

Cameras underwater blog



March 20th 2011. The end of another wildlife video and edit course at Marsa Shagra in the Red Sea in association with Cameras Underwater. This was a special trip organised for the UK National facility for scientific diving. Once again a weeks really good diving and every one had camera, housing and lights from Cameras Underwater in Devon England. Everything worked extremely well with no kit problems at all.

The cameras were Sony and Cannon and all fitted into gates housings. There was only one very small issue in that although each housing had a dome port, there were not enough flat ports to keep everyone satisfied. So each day there was a small decision to be made on who would use the domes and who would use flat ports.

Generally underwater videographers tend to go primarily for the Dome ports to get greater angle of coverage, especially if the visibility is a little questionable. But the flat port can often produce the better results especially when working in close up or mid shot and be as equally important as the dome as part of your underwater video camera accessories.

Poorly made dome ports can cause image problems especially if they are not designed to work with a specific lens. The new gates housing for the Sony Xr550 has a wide angle dome port that is highly engineered for the 28.9 wide angle lens and produces great quality video. There is just room in front of the lens to use a dioptre for close ups. This however stops the use of the flip in red filter, but with close ups this shouldn't be needed anyway as you should be using lights. The better option to the dioptre is to use the flat port which because of refraction will make your images 25% bigger with out loss of quality.

Ask the team at cameras underwater for more specs and details. If you want to know more about flat port verses dome just ask the question on Google. There are many good pages dedicated to just that. Otherwise you could always come on one of my courses.

Good shooting.

Jeff