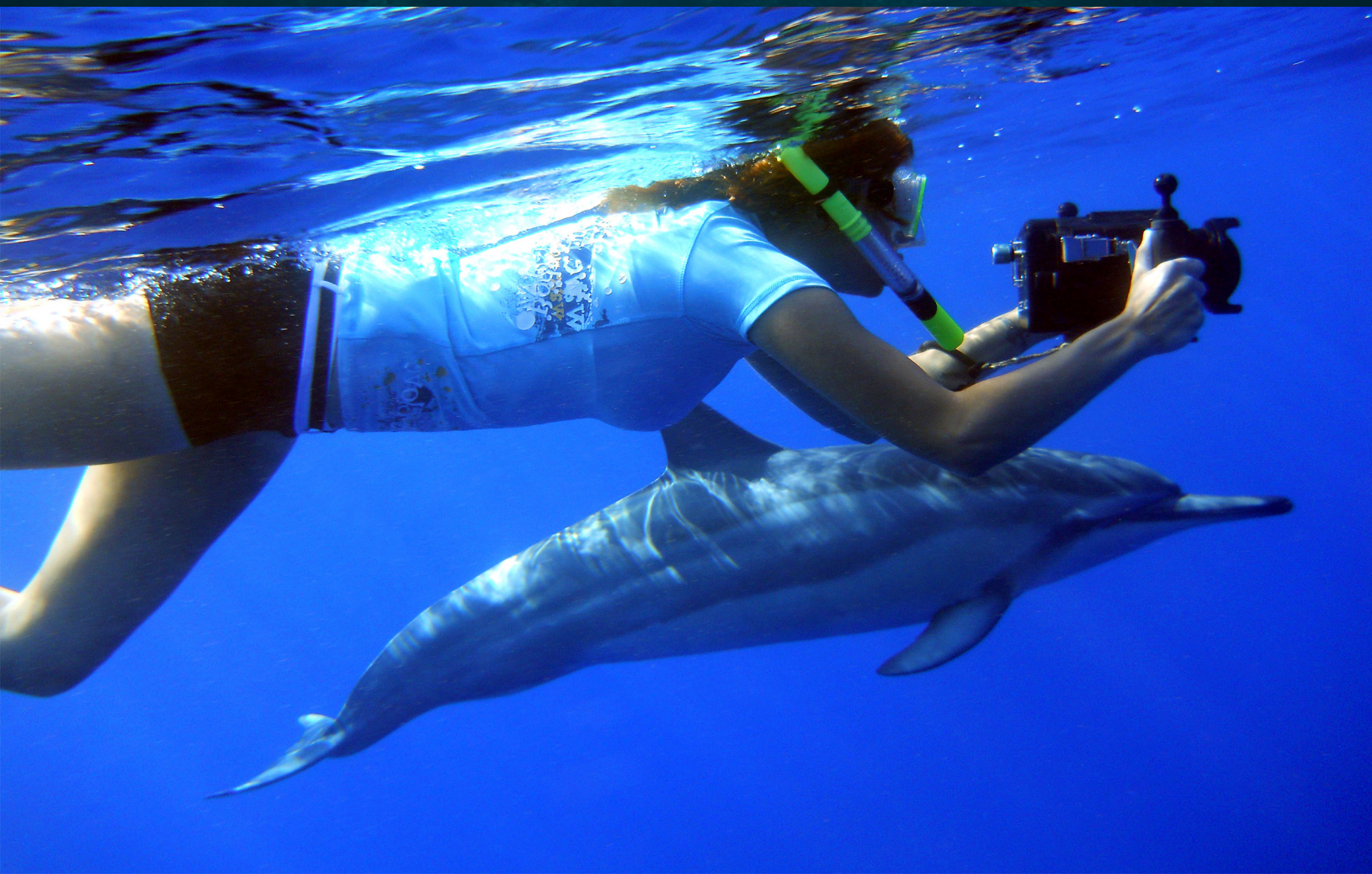


10

Professional

~ **TIPS** ~

for **Memorable
Underwater Photography**



Thank you for downloading our guide *“10 Professional Tips for Memorable Underwater Photography”*.

Taking images and videos of beautiful marine life is so very exciting and we are thrilled for you to join the spectacular world of marine photography!

Welcome!!

Within these pages, you will find tips and helpful suggestions on how to prepare your underwater camera and yourself!

Think of it as your guide to everything you need to know to say SAFE and share awesome underwater video and pictures with the world.

The information gathered is backed up by our combined 45+ years of field experience of diving, snorkeling, guiding, observing, researching and FILMING the Kona Manta Rays.

We hope you enjoy the guide and please consider helping us by sharing it on social media.

Let's dive in....

Warmest Aloha



JAMES L. WING



MARTINA L. WING

Tips for Underwater Video and Pictures

Today, you have so many choices when it comes to compact, easy to use underwater cameras. We see people using GoPro's, disposable cameras or even iPhones.

Here is the trick though. As much as we want to encourage you to keep a memory of the underwater world, you are operating often in a low-light environment with fast moving creatures. What your eyes see is not necessarily what your camera captures.

1 TIP

BE COMFORTABLE WITH YOUR SNORKEL OR DIVE EQUIPMENT

SAFETY FIRST!

You are leaving the humans' comfort zone, the place of constant air supply, and you are entering an environment that requires multi-tasking.

We recommend mastering your ocean skills and gear before you add the additional task of taking pictures in the ocean with beautiful fish in front of you!



The extra complex task of photography usually results in mediocre imagery and unsafe practices.

It is very important to be comfortable with the mask, fins and snorkel or your dive gear that will keep you neutrally buoyant.

Imagine flooding your mask while trying to take a photo with a manta ray right in front of you.

Practice in a pool or go several times without a camera so you will stay SAFE and enjoy your ocean experience, instead of surviving it.

TIP 2

ALWAYS ATTACH THE CAMERA TO YOU, meaning you want a secure connection with the camera by some sort.

Lanyards are typically worn around the neck or wrist. It will reduce the risk of losing all your vacation photos in the ocean.



TIP 3

BE CAREFUL NOT TO BANG A FRAGILE CAMERA into hard surfaces like boat ladders or lava rock.

We haven't seen any camera equipment that survived hard impacts and remained waterproof. Even a hairline crack can let water inside and damage electronics FAST. This is the most common type of loss.

Boat crews are trained to take cameras from you before you try to board, or will hand you the camera carefully when you enter the water.

On shore dives or snorkeling at beach parks be extra careful. That little knock on your housing seems insignificant, but it might cause it to flood next time you use it!



Remember: waterproof does not equal shockproof.



TIP 4

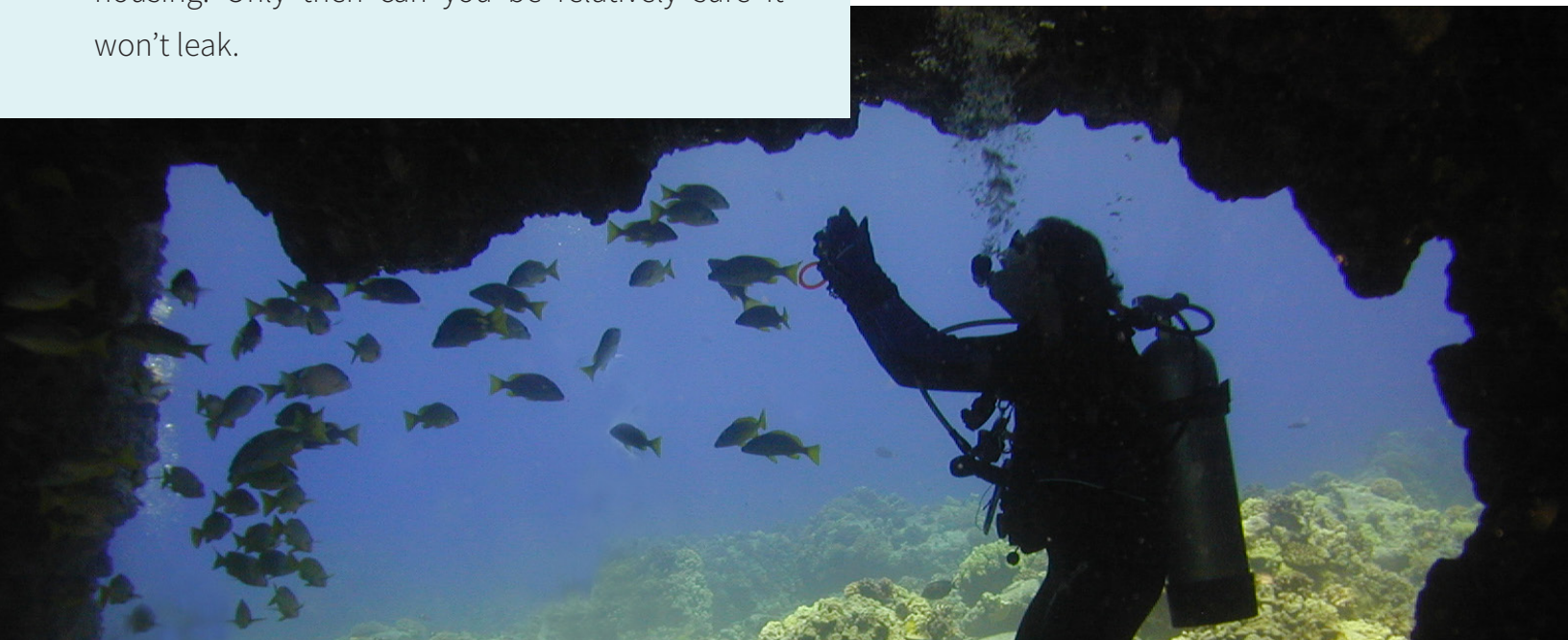
LEAK TEST YOUR CAMERA BEFORE YOUR FIRST TIME USE

Even if the manufacturer says “It is ready”, O-rings might dry out, get damaged or dislodged during transport or travels.

If you are using a camera with a separate housing, first test the housing only in the ocean (best at depth); push all buttons to assure that it doesn’t leak.

If it leaks, don’t use it!

After successful testing, put the camera into the housing. Only then can you be relatively sure it won’t leak.



TIP

ONLY ENTER THE WATER WITH A FULLY-CHARGED BATTERY

It is very frustrating to be “in the moment” only to realize your battery is low or dead.

It is not uncommon for cameras to be left on.

Use the auto shut-off function. Set it for 10 minutes.

Batteries should be checked before they are used for any snorkel or dive, and always keep a backup battery close by.



When you change the battery, dry your hands and face as you are exposing the fragile inside of the camera.

It can get damaged even from drops of water rolling off your wet head.

Dry off your head, hair and hands BEFORE you take it out of the housing.

If on a boat or around wet people, don't expect everyone to be aware of your precious, often brand new camera.

Others will fling around water with wet hair, masks, fins, etc. Find a way to shield the camera when opening it or do it later when no one is around.

TIP

RINSE YOUR CAMERA after use in saltwater.

Imagine how you feel coming out of the ocean?

Cameras need a fresh water rinse (best immediately) after each use in the ocean because salt crystals can damage and corrode parts of the camera.



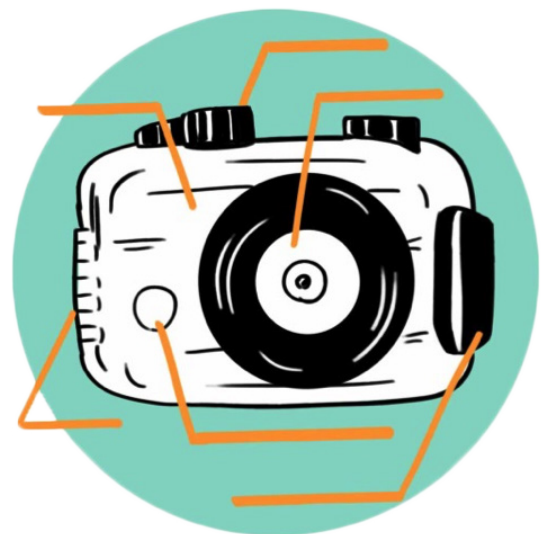
TIP

FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE CAMERA/ HOUSING BUTTONS

One of the worst feeling is to see a beautiful turtle swimming by and you pushed the wrong button to record!!

Practice on land where the camera controls are situated and how long it takes the camera to respond.

Be aware when you record and when you are in stand-by mode.



TIP

KEEP A STEADY HAND

It is just no fun to watch footage that is shaky or an image that is out of focus.

Think of not making others seasick when you show it to them in your excitement.

Practice a steady hand on land and you will enjoy those spectacular underwater moments you capture 1000% more.



TIP

WHAT IS THE BEST CAMERA TO USE?

Disposable or reloadable cameras take good pictures in daylight, shallow water and surface, but are mostly blind at night in the ocean. The same stands for smart phones.

It would also be devastating if you lost your phone to the depth of ocean during your vacation.

Largely used Go Pros/Action Cams have an incredibly versatile use and can take pictures and video. They are made for the ocean environment.

Just know that small cameras are lighter, which makes it harder to get a steady shot. This effect is magnified by the constant movement of the ocean.



TIP

SHARE YOUR LOVE FOR THE OCEAN

We encourage you to implement all tips and enjoy the moments you have with magnificent marine life. They are so special and the moments with them are often gone in a blink of an eye.

Appreciate the moment, be ready with the camera and then share it with the world.



**BE AN OCEAN ADVOCATE, CREATE AWARENESS AND
BECOME A PART OF THIS POWERFUL MOVEMENT TO
PROTECT AND SUSTAIN.**



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