

NZ Dolphin Underwater & Adventure Club

Newsletter May 2022

Club Meeting 7:00pm Wednesday 18th May 2022

Guest speaker: Pot luck Dinner & Club AGM

www.dolphinunderwater.co.nz



**Club's Mail Address
14 Gails Place
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**Club Contacts Inside
Website As Above**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: 2021/2022

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Life & Honorary Members

Barry Barnes – Life	Peter & Margaret Howard – Life	Brian Horton – Life
Reg Lawson - Life	Roberto Tonei – Life	Dave Quinlan – Life
Graham Thumah – Honorary	Tony & Jenny Enderby - Honorary	Eileen Slark – Honorary

Cover Page Photo:- Tonga 2006 by Denis

NB: All attendees must have mask on entry.

18th May – Wednesday - 7:00pm Club Rooms – Pot Luck Dinner & Club's 68th AGM NB date change

8th June - Wednesday - 7.00pm Normal Club Meeting guest etc. tbc

16th July – Wednesday – 6.00pm – Mid-winter meal at Brown's Bay Club instead of club meeting - **tbc**

Dive trips available you will need to contact the shops in person to confirm

Performance Dive NZ - Ph. 489 7782, or

<https://www.performancediver.co.nz/Dive+Trips++Events/All+Upcoming+Dive+Trips.html>

Sat – Hen & Chickens Is, with Yukon Dive, \$200. Leave from Marsden cove. Contact shop

Global Dive - Ph. 920 5200, or <https://www.globaldive.net/page/trips>

Aucklandscubadive – Ph. 478 2814 or <https://www.aucklandscubadive.co.nz/dive-trips>

9th-16th July – Fiji Trip with Tauranga Dive – <https://www.divezonetauranga.co.nz/page/dive-fiji/> for details.

Cairns Live-a-board 22nd Sept 2022 from \$4849pp .

Twin share Ex Auckland – 6 nights Coral Sea & Ribbon Reefs with Mike Ball Adventures 4 days diving with up to 18 dives. 1 night in Cairns, Air fares included ex Ak – with Kiwi Divers – 09 426 9834 or 021 1507 9547 or call **Margaret for more details 0274 839 839**.

Other events & suggestions please contact a committee member or organise it yourself & get the club to make up your numbers. i.e. – Dives, trips NZ & O'Seas, Events, Outings, Tramps, Dinners, Movies, whatever social event tickles your fancy.

Our Club's Trip Rules (Organiser's rules apply for overseas trips)

- A. Bookings allowed on all trips. *Two trips & club membership is a must.*
- B. **A deposit or full payment to be made at time of booking.**
- C. Full payment MUST be paid at least two weeks before departure date.
- D. Trip Organiser to handle trip & bookings, & Treasurer to handle finances. Cancellations due to weather will be refunded in full, or transferred to another trip.
- E. Members cancelling for any reason will lose full monies unless they find a replacement for their position on the trip.
- F. The trips Organiser will determine if there are enough people to run a trip & if not will notify cancellation two weeks prior to departure. **Non - financial members will be charged an extra \$10 on trips.**

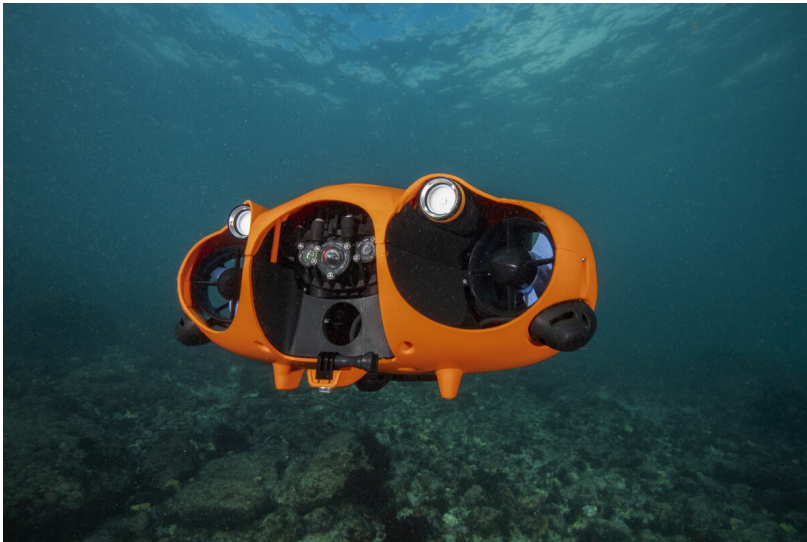
Membership: Single – \$40 Family - \$50.00

For the club to survive we need paid up members see Margaret or Trish next meeting or do it online.

**Club's Internet bank account is 06 0122 0074227 00 & don't forget to put in your name
Club Membership also includes Affiliation to the New Zealand Underwater Association**

Seasam drone autonomously follows divers and performs underwater tasks

By [Ben Coxworth](#) January 19, 2022



The Notilo Plus Seasam can function as an autonomous underwater drone, or as a semi-autonomous tethered ROV (remotely operated vehicle) Notilo Plus

Back in 2016, we told you about the [iBubble](#), an underwater drone that autonomously follows and films scuba divers. Well, it now has a more capable industrial-use big brother, known as the Seasam.

Manufactured by French marine tech company Notilo Plus, the Seasam actually first hit the market in 2019. That said, it recently gained

attention when it was featured in the horror film *The Deep House*, in which a scuba diving couple explore an underwater haunted house ... and yes, that *is* kind of a cool premise for a movie.



Like the iBubble, the Seasam is capable of wirelessly following and shooting HD video footage of its scuba-diving user. It does so via a combination of acoustic and computer vision technologies.

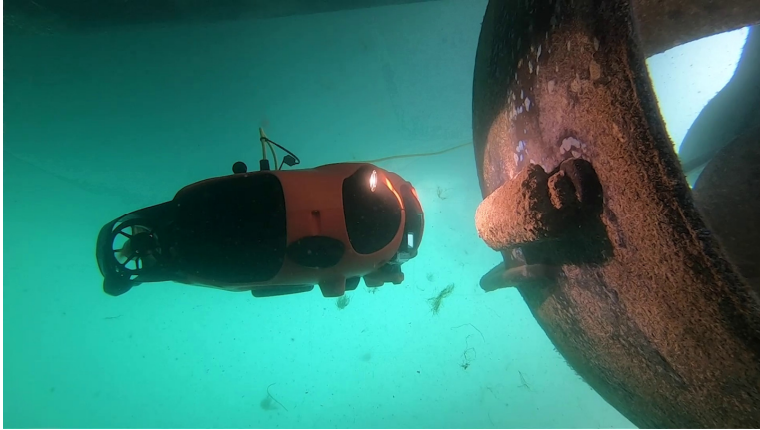
From a distance of up to several dozen meters, it's able to home in on acoustic signals emitted by a control unit carried by the user. This lets it find the person even at night, or in otherwise low-visibility conditions. Once it gets close enough, the drone uses its onboard 1080p/30fps camera and visual recognition system to actually spot the diver – it can then keep them focussed and centered in its shot while it moves along with them. As it does so, it uses its

own sonar system to detect and avoid obstacles.

Video footage and other data recorded by the Seasam is automatically uploaded to the Notilo Cloud platform
Notilo Plus

The control unit is also utilized to send acoustic-signal commands to the Seasam. Although the user can't actually steer the drone, they can adjust its following distance/angle, switch on its spotlights, and start or stop recording. Additionally, they can set it to move in front of them (so *they* follow *it*), to circle around them while they're stopped, to stay in place while they swim away, to surface on its own, or to come right up to them so they can grab it and manually point it at whatever they wish to film.

Also like the iBubble, the Seasam can be remotely operated from the surface by hooking it up to a long, reeled communications cable. The user then utilizes a tablet-equipped handheld remote to steer it, and to view its real-time video. Via the same visual recognition tech that it uses to follow divers, the Seasam (but not the iBubble) can subsequently be instructed to keep targets such as ship hull sections, dock pilings, or underwater structures centered in its shot as it moves around them – or *with* them, if they're mobile.



Hooked up to a tether, the Seasam performs a propeller inspection
Notilo Plus

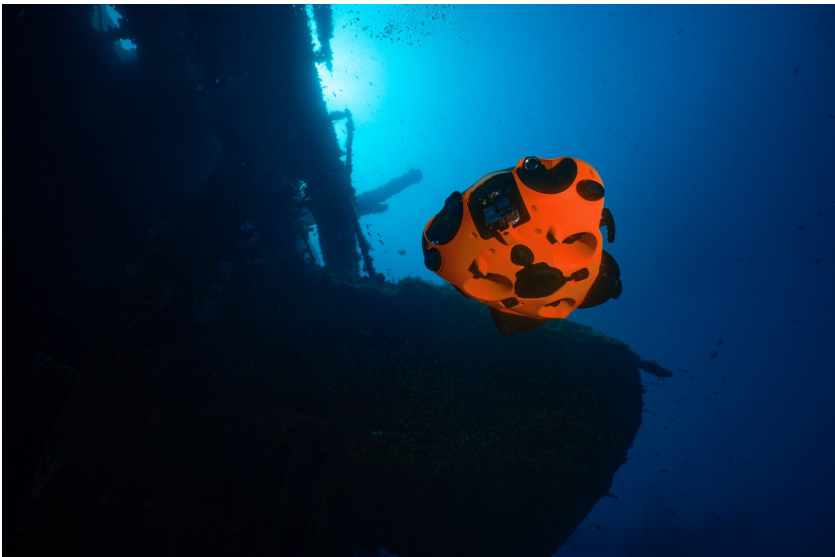
In the case of the Seasam, another remote-control option is to utilize a motorized miniature surface vessel known as the Navigator. It's connected to the drone via a shorter length of cable, and wirelessly communicates with the operator via Wi-Fi. This means that the cable only needs to be a bit longer than the drone's required diving depth, instead of

being long enough to stretch all the way to the shore.

Additionally, because the Navigator is able to determine the underwater location of the Seasam relative to itself, it's able to provide the GPS coordinates for anything spotted by the drone.

While the iBubble has to record footage on a user-supplied GoPro, the Seasam uses its integrated camera for both navigation and video recording
Notilo Plus

As far as basic specs go, the Seasam is equipped with seven thrusters; has a maximum dive depth of 100 m (328 ft) (the iBubble is rated to 60 m or 197 ft); can run for 1.5 hours per 2.5-hour charge of its removable 6,600-mAh lithium-ion battery; weighs 9 kg (20 lb) out of the water; and utilizes two integrated 1,000-lumen LED spotlights.



Unlike the iBubble, much of its hardware and software is upgradeable – for instance, it can be equipped with a 4-hour battery, a 4K camera or 10,000-lumen lights, plus it has a mount on top for third-party sensors and other devices.

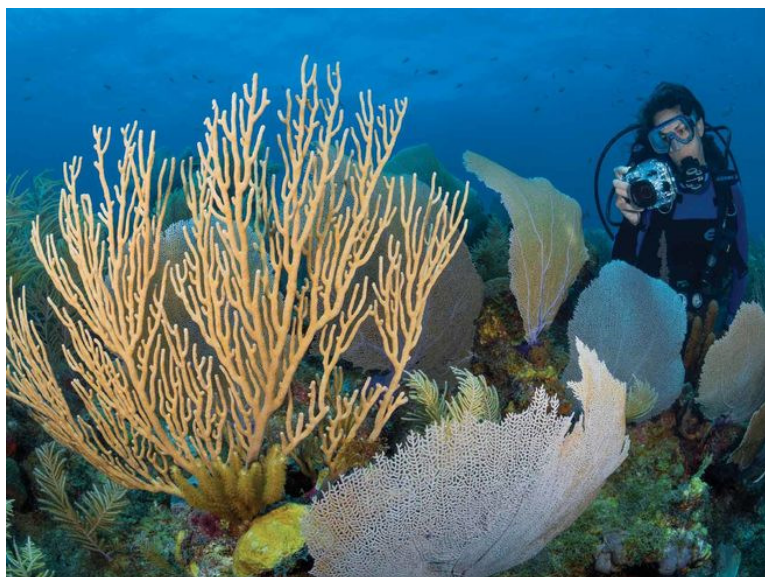
Pricing for the Seasam starts at €12,000 (about US\$13,623). It can be seen in action, in the following video.

Seasam. Flexible. Intuitive. Smart. Sources:
[Notilo Plus](#), [edgeROV](#)

When Am I Ready to Dive with an Underwater Camera?

Here's How to Know When to Take the Leap

By [Brent Durand](#) June 21, 2019



Practicing buoyancy skills is essential to ensure you don't harm delicate corals while shooting.
Brandon Cole

Scuba diving opens up a mesmerizing world that feels foreign and yet familiar at the same time. Naturally, we want to share this experience with friends as soon as we get out of the water. It's a part of life. But underwater it's much more complicated, and safety becomes a primary concern.

There are a number of factors to consider before starting underwater photography and video, each of which will not just keep you — and your dive buddy, and the reef — safe, but help you create better imagery.

Log Your Hours

Spending time diving without a camera helps make key skills second nature. For example, which arm do you use to release air from your BC? Can you grab your SPG in one swift movement without fiddling around? Can you estimate remaining air before checking? Practicing these skills is essential so that you stay safe when you have a camera in your hands and the excitement meter pushes toward 11.

Start with a modest camera, then invest in your lighting and arm-clamp system.

David Fleetham

Master Fundamental Techniques

Excellent buoyancy, body position, and avoiding hand use are also key skills. The last thing you want is to set up for a photo then crash into delicate corals, ruining decades of fragile growth.

Precise control of your body position also will help you create better photos and video. This is because great photos are carefully thought out and composed, which takes time hovering in one position. Video is even more challenging because you need to be completely stable to record steady footage.

Try diving in a horizontal position with your knees bent at a 90-degree angle. Frog kick to slowly move forward, pivot, and even move backward. Not only will you have great control of your positioning for the shot, but you will not kick up a backscatter-inducing sand cloud. Your buddies will thank you, and experienced divers will be more open to showing you cool critters that are hidden to the untrained eye.

Many action cams on the market offer accessories, such as mask or hand mounts, that can help reduce your distraction while diving.





Francesca Diaco

Start Small

Smaller cameras deliver excellent image quality at an affordable price. If you dive frequently and really want to make underwater photography and video a hobby, start with a modest camera, then invest in your lighting and arm-clamp system. Your wallet will thank you, and when you do start pushing the camera's limits and want to upgrade, your lighting will carry over to the new system.

Want more news like this?

Immerse Yourself

Like most hobbies, you will learn the most by shooting as frequently as possible. Look for a dive resort or liveaboard with a resident photo pro or join a professional photo workshop to quickly increase your skills in a seven- to 10-day period.

Be sure to write down your favorite settings and techniques at the end of your vacation. Read over these and practice before your next trip so that you don't spend valuable dives relearning settings.

Improving your videos and photography can be a lifelong pursuit, as long as you stay safe and enjoy the underwater world on each dive.



Brent Durand

Five Tips to Get Started in Underwater Photography

How to take great pictures underwater.

By [Patricia Wuest](#) June 21, 2018

Sooner or later, most divers start taking photos or shooting video underwater. Some divers are content to create snapshot memories of their beneath-the-sea vacations, but others become serious about their new hobby and eventually develop into skilled practitioners of their craft.

Regardless of where you fall on that scale, here are our pro tips to help you get started on the right fin. But don't say we didn't warn you: Underwater shooting may be habit-forming.

Respect marine life underwater by approaching slowly and planning out your shot in advance.

1) Perfect your skills

"If you've been bitten by the shutterbug and are excited to turn every dive into an underwater photo adventure, we'd like to welcome you to the club," says Jim Decker, CEO of Backscatter Underwater Photography & Video. "But to get the most from your camera and enjoy your new passion, first you've got to dial in your diving skills."

If you're still adding and dumping air from your BC



constantly, for example, you're not ready to add a camera system. "Underwater photography demands excellent physical coordination to get into tight spots, or to remain in a stationary position without disturbing the reef," says Decker.

Pro Tip: If you're still flapping about like a neoprene-clad pterodactyl, take a neutral-buoyancy class before trying underwater photography.

2) Start small

If you already own and shoot with a camera on land — either a point-and-shoot or DSLR — and you're well-versed in using it, check to see whether an underwater housing is available for your camera. Otherwise, our advice is to make your first underwater camera system a versatile point-and-shoot, such as SeaLife's Micro 2.0 (at left), which features easy-to-use "piano-key" controls.

That's because fighting to keep your camera under control while you're diving is a sure way to dampen your enthusiasm. As your confidence and diving skills grow, you can invest in a bigger or pro-level rig.

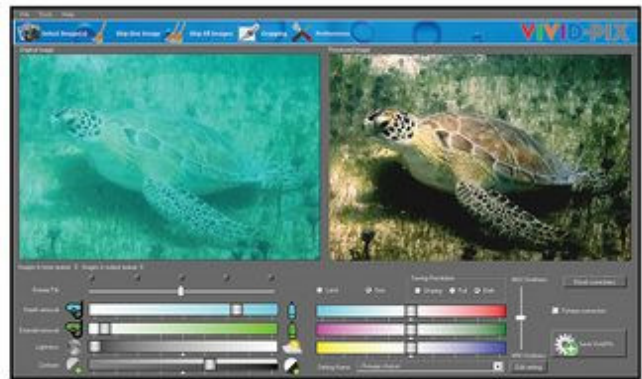
Pro Tip: Keep in mind that for larger housed-camera systems, complete with trays, arms and strobes, "there are buoyancy aids, such as arm floats and port floats, that can help in getting your rig neutrally buoyant," says Decker.



SeaLife Micro 2.0

You never need to worry about flooding with SeaLife's completely sealed camera. The Micro 2.0 shoots crisp 16-megapixel stills and 1080p HD video. The basic version has 32 gigabytes; the 64 GB version also includes an ultra-wide 130-degree fisheye multi-coated lens, 16-megapixel sensor and built-in digital color correction sensors.

sealife-cameras.com



Vivid-Pix Land & Sea Scuba Picture-Fix

Before you discard that dull-looking photo of a turtle, try Vivid-Pix's software. This photo-editing program supports Canon, Fuji, Nikon, Olympus, SeaLife and Sony RAW, and all manufacturers' DNG, TIFF, PNG and JPEG images, and is available for Windows and Mac platforms.

vivid-pix.com

3) Don't Scare the Marine Life

"If you get excited and make a mad dash to get a shot of a turtle you see on the reef, it will take off in the opposite direction," says Decker. "You need to be a stalker." Take the time to evaluate your surroundings before setting up for a shot. Move slowly, and approach creatures such as turtles and reef fish calmly.

Pro Tip: Don't forget to listen to the dive briefing; often, the dive guides will know where to locate more stationary critters, such as frogfish and seahorses.



Ultralight Control Systems Tray and Handle

When you have not yet invested in strobes or photo lights, Ultralight's simple tray and handle provide the stability needed to take crisp photos. Every ULCS product is made from machined and anodized 6061 aluminum to withstand anything you, the boat or the ocean throw at it.

ulcs.com



Backscatter Olympus TG-5

This camera is loaded with features, including Microscope mode, which allows for super macro shooting without an accessory lens. Add the housing to take it down to 150 feet. Pair the camera with a Light & Motion Sola video light for a simple, effective and versatile system.

backscatter.com

4) Join the Club

Book a dive vacation with other dedicated underwater photographers, such as a liveaboard trip that's led by a photo pro or a land-based trip that features workshop sessions. Just two examples: Backscatter hosts one- to two-week-long Digital Shootouts, and Aggressor Fleet offers the Jim Church School of Underwater Photography liveaboard trips. These programs are ideal for those who have their diving skills perfected and are now looking to take their photography to the next level. Often, instructors spend at least a portion of each day working with each guest one-on-one, both topside and underwater. They help students set up shots, check composition, find subjects, pose for photos and learn post-production techniques.

Pro Tip: Get close to your underwater subject. And then get even closer. "In general, you need to be within a few feet for a wide-angle shot, and a foot or less for macro," says Decker.

5) Get the Right Stuff

Decide what you will be shooting and buy the camera system that's best for that type of photography. "While a midrange zoom lens sounds like a great one-lens solution, it's generally not wide enough to shoot large reef scenes or shipwrecks, and it doesn't have enough reproduction to capture tight macro shots of blennies or nudibranchs," says Decker. "To get the best results, use a dedicated macro or wide-angle lens."

Pro Tip: Review your images and then learn from your mistakes. For example, if you get a lot of backscatter in your images, try getting closer to your subject. And make use of software such as the easy-to-use Vivid-Pix (at left), which can help you improve your images with just a few clicks.

The MAF regulations vary in particular

when it comes to your catch size/limits & locations.

Practice being safe & staying safe for you & your buddies

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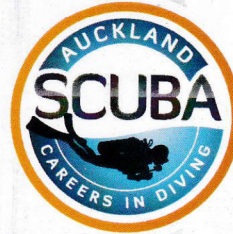
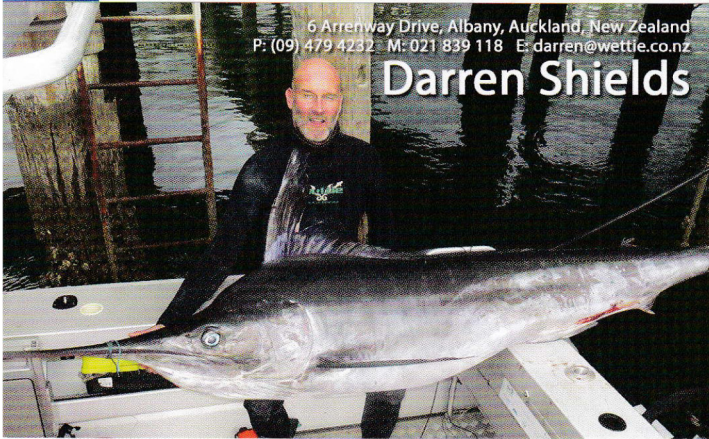
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