

# Press Release

## BONABYSS

2023



Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean, March 29th, 2023  
Blue Classroom Freediving Center

Bonaire, a small island in the Dutch Caribbean, has established itself as a world-class freediving destination after hosting BonAbyss 2023, an international event that featured Alexey Molchanov, the top freediving athlete in the world, and other freediving athletes from different countries.

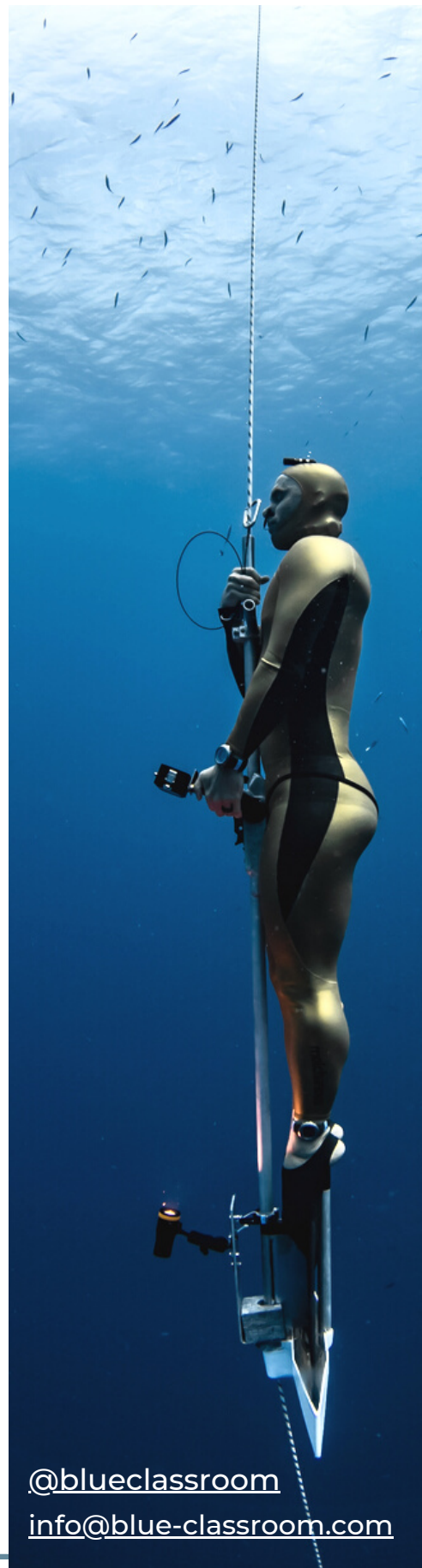
The event, organized by the Blue Classroom Freediving Center from March 24th to 28th, was a massive success, with multiple worlds and national records broken. The highlight of the event was undoubtedly Alexey Molchanov's incredible display of human endurance and determination. On Saturday, March 25th, he broke the Variable Weight (VWT) World Record by descending to a depth of -153 meters. Just two days later, on Tuesday, March 28th, he surpassed his record, diving to an even more impressive depth of -156 meters.

"It's basically just exploring a new discipline which I've never done before," said Molchanov of his record-breaking dive. "I'm really happy with how it was. It was a challenge, much bigger pressure than I'm used to, and the body position was a challenge as well. And now it's gonna be a season of other disciplines, it's tradition to me."

Other freediving athletes also achieved notable results during the event. Eric Van Riet Paap set a new Variable Weight (VWT) National Record for the Netherlands with a dive of -93 meters, while Brandon Best set a new VWT National Record for the USA with a dive of -52 meters. Petra Oberucova from Slovakia accomplished her first competitive experience ever, setting a new VWT National Record for her country by diving to a depth of -43 meters.

"The success of the event and the athlete's record-breaking dives highlight the incredible capabilities of the human body and the power of dedication and perseverance," said Carlos Coste of Blue Classroom Freediving Center. "We are thrilled to have hosted such an amazing event and extend our deepest gratitude to all those who offered their time, dedication, and expertise to ensure the athletes' safety during their record attempts."

BonAbyss2023 was made possible thanks to the support of its sponsors, including Tourism Corporation Bonaire, STINAPA, STCB, WhatSup Bonaire, Dive Friends, DivOcean, Plaza Beach & Dive Resort, Budget Marine, and others. The organizers are already looking forward to BonAbyss2024 and are excited to welcome the world's top freediving athletes to the stunning underwater environment of Bonaire.



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