



# ENVIRONMENTAL BEST PRACTICE FOR UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHERS

As an operator that cares about our ocean, we ask all underwater photographers to help protect the beautiful underwater ecosystems they visit by following these best practices:

## DO

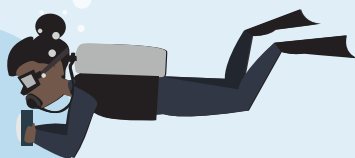
✓ **Secure your equipment (e.g. gauges, regulators etc.):** so they do not trail over reefs and cause damage

✓ **Assess the situation before approaching:** and position yourself and your camera without touching the reef



✓ **Practise buoyancy control, hovering and photography skills:** before diving with the camera. Advanced buoyancy skills prevent damage to the marine environment

✓ **Be still and patient:** so the subject will not be scared away; this will give you the best opportunity for a longer, positive encounter that lets you take a great shot



✓ **Learn to fin slowly backwards:** so you can move away from the reef without causing damage

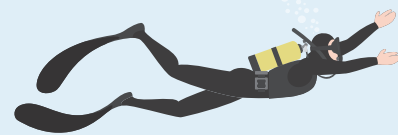
✓ **Be careful with your torch on night dives:** so as not to disturb nocturnal behaviour or wake sleeping fish

✓ **Tip guides who follow best practice:** and let them know you appreciate their care for the environment

## DON'T

✗ **Don't fixate over a particular species:** you'll have better dive experiences and guides may feel pressured to move or touch marine life if they think you're only interested in specific creatures

✗ **Don't touch, manipulate or chase marine life:** don't use hands or other equipment (e.g. pointer sticks) to move marine life for a clear shot. Any manipulation can cause severe stress



✗ **Don't touch or hold onto corals:** for support or to move or break corals to get a clear shot

✗ **Don't take too many shots of an animal:** limit to taking 5 photos with flash per diver. Excessive use of flash will scare and stress marine life



✗ **Don't invade an animal's space (e.g. cleaning stations):** getting too close will cause your subject to flee. If animals show signs of stress by hiding, changing colour or trying to swim away, move on to another subject

✗ **Don't stir up sediment:** by maintaining neutral buoyancy or gently lowering the tip of your fins down onto the sand if needed

If you notice anyone not following these guidelines, please report the incident to your dive shop manager or contact the Green Fins team at [info@greenfins.net](mailto:info@greenfins.net)