

## Roatan Marine Park Photo Contest 2023

We are now accepting submissions for the 2023 Annual RMP Photo Competition. Entrees can be sent through [roatanmarinepark.org/photo-contest-2023](https://roatanmarinepark.org/photo-contest-2023) until May 31st at 12:00 EST. Enter today for a chance to have your photos featured in the 2024 RMP Calendar!

### RMP Photo Contest 2023 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 [www.roatanmarinepark.org/photo-contest-2023](https://www.roatanmarinepark.org/photo-contest-2023)
3. All photos submitted must be from the Bay Islands, which includes: Utila, Roatan, Guanaja, and Cayos Cochinos.
4. All images must have been taken underwater, except when noted otherwise in a category description.
5. Photos must be submitted in JPEG with landscape orientation and a minimum of 2000 pixels across the top.
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. The Entrant must have taken all submitted images.
10. RMP employees are not allowed to participate. 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, informative materials, and merchandise sold in the Roatan Marine Park Eco-Store.

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

14. Submissions must follow the guidelines or match the category submitted to be accepted.

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

15. Submissions who may have been admitted to the competition can be eliminated at any time if found to be in breach of any of the rules.

16. The Entrant cannot withdraw photos after submitting them to the competition.

### **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. It 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 post-processing, HDR, focus stacking, etc.), no cutting and pasting sections of other photos, 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 and a high-resolution jpg. An entry may be disqualified if a RAW or original JPEG image is unavailable. We will be contacting photographers for the RAW and high-res images.

## Categories:

### 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.

### Macro

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

### Marine Life Behavior

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

### Marine Life Portrait

A photograph that focuses on a single subject. Portraits are framed tightly around the face and head.

### Black & White / Artistic

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

### Underwater Conservation

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

## **Invertebrates**

Photos can include all your favorite invertebrates including squid, octopus, nudibranchs, etc.

## **Divers**

The subject of the photos can be divers, snorkelers, or/and swimmers.

## **Best Find**

We've all had those amazing underwater encounters with hard-to-find creatures—rare nudes, weird animal behavior, sperm whales, or just something plain weird. The photos don't always look as impressive as you hope, but they highlight an incredible underwater encounter. This category is for those photos it will be judged by the 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 the judge's 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 online (through likes) in each category. Please promote your photo submissions on your social media accounts and tag Roatan Marine Park! #rmpphotocomp2023. Photos posted on social media for voting will be given an assigned identification number. The photographers' names will not be posted or shown until the winner has been chosen. The voting period for popularity will be announced on social media and NO extension for the 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 conveyed their idea, message, or thought in an original and imaginative way through their lens.
- **Style** - how the Entrant can showcase their 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 generally not found.
- Marine life being touched (e.g., coral polyps, seahorse tails)
- Divers exhibiting poor buoyancy control.
- Photos that 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 suspected to poor behavior.*

### Calendar Photo Selection

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