

First Annual International Manta Photographic & Video Competition

We welcome submissions from professional and amateur underwater photographers and videographers from around the world. The contest and exhibition will contain visually stunning images of manta rays which will entertain, educate and inspire an appreciation for these magnificent creatures. More than a fundraising event, the photo and video competition will assemble a collection of images that will advance our scientific understanding and publicize the need for action to protect and conserve an important species.

For the first time, this event will bring together an exhibit of photographs and video devoted solely to *Manta birostris* and related *Mobula* rays. The images submitted will be added to the Manta Global Database for use in scientific investigations. Awards in each category will offer exciting prizes donated by dive and photographic industry sponsors that share our concern for the well-being of mantas. The event will also be enjoyable for not only for the contestants but also for all that view the exhibition. The photo contest will raise funds for important manta research, educational activities and will lead to an increased public awareness for the need to protect and conserve the majestic mantas.

IMPORTANT FACTS

The contest runs from June 15 through October 15, 2004 with entries to be submitted by September 15, 2004. The winners will be exhibited at the 2004 Dive Equipment Manufacturers Association (DEMA) trade show in Houston, Texas, October 13-16, 2004.

The panel of judges will review the entries and deliver the sealed winners to the Manta Network by October 1, 2004. The awards will be announced on October 14, 2004 at the DEMA Show and winners will be informed first by email and later via letter. The results of the competition will be posted immediately on the Manta Network's website at: <http://www.Save-The-Mantas.org/winners>.

An important part of the Manta Network's efforts involves photographic and video identification of individual mantas. Dr. Robert Rubin, Pacific Manta Research Group, has been doing this type of research for several years and has developed classification guidelines which we plan to employ worldwide.

Photographs and video submitted as part of this contest will be used for marine research, environmental education and conservation purposes. By entering into the contest, the entrant agrees to donate materials for use in these specified purposes. The Manta Network promises to protect the original copyrights. If presented, materials will be displayed with the appropriate copyright identification of the owner.

PANEL OF JUDGES

The panel of judges will consist of three members of the photographic and video profession with prior judging experience.

SUBMISSION CATEGORIES & FEES

Professionals and amateurs are invited to submit as many entries as desired in any of the photography or video categories appropriate. A professional is defined as an individual that receives a portion of their annual income from media sales or licensing. If the contestant receives compensation from the sale of two or more images/videos in a single year, they are ineligible for competing in amateur categories.

The entry fee for each image or video entry in any category is \$10.00. The same image or video can not be entered into more than one category.

The Manta Network is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that focuses on research and education on environmental issues concerning manta and related mobula rays. These activities are tax-exempt according to IRS regulations, so entry/submission fees can be claimed as donations to The Manta Network and are tax-deductible.

Winners will be rewarded for their achievements with prizes, international publicity, an award ribbon and a certificate showing the winning entry. First, second and third places will be awarded in each category. Honorable mentions may also be awarded. Best of Show will be awarded for both photographs and video entries. The jury reserves the right not to make an award in any category and its decisions will be final.

Competition will be divided into categories based on expertise, format and special content.

Category	Slides	Prints	Digital	Video
Professional	PS	PP	PD	PV
Amateur	AS	AP	AD	AV

Amateur videos (AV) and professional videos (PV) with sound or narration can be of any length up to 60 minutes. Two additional categories are open to professionals and amateurs:

Conservation/Natural History Category (C/N): educational and inspiring digital images and digital videos taken above and/or below the surface. This includes: close-up of biological activities including feeding, cleaning, mating or interactions with other marine life; images or documentaries that reveal animal behaviors including interacting with scientists. (Please no riding or touching of mantas (See conservation rules). C/N is open to all levels.

Endangered Category (EC): digital images or digital videos of any length that show manta rays in danger. This includes the rescuing of entangled animals, fishing or harvesting, animal by-products or victims of commercial fishing by-catch. EC is open to all levels.

EXHIBITION

Winning photographs and videos will be exhibited at the DEMA show in Houston, Texas between October 13-16, 2004. Selected non-winning entries may also be exhibited during the show at the Manta Network's discretion. Additional exhibitions at other locations may occur over the following year. Select 2004 winning entries may be displayed at future exhibitions.

ENTRY DETAILS

Deadline: September 15, 2004

No entries will be accepted for competition after that date. Registration for the contest is a three-step process:

- 1) Entrants must first register as members of the Manta Network using the on-line form;
- 2) An Application Form must be completed that lists all entries, fees and usage permissions;
- 3) A separate Manta Sightings form must accompany each image or video entry. The title, file name (if digital) and photo credit should be referenced in the "Observation" section.

Please include the non-refundable application fee and appropriate fees for each additional image or video submission. Checks are to be made payable to The Manta Network.

Entries and payment forms will be available on-line. Forms can be printed for mail submissions. For more technical information and questions about on-line submissions contact: robert@mantas.org

Receipt by the Manta Network of any entry implies acceptance of these procedures and regulations by the entrant. All photograph and video submissions will be retained for judging, exhibition, scientific investigation, present or future promotions and archival purposes.

MEDIA REQUIREMENTS

Color 35 mm Slides:

Color 35 mm slides must be labeled with the title, location, date, photographer and copyright.

Prints:

Printed images can be of any size and should be matted, framed with or without glass. They must be labeled on the back with the title, location, date, photographer and copyright.

Digital Images:

Digital images should be at least 300 dpi, without borders or drop shadows and formatted as JPEG images. On-line submission of digital images will be allowed for images less than 2 megabytes. Larger files must be submitted on CD disks. Each image should be named or numbered and referenced on the entry form for identification.

Video:

Video entries must be in NTSC format recorded on DVD, DVCAM, MiniDV or VHS. Digital entries can be MPEG1, MPEG2 or Quicktime formats on CD or DVD disks and should be suitable for large screen presentations. If entries are submitted as DVCAM or MiniDV tapes, a VHS copy must also be included. Entries with soundtracks in any language other than English must be accompanied by an English translation of the dialogue and/or narrative. Video entries should also be accompanied by one or more photographs (digital preferred) for promotional use. All images must be labeled with video title, location and photo credit.

CONSERVATION RULES

Marine life should never be stressed or endangered for the sake of a photo. Entries will first be screened by a panel of conservation judges. Entries exhibiting any of the following behavior will be disqualified.

- 1) Divers visibly damaging (e.g. gear dragging or kicking up sand) the environment.
- 2) Animals with signs of stress (except those submitted as part of the Endangered Category).
- 3) Animals moved to an unnatural environment or risky location.
- 4) Animals being fed artificial food from divers.
- 5) Marine life being touched.
- 6) Divers exhibiting poor buoyancy control.

These Conservation Rules were developed by EPIC and are used with permission.
(See http://www.epicphotocontest.org/rules_regulations.htm)

RIGHTS

The use of the photograph(s) or video footage will be limited to The Manta Network's marine research, conservation and environmental education purposes, including the fundraising and promotion necessary to further those purposes. No further use of the material may be made without the written consent of the photographer/videographer.

I hereby grant to The Manta Network a perpetual non-exclusive license to the submitted photograph(s) or video footage for said purposes. The license grants to The Manta Network the right to publish, use, create derivative works, sell and recreate in any and all forms, including print, electronic and on The Manta Network web site, the submitted photograph(s) or video footage.

I represent and warrant that I am the sole author and owner of all rights in and to the photograph(s) or video footage and that the photograph(s) or video footage are original and does not infringe upon any statutory copyright or common law right or proprietary right of any individual or organization. I represent I have full power and authority to grant the license set forth above and have not granted any rights to third parties that would be inconsistent with this license. If the photograph(s) or video footage portray any living person or persons, I have secured a model release or releases. I retain the copyright for the photographic/video images and do not assign the copyright to The Manta Network. If The Manta Network chooses to publish or otherwise use the photograph, The Manta Network will display the appropriate copyright identification.

I acknowledge that submitted materials will not be returned and acknowledge that The Manta Network holds no liability for materials lost during shipping.

INDEMNITY

The entrant agrees to indemnify The Manta Network, their respective successors, assigns, licensees and their respective officers, directors, members, agents and employees and hold them harmless from and against any and all claims, liability, losses, damages, costs, expenses (including reasonable legal fees) and penalties arising out of, resulting from, based upon or incurred because of a breach by the entrant of any statement, representation or warranty made by the entrant in the entry form, these procedures and regulations.