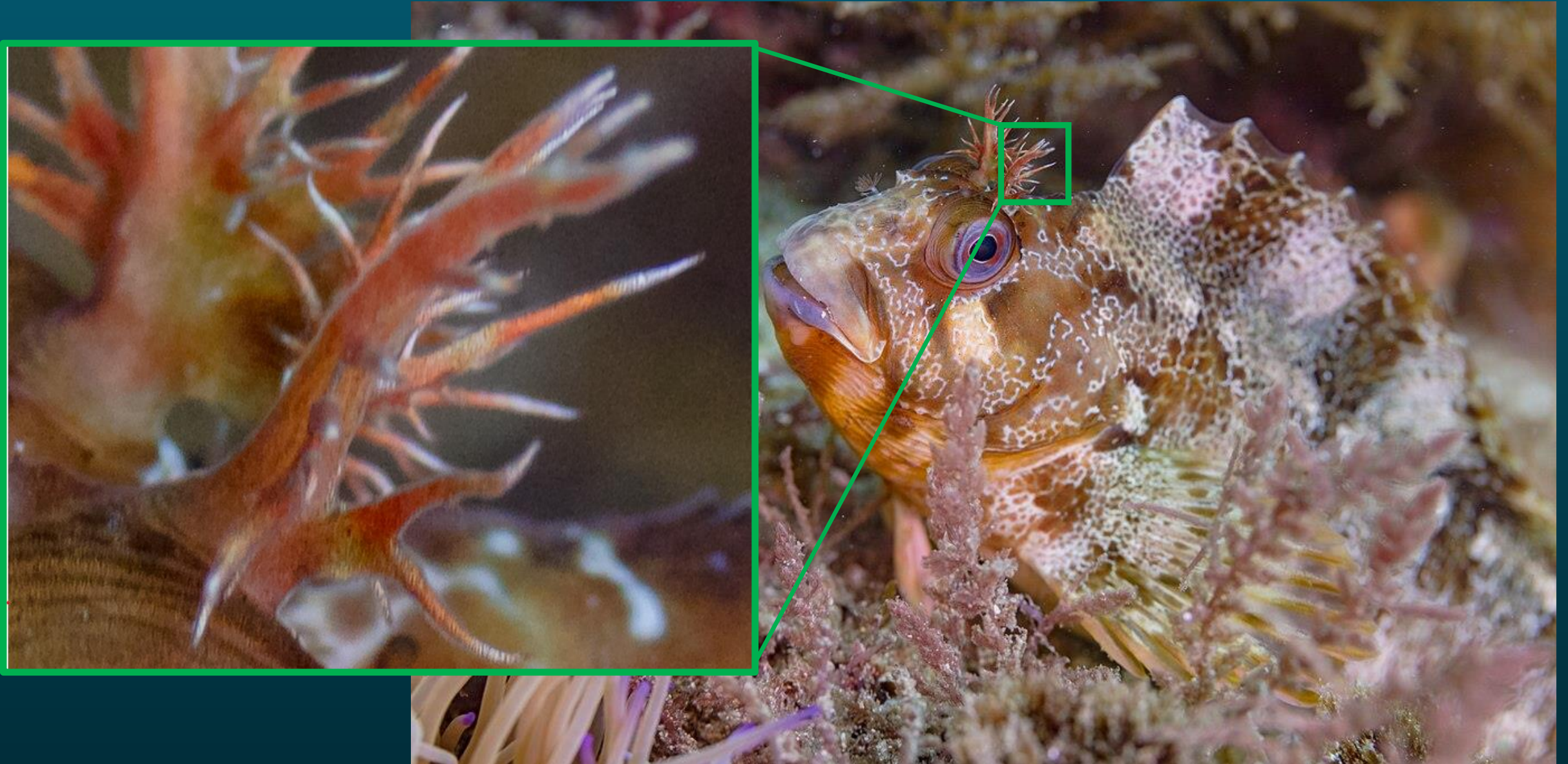
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At the beginning I used the wide angle (16-35 mm) lens for a long time. Why? Because a high % of images were sharp even without using the visor/display, and when I tried the 100 mm almost nothing was sharp. But, if you want detail, you need indeed the 100 mm macro. First I looked at the display (Live Mode) and later through the visor for better focusing.

EXAMPLES OF MACRO LENS USE



EXAMPLES OF MACRO LENS USE



DIVERSE DIVING SPOTS



Clearly, the more different environments you take pictures in, the more interesting and diverse will be your work. I tried open sea, ocean coasts and seas.

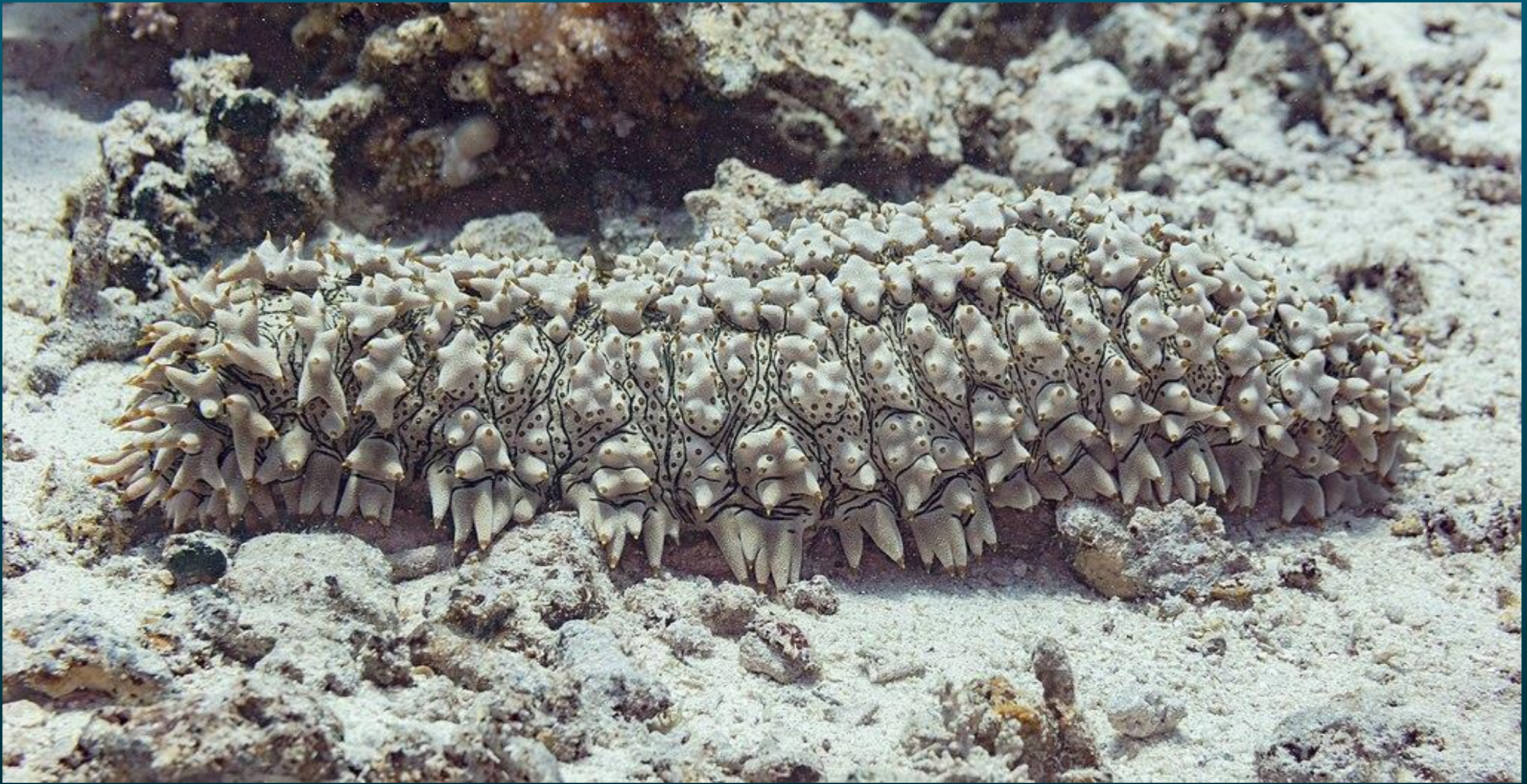
AND NOW, LET'S ENJOY SOME NICE PICTURES...









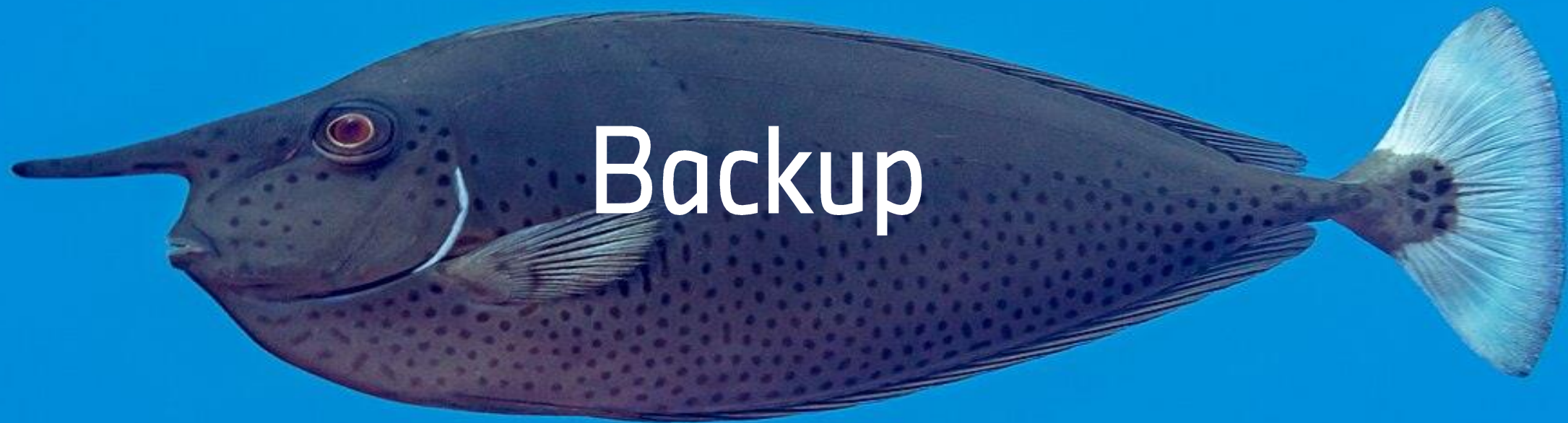










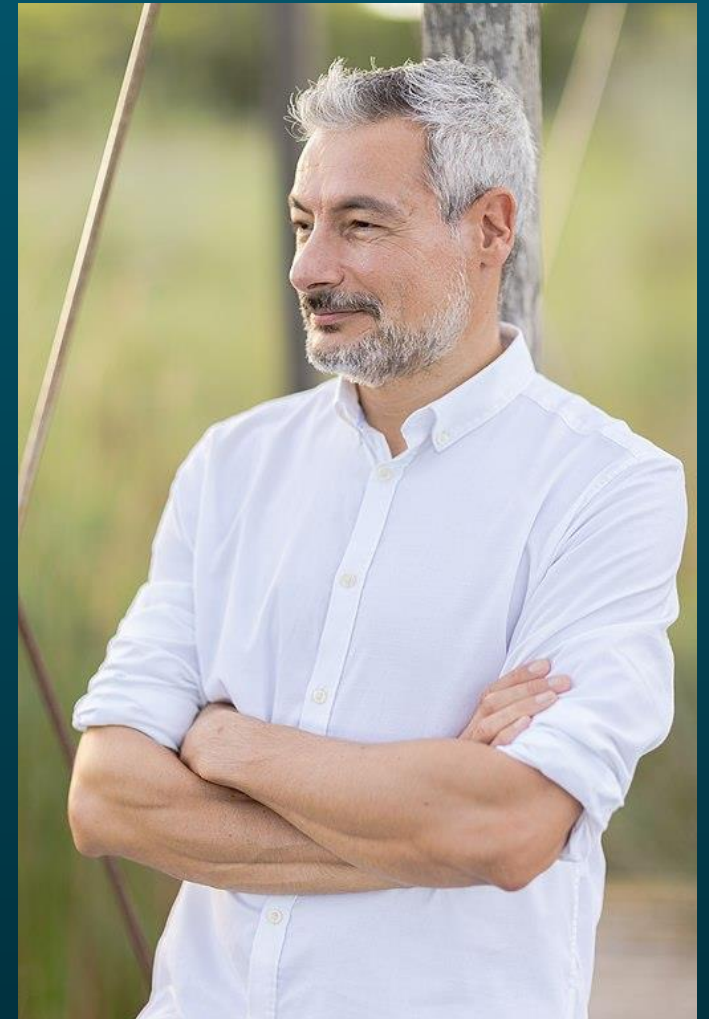


MOSTLY USED EQUIPMENT

- Camera Canon 5DS R
- Ikelite underwater housing for Canon 5DS 200ft
- Canon EF 100mm f/2.8L Macro IS USM
- Ikelite DL Macro flat port + Ikelite DL 50mm port extension
- 2 x Ikelite arms with a TrustFire DF50 KIT light 6500 Lumens
- Weefine ring light 3000 Lumens

ABOUT ME AND SOME ACHIEVEMENTS

- Diego Delso, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Poco_a_poco
- Member of Wikimedia Commons since April 19th 2008
- First (analog) camera in 1990, first digital camera in 2002, first DSLR in 2008, professional equipment since 2012
- 25,553 images uploaded on Commons by Aug 2023
- Out of them 3,6% Featured Pictures, 72% Quality Images
- #6 finalist in WLM international and #58 national in 19 different countries
- #1 finalist in WLE international and #10 national
- #27 finalist Commons Picture of the Year



SOURCES

- User page: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Poco_a_poco
- Featured underwater pictures (110):
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Featured_pictures_taken_under_water_by_User:Poco_a_poco
- Quality images taken underwater (1061):
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Quality_images_taken_underwater_by_User:Poco_a_poco
- Website: <https://delso.photo/>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/delsodiego>