Urban Tides Contest Rules for Photo & Video Submissions

• The 2015 Urban Tides Photo & Video Contest is organized by USC Sea Grant (“Organizer”). Aquarium of the Pacific, Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, Heal the Bay, Los Angeles Waterkeeper, and The Bay Foundation are contest partners (“Partners”).
• All photos must be taken along the shores of Los Angeles County and Orange County, California, U.S.A. Contestants must be citizens or legal residents of the U.S.A. or Canada.
• All photographs and videos must be taken by the contestant and must not be subject to any digital manipulation. By submitting, each contestant acknowledges and warrants that the submitted photographs and videos are original, the contestant is the sole copyright holder, and that no other party has any right, title, claim or interest in the submitted photographs and videos.
• Individual Photograph Category: Each contestant is limited to no more than ten photograph submissions in JPEG or JPG format, with each file no more than 10 megabytes (MB) in size.
• Photo Essay Category: Each contestant is limited to no more than five photo essay submissions that include 3-6 photographs per essay, in JPEG or JPG format, with each file no more than 10 megabytes (MB) in size.
• Video Category: Each contestant is limited to no more than five video submissions in MPEG -4, Quicktime, MP4, or MOV formats; and no longer than 3 minutes in length for each submission.
• The submitted photographs and videos will not be acknowledged or returned. Proof of submission is not proof or receipt.
• Entries are void if the contest Organizer determines that a submitted photograph or video is not original or is altered. The contest Organizer reserves the right to disqualify without notice any photographs deemed—at their sole discretion—inappropriate.
• Entries that fail to comply with these guidelines may be disqualified.
• Employees, officers, and directors of USC Sea Grant (“Organizer”) and the members of the Judging Panel, and members of their respective immediate families (spouse, parent, child, dependent, and sibling, regardless of where they reside) and those living in their same household, whether or not related, are not eligible to enter or win. Void outside of California and where prohibited. This Contest is subject to all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations.
License
Each contestant retains the copyright to his/her photograph(s), video(s), and description(s). However, through their submission, each contestant explicitly grants the contest partners and designees an irrevocable, nonexclusive license for the duration of copyright to use and share each photograph and video and any accompanying narrative text for non-commercial educational and promotional purposes, in any and all media now known or hereafter created (including but not limited to publication in catalogs, brochures, newspapers, magazines, blogs, and websites), without additional consideration to or permission from the contestant.

Photo & Video Submission Guidelines

Submit your best photographs and videos to the Urban Tides Photo & Video Contest via email to: urbantides.uscg@gmail.com. If a video file is too large to email, notify contest Organizer via the email address above and an alternate method for submission will be arranged.

Include the following information for each photograph and video submission:

• photographer’s name
• location of photograph or video
• date imagery was taken
• time imagery was taken
• direction/orientation of imagery (optional)
• photograph or video title (optional)
• a brief description or reflection (<50 words) on the imagery (optional).

Photographs may also be submitted to usc_sea_grant on Instagram using the hashtag #UrbanTidesPhotos.

Timeline for Submissions
Imagery submitted to the contest must be taken between 12:01 AM on December 1, 2014, 2014 and 11:59 PM on February 26, 2015. All photos and videos must be received via e-mail or Instagram no later than 11:59 PM on February 26, 2015.
**Judging Criteria**

The contest judges will evaluate entries on the basis of:

- Photographic quality;
- Effectiveness at conveying tidal impact; and
- Creative and narrative effect.

Awards will go to the photograph and video deemed highest in all three criteria, with those contestants receiving gift prizes. Prizes will be awarded to the top two finalists and one winner in each contest category. Award winners will be notified by email and winning entries will be posted on USC Sea Grant’s website on March 18, 2015.

**Prizes**

- Admission tickets to the Aquarium of the Pacific will be given to the first place winner in each contest category.
- An invitation to join a MPA Watch boat trip with Los Angeles Waterkeeper will be given to the top two finalists and one winner in each contest category.
- Gift bags with items donated by contest Partners will be given to the top two finalists and one winner in each contest category.
- Photographs and videos of the winner and finalists in each contest category will be digitally displayed for a select period of time at Aquarium of the Pacific, Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, and Santa Monica Pier Aquarium.

**Limitation of Liability**

By participating in the Urban Tides Photo & Video Contest, participants agree to release, discharge and hold harmless the Organizer and Partners from any claims, losses, and damages arising out of their participation in this Contest or any Contest-related activities. The contest Organizer and Partners assume no responsibility for any error, omission, interruption, deletion, defect, or delay in telephone network or lines; computer online systems; servers or providers; computer equipment; human errors of any kind, or any combination thereof.