

“LOOKS FROM THE SEA”

2nd International Underwater Photography Competition of Trieste

Saturday, April 18th, 2026 TRIESTE (Italy)

(event from April 17th, 2026, to April 19th, 2026)

MARE NORDEST, a non-profit sports association affiliated with ASI – Italian Sports and Social Associations, a Sports Promotion Agency recognized by CONI, is organizing the second edition of the International Underwater Photography Competition in Trieste.

In addition to representing a meeting point for photography enthusiasts, professionals and amateurs from different backgrounds and countries, the competition will help spread awareness of the waters of the Gulf of Trieste and its extraordinary biodiversity to a wider audience.

A maximum of **50 competitors** (total including underwater photographers and assistants/models) will be admitted to the competition. They must be of legal age, possess a valid diving certification, and have a medical certificate attesting to their fitness for underwater activities.

The competition is also open to persons with disabilities, provided they hold a valid scuba diving certification and a medical certificate confirming their fitness for scuba diving activities. Competitors with disabilities must participate in pairs with a qualified instructor as a one-to-one buddy, in compliance with safety regulations.

The organization reserves the right to assess the possibility of establishing separate awards dedicated to this category, depending on the number of registered participants.

There is NO registration fee for the competition.

PROGRAM

FRIDAY, APRIL 17th, 2026

- **9:00-12:00 AM** Environmental education project for children, open to participants on a voluntary basis for a seabed clean-up activity.
- **6:00-8:00 PM** Registration of participants (photographers and assistants/models) at the Assonautica headquarters in Trieste – Molo Fratelli Bandiera SNC – 34123 Trieste (TS)

SATURDAY, APRIL 18th, 2026

- **From 7:00 AM** Participants' meeting at the competition venue, as indicated in these regulations, for equipment and memory card checks with the Competition Director, assignment of competition numbers, and briefing
- **9:00 AM Start of the competition (duration 3 hours)**

- **12:00 PM End of the competition** and submission of memory cards to the Competition Director
- **12:30 PM/2:00 PM** Return to the Assonautica headquarters in Trieste
- **2:00 PM** Viewing and selection of photos by the photographers.
- **3:30 PM** Submission of signed forms with photo selections to the competition director
- **4:00 PM/8:00 PM** Jury meeting
- **4:00 PM/8:00 PM** Participants will have free time to explore the city. A dedicated visit or in-depth session regarding the Trieste Bathyscaphe is currently under evaluation
- **8:00 PM** Dinner and social evening organized and offered by Mare Nordest

SUNDAY, APRIL 19th, 2026

- **09:00 AM** Awards ceremony c/o Società Triestina Sport del Mare
- **12:00 PM** Departure of participants.

CATEGORIES AND THEMES

The competition is open to equipment belonging to the following categories: **Reflex (or Mirrorless), Compact, and Smartphone/Action Cam**. For organizational reasons, **the competition will last 3 hours**.

Competitors must submit 3 images including:

1 PHOTO "FISH": Portrait photos of fish, whole fish, a school of fish, or part of a fish (eye-tail-fins) can be taken. Modifying the marine environment, feeding fish, moving marine organisms, or destroying any form of flora or fauna is not permitted.

1 PHOTO "MACRO" / CLOSE UP: Macro photos refer to images of small marine organisms or details of flora and fauna. It is not allowed to move or photograph subjects while holding them with hands or other tools. If the competition judge notices these infractions, the photo will be disqualified. In this category, it is NOT allowed to photograph parts of fish (eye-fins-tail). For the macro category, the use of lenses, filters, color filters, prisms, and other accessories that enhance the artistic or technical value of the photo is allowed. Double exposures are also permitted. However, the use of objects or artifacts that have no relevance to the sea is not allowed.

1 PHOTO "WIDE ANGLE": This must represent the submerged environment of the competition area using a wide-angle shot. **Half & half** photos are also allowed, provided that at least 50% of the frame represents the portion submerged in water. The presence of human elements (model) is permitted only in this category, even while freediving. Macro settings, double exposures, or image overlays are not allowed in this category. The use of objects or artifacts brought by the competitor underwater is not permitted.

In all themes, black and white images are allowed.



LOCATION OF THE COMPETITION

The competition will take place at Porticciolo dei Filtri – Aurisina (TS).

The competition area is characterized by rocky and mixed sandy seabeds, with depths of up to approximately 8 meters. Access to the water is located between the small harbor and the adjacent beach.

The organization reserves the right to change the competition site for safety reasons, adverse weather conditions, or force majeure.

EQUIPMENT

Competitors and models must have functioned equipment: buoyancy compensator, alternative air source-octopus or second regulator, pressure gauge, emergency buoy, depth gauge, and dive computer. Models may also be freedivers. In this case, **safety regulations must be followed** when diving with breathing apparatus, which should only be done after the freedive.

Each member of the photographic team will have a **total of 3,000 liters of air for the entire competition**. Once their air supply is exhausted, the competitor may not continue in the competition. At the end of the competition, the competitor and the assistant/model must have at least 10 bar of air in their tank.

In any case, using the air of a buddy is not allowed, except in verified emergency situations. The use of closed or semi-closed circuit breathing equipment is not permitted.

Competitors must provide their own tank and weights, as the organization does not supply diving equipment. However, the organizer will make efforts to find rental tanks from local facilities or shops if strictly necessary. Anyone needing to rent a tank must inform the organization at the time of registration.

COMPETITION

All competitors will have a single 3-HOUR photographic session, during which they may enter and exit the water multiple times and change their photographic equipment configuration, while always maintaining safety standards for diving. Abuse of diving safety procedures will lead to the disqualification of the competitor.



Each competitor will be assigned a number that will identify them throughout the competition. The competitor must have a formatted memory card.

Once the diving suit is closed, after checking with the Competition Director, the competitor may only reopen the camera in front of the Director.

The first frame must feature the competitor with a Competition Official (Director or Competition Manager). Similarly, a control photo must be taken at the end of the competition.

After diving, competitors must submit their memory card to the competition director with a maximum of **300 + 2 shots (the control shot before entering the water and immediately after exiting at the end of the competition dives)**. Any format can be shot, but only JPEG files must be submitted. If using cameras with two memory cards, only one card should be inserted.

Photo modifications through camera settings are allowed only during the dive and not at the surface, using breathing apparatus. Cropping of images is NOT allowed; the file must have the native size of the camera.

Multiple exposures and image overlays are allowed, except in the wide angle category.

Deletion of any images is only permitted underwater, within the competition time, using the breathing apparatus. At the end of the competition, the management will collect the cards and transfer the images to a designated support. Once downloaded, the cards will be returned to competitors for viewing and selecting images. **Competitors are required** to bring their **own memory card cable and card reader**, necessary for transferring the images.

For the **Smartphone** category, once the photo is taken in the presence of the competition director, the device must be switched to "airplane mode," remaining in this state until the images are downloaded by the organization. Photos can be edited only underwater using all tools permitted by the diving suit, including other apps.

COPYRIGHT

By participating in the photographic competition, authors grant the Mare Nordest organization the right to use the submitted images for promotional activities and to enhance the marine environments of the Gulf of Trieste. The usage will be free of charge and may include, but is not limited to, publications, promotional material, exhibitions, and conferences, websites, and social media, always with the photographer recognized as the author of the work.

SAFETY AND RESPONSIBILITY

A doctor will be present on site during the competition.

It is mandatory to follow staff instructions to ensure the safety of all participants. Disturbing marine flora and fauna is strictly forbidden. Any violation will result in immediate disqualification.

Each team, composed of the competitor and any model/assistant, must operate within the competition area.

Mare Nordest disclaims any responsibility for damage incurred to diving equipment during the competition.

REGISTRATIONS

Registration must be completed **by MARCH 31st, 2026**, using the attached form, filled out and sent via email to fotosub@marenordest.it, along with a copy of the diving certification and any other requests such as booking of affiliated accommodations.

AWARDS

PRIZES: for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd individual classified in the Reflex, Compact, and Smartphone Categories.

The final ranking will be determined by the sum of the scores obtained from the three submitted images.

FAIR PLAY AWARD

A Fair Play Award will be granted to the competitor who has distinguished themselves for sportsmanship, respect for the rules, attention to safety, and ethical conduct towards the marine environment and fellow participants, fully embodying the values of the event.

The award will be assigned by Mare Nordest at its discretion.

“WE LOVE THE SEA” AWARD

The “We Love the Sea” Award will be granted to the photograph that most effectively communicates the fragility of marine ecosystems and how pollution and human activities threaten their balance.

The three finalist photographs for this Award will be selected by the Competition Jury. Among them, the winning photograph will be chosen by the Mare Nordest Staff, at its discretion.

FOR ANY FURTHER INFORMATION:

ORGANIZER

Mare Norddest SSD a r.l. via di Servola, 49/a - 34146 - Trieste – Italy

fotosub@marenordest.it - www.marenordest.it

PERSON IN CHARGE: **PICCOLI Elena**
(only whatsapp: 328/2228443)

JURY PRESIDENT: **VITALE Emanuele**

JURY: **PECCHIAR Gianni** and **FRKA Danijel**

COMPETITION DIRECTOR: **BARLUZZI Romano**

COMPETITION SECRETARY: **LIVIA Giulia**

The event “Sguardi dal mare” is held under the patronage of:



MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE
E DELLA SICUREZZA ENERGETICA

Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Sicurezza Energetica



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Marevivo

Ringraziamo per la collaborazione:



OGS

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