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Welcome to the first SCUBA News of 2013. We recently highlighted how plastic granules in toiletries were harming marine life ([issue 150 of SCUBA News](#)). Today we are delighted to report that at least two manufacturers, Unilever and Lush, are to phase out plastic microbeads from facial scrubs and glittery bath products.

I hope you enjoy this SCUBA News but should you wish to cancel your subscription you can do so at <http://www.scubatravel.co.uk/news.html>.

You can also [download a pdf version](#) of this newsletter. SCUBA News is published by SCUBA Travel Ltd.

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## What's New at SCUBA Travel?



### **Diving Cuba**

Cuba is the largest island in the Caribbean with some 5 star dives. We've now more on diving Cuba at

<http://www.scubatravel.co.uk/americas/cuba-diving.html>



### **Dive Sites of Dahab**

Is the Blue Hole the best dive site in Dahab? More write-ups and reviews of this Red Sea diving destination.

<http://www.scubatravel.co.uk/redsea/dahabdive.html>



### **Diving the Philippines**

Diving highlights of the Philippines include the World Heritage site of Tubbataha, thresher sharks at Malapascua and big pelagics at Panagatan.

<http://www.scubatravel.co.uk/philippines/>

For regular announcements of what's new at the SCUBA Travel site see our [Twitter feed](#) and our [Facebook page](#).



## Letters

Hi Scuba Travel,

I'm looking to find a cheap getaway. The key point is to find the cheapest flights, accommodation and something at the other end since I'll be going it alone... I have a PAID OW cert from 6 years ago that remains unused and I want to get back into the swing.

Any help, tips or advice would be great. Thanks in advance!

John  
Suffolk

Any advice for John, post at <http://www.facebook.com/SCUBANews> or email [news@scubatravel.co.uk](mailto:news@scubatravel.co.uk).

## Europe's Top 10 Dives

Europe boasts some world class dive sites, with great visibility and masses of underwater life. According to our readers, these are the best dive sites in Europe. Disagree? Then [cast your vote](http://www.scubatravel.co.uk/topdiveseurope.html) at <http://www.scubatravel.co.uk/topdiveseurope.html>.

1. **[The Zenobia, Cyprus](#)**

The pristine wreck of a huge ferry. Lying on its port side, the wreck starts at about 15 m and descends to 42 m. Fabulous dive. One of the best wreck dives in the world in recreational depths. 20 m plus visibility and some great swim-throughs. Needs several dives to see anything like all of it.



2. **[Cirkewwa, Malta](#)**

Features the wreck of the Rozi MV as well as stunning underwater topography. Visibility is very good and there is a mass of sea life: barracuda, morays, octopus, cuttlefish and even dolphins.

3. **[Booroo, Isle of Man](#)**

The Burroo, with its extremely diverse and plentiful marine life offers a truly magnificent dive. In fact, in areas exposed to the fast flowing current, it is something of a challenge to find a single square centimetre of bare bedrock, so abundant is the life here.

4. **[Blockship Tabarka, Scapa Flow, Scotland](#)**

This shallow 18 m dive is a real beauty. One of the block ships scuttled to prevent submarine attack during WW2. Covered in life, a beautiful place. Worth the trip and the one of surprises of Scapa.



5. **[Blue Hole, Gozo](#)**

A beautiful sharp drop off into the blue hole with what seems like limitless visibility and feels like you are on the very edge of the world. A most extraordinary dive.

6. **[Diamond Rocks, Kilkee, Ireland](#)**

Claimed to be on a par with the famous [Yongala](#). It is a cold water dive off Ireland's west coast. The bay is fairly sheltered and is teeming with life. The terrain is full of rocks and gullies and the water is really clear.



7. **[Eddystone Reef, England](#)**

12 miles off Plymouth, England. The reef is from 8 to 60 m. Encrusted with jewel anemones and with the remains of ancient wrecks, including a large 17th century anchor. Stunning.

8. **Fanore, Ireland**  
Shore dive in crystal clear Atlantic water with abundant fish.
9. **Chios island, Greece**  
Small undersea caves and paths between impressive rocks, colourful reefs and vertical walls.
10. **Chickens Rock, Isle of Man**  
Very exposed: there is only a very limited window to dive Chickens. Mind-blowing variety with so much to see. Strong current.



## Diving News From Around the World

You can display this news, in real-time, on your web site - for more details see <http://www.scubatravel.co.uk/newsfeed.html> or grab <http://www.scubatravel.co.uk/scuba.xml>



### **Lush Latest Company to Phase Out Harmful Plastic Granules**

Lush is to phase out deadly micro-plastic granules from its products. But why was a company like Lush, who trumpets its Green credentials, using unnecessary plastic granules in the first place?

### **'Extinction threat' for UK orcas**

The UK's only known resident population of killer whales is at risk of becoming extinct, experts fear.

### **UK seas to gain just 31 marine conservation zones**

Campaigners dismayed that ministers rejected advice to create 127 zones, which are intended to protect the ocean. Brits can sign a petition in favour of all 127 at <http://www.mcsuk.org/mpa/england/consultation>.

### **Fisheries ministers following scientific advice only 1 out of 10 times**

An analysis launched today by WWF shows that over the past nine years fisheries ministers have only followed scientific advice in 13 per cent of their decisions; and set fishing quotas on average 45 per cent higher than the recommended scientific advice.

### **Great Barrier Reef could be stripped of heritage status**

The Great Barrier Reef could be stripped of heritage status and placed on a UN list of world treasures in danger due to proposed developments on Queensland's coast, green groups have warned.

### **China and Australia top list of 'carbon bomb' projects**

Greenpeace analysis shows 14 planned giant fossil fuel projects will increase global emissions by 20%.

### **Four British warships could become artificial reef**

Four Royal Navy frigates will soon be put up for sale following decommissioning. They could be used for "non-military purposes which include sinking for use as an artificial reef, or for recycling," the Ministry of Defence said.



### **Embryonic Sharks Freeze to Avoid Detection**

Although shark pups are born with all the equipment they'll ever need to defend themselves and hunt down food, developing embryos still stuck in their egg cases are vulnerable to predators. But a new study finds that even these baby sharks can detect a potential predator, and play possum to avoid being eaten.

### **Russian seas finally protected by parliamentary law**

oil pollution, after the voices of 120,000 Russians were presented to the government during Earth Hour's I WILL IF YOU WILL campaign in 2012.

### **Trawling ban in Hong Kong waters to increase fish numbers**

Trawling in Hong Kong waters was banned on 1st January. The fishing practice of trawling has resulted in catching different marine species at random and damaging the seabed over the past few decades. It is also believed to be one of the main reasons leading to the almost collapsed status of the marine ecosystem in Hong Kong. Scientists predict that populations of larger fish, such as groupers, will surge by 30 to 45 per cent.

### **Marine Robots detect Endangered Whales**

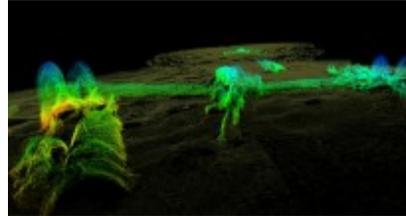
Underwater robots detect nine endangered North Atlantic right whales

### **Robots find Barrier Reef coral at extreme depths, amazing ocean scientists**

Robots have found living coral on the Great Barrier Reef at 125 m, far beyond the depth at which scientists expected to find them.

### **3D Sonar Map Shows Sunken US Civil War Ship**

"Most shipwreck survey maps are two-dimensional and based on observations made by sight, photographs or by feeling around in murky water while stretching a measuring tape," said James Delgado, director of maritime heritage for NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. "Thanks to the high-resolution sonar, we have a three-dimensional map that not only provides measurements and observations, but the ability for researchers and the public to virtually swim through the wreck's exposed remains and even look below the surface at structure buried in loose silt."



### **Are marine protected areas in hot water?**

While some like it hot, plankton do not. Warmer oceans around North America are forcing plankton to move to cooler waters, and like a moveable feast, fish are following; some going north and some heading further out to sea. People, whales and birds that depend on these fish are forced to adapt their habits to find them - with mixed success.

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