







## Juvenile Boxfis

◀ **Twilight Zone, Ambon**

**HOW** This odd-looking little fish is as colourful as it is skittish. It took a few minutes before it became accustomed to my presence. I had to wait until the fish positioned itself in front of a colourful background, and when it turned around and faced the camera, I knew I had the shot.

**EQUIPMENT & EXPOSURE** Nikon D80 in Sea&Sea housing, 60mm, twin Inon Z-240 strobes, f/22, 1/125 at ISO 100.

## Soft Coral Crab

▲ **Larry's Heaven, Triton Bay**

**HOW** During a night dive in a colourful reef in West Papua I spotted a hump on a soft coral with a slightly different colour. When it started moving under the light of my torch I realised what it was. I just needed to wait for it to move to a position where there wouldn't be any reef behind, so the contour of the crab would stand out on a black background.

**EQUIPMENT & EXPOSURE** Nikon D80 in Sea&Sea housing, 60mm, twin Inon Z-240 strobes, f/32, 1/125 at ISO100.





## Clown With Eggs

Critter Creek, Sangiang

**HOW** Inspired by a famous picture by David Doubilet, I noticed this clownfish had laid a cluster of eggs beside the host carpet anemone. I tried to include the head of the clownfish as it was ventilating the eggs, getting close enough to see the eyes of the juveniles through the translucent eggshells.

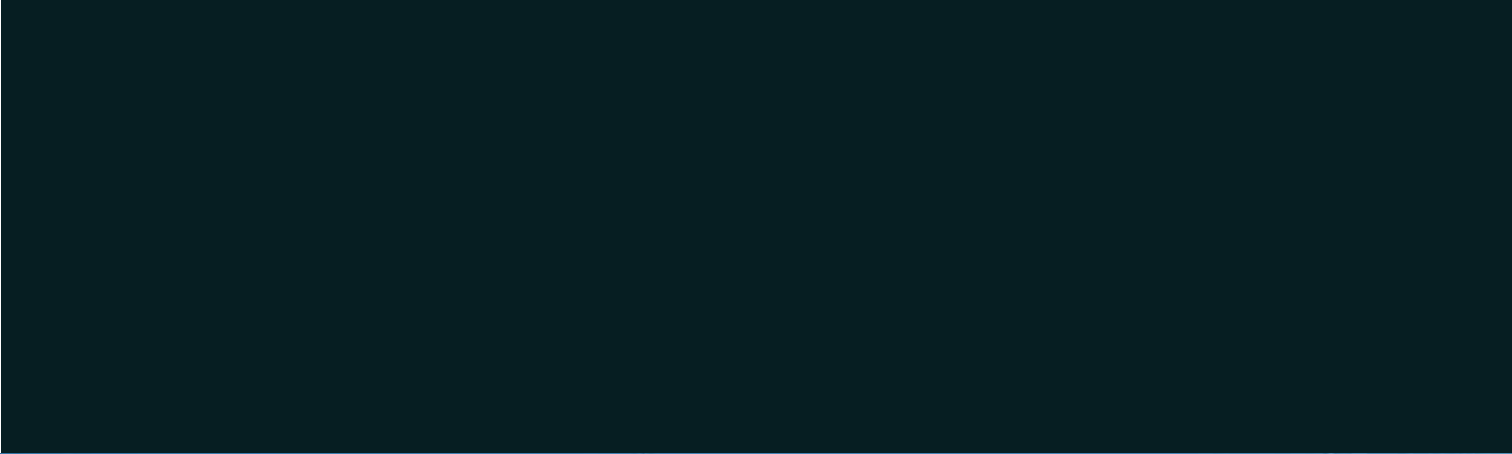
**EQUIPMENT & EXPOSURE** Nikon D80 in Sea&Sea housing, 105mm, twin Inon Z-240 strobes, f/11, 1/60 at ISO100.



→ **Ricard Buxo** switched careers in the early 90s, from technical drawing for architecture to full-time dive guide. After diving and doing underwater photography for a few years around Spain, he then moved to the Red Sea where he worked professionally in diving for five years, at the end of which he self-published the "Miniguide to the Southern Egyptian Red Sea", sponsored by Scubapro. After that he moved to Indonesia in 2000 to supervise the construction of the live-aboard S.M.Y. Ondina ([smyondina.com](http://smyondina.com)), which would become his itinerant home for the coming years, from which he explored and photographed the wonders of the seas of Indonesia. He currently lives in Bali, combining business with writing stories for diving and yacht magazines in Spain. He has recently published a book called "Underwater Paradise - A Diving Guide to Raja Ampat". [ocean-focus.com](http://ocean-focus.com)







## Glassfish Carousel

◀ Wayilbatan, Raja Ampat

**HOW** The western end of this island, facing the narrow channel that separates it from the next one, hosts the largest gorgonian sea fans in the region. In this particular part of the reef, the mixture of fan, soft and black coral was enough for a great composition in itself, but the glassfish hiding in the hollow overhang created a display that certainly rounded up the shot!

**EQUIPMENT & EXPOSURE** Nikon D80 in Sea&Sea housing, Tokina 10-17mm, twin Inon Z-240 strobes, f/8, 1/60 at ISO100.

## Black Manta

▲ Manta Alley, South Komodo

**HOW** A population of resident mantas can be seen around several spots within Komodo National Park, moving from one site to another as the tide changes. In Manta Alley they come to feed and to be cleaned. Near the bottom of the channels between rocky islands, they can be seen as they hover in mid-water, with little wrasses readily approaching to rid them of parasites.

**EQUIPMENT & EXPOSURE** Nikon D80 in Sea&Sea housing, Tokina 10-17 fisheye lens, twin Inon Z-240 strobes. Iso 100, f6.7 and 1/50.

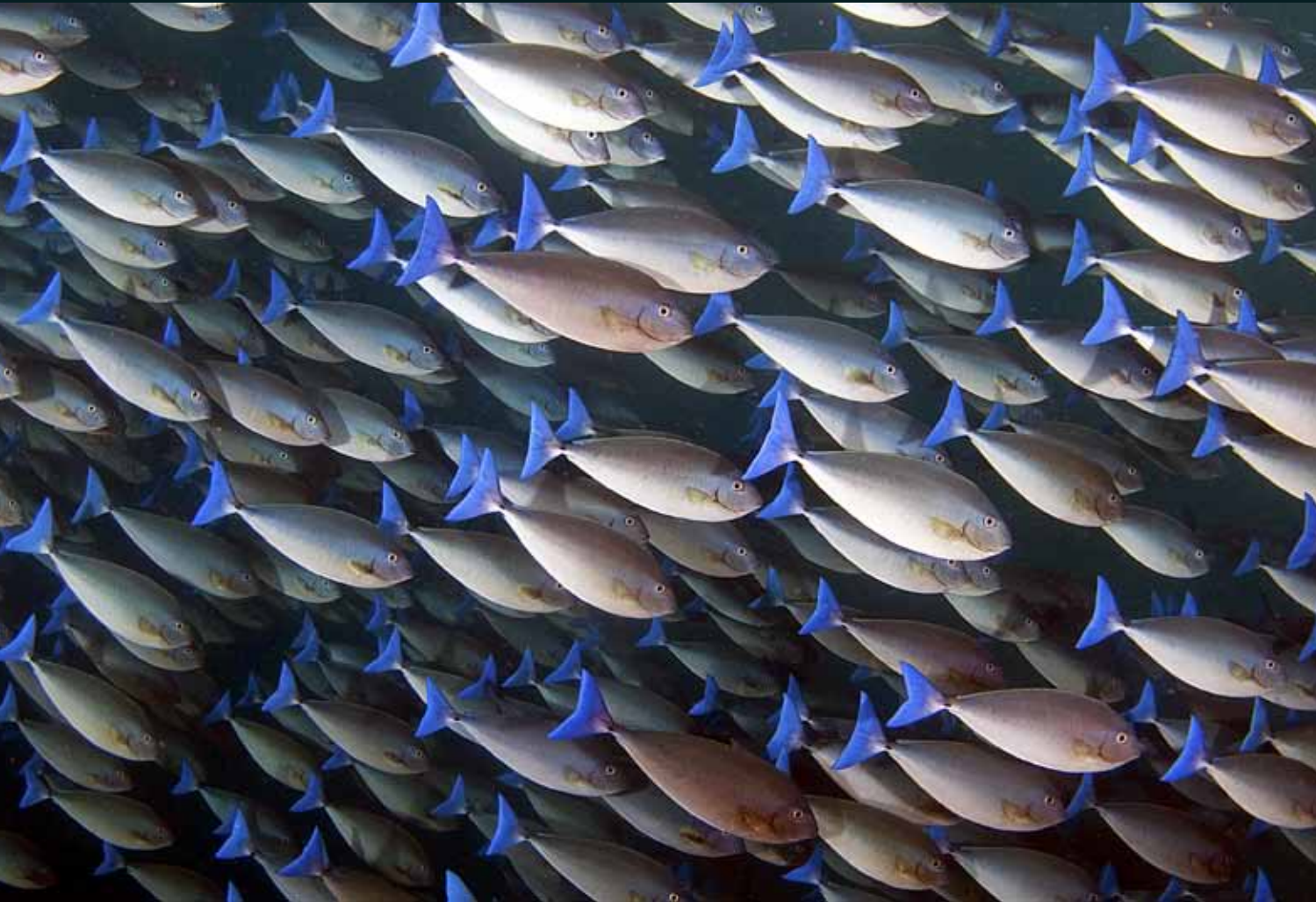


## Schooling Bluetails

▼ Pulau Koon, Banda Sea

**HOW** As I was drifting along the wall in this awesome dive, a "river" of surgeons started flowing down the slope and away from the reef. I waited until a section of the shoal positioned themselves in the same direction and moved in to fill the frame.

**EQUIPMENT & EXPOSURE** Nikon D80 in Sea&Sea housing, Tokina 10-17mm, twin Inon Z-240 strobes, f/5.6, 1/60 at ISO100.



## Spot-tail & Eggs

► Aljuy Bay, Raja Ampat

**HOW** While diving the jetties of the pearl farm I found this unusual species of frogfish hiding in one of the sponge-encrusted pillars in shallow water. A closer revealed its eggs attached to its side. It seemed the fry were about to hatch, so I concentrated on capturing this.

**EQUIPMENT & EXPOSURE** Nikon D80 in Sea&Sea housing, 60mm, twin Inon Z-240 strobes, f/16, 1/125 at ISO100.







## Face of a Whitetip

Castle Rock, North Komodo

**HOW** While diving the current-swept side of this magnificent reef it is not unusual to spot several reef sharks swimming back and forth in the blue. As this large individual started swimming towards me I held my breath for a few seconds to avoid scaring it away, until I got the shot.

**EQUIPMENT & EXPOSURE** Nikon D80 in Sea&Sea housing, 18-70mm, twin Inon Z-240 strobes, f/5.6, 1/30 at ISO200.





## Lion & Silver

Fiabacet, Misool, Raja Ampat

**HOW** This lionfish was hovering in mid-water hunting a school of silversides that were feeding on the plankton in the mild current. The challenge this picture posed was to position the sun behind the main subject while adjusting the exposure for both the lionfish, which is black and white, and the highly reflective silversides.

**EQUIPMENT & EXPOSURE** Nikon D80 in Sea&Sea housing, Tokina 10-17mm, twin Inon Z-240 strobes, f/6.7, 1/80 at ISO100.