

SCUBA News

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What's New at SCUBA Travel?

Palau's Pelagic Paradise

Silky sharks, manta rays, bigeye tuna, marlin and swordfish travel through Palau which takes great care of its seas - the whole nation will be a marine reserve in 2020 and they also plan to ban the use of coral-harming sunscreens and shampoos.



[Read More...](#)

Astounding Diving at Elphinstone



A fabulous dive in the Red Sea and one of the few places you see Oceanic Whitetip Sharks in shallow water, plus beautiful coral, resident turtle, dolphins swimming above and hammerheads in the blue.

[Read More...](#)



Bellisima Belize

Belize's most famous dive site is the Blue Hole, currently ranked one of the world's best dives. However, some people think that Belize has other even better dives.

[Read More...](#)

Featured Liveboard - Tiger Blue

Photography trip in Raja Ampat



A special sailing teamed up with Jack Randall - National Geographic and Jenny Stock - award winning underwater photographer and documentary maker - 20 January 2020

[Learn More...](#)

Letters

Hi, I am from out of the UK and I have diving qualifications. I want to know which qualification is more acceptable in the UK?

Sahba

BSAC and PADI are the most common qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. In Scotland the Scottish Sub Aqua Club qualification is also widely used.

[More on diving the UK](#)

Creature of the Month: Pixie Hawkfish, *Cirrhitichthys oxycephalus*

A pretty little fish with pink splodges. The pixie hawkfish lives in lagoons and on reefs between one and forty metres. This fish likes to sit on small heads of hard corals or sometimes on rubble. They are more abundant on midshore and offshore reefs which tend to have healthier, intact coral communities. Coral cover is a good indicator of pixie hawkfish abundance.



Pixie Hawkfish, Galapagos Islands, Ecuador. Photo credit: Clark Anderson/Aquaimages (CC BY-SA 2.5)

Members of the hawkfish family have protrusible mouths which they can extend and withdraw at will. When fully pushed forward it forms a funnel through which the fish can grab food. They sit still on their coral waiting to ambush passing prey, like their namesake the hawk. To enable them to sit so still their lower pectoral fins are reinforced



Pixie hawkfish with octopus in the Red Sea

Territorial males maintain a harem of females. Courtship occurs at dusk or

early night. This occurs throughout the year in the deep tropics but in subtropical areas, such as the northern Red Sea, only in the summer. They make a short (up to 1 m), rapid ascent and then spawn.

The pixie hawkfish is also known as the coral hawkfish.

Class: Actinopterygii > Order: Perciformes > Family: Cirrhitidae

References and Further Reading:

[*Coral Reef Guide Red Sea*](#), Ewald Lieske and Robert Myers

[*Cross Shelf Patterns in Habitat Selectivity of Hawkfish \(Family: Cirrhitidae\) in the Red Sea*](#), Veronica Chaidez

Diving News From Around the World

Our round up of the best underwater news stories of the past month. For breaking news see our [Twitter page](#) or [RSS feed](#)



[**Egypt ups environmental standards to protect coral reefs**](#)

Egypt is adopting Green Fins environmental standards to protect its coral reefs. The country has become the first in its region and the 11th worldwide to officially adopt Green Fins.



[**Love Whales? They Can Help Solve Climate Change**](#)

How whales permanently remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere - not only minimising the effects of climate change, but also supporting the health of commercial fisheries.



[**Right whale mothers whisper to their calves to avoid attracting predators**](#)

The mothers stop making "whooping" noises and communicate to their young through a very quiet, grunt-like sound that can't be heard more than a short distance away.



[**Bahrain opens world's largest underwater theme park**](#)

Covering an area of 100,000 m², complete with a sunken Boeing 747.



[**Coral gardeners slowly restore Jamaica's 'forest under the sea'**](#)

In the past 10 years, more than a dozen grass-roots-run coral nurseries and fish sanctuaries have sprung up, supported by small grants from foundations, local businesses such as hotels and scuba clinics, and the Jamaican government.



[Top investment banks provide billions to expand fossil fuel industry](#)

The world's largest investment banks have provided more than \$700bn of financing for the fossil fuel companies most aggressively expanding in new coal, oil and gas projects since the Paris climate change agreement, figures show.



[Big oil is selling dirty assets, but they aren't going away](#)

New owners of high-carbon projects continue to boost output



[Fish-derived bioplastic wins award for solving plastic problems](#)

MarinaTex - a bioplastic made of organic fish waste ordinarily destined for landfill or incineration will degrade harmlessly in a garden compost bin after just four to six weeks.



[Malaysia to extend marine protected areas around Sabah](#)

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