

2017 NOAA Habitat Conservation Digital Photo Contest Rules



The 2017 NOAA Habitat Month digital photo contest recognizes photographers who have captured beautiful and captivating images of coastal and ocean habitat and the people, science, restoration, and protection activities associated with it. We conserve habitat to sustain fisheries, recover protected species, and maintain resilient coastal ecosystems and communities. NOAA is looking for compelling photographs of these important habitats to help celebrate NOAA Habitat Month (see categories below).

The contest is open to the public, including professional and amateur photographers, as well as NOAA and other government employees and affiliates including contractors, fellows, and interns.

Submission deadline is by midnight EST on Monday, July 17, 2017. Contest starts on June 29, 2017. Winners will be announced and showcased July 24 - 28, 2017. Entries submitted after the Entry Period will not be eligible.

In registering for this photo contest, you have accepted the following submission requirements and understand that NOAA has the right to use all submitted photos in any future media, online, and print materials. Your name will be credited with use of the photo.

CATEGORIES:

1. **General Habitat:** Any type of coastal or ocean habitat including estuaries, wetlands, coasts, rivers, oysters reefs, coral reefs, etc.
2. **Habitat Helps Critters:** Wildlife living in or interacting with their habitat.
3. **Habitat Helps Communities:** People interacting with and enjoying coastal and ocean habitat areas including for recreation such as kayaking, swimming, flood protection, etc.
4. **Habitat Helps the Economy:** People at work or coastal and ocean industries taking place with or near habitat (e.g. commercial fishing industry, aquaculture, shipping, etc.).

REQUIREMENTS:

Entries not meeting the below requirements will be disqualified.

- Photos should be submitted in digital (electronic) format and must be in color. Each photo must be submitted as a JPEG file. Please send full sized, high-resolution, digital files from 1 to 8 MB (maximum). The minimum dimensions should be is 850 pixels wide.
- All entries must be original work. Previously-published material may be entered, as long as the submission includes the date and publication in which it was published.

- There are **4** categories and one must be selected for each entry (see category descriptions).
- NOAA will have unrestricted use of all submitted photos and accompanying material. You retain your rights to your photograph; however, by entering the contest, you grant NOAA (and those authorized by NOAA) a royalty-free, non-exclusive license to publicly display, distribute, reproduce and create derivative works of the entries. Any photograph reproduced will include a photographer credit as feasible. NOAA will not be required to pay any additional consideration or seek any additional approval in connection with such uses.
- All photographs should accurately reflect the subject matter and the scene as it appeared. Photos that have been digitally altered beyond standard optimization (removal of dust, cropping, adjustments to color and contrast, etc.) will be disqualified.
- Images submitted should be taken in the United States and its territories.
- Please note all photos will be available for public viewing. Entrants must not infringe on the rights of any other photographer or person, including but not limited to copyright. Photographer assumes responsibility for obtaining consent from any identifiable persons appearing in their photograph prior to submission. Photographs may not be watermarked.
- If you choose to include people in your submission, you are responsible for obtaining the necessary photo releases from the individuals depicted, and must be able to provide copies of those releases to NOAA upon request.
- Do not submit images that involve the willful harassment of wildlife or damage to the environment by the photographer. Responsible wildlife photography is paramount and images that are taken unethically will be disqualified.
- Photographers may submit multiple entries, but one image per e-mail entry. In addition, an image may not be submitted more than once.
- Photos that contain sexually explicit, nude, obscene, violent or other objectionable or inappropriate content will be disqualified.
- **REQUIRED INFORMATION: All submissions must include the following information or will not be considered:***
 - 1) **Contest category** (General Habitat. Habitat Helps Critters. Habitat Helps Communities. Habitat Helps the Economy. Select one category per image, details under category section).
 - 2) **Photographer information** (first and last name and e-mail address).
 - 3) **Do you work at NOAA?**
 Yes No
 - 4) **If you work at NOAA, list which NOAA office (include Line Office and Program Office, e.g. NMFS/Office of Habitat Conservation).**

- 5) **A caption explaining what is happening in the photo** (please spell out acronyms).
- 6) **Date photo was taken** (month and year, e.g. January 2016).
- 7) **Location where the image was taken** (city and state or territory – photo must be in the U.S. or its territories).
- 8) **I have received consent for all identifiable people in this photograph.**
- Yes No

RESULTS:

- Results will be announced and showcased during July 24 - 28, 2017.
- A panel of judges will select the winning entries.
- Winning photographs will be published on the NOAA Habitat Conservation website and on social media.
- Additional NOAA websites may also consider publishing these images.
- There are **NO monetary awards** for this contest.
- Winners will be selected by category from two groups: Public and NOAA (includes all staff and affiliates).
- This contest is being sponsored by NOAA Fisheries, Office of Habitat Conservation.
- NOAA shall determine entry eligibility in its sole and absolute discretion.

To submit photos and required information*

e-mail: habitat_photocontest@noaa.gov

**Required information must be included with each photo for consideration. Please use form and e-mail one photo at a time.*