

Frozen Perfection

SCOTTISH DIVER regular **Gordon MacSkimming** reviews **Freeze Frame**, fellow Scot and wildlife cameraman **Doug Allan's** debut book ...

Freeze Frame: A Wildlife Cameraman's Adventures on Ice
Doug Allan
 Tartan Dragon Ltd
 SRP: £25
 ISBN: 978-0-9571392-0-6
www.dougallan.com

NOW LET'S see, where do we start? How about with the Foreword: "If you are going to get yourself into uncomfortable, difficult, even dangerous circumstances, try to ensure that your companion is a wildlife cameraman," the opening words from David Attenburgh.

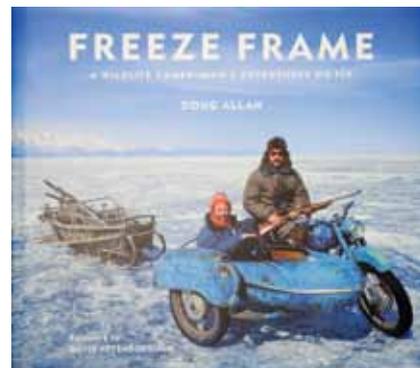
Scotland has in recent years produced a generation and a bit of top wildlife cameramen. I am fairly certain that Doug Allan was the first. His career path runs along the lines of marine biology degree

from Stirling University, freshwater pearl diver, running a dive school, research in the Red Sea, British Antarctic Survey and then finally in the early 1980s came the wildlife cameraman. In particular a wildlife cameraman capable of bringing back material from very cold and inherently hostile places. His work has given him access to amazing scenery, creatures and people, much of it in ice, snow and under polar seas. In *Freeze Frame*, Doug has compiled his experiences using an array of stunning images with relevant textual support.

When I pick up a book like this I am not expecting to read it cover to cover in any particular order. I tend to go through the images in page order and then revisit specific images looking for supporting text that will tell me more. In this respect not all books work for me but *Freeze Frame* does. It does to such an extent that I think someone designed the layout out for me personally.

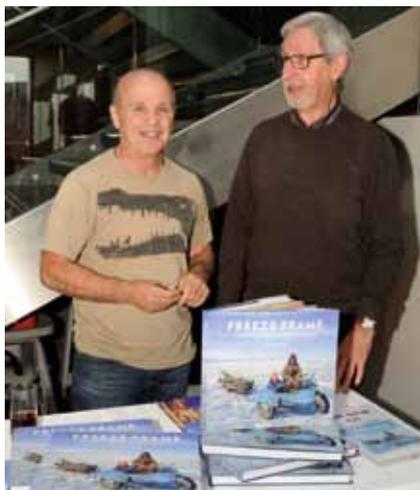
After the foreword and a brief introduction the book is organised into seven main chapters. It concludes with maps of the polar regions, acknowledgements and an index of photographic information. Lest I forget to mention it, the index of photographic information presents a thumbnail of every image in the book along with details of the camera, lens and settings used to obtain the shot, valuable stuff if you are into photography.

A confession, when I picked up this book for the first time a page order scan of the images went out the window. I took one look at the cover shot and went straight to page 46 to get the write up,



it seems that during winter a motorbike and sidecar are the best way to traverse the frozen Lake Baikal in Siberia. When I eventually did start to go through the images in something approaching a logical order I came to an abrupt halt on page 141 where I encountered a familiar picture. It showed a fan of guillemots departing an ice flow, a few years ago it came top in the Underwater World category of the Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition. Interestingly the associated page of text spends little time on the guillemots largely because of a perilous encounter with a walrus which occurred immediately after the image was captured.

This is a book which I can recommend to all readers of **SCOTTISH DIVER** and going full cycle I will conclude with another extract from the Foreword, this time Doug Allan talking to David Attenburgh while still in the water at the end of a dive under the Antarctic ice: "I want to make natural history films for television. How do I start?"



Editor, Jack Morrison, meets Doug Allan



ST ABBS

- Cygnus Revenge 38 with dive lift
- Harbourside accommodation for 18
- Large and small groups welcome
- Diving St Abbs Marine Reserve and further as required



07710 961 050 or 01890 771 945
 paul@divestabbs.com
www.divestabbs.com

Rock House, Harbour,
 St Abbs, Eyemouth,
 Berwickshire TD14 5PW



Leviathan International

Quality diving and water sport products
 Hard hat diving and dry suit repairs

Leviathan International was established in 1999, today we have over 200 different items in stock and because we manufacture all of our own products you are guaranteed quality at a fantastic price. This also means we can tailor make items to your specifications quite often at no extra cost.

T: 01856 851 002

www.leviathaninternational.com