

One shot, right time, right place

by Simon Brown

Sometimes creating an image takes a little co-operation. This image was taken in Norway, on a wreck called the Consul Carl Fisser.

At 7,000 tonnes it's a big wreck, sitting upright and dipping from 20m at the stern to 42m at the bows. The wreck is just too big to explore in a single dive and as my buddy and I finned around the bridge area I knew it would need more than one dive to really cover the wreck. Right next to the ascent line back to the surface, the handrail uprights were covered in some really bright orange dead-mens fingers sponges. The same species is found throughout the North Atlantic, but only Norway seems to have the really rich, orange coloured examples that work really well when set against the natural deep green waters. The sponge made a great foreground subject, but with mounting decompression stops it was time to leave, but I did note the sponge was close to the ascent rope.

Everyone on the trip wanted a second dive on the Carl Fisser, so I suggested a picture of a "mass descent" of divers. The instructions were simple; let me set up the shot then everyone else descend en-mass to the wreck with torches blazing, keeping a lookout for where the camera was pointed. Back on the wreck I set the shot and then waited for the sound of the boat. Out of the green dropped the divers. Some had remembered to put their torches on and all were on the lookout for the camera. Just over half the divers made it into the frame, and after 30 frames it was just a matter of selecting the most pleasing composition. By sheer fluke the only diver with a comedy hood aligned himself in the lower left third of the frame, offsetting the sponge. Sometimes you need to plan, share and shoot your own luck.

This image is available as a 16 x 20 print. For more information please [click here](#) or visit Simon Brown's website by [clicking here](#).

