

After a full day of underwater photography, determining the best approach for tomorrow's shots can make or break your shooting session. As someone who has been diving and shooting underwater photos for over a decade—from cramped day boats to all-inclusive liveaboards—I've learned that success hinges on a smart, simple workflow after every dive day.

Taking a few moments tonight to review images and inspect your gear will allow you to set a **simple goal underwater** and focus on **one or two adjustments** rather than constant [Click to find out more](#) rebuilding. In this post, we'll share practical steps to plan tomorrow's shots using your nighttime review, while caring for your *underwater camera housing* and accessories to keep everything running smoothly.



Why a Nightly Review Is Crucial for Underwater Photography

Underwater photography is a challenging environment. Saltwater exposure, cramped spaces, and complex gear mean mistakes can quickly escalate into flooded housings or lost images. A quick evening review helps you:

- Check image composition, lighting, and subject variety
- Identify technical settings or framing to tweak
- Plan a realistic goal for tomorrow, avoiding overcomplication
- Inspect gear to detect leaks or issues early

We'll tackle how to do this in a way that protects your gear and keeps your workflow smooth.

Step 1: Start With a Simple Goal Underwater

When you sit down for your review, keep your aspirations grounded. Aim for a **simple goal underwater** like shooting a specific species or perfecting a lighting setup. Avoid jumping into extensive gear rearrangements or experimental techniques until you nail basic success.



Ask yourself:

1. What worked well in today's shots?
2. What didn't work, and why?
3. What one or two changes could improve tomorrow's images?

For example, if your macro focus was slightly soft, you might plan to adjust your aperture on the housing or try different shutter speed settings. By focusing on *one or two adjustments*, you simplify your shooting approach and avoid *constant rebuilds* that waste time underwater.

Step 2: Remove Saltwater and Safely Handle Your Underwater Camera Housing

Before opening housings, it's critical to **remove all saltwater** from the exterior. Salt crystallizes as it dries and can corrode metal buttons, dials, hinges, and even electrical connections.

Tips for safe saltwater removal:

- Rinse your housing thoroughly in fresh water rinse tanks immediately after surfacing
- Avoid banging housings together in *shared rinse tanks* to prevent damage and accidental cracks
- Use a tiny flashlight (kept solely for o-ring inspection) to check for salt deposits around buttons and hinges

After rinsing, gently pat the housing dry with a soft microfiber cloth at a dry workspace away from spray and stalls.

Step 3: Maintain a Dry, Organized Workspace to Avoid Corrosion

An often-overlooked aspect is your post-dive drying and inspection area. Salt and moisture lingering on your housing's mechanical parts can corrode and compromise seals.

Your workspace should have:

- No exposure to open deck spray or humidity
- Soft, clean surface to rest housings to avoid scratches

- Proper lighting for inspecting **o-rings** and housing components

Dry off the buttons, dials, and hinges carefully, making sure no residual water pools in crevices. Inspect electrical connections for corrosion or salt splash, and if necessary, gently clean them with appropriate tools.

Step 4: Inspect O-Rings and Critical Housing Components Thoroughly

One costly mistake I learned early on was opening housings without thoroughly inspecting the o-rings first. For this, I always keep a tiny dedicated flashlight to illuminate the seal grooves.

Housing Component	What to Check	Reason
O-Rings	Cleanliness, intactness, no nicks or debris	Ensures watertight seal, prevents flooding
Buttons and Dials	Smooth operation, no salt buildup	Prevents stiffness that may cause damage under pressure
Hinges and Locks	Functionality and tight locking	Secures housing safely, prevents accidental opening
Electrical Connections	No corrosion or salt crystals	Reliable communication with camera and flash units

Replace or lubricate o-rings with proper grease—not to be confused with sealant!—and reassemble carefully, testing all controls.

Step 5: Backup Images Using Two Devices and Verify Your Data

Nothing is worse than realizing the day's memory cards were lost or corrupted. Don't fall into the trap of *editing for hours before making the second backup*. Instead, establish this quick nightly routine:

1. Transfer images from your camera's memory card(s) to two separate storage devices (e.g., laptop and portable SSD)
2. Verify that files are fully copied and readable on both devices
3. Do not format cards immediately after copying; keep them until backups are confirmed

I get annoyed when people format cards on day one without double-checking backups, because flooding or loss can happen anytime. A verified two-device backup minimizes risk.

Step 6: Plan Your Adjustments and Gear Setup for Tomorrow

Based on your review and inspection, take notes of the *one or two adjustments* you want to make. For example:

- Switch lenses or macro adapters
- Change camera settings like ISO or shutter speed
- Adjust housing buttons or dial configurations if ergonomics caused issues
- Bring additional lighting or diffusers based on shot needs

Label chargers and cables with masking tape if you have multiple devices, avoiding confusion during quick reloads in the morning. Prepare your housing with fresh grease and seals to ensure a smooth start.

Summary: The Simple Workflow for Tomorrow's Shots

1. Review images with focus on a simple goal underwater
2. Rinse housings in fresh water, avoiding banging in shared rinse tanks
3. Dry and inspect housing components thoroughly at a dedicated dry workspace

4. Inspect and maintain o-rings, buttons, dials, hinges, and electrical connections
5. Backup all images to two devices and verify before formatting cards
6. Note one or two key adjustments and prepare gear accordingly

Following this workflow will help you avoid the frustration of flooded housings, lost data, and constant last-minute rebuilds. Instead, you'll execute clean, effective dives with a clear vision, making the most of your underwater photography adventure.

Happy shooting!