



2021-2030 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

today
we have

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONTESTANTS

LIVE BY THE SEA

2026

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH
PHOTO AND FILM CONTEST



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YOUTH OCEAN LEADERSHIP & ADVOCACY



Nadbałtyckie
Centrum Kultury
Gdańsk

Instytucja Kultury Samorządu
Województwa Pomorskiego



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I live by the Sea

International Youth Photo and Film Contest 2026

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1. This Contest is organized by Today We Have in cooperation with Baltic Sea Cultural Centre, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, CretAquarium, Institute of Oceanology Polish Academy of Sciences (IOPAN), YOLA (Youth Ocean Leadership and Advocacy), EurOcean, Oceanographic Center of Málaga, Nausicaa, ONG Mare Nostrum, Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Split, THE MARE FOUNDATION, Rostock Zoo, Sopot Science Association, Gdynia Aquarium, THE NATURE OF US, Marbefes and the Manny The Manateenager.

1.2. This Contest is for school children of ages up to 21.

1.3. The winners will be selected in four age categories:

- 5 to 12,
- 13 to 15,
- 16 to 18,
- 19 to 21.

1.4. **Submission of works (1 photo or 1 film and a text) by 27 April 2026.**

1.5. **Planned announcement of the results: 8 June 2026.**

1.6. **This year, the top photos, films and best stories will be presented in the St. Johns Cultural Center in Gdańsk, Poland, a historic venue that has been managed by the Baltic Sea Cultural Centre and has served community and cultural function for nearly 30 years now.**

1.7. Current information about the Contest is available at

<https://todaywehave.com/contest/>

1.8. **The language of the Contest is English.**

1.9. This set of rules creates a basis for the Contest and provides Contestants with responsibilities and rights.

II. CONTEST GOALS

2.1. The I live by the Sea International Youth Contest is a continuation of a Polish project, which took place in 2015 and early 2016, and is a direct follow up on the 2017 International edition. The Organizers' goal is to spread and share knowledge about marine environments and marine protection issues, as well as the exchange of information among users of different seas and marine oriented regions.

2.2. The I live by the Sea International Youth Contest also aims to involve youth from different natural and cultural heritage backgrounds to share their views on marine issues in a creative way.



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III. CONTEST THEME

3.1. Participants send ONE photograph or ONE film and a short text related to the photo or a film. Both the photo or the film and text must reflect on marine issues, either global or local. Submissions may refer to such general categories as: Landscape, People or Animals. Some examples of themes include:

- Climate-related hazards and natural disasters.
- Do I know how to act beach and ocean friendly?
- Marine Protected Areas, chance for a healthy ocean.
- How to adapt to the changing climate?
- Should I eat fish only from my sea?
- We all are responsible for the oceans.

IV. TECHNICAL ISSUES

4.1. Each participant submits the application via the contest website:

<https://todaywehave.com/contest/>

4.2. Each participant submits an original photograph or a film and a short text related to the photo or the film. The text may be a story, a report, a description, a plea to humanity, etc.

4.3. All images must be submitted in **JPG format, minimum 1MB** and not to exceed **10MB** as a closed file. Please do not send photos with frames and avoid collages. If selected, you may be contacted for a larger file that is suitable for the exhibition. Each text should be maximum 250 words. Formatting: Times New Roman, 11 pts., single space. Each text should have a title related to the photograph.

4.4. Link to download the graphic file (photo) sent by WeTransfer (<https://wetransfer.com/>) from your email address provided in this application to: office@todaywehave.com

4.5. Films can be recorded in an arbitrary technology, using any type of recording device (camera, photo camera, mobile phone, etc.). **Send a link to your video on YouTube video.** How to do it? While on the channel page, tap the menu in the upper right corner (three dots). Select Share and then Copy the link you insert here.

Once the organizer approves your video, you will be asked to upload the original video with English subtitles via WeTransfer (<https://wetransfer.com/>) from your email address provided in this application to: office@todaywehave.com



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- 4.6. **Video length up to 1 minute or up to 3 minutes.**
- 4.7. **Submissions may have up to 2 authors for the photo and up to 5 authors for the film.**
- 4.8. Contest Organizers provide a panel of judges for the selection of the best submissions.

V. PARTICIPATION IN THE CONTEST

- 5.1. Participation is voluntary and is free of any charges or fees.
- 5.2. By participating in the Contest you are agreeing to the Contest rules.
- 5.3. By submitting work to the Contest the applicant agrees to the use of his/her personal data for the purpose of the Contest.
- 5.4. Contestants agree that their works will be presented on the Today We Have webpage, FB, Instagram, YouTube both during and after the Contest.
- 5.5. Contestants agree that their works will be printed and exhibited by the Organizers free of charge, without time and space limits.

VI. CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

- 6.1. Submissions can be made by children and young persons of ages up to 21 years old.
- 6.2. Submissions can be made individually by children or through their teachers, parents and/or legal guardians.
- 6.3. In case of collaborative works, contestants are required to be from the same age group.
- 6.4. In the event of too many submissions, the Jury will implement a pre-selection process for the submissions.

VII. RULES FOR SELECTING BEST WORKS

- 7.1. This Contest is a one stage event.
- 7.2. A panel of international judges will evaluate all submissions with respect to the photo or film quality and the text, taking into account originality and level of merit.



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VIII. AWARDS

8.1. Best photos, films and stories will be presented as part of the exhibition.

Exhibition venue: St. John's Cultural Centre in Gdańsk.

8.2. All winners (ONLY) will receive diplomas, which will be sent to the e-mail address provided in the application form.

8.3. Jury decisions are final and cannot be appealed.

IX. SUBMISSIONS

9.1. Each submission MUST consist of a photo or a film, text and the Contest Submission Form.

9.2. Each submission must include the following:

a) First name and surname, age of the Contestant, address of the Contestant (or address of school or other institution), telephone number and email address.

b) Title of the submission.

9.3. The winning contestants agree to have their names published in the official contest materials and on contest websites (FB, Instagram, YouTube) during and after the contest, as well as during the final exhibition.

X. FINAL AGREEMENTS

10.1. Persons submitting work to the Contest hereby declare that the photo, film and a text are their original work and they are not using the intellectual or legal property of anyone else.

10.2. Organizers are not responsible and liable for photos and films which are not contestant's original works.

10.3. Participants retain all copyright, trademark, and other intellectual property rights in their submitted artwork. Today We Have and the other organizers will acknowledge authorship each time the submitted artwork is used.

10.4. By submitting this form and making your personal data available to Today We Have, you acknowledge and consent to the processing of your personal data for the purpose of the I Live by the Sea contest in accordance with the terms of the General Data Protection Regulation. The consent includes all items listed under IX Submissions; paragraph 9.3..

10.5. In case of questions please contact the Organizers at: office@todaywehave.com