

An underwater photograph showing a diver on the left, wearing a black wetsuit and scuba gear, holding a camera up to take a picture. In the center and right, several large stingrays are swimming over a sandy bottom. The water is clear and blue. The title text is overlaid on the top half of the image.

# GETTING STARTED IN UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY

*A diver tests the waterproof,  
shockproof Olympus Stylus 1030SW  
at Grand Cayman's Sandbar*

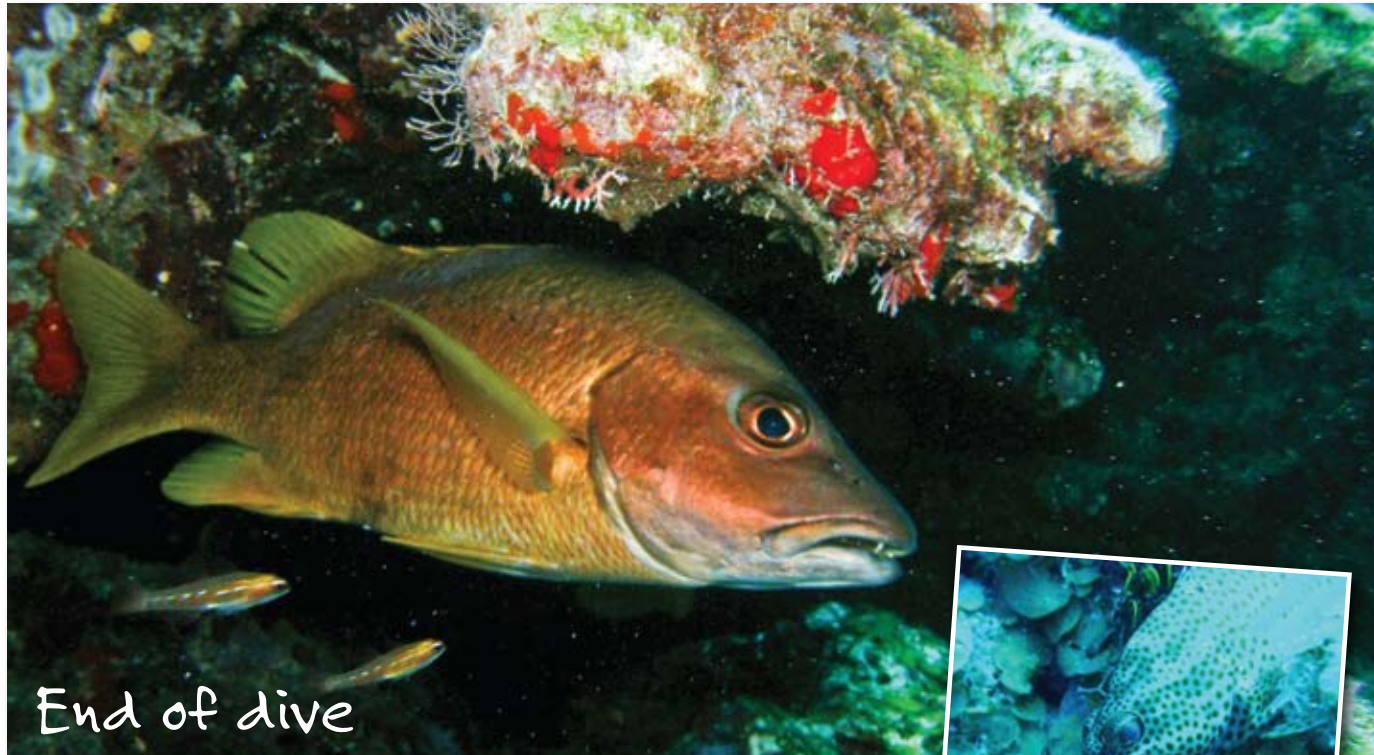
HOW UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY  
CHANGED MY LIFE

SHOOT A GREAT PICTURE IN  
**8 Easy Steps**

SHARP SHOOTING MADE EASY  
WITH **OLYMPUS**

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## A TRUE STORY

### The Instant Olympus Underwater Journey

Her name is Carla and she'd never delved into the world of underwater photography. At a recent PADI Diving Society event in Grand Cayman, called Total Submersion, her world changed. She had the chance to test-dive an Olympus point-and-shoot camera, the SP-560UZ. Ty Sawyer, the editor of Sport Diver magazine, was there to help her take on this photo experience by lending a hand with composition and photography basics, and by accompanying her on the dive.

Carla couldn't have been a better test case for someone just getting into underwater photography. She loved diving and wanted to get more out of it. She wanted to share the experiences and her explorations around the globe with her friends. But she didn't want to have to invest thousands of dollars in a camera system. So, along comes Olympus with an entire series of cameras devoted to Carla and divers just like her. They've spent a great deal of time developing a combination of ease of use with sophistication and practi-

underwater photography journey.

With the camera preset to macro, Ty and Carla hit the Devil's Grotto. With its swim-throughs and wide variety of marine life, it was the perfect test factory for a new photographer. At first, every shot Carla took was blue and flat and a bit hazy. She was too far away from her subjects. Underwater, things look both 25 percent bigger and closer. So Ty showed her how to ease in patiently to get closer to the subject for a clearer and more pleasing image. Once Carla saw the dif-

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ference in the bright LCD screen on the back of the camera, she was closing the gap on every fish she found. As the dive proceeded, Carla and Ty came upon some of the light-filled swim-throughs the Devil's Grotto is famous for. So Ty had Carla switch over from macro mode, which was perfect for fish portraits but not so great for this dramatic wide-angle scene, to wide-angle 2, which turns off the flash.

cality. For Carla, Ty decided to use the scene mode for her dives. In the scene mode, Carla had the choice of shooting wide-angle or macro, with two underwater-specific settings for each. The settings can even be changed during a dive to best suit the type of encounter. It's a great place for first-time photographers to start their

Carla set to work. She slowly finned through cavern after cavern taking shots, making adjustments, then taking even more shots. Pretty soon she was changing scene modes and trying new ways of shooting the images of the light beams dancing in the caverns. She was so excited about taking photos that she forgot about her air. When Ty pointed out that they'd been in the water for 65 minutes, she was astounded. The time flew by and she didn't really want to get out of the water.

Back on the boat, Ty and Carla reviewed her images. Carla was hooked.

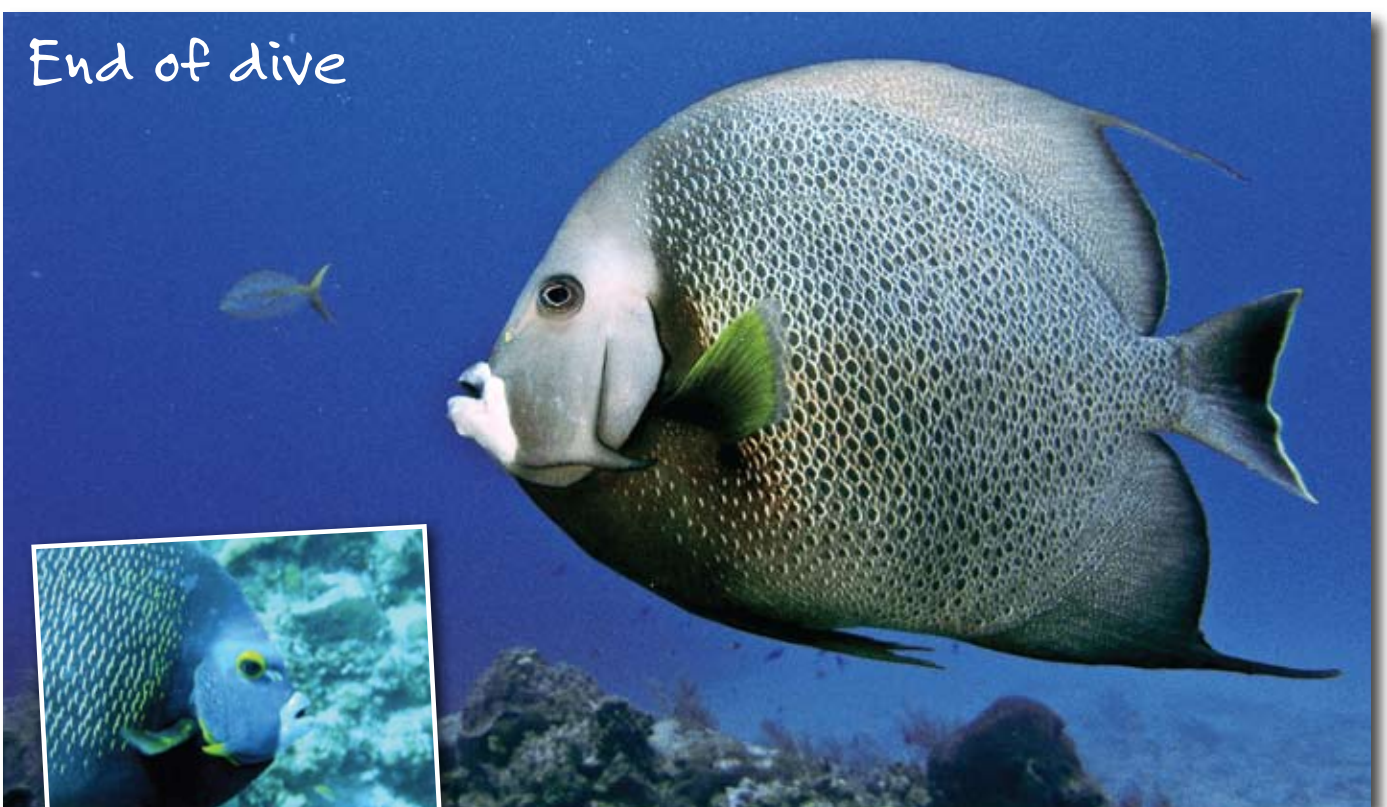
She could see the improvement in her ability to take a good shot during one dive. She couldn't wait to jump in the water again. At this point, Ty turned to her husband, also a diver, and apologized for spending his money: There's going to be a new Olympus camera in the family, Ty said. Sure enough, as soon as the boat got back to the dock, Carla and her husband visited the famous underwater photography guru Cathy Church at her shop on Grand Cayman. For the rest of the week, Carla doubled up on her dive time and wouldn't dream of venturing into the water without a camera. She got more and

more good shots and was just beaming.

Right now, Carla is back home, camera in hand, waiting for the next dive – waiting to get her Olympus SP-560UZ back in the water. She found out what new divers are discovering every day. If you want a good shot, get an Olympus underwater camera system. There's no easier way to get the shot.

To see more of Carla and Ty's shots from Total Submersion on Grand Cayman, check out [www.sportdiver.com/carlasunderwaterjourney](http://www.sportdiver.com/carlasunderwaterjourney). To find out more about Olympus underwater products, visit [olympusamerica.com](http://olympusamerica.com).

End of dive



Stylus SW Product Line from Olympus  
**POINT. SHOOT. SHARE.**



Stylus 850SW



Stylus 1030SW



PT-041 Housing



PT-043 Housing



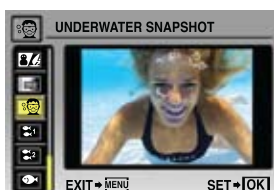
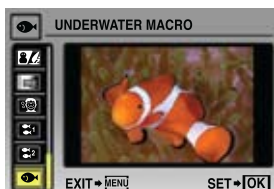
SP-560UZ  
PT-037 Housing

# 8 Tips for Successful Underwater Photography



## 1 Use your camera's built-in scene modes.

The Olympus cameras have incorporated "instant expert" modes that will set your camera to the correct settings to achieve beautiful underwater imagery starting on your first underwater photo shoot. These scene modes incorporate underwater wide photography for scenic and underwater landscapes such as wrecks, walls, etc., a fast-shooting sequential mode for photographing fast-moving fish and other marine life, and an underwater macro mode for shooting those beautiful underwater closeup shots that you encounter on every dive. Many of the cameras also have an underwater snapshot mode that will enable proper skin tones when photographing your buddies underwater.



## 2 CONTROL YOUR BUOYANCY.

Work on mastering proper diving skills. You always want to respect the reef while getting your photos. With proper buoyancy, you will be able to focus on the important stuff, like getting the shot.

## 3 GET CLOSE, GET CLOSER.

You are never as close as you think when taking pictures underwater. When you think you are close enough, move in closer. Start thinking about getting less water between you and your subject. Zoom with your feet, not your zoom.

## 4 USE FLASH.

Flash is your best tool underwater. The deeper you go the less

light you have. Light puts color back into the photo. Flash is daylight-balanced and provides a great source of light to illuminate your underwater scene. Work on balancing flash exposure with ambient light exposure to create dramatic underwater photos. Off-camera flashes work best because they can be positioned exactly where you need them and minimize or eliminate backscatter.

## 5 BE PATIENT.

Underwater photography is not a race. Many times you will remain in one place during your dive to get that one spectacular shot. Let the marine life get comfortable with you. Remember you are a guest in their home, so it will take some time for them to relax with you in their setting. Be patient and wait for the shot; it will be well worth it in the end.

## 6 WORK ON YOUR COMPOSITION.

Shoot upward underwater – it adds drama and a sense of urgency to the shot. Use the rule of thirds, which breaks your camera frame into three horizontal and three vertical lines. Where these imaginary lines intersect is where you want key elements in your photograph to fall. Shoot at different angles and explore your subject by shooting multiple frames at different camera positions and not taking just one photo of one subject.

## 7 EXPOSURE.

Work on getting correct exposure. When using scene mode the camera is going to set the proper exposure for you. As you get more comfortable with your camera settings you can use the exposure compensation to tweak your exposure and fine-tune your underwater image even more. You can also experiment with setting your own white balance. Most underwater photographers prefer the preset "cloudy" setting when photographing underwater.

## 8 PRACTICE AND SHOOT, SHOOT, SHOOT!

The great thing about the digital-camera age is instant gratification. With the advent of high-capacity media cards you have the capability of shooting hundreds of images on each dive. Be creative, take chances, experiment. Shoot horizontals and verticals. You will learn from every frame you take, good or bad. Shoot wide, shoot movement, shoot macro, shoot, shoot, shoot! Most importantly, have fun and dive safely.

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IS AN OFFICIAL DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY SPONSOR OF PADI DIVING SOCIETY EVENTS

UPCOMING  
EVENTS

**BONAIRE PHOTO SAFARI 2008** August 16-24

**10TH ANNUAL TOTAL SUBMERSION DIVE FESTIVAL,**  
**2009 SUNSET HOUSE** Date TBD

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