

Marine Photobank Bulletin
A publication of SeaWeb

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Interview with Tom Campbell, Grand Prize Winner of the *Ocean in Focus* Conservation Photography Contest

Photographer and filmmaker Tom Campbell won the Grand Prize of SeaWeb's Marine Photobank and Project AWARE Foundation's first *Ocean in Focus* photo contest for his image of a sea lion entangled in a gill net off the coast of Santa Barbara, California. A former U. S. Marine Force Recon diver, Campbell says the most satisfying part of his 45-year career as a photographer and cinematographer has been



using his images to educate people about marine issues and to help promote legislation that improves conditions for the marine life he loves to capture on film.

Read SeaWeb's interview with Tom Campbell online [>>](#)

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Social Networking with the Marine Photobank

During the past year, the Marine Photobank has tapped into the vast potential of social networking tools such as Facebook and Flickr, attracting a new, diverse audience and raising awareness of marine issues.



Join our Facebook Cause, [Marine Photobank at SeaWeb](#), where an open dialogue regarding the ocean is encouraged. Here you are welcome share ocean videos,

photos and stories from around the Internet. Come and meet like-minded ocean enthusiasts and share your experiences with us.

If you are not yet a Facebook member, register [here](#).



Because the Marine Photobank is an image-sharing database, we have also joined the Flickr network. Flickr helps to connect photographers, both professional and recreational, to practically any area of interest, including marine issues. The Marine Photobank hosts a group called [Ocean Conservation Photography](#), where compassion for the ocean meets the lens and shutter. Photographers from all over the world share their ocean images, illuminating the perils facing the world's underwater environment.

If you are not yet a Flickr member, register [here](#).

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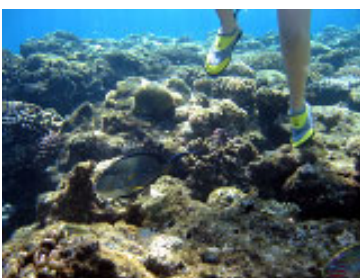
Photos Recently Added to Our Collection

[Todd Steiner](#): Creative and innovative uses of derelict long-line fishing gear in Cocos Island National Park, Costa Rica.



[Steve Spring](#): Tires litter the ocean floor as far as the eye can see. A look into a failed artificial reef restoration project.

[Claire Fackler](#): Seabirds losing battles with plastic debris and pollution.



[Georg Heiss](#): Tourists trample a vulnerable reef in Egypt, oil spills in the Red Sea and more.

[Stephen McGowan](#): Bycatch reduction research and much more from one of the Marine Photobank's most active contributors.



[Sebastian Ferse](#): A look at the coral souvenir trade in Florida juxtaposed with a coral-culturing project in Indonesia.

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Marine Photobank Statistics

*Most Downloaded Photos:

1. [Sea Lion Drowned in Drift Net**](#)
2. [Albatross Killed by Plastics 1**](#)
3. [Sea Turtle Entanglement**](#)
4. [Tires Litter Ocean Floor 3**](#)
5. [Shrimp and Bycatch](#)
6. [Sewage outfall in Delray Beach](#)
7. [Sea Turtle Entangled in Net 3](#)



Photo: Sea Lion Drowned in Drift Net

(c) Save Our Seas Ltd./Tom Campbell/Marine Photobank

Grand Prize-winning photo in the 2008 Ocean in Focus Conservation Photography Contest.

*Statistics apply to images downloaded from October 1, 2008 through January 2009.

**Prize-winning photos from the 2008 Ocean in Focus Conservation Photography Contest.

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Look Who's Blogging About the Ocean-and Photographing It, Too

Even some Marine Photobankers are getting in on the action.



WaterNotes is focused on the conservation issues present in coastal ecosystems, especially as it relates to the habitats and wildlife found in Florida. You may also notice undercurrents relating to diving, nature photography and anecdotes of green living.

seanursery.com



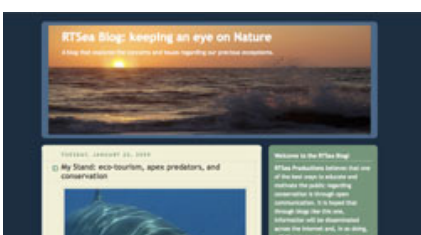
Chai's Marine Life Blog catalogs the underwater discoveries of a student and all-around underwater enthusiast. Practically the moment Tsun-Thai Chai got an underwater camera, a new blog was born.

chaitt.blogspot.com



Rapture of the Deep, with a zest for the poetic, dives in and out of scuba stories while highlighting beautiful photographs and film clips of the underwater world. In addition to the beauty of this blog, it has an undeniable element of conservation worth noting.

scubapro25.blogspot.com



RTSea Blog aims to protect and conserve the ocean by educating and motivating the public to action. By disseminating information and images of marine ecosystems and their inhabitants, this blog illuminates the challenges facing our



ocean and the ways we can fight against marine decline.

rtseablog.blogspot.com



Steve's Scuba Site showcases a well-balanced mixture of scuba-diving stories, ocean conservation announcements and updates, and educational tidbits. You will find many links that will guide you to even more ocean information around the Web.

stevesscubasite.blogspot.com

If *you* write a blog about the ocean or have a favorite blog concerning the ocean or photography, please e-mail the link to us at marinephotobank@seaweb.org and tell us all about it.

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Parting Shot: A Sea Turtle Caught on Discarded Fishing Line and Drowned

"I dive the Boynton Beach reef often, and spotting a sea turtle usually makes my day. But one day in early October, as I was swimming across the top of the reef, something large started to come into view. As I swam closer, I saw that it was a sea turtle. The turtle was suspended in the water, midway between the reef and the surface. It was dead. As I approached, I saw that the turtle was badly entangled in monofilament fishing line. The line was also caught on the reef below. I saw that the turtle would have been unable to make it to the surface to breathe once caught up in the line.

I had my Nikon in an underwater housing with me that day. I didn't want to photograph this scene. I felt sad, angry and helpless. I shot some photos because I felt it was all I could do at that moment.

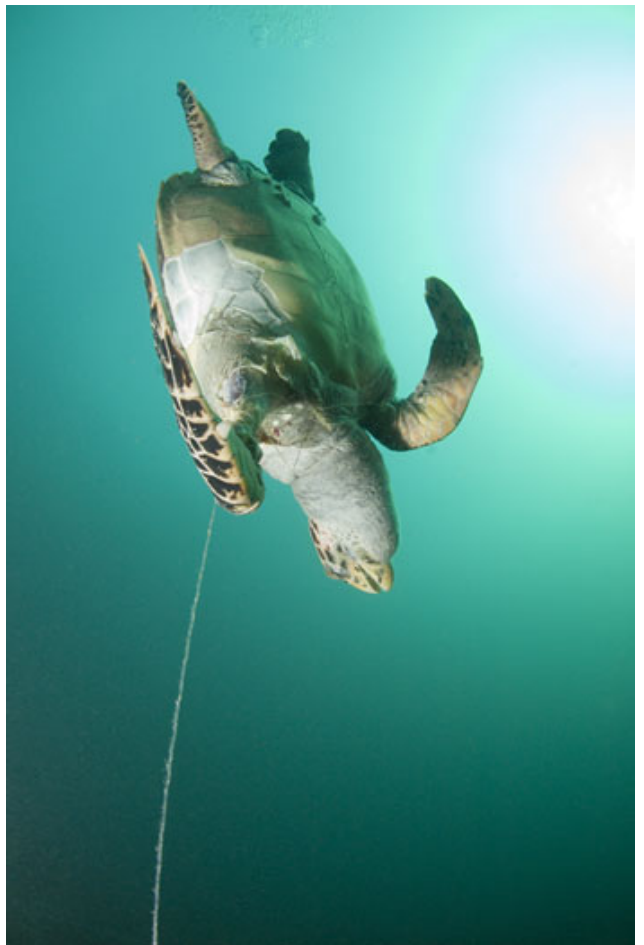
I see monofilament littering the South Florida reefs every time I dive. It gets caught in and around rocks and coral. It gets stretched across huge barrel sponges, lopping off the tops. It destroys life on the reef that is beautiful and hard to replace. I try, as do other divers, to collect the monofilament where I can, and to cut it up into smaller (less-destructive) pieces where it has already grown into the reef.

But on this day, it seemed futile. We never get it all. We can't keep up. We could clean the reef every day, but there are people fishing the reef every day, too. Again, I feel helpless.

When I got back on the boat, I told some others what I saw. We talked about possible solutions. The only one that seemed to make any sense to me is the creation of a marine park around the reef. I have absolutely no problem with fishing or fishermen. I honestly feel that if fish life on the reef were healthy, off-reef fishing areas would only improve. But my friends on the boat say it will never happen. Too many fishermen and charter fishing boats would oppose the idea. I don't know what the answer to this problem is, but I would like to see it discussed."

Story and photo from,

Meaghan Manning
Delray Beach, FL



See more images from this series [>>](#)

See more of Meaghan's photography [>>](#)

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Photos are also available to journalists and media outlets under [special terms](#).

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