

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

**&**

**VERBIAGE**

**By**

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**Above, Around & Under the Sea Images**

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Barracuda: While Barracuda appear fierce, they are really very shy. This handsome fellow allowed me to photograph him only after I positioned myself in a non threatening posture about eight feet away from him and remained almost motionless for several minutes. Then I slowly moved closer, until my camera was about ten or twelve inches away from him. I used a 20 mm wide angle lens to capture his smile. We were sharing the sea at 95 feet on the sunken Coast Guard cutter “Duane” near Key Largo, Florida, which is part of the man made artificial reef program in the Florida Keys.

Crows Nest and Barracuda: Shooting a photograph like this one of a school of Barracuda near the crows nest of the sunken Coast Guard cutter “Duane” is relatively easy for any experienced underwater photographer. However, the emotions felt when viewing the silhouettes of a sunken ship and a school of fish; and the beautiful blue sea with the sun shining through it; is what brings me back to the depths again and again. I keep images like this and some panoramic reef shots hanging on the wall of my office. They keep reminding that I have to return to the sea regularly to keep my spirit rejuvenated.



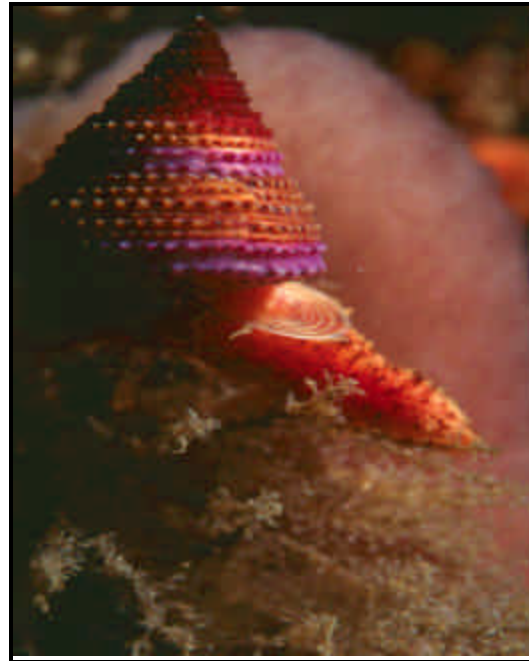


Red Night Shrimp: This image of a Red Night Shrimp was difficult to capture. While diving in thirty feet of water on Molasses Reef, at about ten pm at night, I saw about 200 tiny eyes glowing in my light in a small cave. I swam in and they all disappeared. Being careful not to disturb any sponges, coral or other sea life, I settled on the bottom. After about three minutes of breathing in a slow rhythm, I sensed some of these very shy creatures emerging from their hiding places among the crevices. I remained motionless for a few more minutes, allowing my eyes to adjust to the darkness. When about a hundred of them had revealed themselves, I slowly edged my camera toward one, then another, until I finally managed to get it within two inches of this one. He is about two inches long, and was resting on a red sponge. I used a macro setup with a 1:2 ratio to achieve this shot.

Coral Crab: This little fellow, about the size of the fingernail on my index finger, is quite shy. It took me about fifteen minutes and ten shots, before I finally captured this image of him on a nice piece of purple coral, searching for smaller critters for his late night dinner. I wanted to capture his tiny face and mouth, but he refused to cooperate, turning away again and again. Oh well, maybe next time! Taken at about nine pm, on Molasses Reef, off Key Largo, Florida, with a my 1:2 ratio macro setup.



Just to show you that you don't have to travel very far to encounter some interesting and colorful sea dwelling creatures, I wanted to include these images of this Blue Ring Top Snail, a Chestnut Cowry and a Snub-nose Sculpin. I shot them in Monterey Bay, this past February. They are all less than three inches in size. I used my Macro setup, with a 1:3 ratio, to capture these three images.



### **About the Photographer, Richard DeMarco:**

I had my first encounter with SCUBA (Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus) diving on Long Island in the summer of 1958, while a teenager; with a friend's father, Commander Bill Harvey, USN. In 1976, I took a PADI certification course, and began diving on annual vacations when possible.

Since 1996 I have been diving frequently in Monterey, and any tropical destination I can manage to escape to!

I use a Nikonos V, underwater camera, with various lens setups. I hope you enjoyed seeing some of my work.

