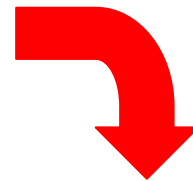


## TIPS AND TRICKS NO 1.

### Minimize Backscatter

Backscatter is the scourge of all underwater photographers. Backscatter is caused by light reflecting off particles in the water and can ruin that special photograph. As divers and photographers it is important to take care not to add to those particles already present in the water. Even the slightest disturbance can create unwanted backscatter.

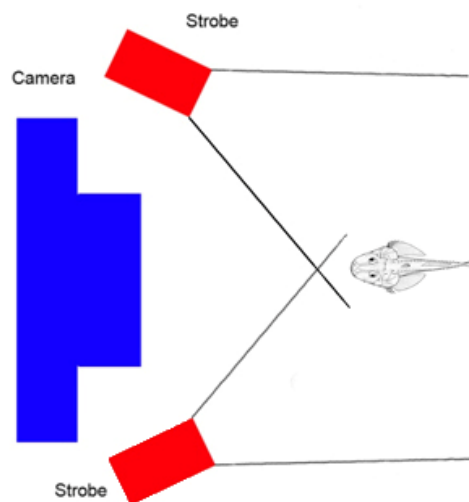


Ways to minimize backscatter include:

- a. Have exceptional buoyancy control and use a sideways kick rather than an up and down kick when fining.
- b. Secure all loose dive equipment. Don't let your gauges or octopus drag along the bottom.
- c. Use a muck stick.
- d. If you need to steady yourself, pinch onto something using the thumb and index finger of your left hand.
- e. If you must get down onto the sand / silt do so with your subject up current so the particles you disturb are carried away behind you.

Ways to minimize the effect of backscatter include:

- a. Wait for it to settle or wash away with the current
- b. Get in close to the subject to limit the distance light has to travel.
- c. Use edge lighting with your strobe(s) or video light(s). Position the lights so that the edge of the beam crosses in front of the subject so that the water column between the lens and the subject is not lit.



- d. Use a snoot