



## **Marine Biological Association – Ocean Image Collection 2026 Photography Competition Terms and Conditions**

### ***Up to three entries per-person***

By submitting images, entrants agree to the following Terms and Conditions:

#### **1. Organiser and Eligibility**

1.1. The competition is organised by the Marine Biological Association (MBA), The Laboratory, Citadel Hill, Plymouth, PL1 2PB, UK.

1.2. The competition is open to photographers worldwide, excluding MBA staff involved in its administration and judging.

1.3. There is no entry fee.

1.4. Entrants under the age of 18 must obtain consent from a parent or guardian. Such consent will be deemed granted upon submission of an entry.

1.5. The deadline for entries is **Friday 30th September 2026**. Entries received after this date will not be considered.

#### **2. Theme and Structure**

2.1. Images may explore marine environments, processes, species, human interactions, or change, above or below the water's surface.

2.2. Selected entrants may be featured throughout the year.

2.3. An overall winner and runners-up will be chosen by MBA Member voting at the end of the competition.

2.4. Photographers may enter one of two entry categories:

- **MBA Member Category**
- **Public Category**

#### **3. Image Requirements**

3.1. A maximum of three images may be submitted by each entrant.

3.2. Images must be submitted in JPEG or PNG format. High-resolution, watermark-free images are required.

3.3. Images must be original work.

3.4. Images should be accompanied by a short caption (max. 100 words) including where and how the image was captured.

#### **4. Ethical Photography**

4.1. All photographs must be taken in a responsible and ethical manner. Images must not depict harm or distress to any living organisms or damage to their environments.

4.2. Entrants must have obtained the appropriate permissions for any identifiable individuals and private property included in submitted images.

#### **5. Editing and Adjustments**

5.1. Only basic digital enhancements are permitted, including minor adjustments to contrast, colour, sharpness, and cropping.

5.2. Adding or removing elements, composite images, or excessive digital manipulation will result in disqualification.

#### **6. Judging and Prizes**

6.1. Prizes will be awarded in each entry category (MBA Member Category and Public Category).

6.2. Overall winners and runners-ups will be selected following a period of voting at the end of the competition.

6.3. Prizes are non-transferable and cannot be exchanged for cash.

6.4. Prize sponsors will be acknowledged in competition publicity. Sponsors include CRC Press (Taylor & Francis Group), Princeton University Press, and the Framed Picture Company.

#### **7. Copyright and Usage**

7.1. Entrants retain full copyright of their images.

7.2. By entering the competition, entrants grant the MBA a non-exclusive, royalty-free licence to reproduce, publish, and display submitted images in:

- MBA publications (e.g., *The Marine Biologist*, member bulletins)
- Online platforms, including the MBA website and social media
- Exhibitions and promotional material related to the competition

7.3. Wherever used, MBA will credit the image creator.

7.4. Images will not be used for commercial purposes or by third parties without the photographer's express permission.

7.5. The MBA intends to explore opportunities to present selected images in a future exhibition related to the Ocean Image Collection. Details regarding any exhibition, including location, format, and timing, are subject to change and are not guaranteed. If an exhibition proceeds, selected entrants will be contacted with further information.

## **8. Data Protection**

8.1. Personal data submitted with entries will be processed in accordance with UK GDPR and the [MBA Privacy Notice](#).

8.2. Data will only be used for the administration and promotion of the competition and will not be shared externally without consent.

8.3. Entrants may withdraw consent for future use of their images at any time by contacting [comms@mba.ac.uk](mailto:comms@mba.ac.uk).

## **9. General Conditions**

9.1. The organisers reserve the right to amend or cancel the competition at any stage, including altering the Terms and Conditions, if circumstances arise outside of their control.

9.2. Any breach of the Terms and Conditions may result in disqualification or forfeiture of prizes.