

PHOTOGRAPHY

UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2027

DEADLINE

04 JAN 2027

36 DAYS LEFT

POSTED	ENTRY FEE	ONLINE
29 Nov 2026	£20 FOR UP TO 3 PHOTOGRAPHS	VISIT ORGANIZER

DETAILS / KEEP FOR REFERENCE

SOURCE: GRAPHIC COMPETITIONS

Underwater Photographer of the Year 2027 (UPY) is now accepting entries from photographers capturing the world beneath the surface of oceans, rivers and lakes. Based in the United Kingdom, the international competition has its roots in the 1965 Brighton Underwater Film Festival, where British photographer Phil Smith received the first Underwater Photographer of the Year title.

There are 13 main categories covering wide-angle photography, macro, wrecks, animal behaviour, portraits, coral reefs, black and white, emerging photographers, compact cameras and smartphones, including three categories specifically dedicated to British waters. Split-level photographs showing scenes both above and below the waterline are also accepted. A separate Marine Conservation Photographer of the Year award, supported by the Save Our Seas Foundation, welcomes images taken above or below the surface.

Entries must be submitted online as high-quality JPEG files measuring 2,000 pixels along their longest side at 300 dpi, with original EXIF data retained and no watermarks. Photographers may replace their submitted images at any time before the closing date. Every photograph is considered by the full judging panel without preliminary screening, and all entrants receive feedback on how far each of their images progressed through the competition.

Entry fee: £20 for up to 3 photographs, £35 for up to 10 or £45 for up to 20. The Mobile Phone, Marine Conservation and British Waters Living Together categories are free to enter, with a separate allowance of up to 5 photographs per category. Payment is accepted through PayPal only.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to photographers worldwide submitting their own photographs taken after 1 November 2023, subject to category-specific requirements; previously published or awarded images are eligible but less likely to succeed, while AI-generated images or image content, duplicate submissions across categories and stills extracted from video are prohibited.

PRIZE

Five main titles will be awarded: Underwater Photographer of the Year, Up & Coming Underwater Photographer of the Year, Marine Conservation Photographer of the Year, British Underwater Photographer of the Year and Most Promising British Underwater Photographer. All winning photographers will be invited to the awards ceremony in London on 25 February 2027, with winning images receiving international media coverage. The organisers are currently finalising the 2027 prize pool.