

Angler's Simplified Guide To Better Photographs *by Tim Simos*



Have you ever taken a roll of pictures on a fishing trip and been disappointed with the results. Follow these guidelines and you will see improvements in your pictures.

The most important elements in capturing a good photograph are exposure, composition and content. Considering all of these while shooting will put the odds of getting a better picture in your favor.

To get a correct exposure, simple is best. Set your camera to automatic exposure. If you are able to adjust the meter pattern, choose the one that is best for your type of shooting. If they come out a little light or dark on the average, then adjust the exposure compensation setting. Filters can change the mood of the photo. Experiment with shade compensation setting further when using filters.

Directly related to exposure is the flash. Probably the single most important thing you could do to improve



your average photographs, is to use a flash all the time. A built in flash is usually sufficient. On some cameras you will find an exposure compensation adjustment for the flash as well. Even on bright sunny days, it helps to use a flash, especially when your subject is wearing a hat or being backlit by the sun.

For good composition, keep the photograph balanced. Concentrate on the fish and the anglers. Don't have too much dead space around your subjects. Eliminate objects in the frame that are distracting, but don't forget about other elements that would improve the picture. Those could be a sunrise/sunset, rod and reel, lure etc. Wash any blood from the fish, interact and talk or look at the fish or each other. Remember the more you shoot, the more your photographs will improve.

Checklist For Better Photos:

** Make sure your catch is safe to hold.*

1. Work close: Fill the frame with your subjects
2. Shoot with the sun to your back and use a flash
3. Change perspective: Get below or above the subject. Kneel on the deck or get up in the tower
4. Use high-speed film (200-400 asa), with fast shutter speeds (1/750-1/1000 sec.) for jumping fish.
5. Keep your lens clean and protected.
6. Have subjects interact. Talking, removing hooks, look at fish etc.
7. Take horizontal and vertical frames and multiples of each.
8. Take notes while shooting and compare the settings with the photos.
9. If releasing your large fish, it's best to keep it in the water while photographing.



The photography tips in this year's Offshore Handbook have been provided by Tim Simos from Bluewater Images. Chances are, you have seen one of his underwater images gracing the covers of fishing publications from Australia to Costa Rica, and the United States. His Fishing Photography Service takes him around the world to capture striking images of sportfish above and beneath the surface. Saltwater and Freshwater can be viewed on his website:

[*www.bluewaterimages.net*](http://www.bluewaterimages.net)

We were especially impressed while viewing his unique Underwater Lure Gallery. How does he get those shots?

