


# PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS FROM A PROFESSIONAL UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHER



— If you are starting out on underwater photography or have been thinking about shooting underwater subjects on your next dive trip, consider these pro tips from underwater photographer William Tan.

## Camera Mode & Settings




**Mode:** Manual

**Aperture:** f/8 to f/11 for f/2.8 lenses, and f/16 only when absolutely necessary


**Shutter Speed:** Fastest recommended synchronising speed with external strobes; or 1/60 sec to freeze movement of most fishes

**ISO:** Lowest ISO available for macro shooting for the best resolution; a higher ISO for wide angle shooting

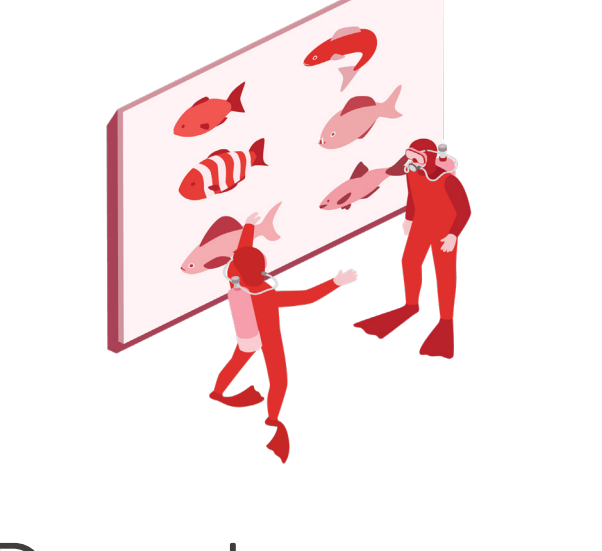
## Do's & Don'ts




Do have a respectable control of buoyancy before attempting underwater photography.




Don't harass the animals – the more agitated they are, the more difficult to shoot.




Do read up on animal behaviours for better showcase of final images.



Do understand the functions available on your camera.

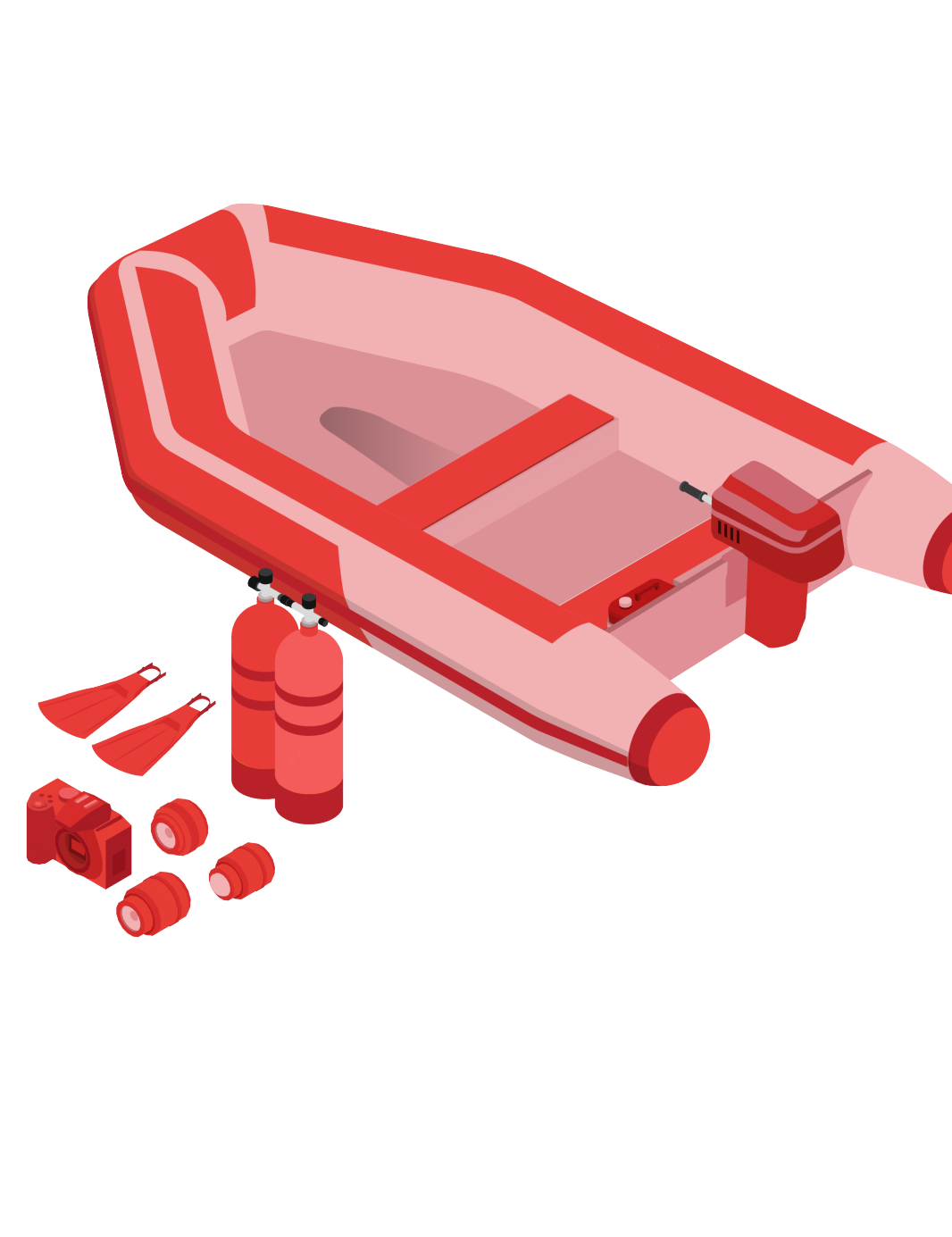


Don't manipulate the animals you are shooting.



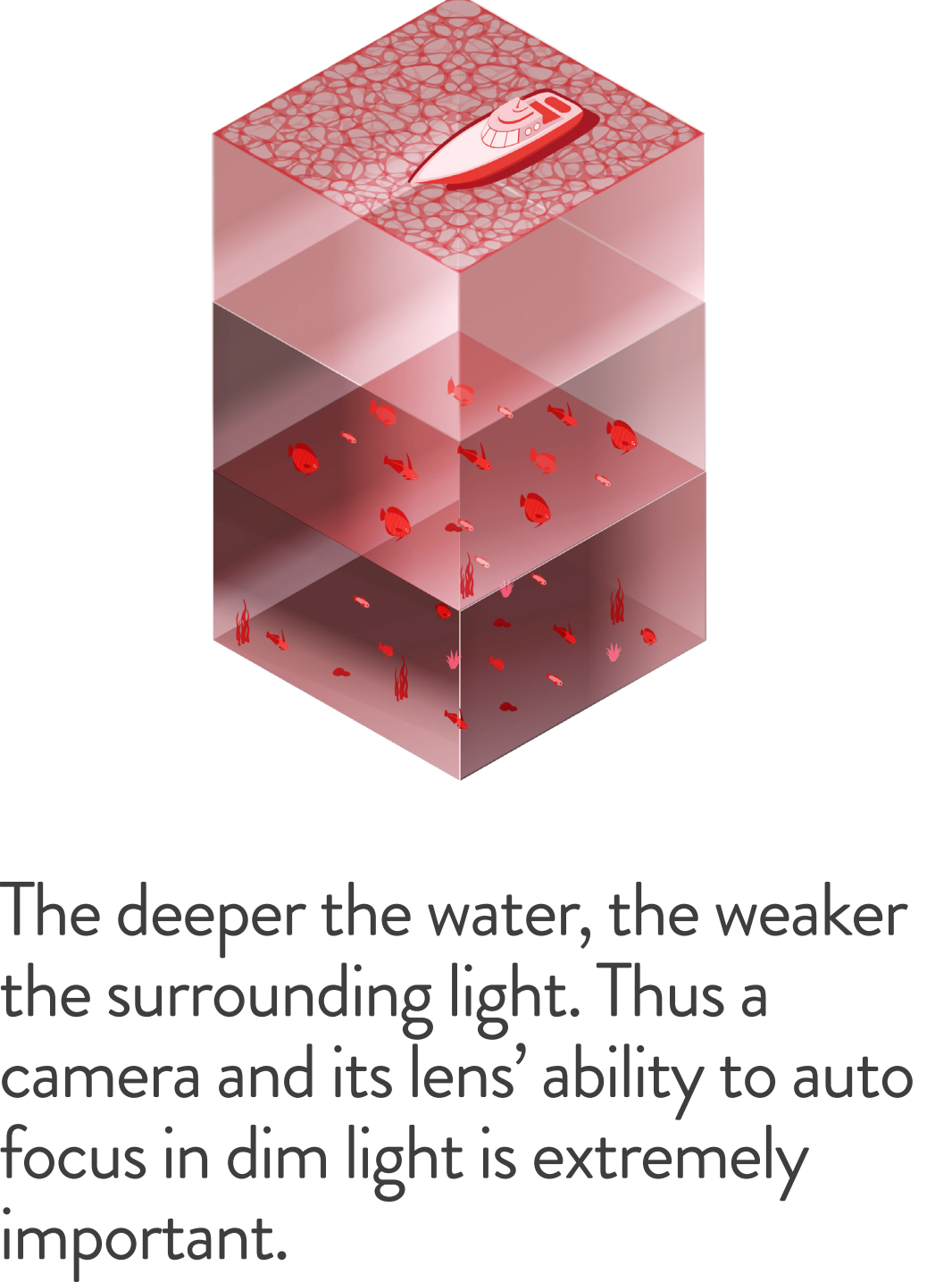
Don't expect success overnight.

## Recommended Camera Equipment



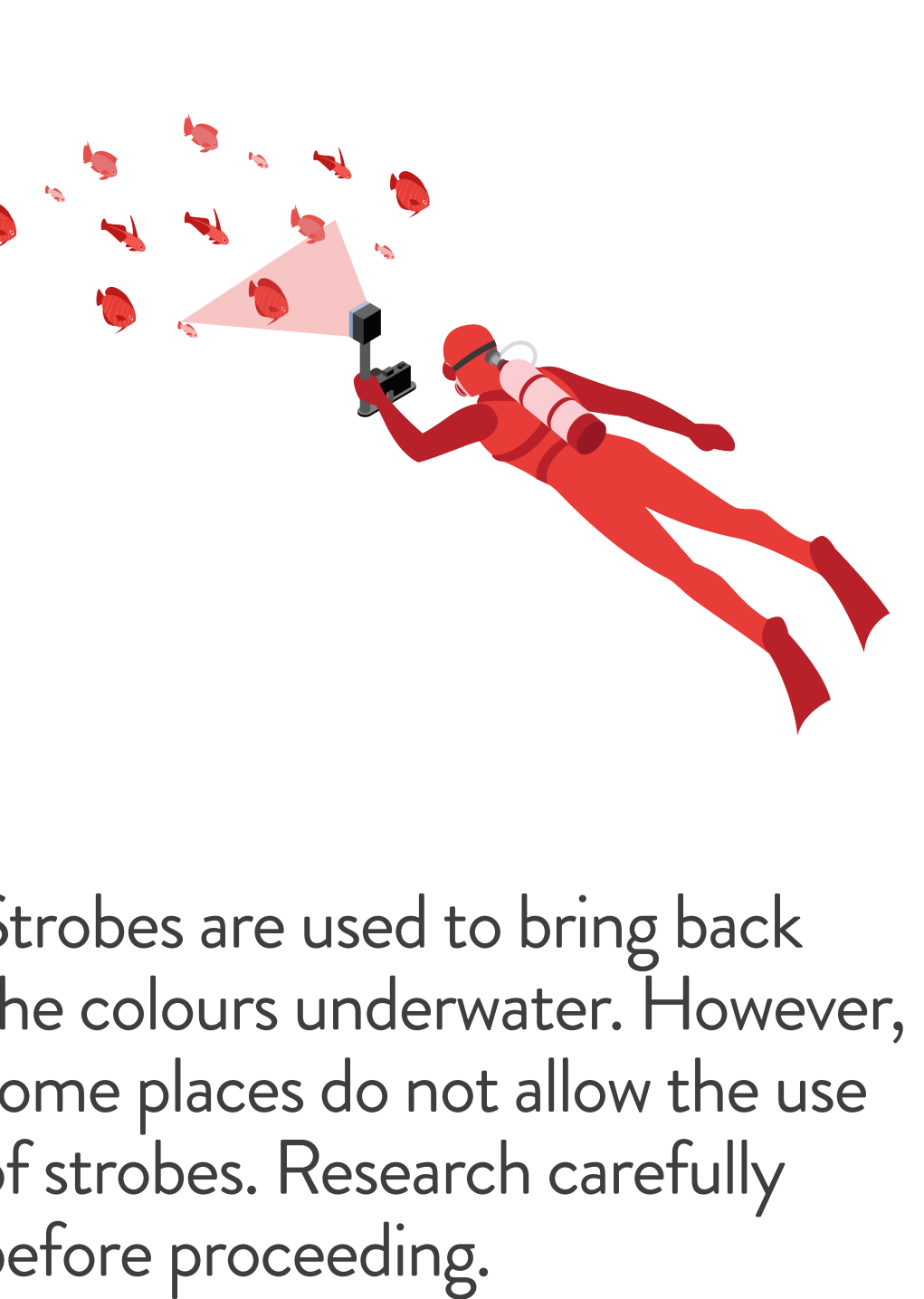
- Canon EOS 1DX Mark II and EOS 5D Mark IV
- Canon EF 100mm f/2.8L Macro IS USM or Canon EF 100mm f/2.8 USM Macro lenses for macro subjects
- Canon EF 16-35mm f/2.8 L III lens for photographing sharks or dolphins
- Canon EF 8-15mm f/4L USM Fisheye lens for reef scenes or large whales

## Different Equipment for Different Depth of Water



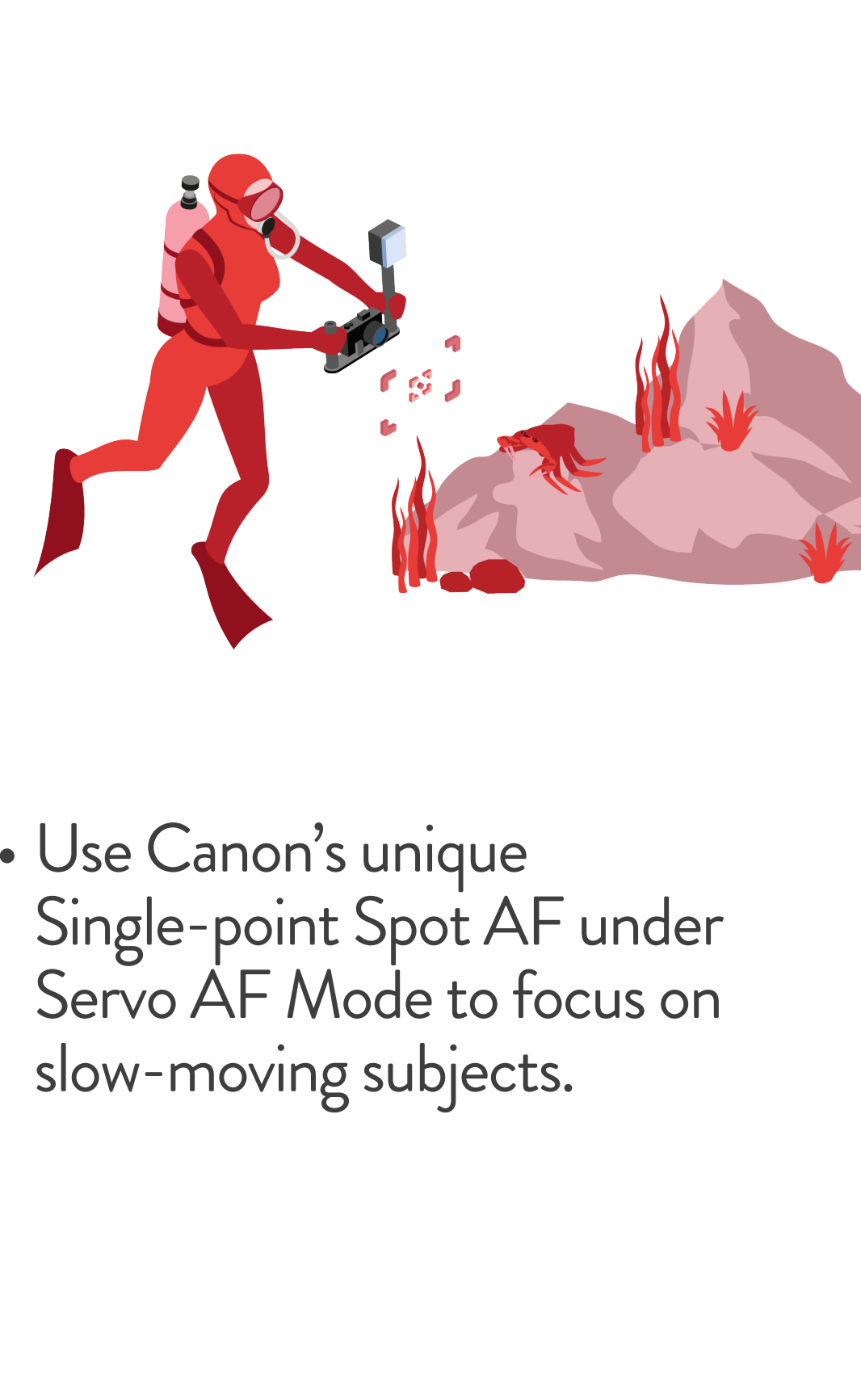
The deeper the water, the weaker the surrounding light. Thus a camera and its lens' ability to auto focus in dim light is extremely important.

## Why Use Strobes?

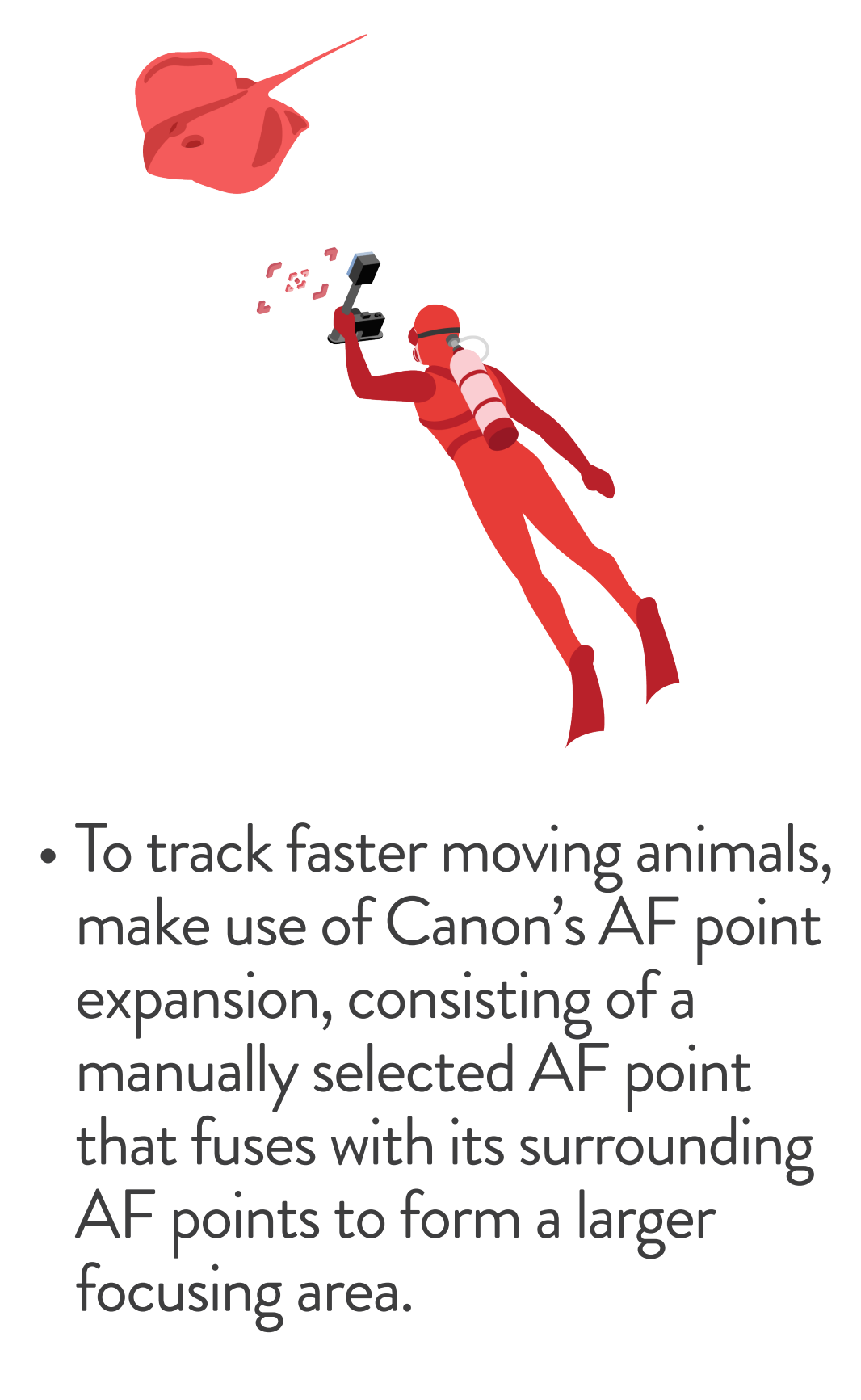


Strobes are used to bring back the colours underwater. However, some places do not allow the use of strobes. Research carefully before proceeding.

## Ensuring Sharp Underwater Subjects

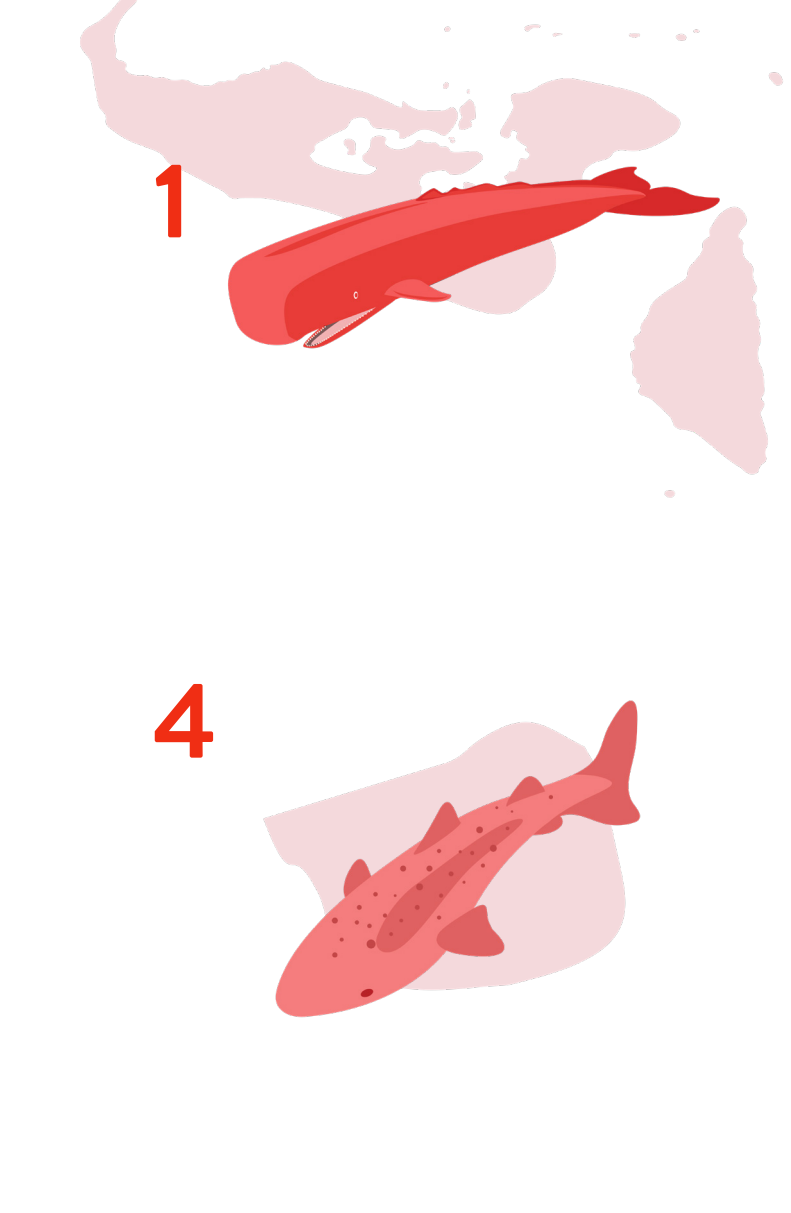


- Use Canon's unique Single-point Spot AF under Servo AF Mode to focus on slow-moving subjects.

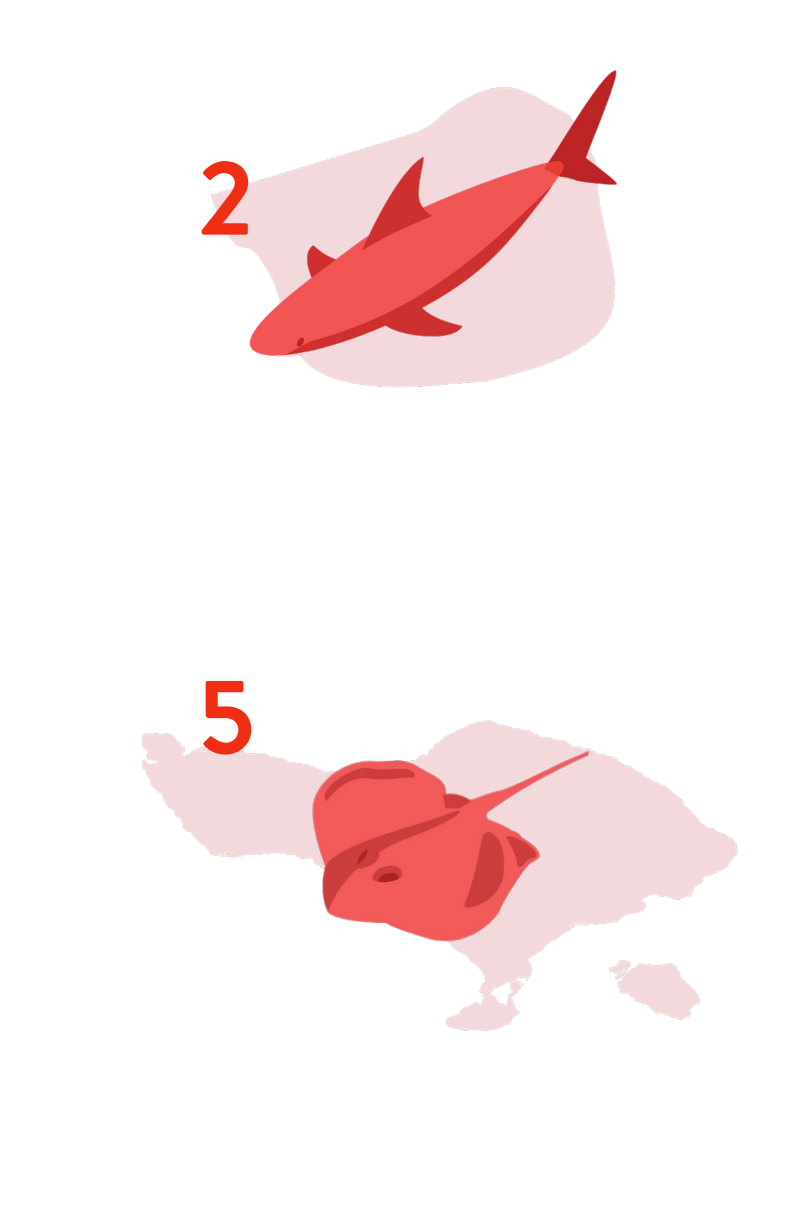


- To track faster moving animals, make use of Canon's AF point expansion, consisting of a manually selected AF point that fuses with its surrounding AF points to form a larger focusing area.


## Best Destinations for Underwater Photography



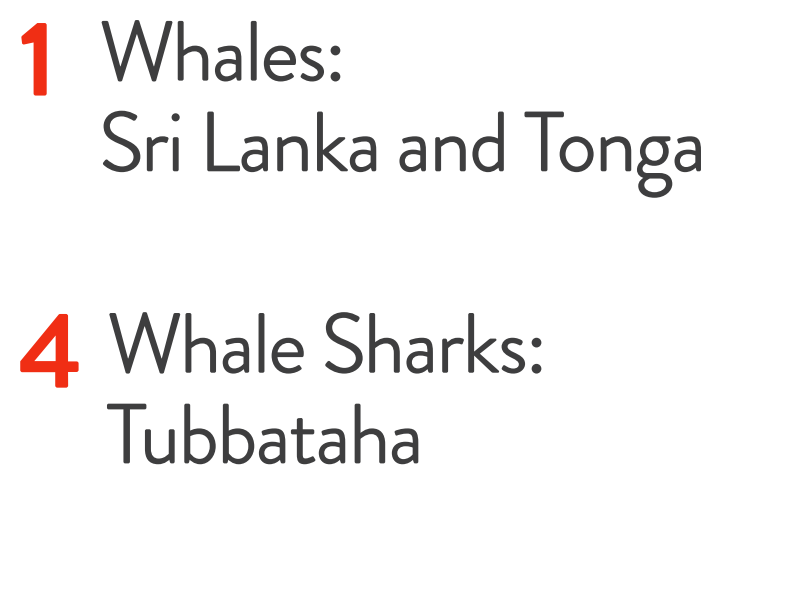
**1** Whales: Sri Lanka and Tonga




**2** Tiger Sharks: Fuvahmulah Maldives




**3** Thresher Sharks: Malapascua



**4** Whale Sharks: Tubbataha



**5** Mantas: Bali, Komodo, Raja Ampat



**6** Small Critters: Anilao, Ramblon, Lembeh