



Finding the Shot:

Lenses

Time & Space

(DoF and shutter speed)

Planning

John Tunney





Lenses: What to use when and why

*Part of “seeing”
is knowing how
your camera
sees and records things.*

Focal length expansion and compression



24mm

Wide angle expands scene



70mm

Telephoto compresses scene



19mm



60mm





24mm, F8

Wide-angle lens often used to emphasize foreground element and maximize depth of field to create expanded sense of space and distance.



14mm, F14



16mm





Wide Angle Distortion



F5.6, 400mm

Telephoto Lens -
For when you can't get close enough



F5.6, 400mm

Or don't want to get too close



Telephoto zoom
compresses scene
and depth of field,
creating a flatter look.

110mm @ f8



F5.6, 400mm

Compression



400mm, f11



400mm, F8



220mm, F5.6



400mm, F8



Experiment with Time & Space



Freeze Motion



Blur Motion

Time

Shutter Speed



15 secs.



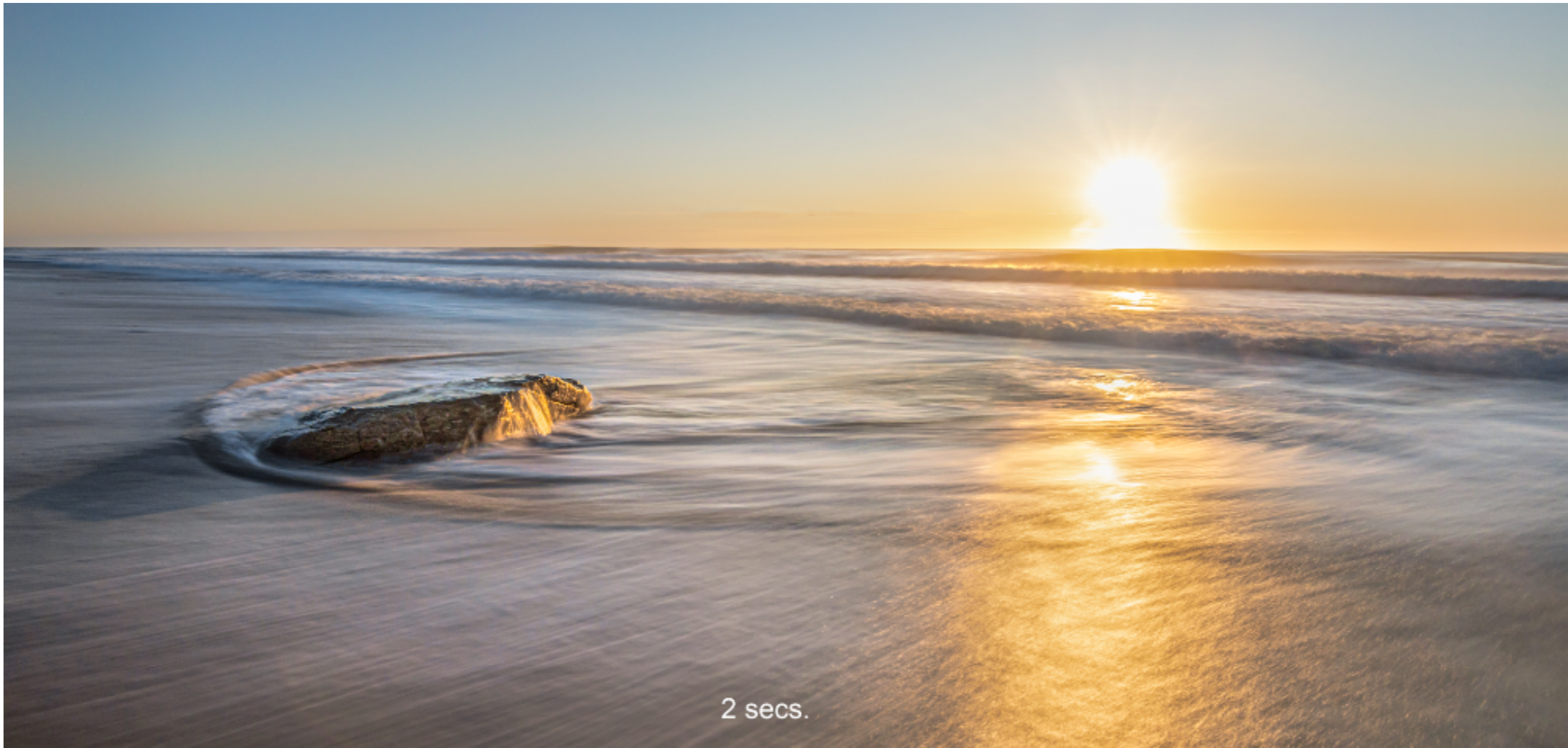
1/160th sec.



1/10th sec.



30 secs.



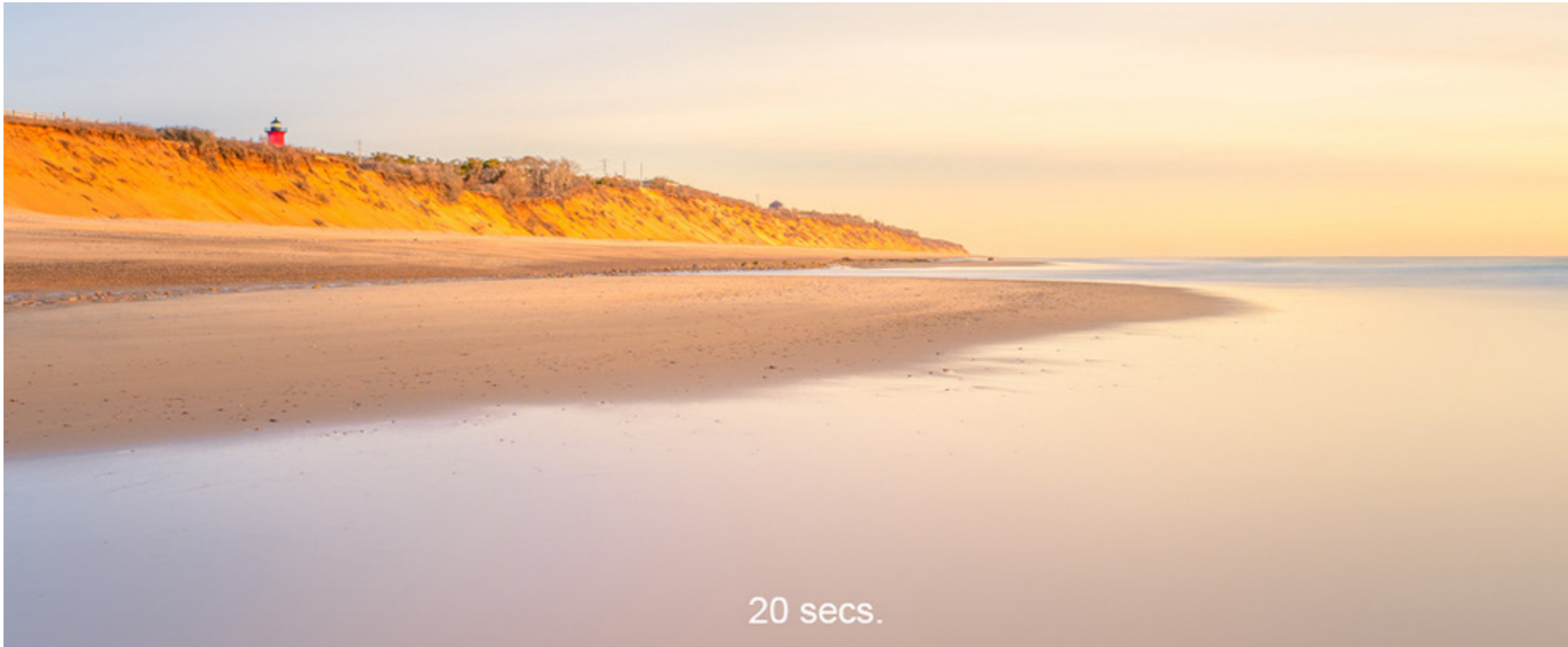
2 secs.



1 sec., F8, 10-stop ND Filter



20 secs.



20 secs.



Neutral Density Filter

Dark filter reduces light coming through lens

Uses:

- Long-exposure blurring effect
- Shallow depth of field in bright light
- Balancing light for outdoor portraits



30 secs. (You don't always need ND filter)



It depends on...

The amount of light

Speed of moving object

The desired effect

Experiment



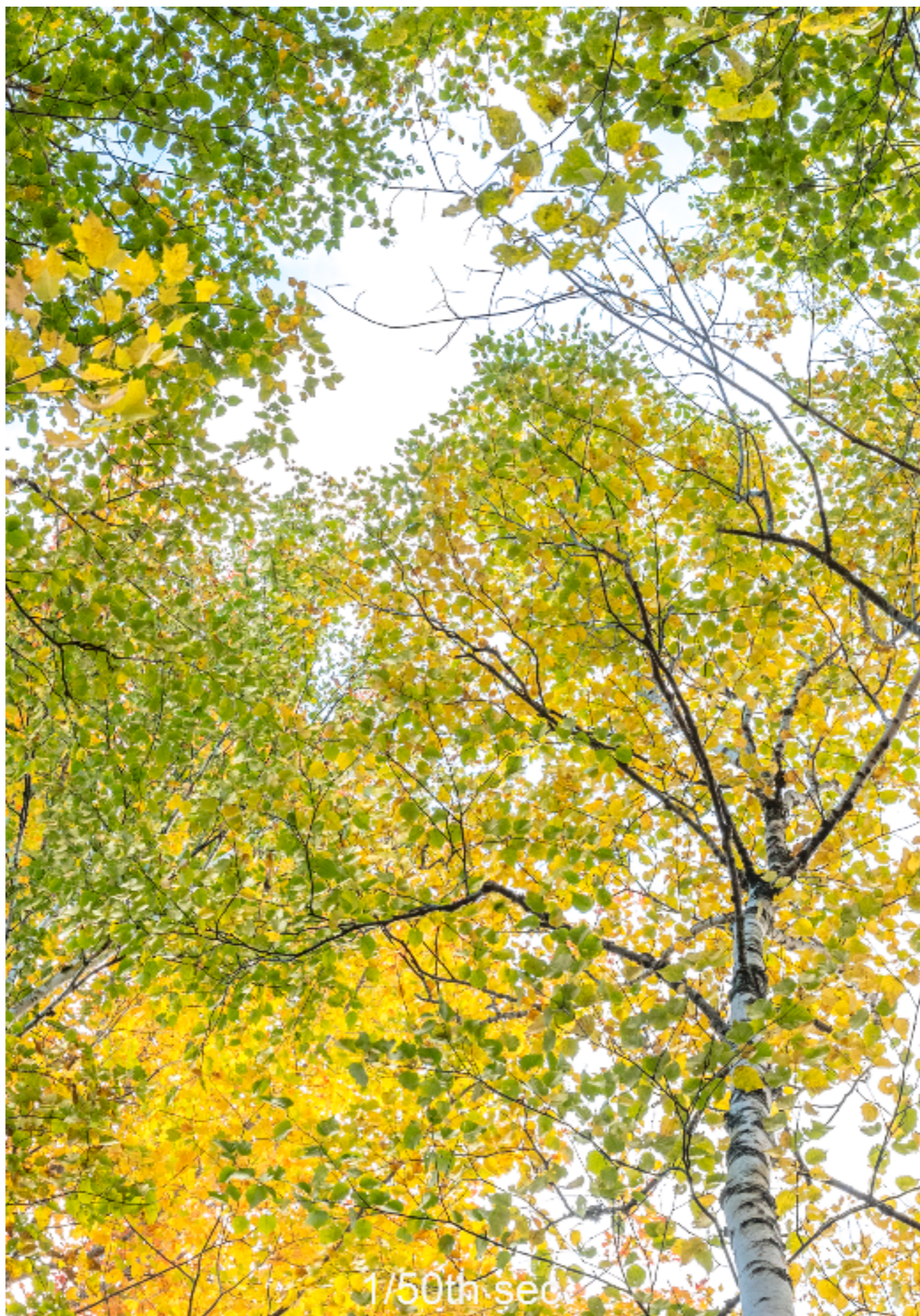
1/400th sec.



1/25th.



1/20th sec.



1/50th sec



15 secs.



25 secs.







1/3200th sec., f5.6, ISO 1250

Freeze Motion



SETTINGS

Shutter Priority

Shutter speed 1/1000th+/- sec.
- Birds in flight 1/1000-1/3200th sec.

Auto ISO (with limit)

Continuous Shutter

Focus Tracking



1/1250th sec.



1/320th sec.



1/1250th sec.



1/5000th sec.



Space

Three things affect depth of field:

1. Aperture/F-Stop
2. Focal Length of Lens
3. Proximity to Subject



Shallow DOF

Get close
Long lens
Low f-stop

F5.6, 400mm



Portraits often use shallow DOF



200mm, F4



F5.6, 400mm



105mm, F4



F4



F4


Shallow Depth of Field and Selective Focus



F5.6, 100mm

F11, 180mm





Deep depth of field

Wide angle

High f-stop

Not too close

F8, 20mm



F11, 24mm



F11, 400mm



F22, 16mm



F18, 17mm

Sun/Moon bursts
with high f-stop, wide angle

F11, 22mm



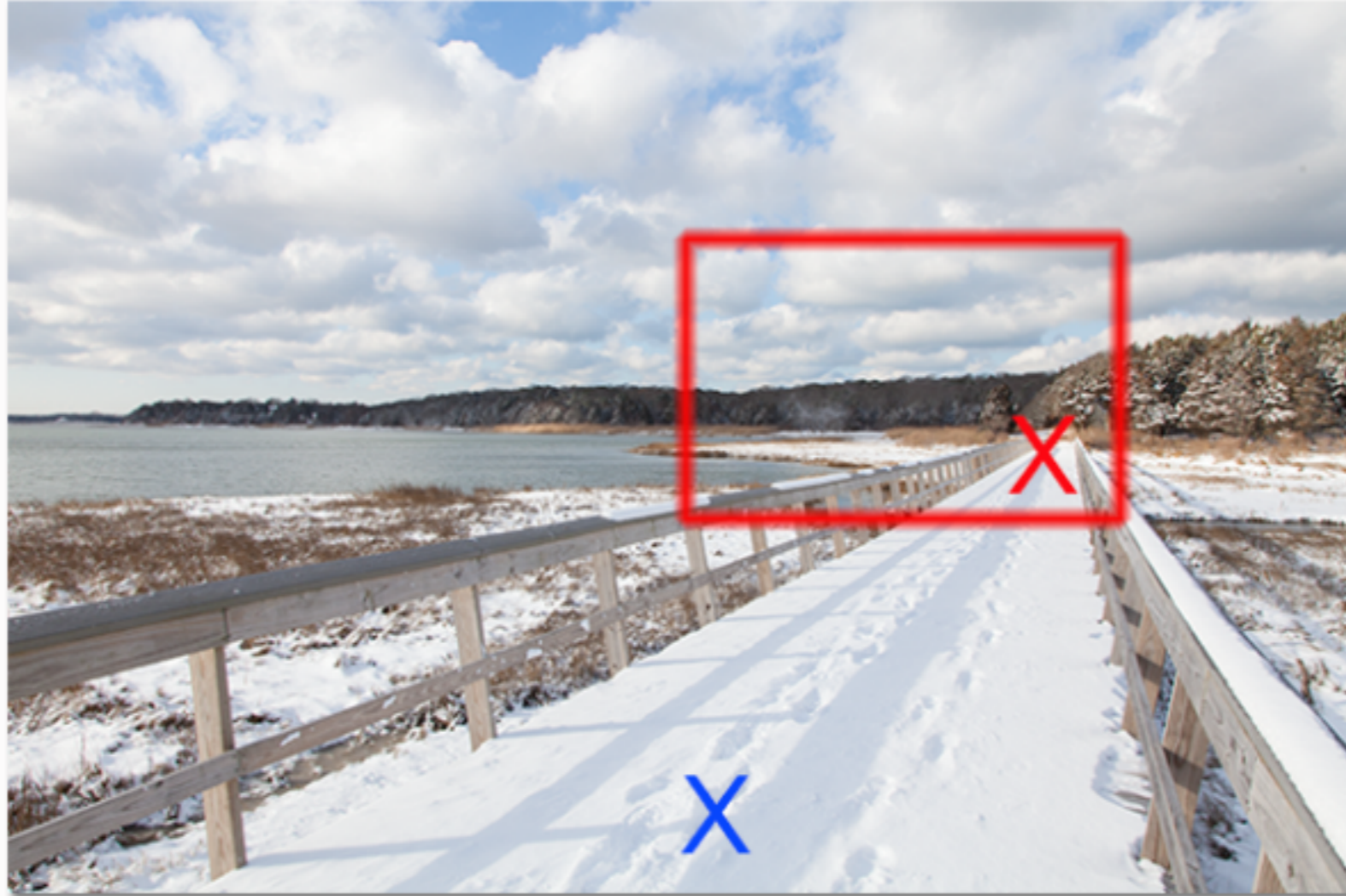
How to maximize Depth of Field



Canon 5DII
F11
24mm
Hyperfocal Distance: 5.65 ft

Canon 5DII
F11
100mm
Hyperfocal Distance: 97 ft

How to maximize Depth of Field



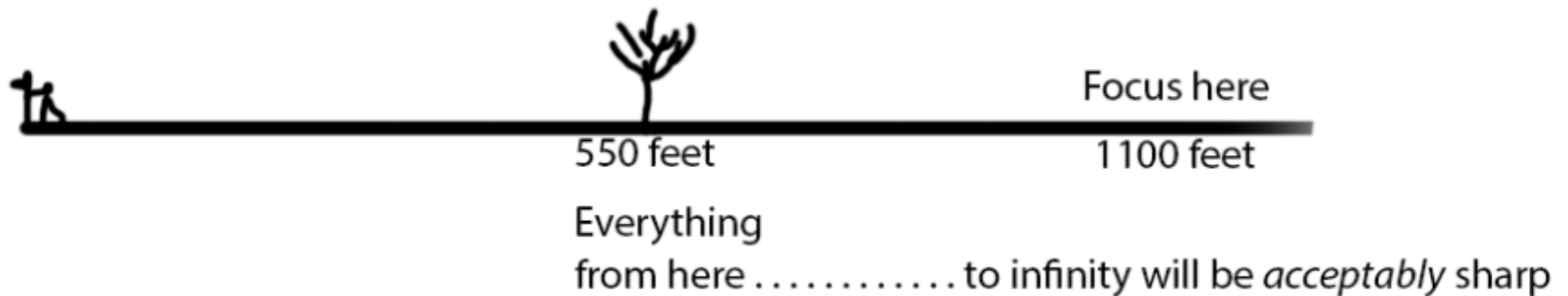
Canon 5DII
F11
24mm
Hyperfocal Distance: 5.65 ft

Canon 5DII
F11
100mm
Hyperfocal Distance: 97 ft

Use Hyperfocal Distance

Example: Full frame camera, F16, 400mm lens

Hyperfocal distance is 1100 feet

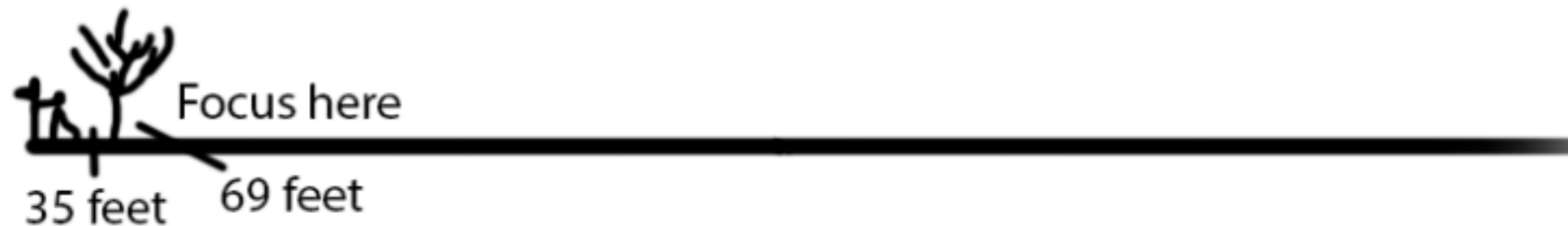


Use Hyperfocal Distance

Example: Full frame camera, F16, 100mm lens

Hyperfocal distance is 69 feet

Less focal length means greater depth of field,
but smaller moon



Everything
from here to infinity will be *acceptably* sharp

3:19

LTE [← Back](#)

Classic DoF

Camera

Sony a7R IV >



100 mm



f/16



1,100'

Hyperfocal distance	69' 5/32"
Hyperfocal near limit	34' 6 3/32"
DoF near limit	64' 8"
DoF far limit	∞
Depth of field	∞
Depth of field in front	1,035' 4"
Depth of field behind	∞



Inverse



Advanced



To FoV



AR



Share

Where to Focus



Where to Focus

On the subject



Where to Focus

On the subject
On the horizon



Where to Focus

On the subject

On the horizon

Hyperfocal distance
(or 1/3 into scene)



Where to Focus

On the subject

On the horizon

Hyperfocal distance
(or 1/3 into scene)

All of the above (bracket)



Where to Focus

On the subject

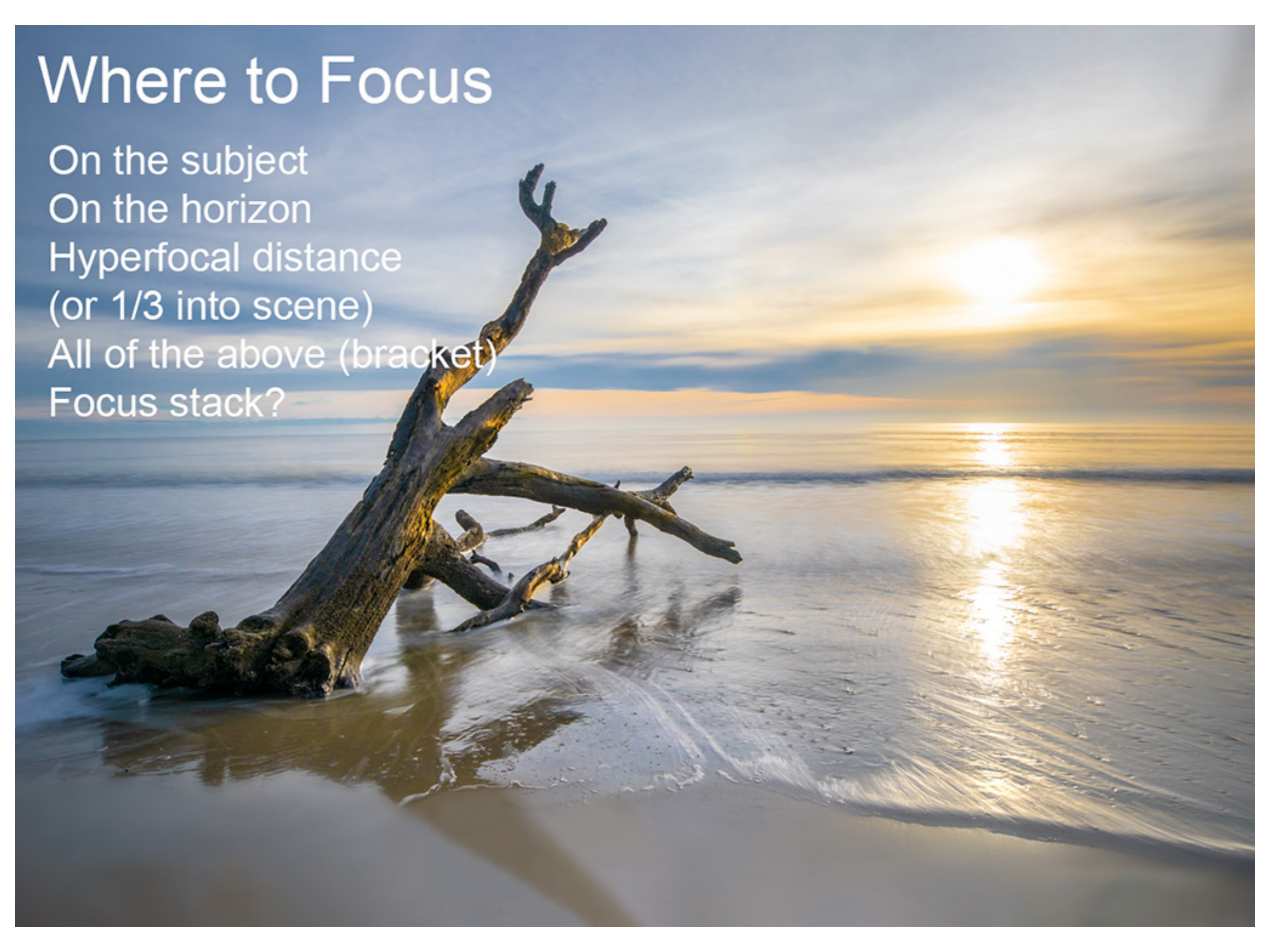
On the horizon

Hyperfocal distance

(or 1/3 into scene)

All of the above (bracket)

Focus stack?





Planning the Shot



Think ahead

Location research

Check sunrise/set, moonrise/set

Stars

Weather

Tides

Events:

- People (family, sports, festivals, street, etc.)
- Flora (seasonal changes)
- Fauna (bird migration, animal activity)

Use your Imagination

Pre- and post-visualization

Pre-visualization starts at home



Write down your ideas

Weather Apps

Dark Sky (iOS)
Weather & Radar
Willy Weather
Clear Outside
AccuWeather

Tides and Waves

MagicSeaweed (ocean tides, waves)
Tides Near Me

Sun, Moon, Stars, Etc.

PhotoPills

Astro

GoSkyWatch

12:54

WeatherRadar

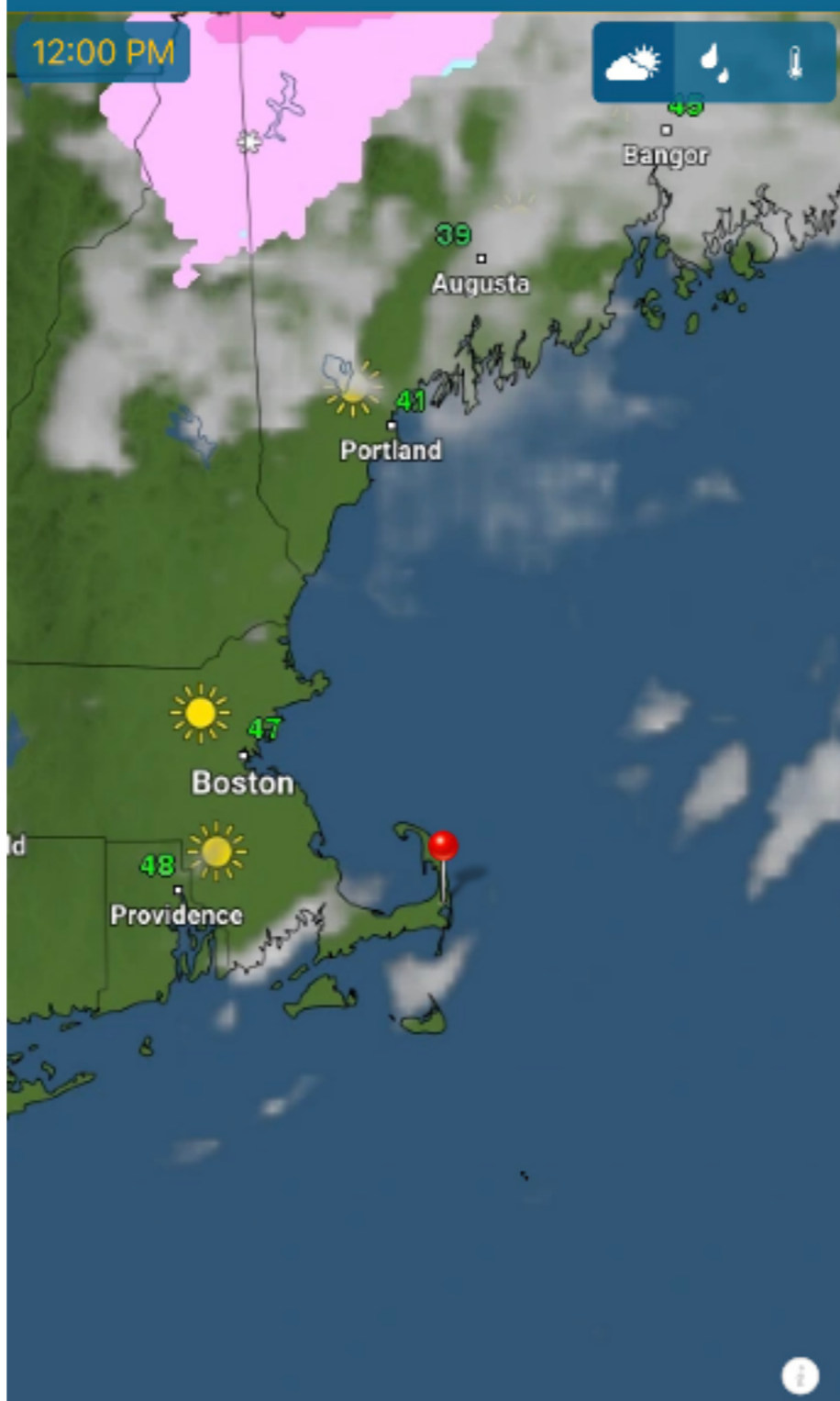
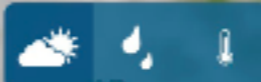


< Orleans

Weather Map

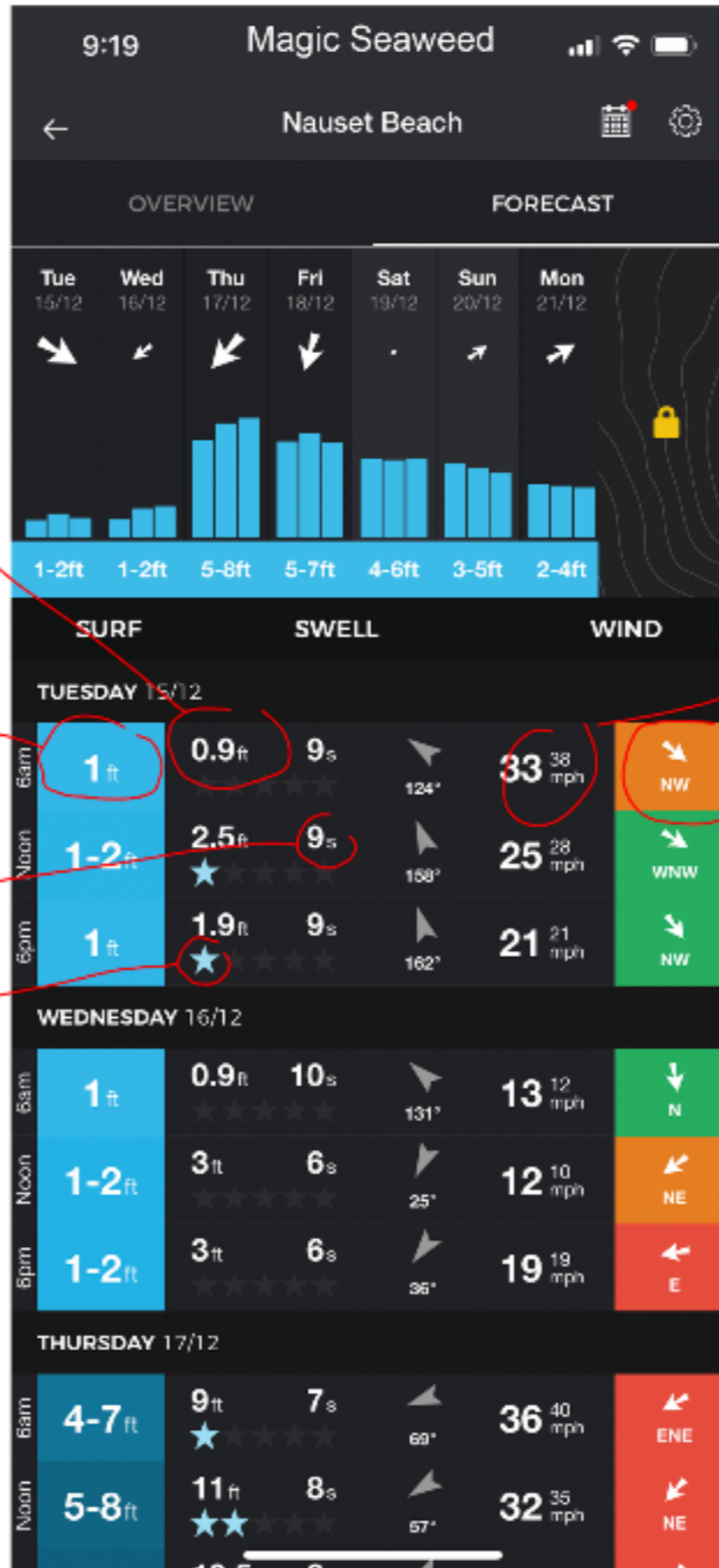


12:00 PM



- 24 h | now | today | tomorrow | Tue | Wed





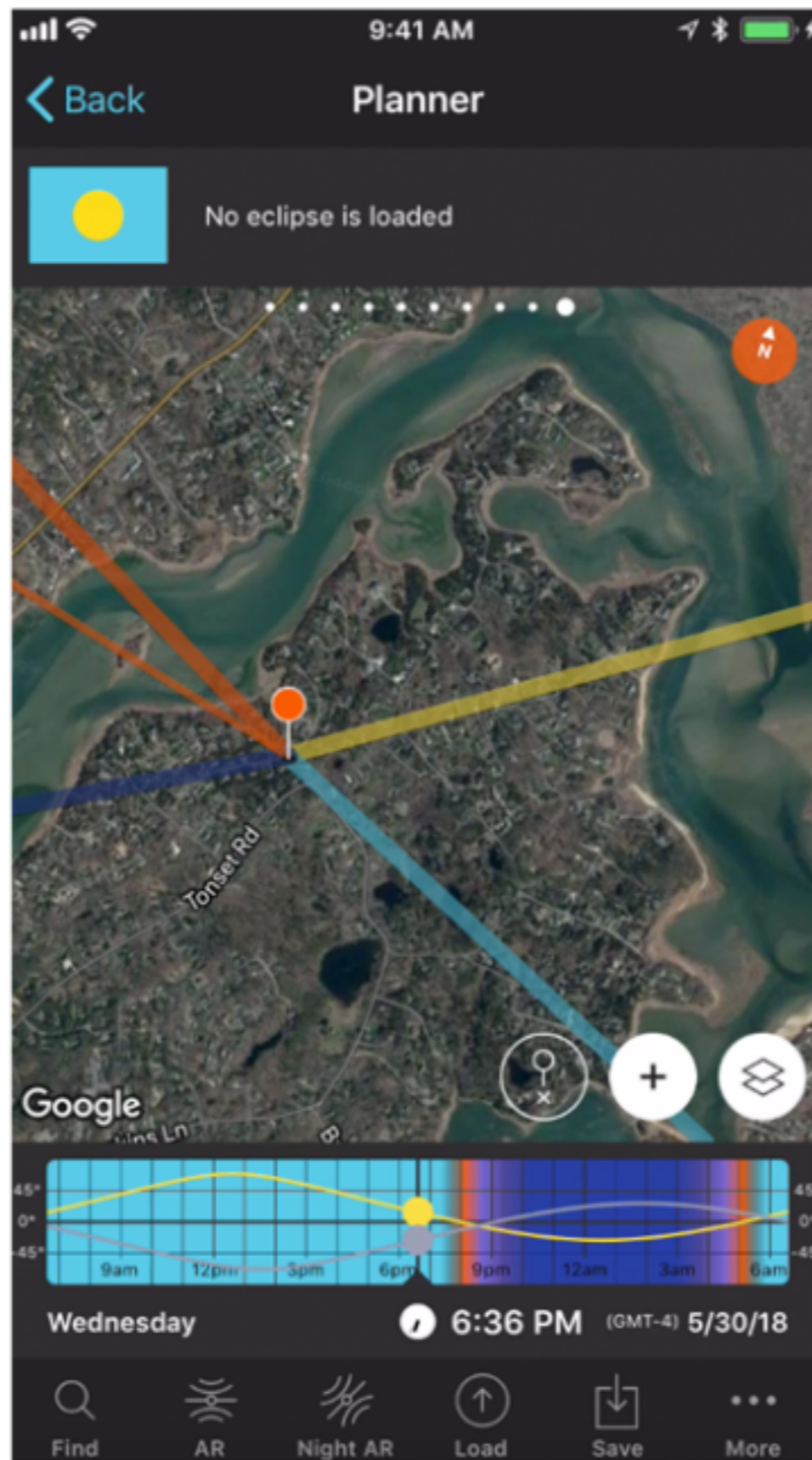
Swell height at sea

Wave height at beach

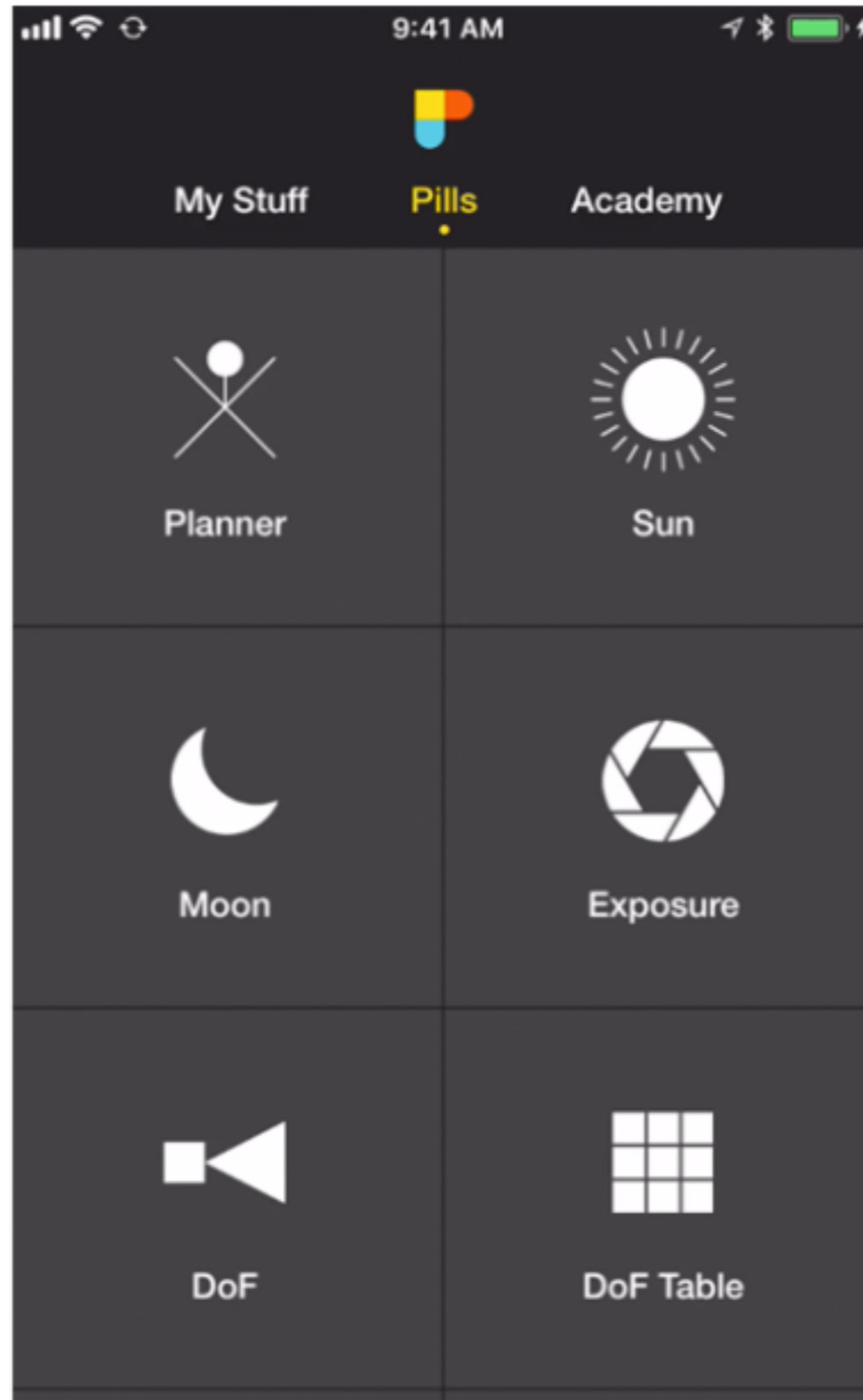
Time between waves

Quality of surfing conditions

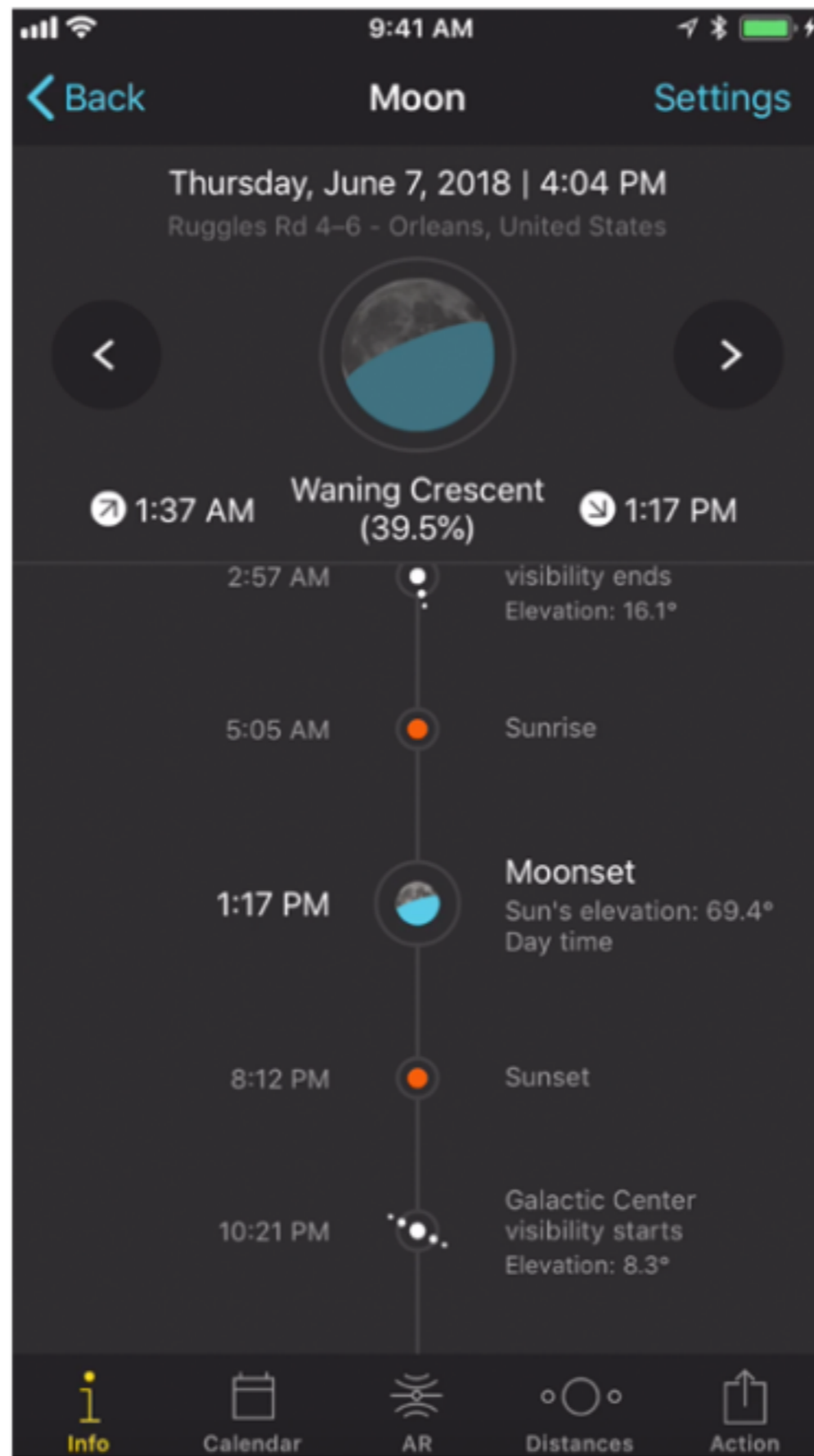
Wind speed and direction



PhotoPills Planner/Map, track sunrise/moonrise & set



PhotoPills



PhotoPills/Moon & Milky Way Planning









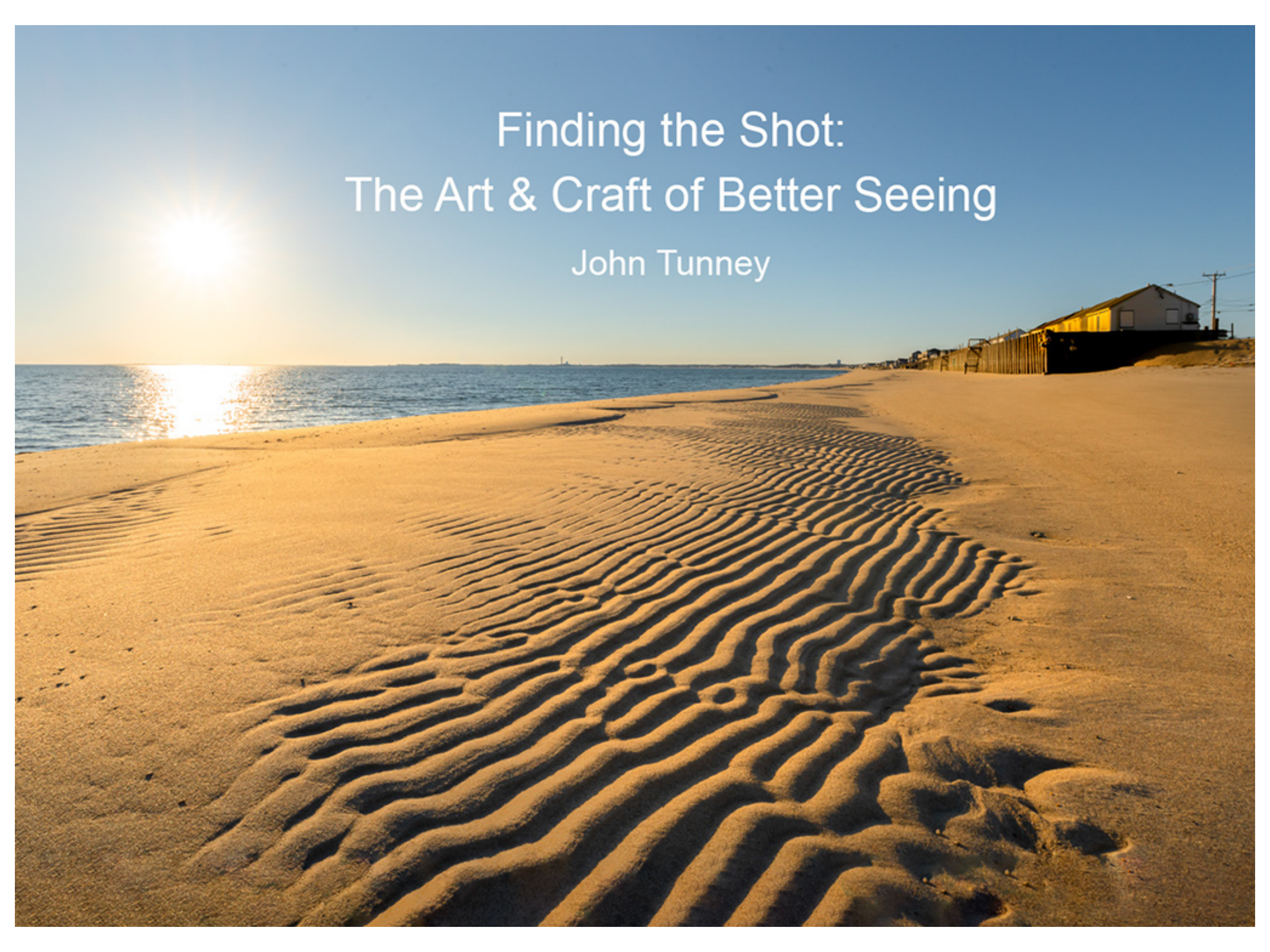
Plans don't always work.

Embrace serendipity.

Learn to improvise.



Happy accidents are a gift.

A photograph of a beach at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright reflection on the water and casting a warm, golden light over the scene. The sand in the foreground is covered in rhythmic, wavy ripples. In the background, a white house with a dark roof is visible on the right side, and a utility pole stands nearby. The sky is a clear, deep blue.

Finding the Shot: The Art & Craft of Better Seeing

John Tunney