

Regulations for the Mayotte International Underwater Image Festival (FIISMM)

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I) General Regulations

The Angalia Agency is organizing the 30th edition of the Mayotte International Underwater Image Festival **from May 28 to 31, 2026**, in Mamoudzou.

The festival's main objective is **to raise awareness among the widest possible audience about the richness and beauty of the marine environment, to foster a sense of the urgent need to preserve the marine environment, and more specifically, to protect the Mayotte lagoon.**

Laurent Mounier, President of the Festival, the permanent members, and the invited members constitute the Organizing Committee. The appointment of the Organizing Committee members, as well as the composition of the various juries (pre-selection jury, main jury, drawing competition jury), ultimately rests with the President of the Festival.

Article 1

Except in cases of force majeure, the Festival takes place annually at the end of May. The various competitions (Drawing, Still Images, Films) are free and open to all, with the exception of members of the Organizing Committee, jury members, and their immediate family members.

Each participant may submit only one work in the Drawing competition and in each of the Still Image Competition categories (Trio, Portfolio, Printed Images), except for the Mayotte Clubs category, in which they may submit one image representing each participating club.

A participant may submit up to three films in each Film Competition category (Music Video, Short Film, Feature Film, and School Film).

Article 2

Registration opens on **January 10, 2026**.

The deadline for registration and receipt of complete applications (registration form and artwork) is **March 31, 2026**. For the drawing competition: from January 15 to April 15, 2026.

Registration for any of the competitions requires the use of the festival registration form, which must be completed on the festival website.

Registration for the drawing competitions requires the use of the duly signed festival registration form. Photocopies are accepted. **Registrations will only be considered valid upon submission of a complete application.** We advise registering as early as possible.

Registration forms (registration form and artwork(s)) may be submitted to the following address:
Angalia Agency, 1 rue de la station - ZI Kawéni 97600 Mamoudzou,
or sent by email or WeTransfer via the website: **fiismm.com**

Article 3

The Festival Organizing Committee undertakes to take the utmost care of the artworks but cannot under any circumstances be held responsible for any loss or damage to the artworks during the Festival. It is therefore the responsibility of those interested to take out personal insurance, if they deem it necessary, to cover these risks.

Article 4

Works that have already participated in the Mayotte Underwater Image Festival will not be considered.

Article 5

Entrants authorize the Organizing Committee to use their works for the entire duration of the Festival (which may now include several dates throughout the island and a screening in Réunion), as well as their duplication or reproduction for the archives of the Mayotte International Underwater Image Festival. The works will always be used with attribution to the author, but without any payment of royalties or compensation of any kind.

This acceptance grants the Festival organizers permission to publicly screen the works in competition during the Festival without claiming royalties or compensation. The works may be used in public screenings at future festivals but will never be used in public screenings outside of festival periods.

The winning works may represent the FIISMM and be used at FIISMM's partner festivals (GALATHEA in Hyères, SUBLIMAGE in Nouméa, EMBARQUE À TREB in Trébeurden, and SUBCAM in Port-Vendres).

Copyright and no other form of remuneration may be claimed for the programming and screening of the film(s) presented to the public during the festival(s), whether in competition or out of competition.

By registering for the competition, participants agree that the drawings, photographs, and videos submitted in all categories may be used or reproduced for media coverage of the Festival, for the promotion of future festivals and other events raising awareness about the protection of the marine environment, **in all media including television, the internet, social networks, etc.**

There is no time limit (in the case of videos, the transfer of images for this purpose may never exceed 4 minutes of footage per work).

Files submitted for competition will remain indefinitely in the Festival archives.

Competitors' addresses may be shared with FIISMM's partner Francophone festivals (GALATHEA in Hyères, SUBLIMAGE in Nouméa, EMBARQUE À TREB in Trébeurden, and SUBCAM in Port-Vendres) for the dissemination of information regarding each festival.

By signing the official competition entry form, the author (and producer) of the work accepts the rules stated above.

Article 6

The author (and, where applicable, the producer for Film competitions) declares that they are the rightful owner of all rights related to the submitted work, including the music. They also declare that they hold the image rights for the individuals featured in the work submitted for competition.

The organizers, in accordance with established copyright law, consider that **the works submitted to the Festival are free of any artistic or other property rights that may be held by third parties.** By participating in the Festival, authors agree to indemnify the organizers against any legal action that may be brought against them by rights holders. The Festival organizers cannot be held liable in the event of any dispute or litigation.

Article 7

For each competition, the jury president and the other jury members are appointed by the Organizing Committee. The composition of the juries (except for the pre-selection jury) will be published on the Festival website.

The jury's role is to select the winners of the various competitions. **The jury's decisions are final: the jury's decision is absolute.**

Only works selected by the pre-selection jury, drawn from the Organizing Committee and whose decisions are also final, will be presented to the juries.

Article 8

The Organizing Committee cannot be held liable if, due to force majeure or any cause beyond its control, dates are changed, or if the Festival is modified or canceled.

II) Rules for the Various Competitions

Drawing Competition

1/ The drawing competition is open to young people **under 19 years of age**.

Two categories are defined:

- Up to 12 years old
- From 13 to 19 years old

2/ Drawings must adhere to the theme: **"Imagine life in an underwater cave"**

3/ The required format is **29.7x42cm (A3)** in portrait orientation. The drawing must be presented on a vertical support that is easy to move. All graphic expression techniques are permitted: pastels or colored pencils, pen or brush, watercolor, collage, etc.

4/ Drawings can be submitted to the **AADTM in Mamoudzou, the Angalia agency in Kawéni, or the Chirongui Cultural Center before April 15, 2026**, using the form provided for this purpose, which must be attached to the back of the drawing. If the form is unavailable, please provide the full name, date of birth, address, and telephone number of the author or their legal representative.

5/ **The competition rewards artistic quality and the strength of the message conveyed.** The jury will meet to announce its verdict in early May 2026.

The jury will establish the rankings by age category and award prizes at its discretion. Its decision is final.

The winners in each category will be announced on the Festival's closing day, **May 31, 2026**.

6/ The jury will decide which of the two drawings, the Golden Seahorse in the "Up to 12 years" category or the Golden Seahorse in the "13-19 years" category, will win the Jack Passe Trophy at the 2026 Festival and be featured on the poster for the 2027 edition.

Image Competition

1/ The Still Image Competition offers four ways to enter:

- Portfolio
- Thematic Trio
- Printed Photo
- Mayotte Clubs

Photos submitted for competition may be taken either underwater or in a semi-aerial or semi-aerial position. Using the same photograph in multiple competition categories is prohibited.

Participants in the Still Image Competition may not have a co-author.

2/ Specifics of the Portfolio and Thematic Trio Competitions

• Competitors in the Portfolio and Thematic Trio competitions can choose to register in one of two categories: "**Amateur**" or "**Expert**".

• The "**Amateur**" category is for photographers who have never been published or won an award. A candidate who has already won an award as an "Amateur" at the FIISMM will be classified as an "Expert".

• The "**Expert**" category is for established photographers who have participated in publications and exhibitions and have already won awards in competitions.

• **A candidate may only register in one of the two categories.**

• The jury reserves the right to move candidates from one category to another if it deems an entry inappropriate.

• The Printed Photo and Mayotte Clubs competitions are not affected by these two categories.

3/ Participants in the Still Images competitions authorize the reproduction of their works.

For the archives and promotion of the Festival (see General Regulations)

4/ A pre-selection jury will meet after the submission deadline to ensure that the submitted works comply with the regulations.

5/ Participants are required to respect environmental protection legislation and the underwater world during filming. Any photograph depicting a disturbance of the natural habitat, provocation through touching, feeding, or movement of animals will not be accepted.

The Portfolio

1/ Candidates must submit **10 underwater images** in .jpeg format, with each image not exceeding 10 MB (300 dpi). The required aspect ratio is 2:3 (e.g., 24:36, 30:45).

2/ Each competitor may submit only one portfolio.

3/ The Portfolio competition rewards the diversity of photographic subjects.

The jury's evaluation will focus on the technical quality and variety of shooting styles, the diversity and originality of the subjects, and the emotion conveyed. Any repetition of subjects in the submitted photos will negatively impact the final score (e.g., 3 photos of clownfish).

4/ Each file name for the Portfolio competition must be in the following format:

Portfolio + Last Name + First Name + photo number.

Example: "Portfolio.Besson.Luc.1" then "Portfolio.Besson.Luc.2" etc. This order will be used for distribution.

5/ Photo editing, special effects, text insertion, signatures, or framing of photos are not permitted. Including a photo credit is also prohibited. In general, any post-production deemed excessive by the jury will penalize the entrant. The jury may request the original photo files.

6/ The Organizing Committee agrees not to change the order in which the submitted images will be projected. They reserve the right to add musical accompaniment of their choice to all portfolios in the competition during their public screening.

Thematic Trio

1/ Candidates must submit three underwater still images in .jpeg format, each no larger than 10 MB (300 dpi). The required aspect ratio is 2:3 (e.g., 24:36, 30:45).

2/ Each competitor may submit only one Thematic Trio.

3/ **The three photos in the series must have a clear** thematic link (e.g., three photos of manta rays, three photos of nudibranchs, three photos of similar poses, etc.) as the judging will be based on the **thematic coherence of the series**. The jury's evaluation will focus on the technical quality and variety of shooting styles, the originality of the theme, the diversity of the images and their coherence with the theme, and the emotion conveyed.

4/ Each file name submitted to the Thematic Trio competition must be in the following format:

Trio + Last Name + First Name + photo number

Example: "Trio.Besson.Luc.1" then "Trio.Besson.Luc.2" etc. This order will be used for the presentation.

5/ Photo editing, special effects, text insertion, signatures, or framing of photos are not permitted. Including a photo credit is also prohibited. Generally, any post-production deemed excessive by the jury will be penalized. The original files of the photographs may be requested by the jury.

6/ The Organizing Committee agrees not to change the presentation order of the submitted images. They reserve the right to add musical entertainment of their choice to all the Thematic Trio entries during their public screenings.

Printed Photo

1/ Each entrant may submit only one printed photo.

2/ Photographs must be sent in .jpeg format (**300 dpi**) to the Festival organizers, who will print them. The required size is **40 cm x 60 cm**. The file size must not exceed **6 MB**.

3/ Each filename for the Printed Photo competition must be in the following format:

Imp + Last Name + First Name + photo number

Example: "Imp.Besson.Luc."

4/ The photos entered in the competition will be exhibited during the Festival and submitted to a public vote (**People's Choice Award**).

5/ Photo editing, special effects, text insertion, signatures, or framing of photos are not permitted. The mention of a photo credit is also prohibited. Generally speaking, any post-production deemed excessive by the jury will penalize the entrant. The original files of the footage may be requested by the jury.

Mayotte Clubs

1/ To participate in the Mayotte Clubs competition, entrants must complete at least one dive with a Mayotte club participating in the competition. The photo submitted for the competition must be taken during this dive, as attested by the club's staff via the entry form. Each entrant may only submit one photo per club.

Mayotte is participating in the competition (and therefore as many images as there are member clubs). The photo must have been taken between April 9, 2024, and March 31, 2026. The Mayotte Clubs category awards prizes to both the photographer and the club.

2/ Candidates must submit **one underwater image** in .jpeg format, with a file size not exceeding 10 MB (300 dpi). The required aspect ratio is 2:3 (e.g., 24:36, 30:45).

3/ Each file name for the Mayotte Clubs competition must be in the following format:

Club + Last Name + First Name + Club Name

Example: "Club.Besson.Luc.LagonMahorais"

4/ The registration form, specific to this category and available at the clubs, must include the photographer's first and last name, the club name, and the location and date of the photo submitted to the competition. The registration form must be stamped by the club.

5/ Each participating club must submit all its entries (digital files + registration forms) to the festival organizers by March 31, 2026.

6/ Photo editing, special effects, text insertion, signatures, or framing of photos are not permitted. Including a photo credit is also prohibited. In general, any post-production deemed excessive by the jury will be penalized. The original footage files may be requested by the jury.

Film Competition

1/ The Film Competition offers four entry options:

- Music Video, maximum duration **3 minutes (minimum 50% underwater footage)**
- Short Film, maximum duration **26 minutes (minimum 40% underwater footage)**
- Feature Film, maximum duration **90 minutes (minimum 30% underwater footage)**
- School Film, produced by a school and with a **maximum duration of 26 minutes (minimum 20% underwater footage)**

Each entrant may submit up to 3 films per category.

2/ Accepted presentation formats are .mov or .avi with H.264 encoding at 1080p.

3/ Each filename for the Film Competition must be in the following format:

Last Name + First Name + Title + Duration

Example: "Besson.Luc.TheBigBlue.52"

4/ All films selected by the pre-selection jury will be screened for the public. The pre-selection jury may select films not eligible for competition to be screened for the public during the Festival.

5/ All soundtracks used in the films must be royalty-free (see General Regulations). Otherwise, proof of purchase of the rights to the soundtrack in question must be provided.

6/ **A short synopsis and a headshot of the director (500 KB to 1 MB) must accompany each film.** If possible, a teaser trailer would be appreciated.

7/ The official language of the Festival is French. For films presented in another language, the author must provide French subtitles or submit the text of the work written in French (on a digital medium). Films in the Music Video category may, in certain cases, be exempt from this requirement.

8/ Winners in the Film category authorize the Festival to use a copy of the winning work. The Festival is responsible for preserving this copy and ensuring respect for the authors' rights.

9/ **A "Parc Marin de Mayotte" prize** will be awarded to the film whose message on environmental protection is the most effective. This prize is awarded by a special jury composed of members of the Mayotte Marine Natural Park. The author of the winning film agrees to the free use of their work by the Mayotte Marine Natural Park and the French Office for Biodiversity, for non-commercial purposes, within the framework of awareness and education initiatives concerning the marine environment.

III) Prizes

All prizes are awarded during the closing ceremony. If no winner is declared, the prize will be sent to them later that year.

The jury may award one, two, or three prizes per competition (Gold, Silver, and Bronze Seahorses) or decide not to award any prizes to a competition (insufficient participation, low level of entries, entries not reflecting the spirit of the Festival, etc.). The jury is not required to justify its choices. The jury's decisions are final.

1 to 3 prizes for the Still Images/Trio Amateur category

1 to 3 prizes for the Still Images/Trio Expert category

1 to 3 prizes for the Still Images/Portfolio Amateur category

1 to 3 prizes for the Still Images/Portfolio Expert category

1 to 6 Mayotte Clubs prizes for a photo taken during a dive with one of the Mayotte diving clubs participating in the competition (1 prize for the winner and 1 prize for the club where they dived).

1 Audience Choice Award for the Still Images/Printed Image Competition (public vote)

1 to 3 awards for the Films/Music Video Competition

1 to 3 awards for the Films/Short Film Competition

1 to 3 awards for the Films/Feature Film Competition

1 to 3 prizes for the Film Competition / School Film

1 prize from the Parc Marin for the Film Competition

1 prize for the Drawing Competition / Ages 6-12

1 prize for the Drawing Competition / Ages 13-19

1 Jack Passe Prize for the best drawing (among the two previous categories).

This drawing will be featured on the poster for the 31st edition.