

OCEANS OF LIFE

This photographic competition and exhibition is run by **BirdLife South Africa** during Marine Week to highlight their SOS (Save Our Seabirds) Festival. The images showcase not only the skills of the photographers but also the incredible creatures that call the oceans home.

▼ BIG BEN AND THE KING PENGUINS

Heard Island in the Sub-Antarctic between Australia and Africa is one of the remotest places on earth. Tourist ships stop there only once every 10 ten years or so. Big Ben is the highest mountain there and cloud free days are rare. This is a lucky shot!

Photographer: Gunther Riehle, Nikon D300, Sigma 10-20 mm lens at f6.3 and 1/250.



T

he Seabird Division of BirdLife South Africa has run the Save Our Seabirds (SOS) Festival, during National Marine Week for the last 5 years. The Festival is a celebration of marine life and aims to educate the public about marine issues and share some of the conservation success stories. As part of the SOS Festival, BirdLife South Africa also holds the Oceans of Life photographic competition. The competition aims to celebrate the diversity of marine life and inspire people to protect it.



◀ **WILD OCEAN ENCOUNTERS**

Port St Johns, South Africa.

A humpback whale rolls onto her back as she moves past a visitor in her ocean. Unpredictable meetings like this one can leave an indelible impression on the people who witness them.

Photographer: Graham Fenwick, Nikon D7000, Tokina 10-17 mm lens at f8.0 and 1/160.



▲ **WHITE TERN**

Midway Atoll, North Pacific.
Midway Atoll is a restricted area. Only 15 tourists are allowed on the atoll at one time. Two million albatross live there, they are just some of the 14 million seabirds found over the chain of North Hawaiian islands.

Photographer: Gunther Riehle, Nikon D300, Nikon 28-80 mm lens at f13.0 and 1/640.

◀ **HOUND OF THE OCEAN**

Millers Point, Cape Town.
Cape Fur Seals can be very inquisitive during the breeding season. This seal took a huge dislike to my dome port and barked at it for the duration of my dive.

Photographer: Steve Benjamin, Nikon D70, Tokina 10-17 mm lens at f11.0 and 1/400, flash.



▲ **COMING UP FOR AIR**

Mediterranean Sea
I took this while sailing in the Mediterranean on a research boat looking for sperm whales. It was a glassy, calm day and we were surrounded by common dolphins for a while. This one came up right underneath me on the bow sprit. One of my favourite days ever.

Photographer: Judith Scott, Canon 10D, Canon 70-300 mm IS USM F4-5.6 lens at f4.5 and 1/1000.

△ The 2014 competition will have the same *Oceans of Life* theme. All photos of marine life are eligible, from seabirds to whales to fish and everything in between. If you would like to be notified when the next photo competition opens for entries (usually on 1 July) please send an email to photocompetition@birdlife.org.za with 'Subscribe' in the subject line.