

Questions should be sent to: Photo@BeneathTheSea.org.

**IMPORTANT:
READ AND FOLLOW THE RULES FOR
SUBMITTING AND NAMING YOUR ENTRIES**

Name Your Image files:

The image files should be labeled with the letter for the category [A – General/Marine Life; B –Green/Cold Water; C – Macro/Close-up; D – Underwater Behavior; E – Conservation; or X – Creative]., your last name, first name, number of the entry file, and the name of the image. For example, Jane Smith Doe submits 2 images; the first in the Macro/Closeup category and the second in Green/Cold Water. They would be named “cDoe-Jane1-Shrimp on Whip Coral.TIF” and “bDoe-Jane2- Sculpin in a Wreck.TIF”. Creative entries must comply with the naming and formatting requirements set forth for Image category entries; the initial letter for each file name should be an “x” or for example, “xDoe-John1-Hole in the Ocean.TIF”.

Do not use special characters such as (>?@#\$\$*)> in the name.

Submit Your Entries (and include the downloaded and renamed pdf registration confirmation).

In addition to your images, **submit the Image Competition Entry Form.**

The entry form is the registration confirmation email which was sent to you.

Print it as a PDF and name it with your last name and first name. For example, John Doe would rename the file to “Doe-John.pdf”.

- a. **Internet entries.** Images and Videos may be submitted electronically. After registering and paying the fee, go to the BTSphoto dropbox at <https://spaces.hightail.com/uplink/BTSPhoto>, and follow the instructions there to upload the images. **Also upload the Image Competition Entry Form–the receipt you received–properly named, at the same time.**
- b. **Mail entries.** Images and the Image Competition Entry Form may be submitted on a CD by mail. If you submit entries by mail in both the Image and Creative Image categories, they can be submitted on the same disk. If you are submitting Video DVDs, mail the Image Competition Entry form with the DVD. Mail the Entry Form and the disc (with your name, and if a Video, the title, written on the disc) and, if paying by mail, a check or money order, to:

BENEATH THE SEA Imaging Contest
c/o Robert Schrager
17 Hartford Avenue
Greenwich CT 06830 USA

Entry Deadline

Entries must be postmarked or uploaded before December 31, 2019 (and received by January 10, 2020 if submitting by mail). Do not call or email to confirm receipt. If you want confirmation of receipt, send the entry using Delivery Confirmation (US Post Office Form 152) or an overnight courier service. Please do not use certified mail since someone is not always in when the mail is delivered to sign for the package.

Payment:

An individual may submit up to six images and/or one video and/or up to six creative images. There is an entry fee of US\$15.00 per slide or digital image and US\$25.00 per video plus a handling fee of US\$5.00 per entry form. If you do not pay the fee here, make the check or money order payable to "BTS."

Format:

Video: It must be in a format that can be played using the Windows Media Player or Quicktime. (You may also submit a second DVD or file with the video in hi-definition format—label the DVDs or files accordingly. The judges first will attempt to view the hi-definition file. However, some hi-definition formats do not play on the equipment and software available at the judging. A DVD must be labeled with the entrant's name and the title of the video. A video may be no more than six minutes long, have a title and theme, and carry a narrative (in English or with English sub-titles) and/or music track. At least 65 percent of the video must have been shot underwater. Videos may have co-creators but the video portion must be shot by the entrant.

Images: A maximum of six images in digital format may be entered (slides are not accepted); no more than three images may be entered in any one category. Each individual image may be entered in only one category. If an image might be considered in more than one category, the choice is up to you, the judges will not move an entry to another category.

Entries may be submitted as TIFF or JPEG but TIFF is preferred. If in JPEG, a file with the highest quality setting—where compression is kept to a minimum—is recommended. Images must be RGB. Entries should have a resolution of 300 dpi and must be 2100 pixels in the long dimension.

Images may be edited with software. However, except for the Creative category, image manipulation should be minimized and no combining of images or cloning of objects to place in the image is allowed; this is an imaging competition, not a photo manipulation contest. We reserve the right to audit RAW files and disqualify winning images if the judges feel they are overly manipulated. The subjective opinion of the judges as to whether an image exceeds this guideline is final.

Image Categories Are as Follows:

A. General/Marine Life: All non-macro images, including close-focus wide angle, wide or medium shots of fish or any other vertebrates or invertebrates, divers, wrecks, reef environments, etc.

B. Green/Cold Water: Any lens, any subject. The photo must demonstrate some aspect of the subjects found in temperate or cold water.

C. Macro/Close-up: The subject must be 1:6 or smaller.

D. Underwater Behavior: Any lens, subject must show natural fish/animal behavior.

E. Conservation: The photo must demonstrate an environmental concern.

X. Creative: A maximum of six images in digital format may be entered. The image must have a basic underwater theme incorporating divers, wrecks, reefs, fish and/or marine life. Entries must originate as photographs (image-captures of objects via light sensitivity) made by the entrant on photographic emulsion or acquired digitally. Other than that, anything goes. You may combine multiple images and also do major manipulation, adjustment and distortion. Images may be altered, either electronically or otherwise, by the maker, and artwork or computer graphics created by the entrant may be incorporated as long as the photographic content predominates.

General Information and Rules:

1. All entries (except Creative) must be exposed underwater (no aquarium, pool or surface shots) by the person submitting the entry. Marine life should never be stressed or endangered for the sake of a photo. All underwater images must meet our environmental standards and those of the Environmentally Aware Photographic Image Competition. For example, the judges will disqualify any entry that exhibits divers visibly damaging the environment, fins kicking up sand, animals showing signs of stress (entries in the Conservation category excluded as long as the stress is not imposed for the purpose of the photograph), animals being fed, animals viewed in an unnatural location, marine life being touched or divers exhibiting poor buoyancy control.
2. Judging will be by a panel of professional photographers and other professionals in the underwater community chosen by Beneath the Sea. The judges reserve the right not to award a placing in any category if, in their opinion, no submission deserves that award. Decisions of the judges will be final and will be based on composition, technique, exposure and general interest.
3. No substitutions can be offered for prize awards. Trip prizes have been donated by the sponsor which allows all proceeds to benefit Beneath The Sea and its projects such as Ocean Pals and sponsor policies may be imposed. Please be considerate of the sponsor policies to encourage their generosity for future contests.
4. **Ownership and copyright of all entries remain with the photographer.** BTS reserves the right to publish the winning entries without compensation in announcements of contest winners (such as contest mailers, magazines, and BTS Website) and promotional campaigns (mailers, t-shirts, etc.) for related non-profit organizations such as BTS and Ocean Pals for 2 years from the contest awards (unless negotiated otherwise by entrant). Additional compensation will be negotiated and paid on a case-by-case basis to the photographer for any other promotional or commercial usage. The right to reproduce the entry as promotion for Beneath The Sea is assumed if proper photographic credit is given. Beneath the Sea, Inc. may show the competition entries on its web site and continuously during the show weekend.

5. Any images which have won best of show or placed (1st, 2nd or 3rd) in any major competition (as defined by the judges in their discretion) or that have been published (or accepted for publication) as of the date the entry is postmarked or submitted are not eligible.
6. Upon request, the original unedited video or raw digital file must be provided.
7. The work submitted must have been taken by the person submitting it. The entrant certifies the work as his own and represents that the ownership and copyright for all submissions is the exclusive property of the entrant. Contest officials and their immediate families are ineligible to enter.
8. In the event that an award winning entry is later found to have violated any rule, it will be disqualified, and Beneath The Sea reserves the right to recall prizes.
9. If too many videos and/or digital images or the incorrect entry fee are sent, at the sole discretion of the Contest officials either a random selection of the images will be made or your entry will not be accepted. CD's, and DVD's will not be returned.
9. Winners will be responsible for taxes, import duties, customs fees and freight on large prizes. All prize travel arrangements must be coordinated with the prize donor and are subject to availability at the time reservations are made. Liveboards are often fully booked a year or more in advance and the award winner may have to schedule their travel for next year.
10. Winners will be notified on or before March 1, 2020. The winning entries will be on display during the Beneath The Sea Dive Exposition. Winning entries can be viewed at www.BeneathTheSea.org

The **Beneath The Sea Dive Exposition** will take place March 27-29, 2020 at the Meadowlands Exposition Center, Secaucus, New Jersey –10 minutes from Manhattan. Further information can be found on Beneath The Sea's internet web site: <http://www.BeneathTheSea.org> or call (914) 664-4310.