

2007 LAUPS 45th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION RULES & ENTRY FORM

All Entries must be received by midnight, PST, on Friday September 21, 2007.
Judging results will be posted on www.laups.org by November 18, 2007

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

All possible care will be exercised, but no responsibility will be assumed by the Underwater Photographic Society for the loss or damage of entries in judging or transit.

Permission to reproduce any entry for the promotional purposes of the Underwater Photographic Society will be assumed. No reproduction fee will be paid.

The entry fee is \$10.00 per digital image, print or video. All fees are in U.S. dollars. Foreign drafts are NOT acceptable. Entries must be sent prepaid. Please include adequate funds for return of prints or prints will not be returned. Please send duplicate videos and digital media. Videos and digital media will NOT be returned.

ELIGIBLE PHOTOGRAPHERS

This competition is open to all amateur photographers and/or videographers. The intent of this competition is to give exposure and acknowledgement to amateurs. The competition is not open to industry professionals or previous judges. The International Committee reserves the right to determine the level of an industry professional.

ELIGIBLE PHOTOGRAPHS

Previous Best of Show or first through third placed award winning entries from this or any other major competition, and previously published images are ineligible, as are images derived from the same original. The same image or any derivative thereof, cannot be entered in more than one category.

The entrant must have taken each entry, underwater while swimming in natural environments, unless noted otherwise. No pool, aquarium, or pole-cam shots are allowed.

Marine life should never be stressed or endangered for the sake of a photo. The judges and competition committee may disqualify any image exhibiting the following behavior (Conservation Rules from EPIC):

1. Divers visibly damaging (e.g. gear dragging or kicking up sand) the environment.
2. Animals with signs of stress (e.g. puffed puffers, inking octopus).
3. Animals moved to an unnatural environment or risky location.
4. Animals being fed artificial food from divers.
5. Marine life being touched (e.g. coral polyps, seahorse tails).
6. Divers exhibiting poor buoyancy control.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

In the event that an award winning entry is later found to have violated any rule, it will be disqualified, and the International Committee reserves the right to recall prizes or request reimbursement of fair market value if non-refundable prize. The Society also reserves the right to request an original image for review in case of a dispute.

CATEGORIES

MACRO (Digital & Print): A view of a subject 1:6 or smaller.

WIDE ANGLE (Digital & Print): All non-macro images. Includes close-focus wide angle and split above/below water images.

BEHAVIOR (Digital): Either macro or wide angle images taken of animal behavior.

COLD WATER (Digital & Print): Images taken in cold and temperate water, typically green water, off the West coast of North America, from Northern Baja California to Alaska; the Great Lakes; Canada; and Northern Europe.

MARINE RELATED SCENIC (Digital Only): Totally above water images, taken around or on the ocean (no pool or aquariums) of marine animals, birds, places or things depicting the marine environment.

VIDEO RAW FOOTAGE: Continuous unedited single underwater scene not to exceed 40 seconds. All of the footage must have been taken underwater by the entrant. Adding titles, music or sound effects will disqualify the entry from the VIDEO RAW FOOTAGE category. Footage entered in this category is not eligible to be entered in the Open category.

VIDEO OPEN: The maximum time limit for this video entry will be not longer than three (3) minutes. At least 80% of the

footage, exclusive of titles and credits, must have been taken underwater. Entry must be shot and edited by entrant. Video titling must not include entrant's name. For the purposes of this competition, music rights acquisition remain the sole responsibility of filmmaker. Footage entered in this category is not eligible to be entered in the Raw category.

The International Committee has the right to determine if an entry has been submitted in the correct category. If an incorrect category has been entered, the International Committee reserves the right to disqualify or move an entry to the appropriate category.

IMAGE MANIPULATION

No image manipulation is allowed, other than the type of full-frame manipulations which happen during the computer processing of raw images, the creation of in-camera JPEGs, or the scanning of slides or negatives. These include minor full-frame changes to white balance, brightness, contrast, color, saturation, and sharpening.

In addition, minor traditional darkroom style manipulations are allowed, including cropping, B&W conversion, and dodging and burning with large, basic brushes. Complex manipulations requiring masks, advanced elements like the healing tool or clone tool, and precise brushes are not allowed.

In other words, burning simple backscatter out of a black background with a coarse brush is allowable; precisely healing backscatter in a complex background or the face of your subject is not.

The intent of this competition is to run a photo contest, not a Photoshop contest, and to keep the playing field level for those scanning slides, those shooting jpegs, and those less knowledgeable in Photoshop.

DIGITAL ENTRY CONDITIONS

All still image entries must be in digital format. No slides will be accepted. Slide images may be scanned, but must be submitted as a digital file. Digital entries may be submitted via email at comp_entry@laups.org or on CD/DVD shipped to the address noted. Digital media will NOT be returned. Digital entries must be no smaller than 1024x768 and no larger than 3072x2304. JPEG format. Adobe 1998 color space suggested. Filename should be of the form:

X_title_JohnDoe.jpg

where "X" is the category letter as on the [entry form](#), "title" is the image's title, and "JohnDoe" is your name. Please include the underscores as separators. Example: A_Cleaner Shrimp_Joe Photog.jpg

Digital Entries will not be returned.

PRINT ENTRY CONDITIONS

All PRINTS MUST BE MOUNTED on a lightweight mounting board and/or matted. The maximum size including the mounting board and/or mat must not exceed 16" X 20". The minimum size including the mounting board and/or mat must not be smaller than 11" X 14". NO FRAMED OR GLASS COVERED PRINTS. Unmounted prints will be disqualified. NO refund for disqualified entries. Entrant's name, print title and entry category must appear on the back of each print. Please indicate which side is UP with an arrow.

Print entries will be returned if return postage is paid with entry.

VIDEO ENTRY CONDITIONS

VIDEO RAW FOOTAGE entry shall consist of a continuous unedited single underwater scene not to exceed 40 seconds. All of the footage must have been taken underwater by the entrant. Adding titles, music or sound effects will disqualify the entry from the VIDEO RAW FOOTAGE category.

VIDEO OPEN entry shall have a maximum time limit of not longer than three (3) minutes. At least 80% of the footage, exclusive of titles and credits, must have been taken underwater. Entry must be shot and edited by entrant. Video titling must not include entrant's name.

For the purposes of this competition, music rights acquisition remain the sole responsibility of filmmaker.

Label each entry with entrant's name and title.

Acceptable formats include: Mini DV (preferred format), DV Cam and DVD in NTSC or PAL format (No VHS formats). Currently we are accepting standard definition only. High definition film needs to be down converted before entry.

Multiple entries may be placed on a single disk/tape. If so, please separate categories with at least 5 seconds of black in between.

Video entries will not be returned.

PAYMENT AND ENTRY INSTRUCTIONS

Payment can be made by check, money order or PayPal.

Checks and money orders must be in US funds. Checks must be payable to LAUPS.

PayPal payments should be payable to comp_entry@laups.org.

Credit card payments should be done as PayPal payments, see <http://www.paypal.com> for more info.

Mail entries, form and fees to:

LAUPS Competition, C/O TMO
2075 Belgrave Ave.
Huntington Park, CA 90255
USA

Digital entries may be emailed to comp_entry@laups.org.

Emailed entries should include an entry form by mail, fax, or scanned jpeg file, and payment by mail or paypal.

Phone 213-749-4779 or 800-345-4217 FAX 800-710-0270 Note: UPS and Federal Express accepted.

Good luck in the competition!

For inquires E-mail: INTLCOMP@laups.org. Visit our web site at www.laups.org