

Andenes-Norway

The sky is moody and once again, light will be in short supply underwater, the orcas are in full hunting mode, and are working at pushing the herring in the shallows so they can dispatch them more easily, I noticed that two humpback whales have joined in and are pushing the herrings towards our boat, it is a now or never occasion to take a shot.

As the whales approach, I gently slip into the dark and cold water, I can vaguely discern the sandy bottom at about 10m / 30ft, as I am proceeding toward the whales to intersect their path, I feel a cold bite on my back and soon realize that my dry suit is no longer a dry suit and is quickly filling up with freezing 3°C / 37F water, I instantly start to shiver but decide to carry on nevertheless. A few second later, the whales enter my field of view, but they are still too far away to fill my viewfinder, I unfortunately no longer have the strength to proceed toward them and my movements are restricted by my flooded dry suit.

I am rewarded for my persistence when out of nowhere, a family of orcas drop by, they will complete the image. With numb fingers, I crank up the ISO and push my camera to its limit. Light is cruelly low, I can't open the aperture any more than it is, visibility is poor, can't lower the shutter speed for risk of ending up with a blurry image. Once I bagged the image, I have but one thought on my mind, to get back to port, warm myself up and find what, from the camera LCD screen, appears to be incredible. The clouds move in as we are still on the open sea and large snowflakes start to fall from the sky as we are heading back to port.

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