



6th ONLINE OPEN FOTOSUB ISLA DE EL HIERRO

1. General rules

- 1.1 The 6th Online Open Fotosub Isla de El Hierro (OPEN) is an underwater photography competition and it is organized by THE CABILDO INSULAR OF THE ISLAND OF EL HIERRO and sponsored by various public and private entities. Its purpose is to publicize the natural environment and the richness of the sea that surrounds the island of El Hierro.
- 1.2 The OPEN is open to participants of all levels and origins, regardless of the equipment they use to capture the images. The members of the organization and members of the jury who will evaluate the final phase of the competition will not be able to participate.
- 1.3 The participant must be the only author of the images submitted and every photograph presented to the competition must meet the standards detailed in the sections Valid images and Submission of images.
- 1.4 The participation in the OPEN is free of charge. The only requirement is to register yourself as a Participant at the official Web of the Open by filling in and sending the registration form that you will find on the official web of the event <http://online.fotosubelhierro.es>. On this same Web page you will find all the instructions in order to submit your images to the contest.

2. Valid images

- 2.1 The submitted images must have been shot in the sea of El Hierro Island including the intertidal zone.
- 2.2 The images must be taken between the 1st of May 2023 and the 31st of August 2023, both days inclusive.
- 2.3 Participants must take the images submitted to the contest while diving with one of the Authorized Dive Centers. They must also follow the instructions of the organization and their Authorized Dive Center in order to validate their images. This includes taking control shots and specific date settings of the camera as stated in the article 2.4. It is the participants' responsibility to make sure they have followed all these specific rules correctly.
- 2.4 The companies which are interested in being an Authorized Center, must be registered in the non classified Registro de Actividades (register of activities) of the Tourism Council of the Canarian Government, and communicate their will to be so to the Tourism Council of the Cabildo of El Hierro by email. Each Authorized Center will be provided with a banner with their image and the contest's to use it as a justification of the validation control photo of images (the participant must photograph this banner under to the indications of the Authorized Center's staff and with the same camera which will be used for the contest). You can see a updated list of the Authorized Centers in the OPEN ONLINE Website at: <http://online.fotosubelhierro.es>

- 2.5 For all photographic categories, participants must save all their images in a RAW format which will be required by the organization in the event that an image becomes finalist for one of the prizes. The participant must provide the original JPG (with no further editing) only in the event that the camera model used can not save the images in RAW format. Images will be disqualified if the participant does not supply the required original image in the stipulated time period.
- 2.6 Any photo that exhibits any sort of abuse to a marine species, or when considered that a living being has been harmed or moved from its natural environment in order to achieve the image, will be disqualified and will not be able to be voted.
- 2.7 The general theme of the photos must be the Island's underwater environment and/or present fauna. Human models can appear in the images as long as the previous statement is taken into account. To be considered valid, at least a third part of the image must be taken underwater.
- 2.8 A pre selected jury will revise the submitted works to the contest to ensure they follow the rules and the specific subject, and will erase from the OPEN ONLINE's Web and from the contest any photos that do not.

3. Submission of images

- 3.1 Each participant can submit up to 5 entries every defined month of the contest to each of the categories described in the Categories section. Photos will only be accepted in the month they have been taken. The following table specifies the included dates and the submission deadline for each month:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Images shot between:</u>	<u>Dates for submission</u>
May	1 st & 31 st of May -	15 th of May to the 14 th of June
June	1 st & 30 th of June -	15 th of June to the 14 th of July
July	1 st & 31 st of July -	15 th of July to the 14 th of August
August	1 st & 31 st of August -	15 th of August to the 14 th of September

- 3.2 Photographs must be submitted compulsorily in JPG format with the **large side's being at least 2500 pixels and the file must take up a maximum of 9 MB (Megabyte) of disk space**. It is recommended to use a SRGB color space.
- 3.3 Photos can not contain frames, watermarks, logos, signatures, author credits or any possible identification of authorship. The same applies to the file's name.
- 3.4 A limited edition of the images is permitted, as long as it does not distort the reality of the subject photographed or modify the essence of the original shot. The following guide should be considered when editing an image for its submission:

IS ALLOWED:

- Any kind of image rotation, including horizontal and vertical flips.
- General (that apply to the whole image) or partial (that only apply to a certain area of the image) moderate adjustments of brightness, contrast, color temperature, saturation, tone, sharpness, color aberration corrections or noise reduction.
- Reframing, as long as no more than the 30% is cropped of the total number of pixels of the original image. As an example, an original image of 5472 x 3648 pixels (19.961.856 pixels) can be cropped to 13.973.299 pixels minimum.

- The removal of spots, dust or scratches of the sensor, and the removal of backscatter and particles or their reflections.

IS NOT ALLOWED:

- To delete or remove any object or element from the original image, such as: algae, rocks, fish, bubbles, divers, etc.
- To add any object or element that was not present in the original image, including light sources and shines.
- To modify the position of an object or element from the one it has in the original image.
- Extreme brightness, contrast or color adjustments. As an example: darken the background to make it close to black or change one color for another.
- Artificial blurs of the background or elements of the image.

4. Categories

- 4.1 Participants must submit their photos as specified in section 3 into one of the following categories:

SCENERY

Photos that show the natural scenery beauty of the underwater seascape of El Hierro.

VERTEBRATES

Photographs in which fish, reptiles, birds, or marine mammals are the main element. Groups of animals, one unique individual or a detail of an individual can appear in the image, using any type of lens to capture the photo.

INVERTEBRATES

Photographs in which invertebrates are the main element. Groups of animals, one unique individual or a detail of an individual can appear in the image, using any type of lens to capture the photo.

ALGAE

Photographs in which algae or marine plants are the main element. A group of algae, one unique algae or a detail of an individual can appear in the image, using any type of lens to capture the photo.

COMPACT CAMERAS

Any image valid by the point 2.7 that has been shot with a non exchangeable lens compact camera, regardless of the element or elements that appear in it.

5. Jury and voting

- 5.1 All the registered users on the Web <http://online.fotosubelhierro.es> can vote online for their favourite photographs in each category (Popular Voting). It will only be possible to vote for each month's photos in the dates specified in the following table:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Voting deadline</u>
May	1 st to the 15th of June
June	1 st to the 15th of July
July	1 st to the 15th of August
August	1 st to the 15th of September

- 5.2 5.2 The popular voting will represent 50% of the total evaluation achieved by each voted image. The remaining 50% of the evaluation will correspond to the pre-selection jury described in point 5.4. In the event that there is a tie in the evaluation of several images, the pre-selection jury will issue a tie-breaking vote that will determine the ranking order of the matched images.
- 5.3 The ten (10) most voted photos of each category will directly pass to the final phase of the OPEN, and the most voted photograph, independently of the category, will be awarded as "PHOTO OF THE MONTH". A single author will only be able to win the photo of the month once. If one of his photos were to be the most voted in another month, the award would go to the next most voted photo.
- 5.4 The preselection jury will be composed by a minimum of three people named by decree of the President of the Cabildo. One member of the jury will assume the role of President of the Jury, and another will be secretary with right to vote.

Exceptionally, if any of the members of the Jury, designated by Decree of the Presidency of the Hon. Cabildo de El Hierro, could not participate in the assessment meeting, the organization may determine, by recording it in the act, the designation and name of their substitute.

The preselection jury will select a maximum of 5 photos each month from each category that, even not among the 10 most voted by the popular jury, will pass on to the final phase. This will avoid high quality images to be left out of this phase, especially in months with a higher participation.

Once the popular votations are over, all the photos that reach the final phase will be judged by a jury formed by a minimum of three and maximum five underwater image specialists of recognized prestige named by decree of The Cabildo President. One of the jury will assume the role of being President of the Jury. The Cabildo President will assign a secretary with no right to vote.

- 5.5 This jury will vote between 0 and 10 points each of the finalist images in each category through a Web application with exclusive access to the jury members and the secretary. The application will automatically add all the votes obtained, establishing a ranking of the best photos for each category. The jury secretary will oversee the proper functioning of the application, validate the voting process and collect the final results in the act. The decision of the Jury will be final and unappealable.
- 5.6 The organization will gather from the authors the originals of all prized images, as for the control photos. The preselection jury will validate that all the photos comply with the points 2 and 3, disqualifying those that don't. All photos whose author does not give in the control measures in the established time periods will also be disqualified.
- 5.7 There can only be one photo for each participant in the Top 10 of each category. If a participant has more than one photo the one with the lowest position will be discarded.

- 5.8 The winner of the BEST PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE 6th ONLINE OPEN FOTOSUB ISLAND OF EL HIERRO will be determined by summing the points obtained by a photographer in the *SCENERY*, *VERTEBRATE*, *INVERTEBRATES* and *ALGAE* categories according to the following table:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Obtained points</u>
1 st	10 points
2 nd	9 points
3 th	8 points
4 th	7 points
6 th	6 points
6 th	5 points
7 th	4 points
8 th	3 points
9 th	2 points
10 th	1 point

6. Prizes

- 6.1 There will be no shared awards. In the event of a draw in the score of points for Best Photographer of the 6th online Open Fotosub Island of el Hierro, the photographer with the best positioned photos in the three first places of each category will be the winner. If there continues to be a draw, all the points given to each of the participant's photos by the jury will be added, the photographer with most points will be the winner. The following prizes have been established for each section:

- BEST PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE 6th ONLINE OPEN FOTOSUB	2.500€
2 nd Best Photographer	1.500€
- BEST SCENERY PHOTO	750€
2 nd Best Scenery Photo	250€
- BEST VERTEBRATE PHOTO	750€
2 nd Best Vertebrate Photo	250€
- BEST INVERTEBRATE PHOTO	750€
2 nd Best Invertebrate Photo	250€
- BEST ALGAE PHOTO	750€
2 nd Best Algae Photo	250€
- BEST PHOTO WITH A COMPACT CAMERA	750€
2 nd Best Photo with a Compact Camera	250€

- AWARD TO THE DIVING CENTER WITH THE GREATEST NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

A prize of 1000€ is established for the Authorized Diving Center in which a greater number of participants have competed at the end of the event. If several centers have had the same number of participants, the prize will be awarded *ex aequo* and cash prize will be shared among them.

- 6.2 All the monetary prizes will be individually assigned. These are gross amounts, and will be given to the name of the photographer by the Hon. Cabildo de El Hierro after applying the according tax deductions established by the current legislation if necessary.

- 6.3 The collaborators and sponsors can give out special prizes to the photographs which they believe are most adequate to the purpose of their sponsorship.
- 6.4 All the prizes will be advertised in the official web of the event **<https://online.fotosubelhierro.es>** and/or on the notice board of the Cabildo of El Hierro.

7. Rights and obligations

- 7.1 The Excmo. Cabildo Insular of El Hierro will freely be able to use any of the photos submitted to contest for the touristic promotion of El Hierro, its underwater environment, the Open Fotosub Island of El Hierro, and for the elaboration of a marine species guide, with no need for the reproduction rights accruing to the authors.
- 7.2 The authors of the photos will keep all other rights of copyright established under the current legislation.
- 7.3 The authors authorize the organization to publish their work in any sort of media without specifying the name of the author until the jury's verdict.
- 7.4 Any situation not expressed or specified in the present regulations will be solved by the Organizer unilaterally.
- 7.5 The competent organ that will approve the present regulations is the Government's Council of the Cabildo Insular.
- 7.6 The participation in the 6th edition of the Online Open Fotosub Isla de El Hierro entails the total approval of all the points of the contest rules stated.
- 7.7 Once the Regulations have been approved, they will be published on the Corporation's Notice Board. And the institutional web www.elhierro.es