

# SFUPS 2024 CONTEST SUBJECTS

	<b>MASTERS</b>	<b>CHALLENGERS</b>	<b>VIDEO</b>
<b>JAN</b>	<p><b>SKIN AND SCALES PATTERN – MACRO</b> – An abstract close-up of a fish's skin or scales that fills the frame, showing no outline of the subject. Examples might be the skin of a nurse shark, the skin of a flounder, the scales of a parrot fish, etc.</p> <p><b>Deadline: December 30th</b></p>	<p><b>SHIPWRECK INTERIOR – WIDE ANGLE</b> – Capture the inside of a shipwreck. This could be the engine room, the bridge, or any other interesting part of a ship. Creative lighting should be used to emphasize areas of interest inside the ship such as colorful corals inside the bridge or an enormous engine inside the engine room. One could also attempt to capture the interplay of sunlight into a ship's interior if it is close enough to the surface, or sea life inside a ship such as Goliath groupers or grunts.</p> <p><b>Deadline: December 30th</b></p>	<p><b>FLORIDA WRECKS – WIDE ANGLE</b> – Take us on a tour of one or more of Florida's fantastic wrecks and depict the life they sustain. 1 minute maximum. <b>Deadline: December 30th</b></p>
<b>FEB</b>	<p><b>BACKLIT SUBJECT – ANY LENS</b> – Using strobes or torches, backlight a subject highlighting its profile - "hair," translucent eyes, odd fin shape, etc. Some front lighting is allowed if necessary to draw out the face of the subject, but the backlighting must be obvious. Subject must be a creature, not a wreck, cave, or man-made structure.</p> <p><b>Deadline: January 27<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p><b>FANGTASTIC – ANY LENS</b> – Shots of any size subject's teeth, for example parrotfish teeth, shark teeth, sea lion teeth, even blenny teeth if you're close enough to get them. Let's see the shiniest pearly whites that you can produce. The teeth must be the main subject and focus of the shot!</p> <p><b>Deadline: January 27<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p><b>CAMOUFLAGE – ANY LENS</b> – Show how subjects use their coloring, texture, patterning, or shape to mimic or blend into their environment. Ideally, this will show a camouflaging behavior in action, such as an octopus or cuttlefish visibly changing color/texture to blend in with its surroundings, or an octopus covering itself in shells. It can also include subjects whose appearance mimics their surroundings within that environment, for example a flounder on a sandy bottom or a decorator crab on a sponge. 1 minute maximum.</p> <p><b>Deadline: January 27<sup>th</sup></b></p>
<b>MAR</b>	<p><b>SHOT IN BAD VISIBILITY – WIDE ANGLE</b> – Make the best use of low light/limited visibility to create a wide-angle shot in difficult conditions. For example, creating atmospheric shots with soft light, or making foreground shots pop against green water or a hazy background. No black backgrounds.</p> <p><b>Deadline: March 2nd</b></p>	<p><b>SHOOTING TOP DOWN – WIDE ANGLE</b> – In past contests, we've angled the camera upwards to shoot toward the surface. This time let's turn the camera around and focus on an object directly beneath us. For example, the top of a huge brain coral. The photographer would hover over the coral to take the picture straight down and create an interesting image of the brain coral and the reef surrounding it. Or perhaps take a picture of a baitball, shark, or shipwreck looking straight down at it. Use your imagination to create an interesting top-down image.</p> <p><b>Deadline: March 2nd</b></p>	<p><b>MANATEES – WIDE ANGLE</b> – Depict the behavior of Florida's gentle giants. 1 minute maximum.</p> <p><b>Deadline: March 2nd</b></p>

<b>APR</b>	<p><b>BEAUTIFUL BEHINDS – ANY LENS –</b> Show us your best shot of the “back end” of a creature. Can be any creature, but the shot must be taken of the rear of the subject. For example, manatees, whales, nudibranch gills, etc. <b>Deadline: March 30th</b></p>	<p><b>HIDING/SHYNESS– ANY LENS –</b> Capture a shy subject hiding/peeking out. We're looking for behavior that makes the subject appear bashful. The subject may be partially hidden and looking at the camera. It could be a fish hiding in cave or hole, a shy seahorse, puffers hiding in gorgonians, or marine life hiding in barrel sponges. <b>Deadline: March 30th</b></p>	<p><b>SEAHORSES – ANY LENS –</b> Make the best possible use of ambient light ONLY to capture the behaviors of one of our favorite local subjects. Can be a single subject or a mating pair. Any entry using video lights will be disqualified. 1 minute maximum. <b>Deadline: March 30th</b></p>
<b>MAY</b>	<p><b>LONG EXPOSURE – ANY LENS –</b> Shoot a long exposure (1/10 to 1 second) of a moving creature(s) with panning or rear curtain sync techniques which shows obvious movement but keeps the eye in focus. <b>Deadline: May 4th</b></p>	<p><b>BLACK AND WHITE – ANY LENS –</b> Produce a black &amp; white (BW) shot with any type of lens. A great shot will have dramatic contrast between the darks and lights. Can be processed in-camera or in post-processing. Consider scenes like shipwrecks, close-ups of corals for light and dark textures, or high dynamic range shots of marine life/seascapes. <b>Deadline: May 4th</b></p>	<p><b>ZOOM, ZOOM, ZOOM! – ANY LENS –</b> This video will start with the critter zoomed as far out as possible. The goal of this video will be to showcase the dramatic effect of zooming in very close. The effect from large to small is what we are looking for, starting by placing a subject in its environment, then focusing on its distinctive features. This video may be made up of several examples of this effect. 1 minute maximum. <b>Deadline: May 4th</b></p>
<b>JUNE</b>	<p><b>STRUGGLING CORALS – ANY LENS –</b> Recent warm waters have caused damaging coral bleaching. To highlight conservation and environmental awareness, show us your best shot documenting coral bleaching or SCTLD (stony coral tissue loss disease). <b>Deadline: June 1st</b></p>	<p><b>UNDERWATER MODELS – WIDE ANGLE –</b> An image with a model as the dominant subject (tiny divers in the negative space do not count). This includes a diver, a free diver, a snorkeler with sea life nearby, or someone dressed as a mermaid or in a fashionable outfit. The subject must be a well-thought-out focus of the image and not a random person swimming by. Fashion shots in a pool are acceptable for this category. <b>Deadline: June 1st</b></p>	<p><b>UNDERWATER FLOWERS – MACRO –</b> Create a video showing subjects that appear flowerlike underwater, such as corals, anemones, and tube worms. Demonstrate them actively "blooming" - as a flower would open - as their polyps, plumes, or tentacles extend outwards. The use of either slo-mo or timelapse video is encouraged in portions of the video, in order to create the effect of flowers blooming. 1 minute maximum. <b>Deadline: June 1st</b></p>
<b>JULY</b>	<p><b>MASTERING SUNLIGHT – WIDE ANGLE –</b> An image with a tasteful sunburst, not just a white blob, or dappled sunlight. The image should also include coral, marine life or a wreck. Do not overly "burn"/ bring down the highlights in post processing, it will be noticeable, and your image will be disqualified! <b>Deadline: June 29th</b></p>	<p><b>EGGS – ANY LENS –</b> Shoot the eggs of any species. This could be a close-up which really magnifies the eggs, or one which shows the partial face of the parent "grooming" the eggs. It could also be shot further out showing the parents tending to the eggs or protecting them from being eaten by other species. <b>Deadline: June 29th</b></p>	<p><b>SHARKS IN THE SUNLIGHT – WIDE ANGLE –</b> Capture the movement of sharks amongst the sun's rays - near the surface or from below. Try and capture the interplay of the movement of the shark(s) and the light, whether that be rays or dappled light. (Whale sharks are included). 1 minute maximum. <b>Deadline: June 29th</b></p>

<b>AUG</b>	<p><b>BLACKWATER CREATURES</b> – ANY LENS – Any living subject found on a blackwater dive. This includes fish larvae, mollusks, crustaceans, gelatinous zooplankton, etc. This requires that the image is shot on a blackwater dive, in the water column, over a deep bottom, at night. This is not the same as a night dive on the reef, or a bonfire dive! <b>Deadline: August 3rd</b></p>	<p><b>EYE SEE YOU</b> – MACRO – A macro or super macro close up shot of a single eye. Capture the incredible complexity, texture, or iridescence commonly found in the eyes of many underwater creatures. Think about creatures that have radiant eyes or patterns around the eyes. The subject should be a close-up of a single eye, but if the other is visible in the background that is acceptable. Examples: the eyes of mantis shrimps, burrfish, barb fish, crocodile fish, etc. <b>Deadline: August 3rd</b></p>	<p><b>BLACKWATER VIDEO</b> – ANY LENS – Make a video of any living blackwater subject or subjects. This requires that the video is shot on a blackwater dive, in the water column, over a deep bottom, at night. This is not the same as a night dive on the reef, or a bonfire dive! 1 minute maximum. <b>Deadline: August 3rd</b></p>
<b>SEPT</b>	<p><b>BEAUTIFUL BACKSCATTER</b> – ANY LENS – Yes, that's right. Contrary to popular belief, backscatter can create a nice effect sometimes. A good example is a dark background with backscatter creating the appearance of stars in the night, or a stingray stirring up the sand as it swims off, etc. However, this can be a daytime or night-time shot. <b>Deadline: August 31st</b></p>	<p><b>BLENNIES THAT MAKE US LAUGH</b> – MACRO – Blennies are expressive little creatures and do many wonky things underwater. Take a shot that makes us laugh like when they do funny things with their eyes, or when they pose upside down. Even catching two in one hole could give us a good chuckle. <b>Deadline: August 31st</b></p>	<p><b>MINISTRY OF FUNNY WALKS</b> – ANY LENS – Some creatures have a curious and awkward gait, for example frogfish, batfish, and certain species of crab. Show some of the most bizarre in motion and include some of their other characteristic behaviors. Catching a yawn is a bonus! 1 minute maximum. <b>Deadline: August 31st</b></p>
<b>OCT</b>	<p><b>SURFACE REFLECTIONS</b> – ANY LENS – An image which has a detailed surface reflection, night or day. Can be a reef or a creature. No divers or man-made structures. <b>Deadline: September 28th</b></p>	<p><b>THINK PINK</b> – ANY LENS – Submit an image where pink is the dominant color. This could be wide-angle or macro, and the pink could be the color of the subject or the background. For example, a fish sitting on a pinkish coral, or a close-up of a pink nudibranch. Perhaps a pink anemone. You can also use artificial pink backgrounds so long as pink is the dominant color. <b>Deadline: September 28th</b></p>	<p><b>TURTLES OR RAYS IN FLIGHT</b> – WIDE ANGLE – Capture the graceful movement of turtles or rays soaring through the water as if in flight. The object is to capture motion that resembles flight. The subject must be filmed predominantly in open water, although it may be on the bottom for a short time prior to "taking off." 1 minute maximum. <b>Deadline: September 28th</b></p>
<b>NOV</b>	<p><b>WIDE-OPEN APERTURE</b> – MACRO – A wide-open aperture (low f-stop) macro shot of a creature with the subject in sharp focus and with the background a creamy complementary color and out of focus. Must be done in camera with a natural background - no man-made tools to produce the background. No solid black or open water blue backgrounds. <b>Deadline: November 2nd</b></p>	<p><b>GOLIATH GROUPERS AND BAITFISH</b> – WIDE ANGLE – Goliath grouper mating season is arguably one of the most exciting times in South Florida for photography. Here we are looking for an image of one or more Goliath groupers surrounded by the small silvery fish. Ideally the image would contain a background largely obscured by the baitfish with a grouper(s) emerging from the mass. Or the grouper may be totally enveloped by the mass, but the presence of the grouper must be obvious. <b>Deadline: November 2nd</b></p>	<p><b>SUPER MACRO VIDEO</b> – MACRO – Make a video of tiny subjects (1 inch or smaller) and their behaviors, highlighting details that are hard to see with the naked eye, such as eggs, eyes, gills, and rhinophores. Selecting slow moving or static subjects is recommended. These might include nudibranchs, roughhead blennies, and bumblebee shrimps - to name a few. (Using diopters or teleconverters to magnify past a 1:1 image ratio is called super macro photography.) 1 minute maximum. <b>Deadline: November 2nd</b></p>