

Roatan Marine Park Photo Contest 2022

We are now accepting submissions for the 2022 annual RMP photo competition. Entries can be sent, through the following link <https://www.roatanmarinepark.org/photo-contest>, until July 17th at 12:00 EST. Enter today for a chance to have your photos featured in the 2023 RMP Calendar!

RMP PHOTO CONTEST 2022 GUIDELINES

1. Each submission must include the photographer's name, photo name, photo location (as specific as possible) and category.
2. Photos need to be submitted to <https://www.roatanmarinepark.org/photo-contest>
3. All photos submitted must be from the Bay Islands, which includes: Utila, Roatan, Guanaja and Cayos Cochinos.
4. All images need to have been taken underwater, except when noted otherwise in a category description.
5. Photos must be submitted in JPEG with a landscape orientation with dimensions of 1056 pixels wide and 816 pixels tall. All others will be disqualified.
6. Maximum one entry per participant for each category.
7. Images may only be submitted into one category.
8. No watermarks. Any photo with watermarks will be disqualified.
9. All submitted images must have been taken by the entrant.
10. RMP employees are not allowed to participate. Professional photographers are only allowed to participate in the Mirrorless / DSLR Macro category. We are looking for *amateur photographers.
11. Only individuals can submit photos; we will not accept photos from groups or businesses.
12. Photographers retain all copyrights to their images. The Roatan Marine Park may use the photos for promotional material for the photo competition as well as on informative materials and merchandise sold in the Roatan Marine Park Eco-Store.

**Amateur Photographer: People who earn less than 50% of their income from photography are amateurs*

13. Entries may have been taken from any camera, digital or film (as scanned slides).

14. Submissions not following the guidelines or not matching the category submitted will not be accepted.

EDITING

Note that there are no editing limits in the Artistic category.

ALLOWED:

Global changes: color temperature, brightness, contrast, minor dodge & burn, sharpening, saturation changes, tonal adjustments, color balance adjustments, etc.

Rotation, flip, and flop.

Limited removal of backscatter. This does not include adding any dust/scratches layers, removing divers, fish, bubbles, ropes or painting/burning the background of an image black.

NOT ALLOWED:

No composite images (blending exposures in-camera or in post-processing, HDR, focus stacking, etc.), no cutting and pasting sections of other images, cloning or creating objects (i.e. adding divers, fish or glow to simulate a flashlight).

Excessive blurring, excessive darkening of background, excessive vignetting.

Original RAW files straight out of the camera will be requested from all finalists for auditing purposes, as well as a high-resolution ".jpg". An entry may be disqualified if a RAW or original JPEG image is not available. We will be contacting photographers for the RAW and high-res images during mid-December 2022, before our second round of judging begins.

CATEGORIES

1. Wide-Angle

Any photo that shows an angle of view equal to or wider than the human eye including over-under shots and close-focus wide-angle photos.

2. Mirrorless / DSLR Macro

As a guideline, macro subjects are generally 6 inches across, or smaller or are closeups of larger subjects.

3. Compact Macro

Macro and super macro photos taken with a compact camera.

4. Marine Life Behavior

An underwater photograph showing marine life behavior such as schooling, cleaning, feeding, playing, mating, etc.

5. Marine Life Portrait

A photograph that focuses on a single subject. Portraits can be full body or framed tightly around the face and head.

6. Black & White / Artistic

Black & White photos are captured in black, white, and shades of gray. Artistic photos do not have any post-processing restrictions.

7. Underwater Conservation

Photos that either showcase underwater conservation actions or threats to our marine ecosystem. The image does not need to be taken underwater.

8. Best Find

We've all had those amazing underwater encounters with hard-to-find creatures. Weird animal behavior, sperm whales, or just something plain weird. The photos don't always turn out as amazing as you hope but still highlight an amazing underwater encounter. This category is for those photos. It will be judged by most likes on Facebook and will not be submitted to the judges.

**RMP will have all the rights to use the photos sent for the photo competition, these may be used on marketing campaigns, social media, brochures, and other publicity for RMP activities. Credits will be given to the photographer when possible. You acknowledge this by submitting your images.*

SELECTION OF WINNERS

- We will select the winners in two ways, by judges vote and by popular vote. For the Judge vote, our panel of judges will be given access to a Google drive with photo submissions from each category with no information regarding the photo (name, location, photographer, etc.)
- Judges will have one week to peruse the photos and make their final decision. They will each send us their top 5 choices for each category. The winning photos will be the ones that receive the majority vote from the judges in each category.
- Popular vote will be selected by voting online (through likes) in each category. Please promote your photo submissions on your social media accounts and tag Roatan Marine Park! #rmpphocomp2022. Photos posted on social media for voting will be given an assigned identification number. The names of the photographers will not be posted or shown, until the winner has been chosen. The voting period for popularity will last two weeks, **NO extension for voting deadline will be allowed.**
- Winners of the popular vote will be featured online.

JUDGES CRITERIA FOR PHOTOS

- Impact – what you feel when you first view the Entry. Does the photo evoke an emotion from the viewer?
- Creativity – how the Entrant was able to convey their idea, message or thought in an original and imaginative way through their lens.
- Style – how the Entrant can showcase their personal originality and technique to influence how the image is presented and interpreted.
- Subject Matter – was the subject matter displayed in the photo appropriate to the story being told in the Photo Entry submitted and does it fully represent the category

Any extensions for photo submissions due to insufficient photos for each category will require approval by the RMP Executive Director. Any extension of the deadline will be notified via social media (Facebook and Instagram) at least 48 hours before the original deadline.

CONSERVATION RULES WILL BE STRICTLY OBSERVED

Conservation rules will apply to all entries, and decisions will be final. Entries suspected of exhibiting the following behavior will be disqualified:

- Divers visibly damaging the environment (e.g., gear dragging or kicking up sand)
- Animals displaying signs of stress (e.g., puffed puffers, inking octopus)
- Images in which the subject has been moved into a position or environment in which they are not normally found
- Marine life being touched (e.g., coral polyps, seahorse tails)
- Divers exhibiting poor buoyancy control
- Images which have been captured in a manner that may cause distress or injury to the marine environment

*** The judges will be asked to interpret this guideline and disqualify any images that are suspect to poor behavior*

CALENDAR PHOTO SELECTION

The RMP calendar committee will decide which photos will be used in the calendar and in which order.
