



International Ocean Film Festival Official Selection



Filmmaker or film representative scheduled for Q&A



Filmed in the Great Lakes



Film Premiere

A.A. Parker: One Ship, Twice Sunk, Corey Adkins (USA) 13 min



Who would have thought a ship could sink twice? That's exactly what happened to the wooden steamer *A.A. Parker*. But, on September 19th, 1903, the ship foundered for the last time, miraculously with no loss of life. Almost 10 years after its sinking, *A. A. Parker* was discovered by the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society. Join us at the premier of this mini-documentary and learn how the crew of the *Parker* was saved in a brave rescue mission. This film pays an emotional tribute to a diver who loved exploring the bottom of our Great Lakes. **(Friday, 6 pm, Theater 1)**

Adventures of a Maritime Archaeologist, Kurt Mann (USA) 12 min



Archaeology is more than artifacts, it gives us insight into the history of cultures and their motivations. Throughout human history we have been inextricably linked to the sea. As a maritime archaeologist, James Delgado speaks about his career from age 14 through his career as NOAA's Director of Maritime Heritage and what it means to discover and research human history found underwater. **(Saturday, 10 am, Theater 1)**

Albacore Tuna: The Tale of a Fish, Jennifer Marie Bell, Jessica Eden (USA) 37 min



An homage to a tight knit, northern California rural fishing community. Meet the proud and passionate people, who share their personal stories of fortune and misfortune, family, the infectious love they have for their way of life and their strong sense of place. You may be lured to Humboldt County to meet them and offer thanks. **(Monday, 6 pm, Rogers City Theater)**

Archipelago New York – An Island City, Thomas Halaczinsky (Germany) 53 min



Did you know there are whales a few miles outside the New York harbor, millions of oysters cleaning the water along the shore, and raptors living on high-rise buildings in Central Park? New York is an island city threatened by sea level rise. During the climate crisis, committed New Yorkers start to rethink their relationship with nature in this captivating documentary. **(Sunday, 3 pm, Theater 1)**



Back to the Sea, Jack Gordon (USA) 6 min

Unable to swim and afraid of the deep, Aunofo Havea Funaki began her seafaring life at age 25. Seventeen years later she became the first licensed female captain in Polynesia. As she reconciles and honors her father's whaling heritage, she is transforming how younger generations in Tonga relate to the sea through ecotourism instead of slaughter. "The whales connect us to our history." **(Sunday, 3 pm, Theater 2)**



Bangla Surf Girls, Elizabeth D Costa, Lalita Krishna (Canada) 85 min

Three young Bangladeshi teenagers have discovered the waves and want to go surfing whenever they can. They are good; they want to surf for their country and make their families proud. But their families just want them to do housework, sell cups of tea at the market for pennies, and marry old men. **(Saturday, 10 am, Theater 2)**



The Blue Forest, Philip Hamilton (UK) 35 min

Kelp forests are one of the most vital ecosystems in the world, sequestering more carbon than equivalent areas on land. In Northern California, more than 97% of kelp has been lost due to climate change. In fact, seaweed and kelp forests around the globe are being threatened by human activity and the global race is on to protect them. Learning from scientists from around the world will help reverse this devastating trend.

(Thursday, 6 pm, Alcona County Library)



Bodies of Water, Lavado Stubbs (USA) 10 min

"The body of water is who we are." A young man and woman open this film with that assertion. Citizens of the Atlantic's largest archipelago, most Bahamians are of African descent. They are people not of the land but of the sea. To wisely use its riches, they have to contend with the ghosts of thousands of the 12,000,000 African slaves shipped west that did not make it. **(Sunday, 11 am, Theater 2)**



Bringing Shipwrecks to Life, Becky Kagan Schott, (USA) 10

Emmy Award winning underwater photographer Becky Kagan Schott brings shipwrecks to life through her underwater imagery. Using photogrammetry techniques, Schott completes the first 3D model of the sidewheel steamer *Detroit* which rests in 215 feet of water off the coast of Port Austin, Michigan. **(Saturday, 6 pm, Theater 1)**



Changing Seas: "Recreational Shark Fishing: Collaborating for Conservation", Kristin Paterakis (USA) 27 min

In Florida, anglers on beaches, piers, and bridges catch tens of thousands of sharks annually. Scientists have learned that, despite so-called safe "catch and release" fishing, the physiological stress of the fight kills many of them post-release, including critically endangered great hammerheads. Now they're using this knowledge to educate and collaboratively engage recreational anglers and fishery regulators to save sharks from extinction.

(Sunday, 11 am, Theater 1)



Coding for Crayfish, Serge Raemaekers, Karen Logan (South Africa) 30 min 

David Shoshola has lived in Paternoster, a coastal fishing town north of Cape Town, for generations, fishing primarily for the abundant crayfish, or rock lobster. In spite of legal limits, in the 1950s poaching by gangs began to endanger both lobster populations and fisher livelihoods. To bring an end to it, Abalobi, a computer platform, was developed to trace where crayfish are caught and who catches them.

(Saturday, 1 pm, Theater 1)

The Dark Hobby, Paula Fouce (USA) 56 min 

This riveting exposé on the tropical aquarium trade lays bare its savage “collecting” practices and astounding by-kill. With 28 million fish pushed through this lethal pipeline at any time, some species verge on extinction. But Native Hawaiians and others are challenging quixotic government regulations: in Hawaii you can't take corals, but tropical fish are fair game if you have just “\$50 and a pulse.” **(Saturday, 1 pm, Theater 1)**

Deep Look: Sea Slugs Scrub Seagrass by the Seashore, Mike Seely (USA) 4 min 

Take a trip to Elkhorn Slough - just north of Monterey, CA - not just to see the cute sea otters, but to learn what keeps their population healthy. Sea slugs may look like lazy, zebra-striped spoonfuls of yellow Jell-O, but one species, eelgrass sea hares, with their voracious appetite for algae are environmental heroes, helping to keep underwater meadow ecosystems in balance and sea otters in abundance. **(Sunday, 3 pm, Theater 1)**

Deep Look: Starfish Gallop With Hundreds of Tubular Feet, Josh Cassidy (USA) 5 min 

Starfish sniff with their feet, hundreds of them on each of their arms. They move by taking in seawater and spreading it along their arms into their tube feet. Sticky glue at the base of these feet clings onto the underlying rocks enabling the starfish to move their whole body. When they start moving quickly toward food, perhaps a shellfish, they bounce-or gallop. **(Sunday, 1 pm, Theater 1)**

Diving for Rays: A Queer Conservationist's Story, Nova West, Angel Morris (USA) 20 min

Since she was young, Nicole Morris has aspired to become a marine conservationist. Growing up in San Diego, CA, she spent her childhood among the creatures of the sea, her favorite being rays. The ocean became her place of healing, especially when she realized she was queer. Nicole shares her story of taking her first steps in chasing her dreams by getting scuba certified. Along the way, we learn how the lack of LGBTQ+ visibility in marine science can have a devastating impact on aspiring conservationists. **(Sunday, 3 pm, Theater 2)**

Eight Arms That Unite Us, (Indonesia) 9 min 

In Popisi on the Sulawesi coast of Indonesia, the Bajo people, who spend most of their time on the water, have learned sustainable ways to catch octopus while preserving the reef where they live. No more crowbars, poison and explosives to bag the eight-armed creatures, their main commercial catch. Instead, as a Bajo leader explains, together



with other coastal villages, they have set up marine protected areas, seasonal no take zones, and areas for tourism and aquaculture. **(Saturday, 6 pm, Theater 1)**

Emperors of the Deep, William Mckeever, Paul Rachman (USA) 20 min 

Worldwide, about five people die from shark attacks each year. Meanwhile, nearly 100 million sharks are killed, many on hooks on long lines miles in length set out to catch tuna. In the US, shark fishing tournaments along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts add to the slaughter. **(Sunday, 11 am, Theater 1)**

The Erie Situation, David Ruck (USA) 72 min  

In 2014, the citizens of Toledo, Ohio had to go without running water for three days when a bloom of highly toxic algae entered the drinking water plant from Lake Erie. This should have been a wake-up call for politicians, big agriculture, and citizens everywhere that freshwater resources are at risk of becoming toxic. *The Erie Situation* explores the confluence of science, public sentiment, politics, and the powerful farming lobby as Ohio wrestles with how to confront the drivers of toxic algae in one of the Great Lakes.

(Friday, 6 pm, Theater 1)

Ephemeral, Jason Whalen, Michigan Nature Association (Michigan) 4 min 

A truly remarkable natural phenomenon occurs in woods and forests across the state of Michigan as spring arrives. But the window to experience this incredible nature show is short and easily missed. This short provides an in-depth look at this vital and fleeting watery world.

(Saturday, 10 am, Theater 1)

Final Run: Storms of the Century, Ric Mixter, (USA) 60 min 

There have been countless gales since man first ventured onto the Great Lakes. The film tells the stories of the 20th century's worst storms in the Great Lakes through vintage photographs, exclusive interviews with survivors, original music by Dan Hall, and footage of the wreck sites as they took today.

(Monday, 6 pm, Rogers City Theater)

Fish with Superpowers - The Clownfish and the Shark, Hendrik S. Schmitt (Germany) 5 min 

Two young ocean naturalists whimsically teach us about their favorite fish. They invite us to ponder which saltwater critters delight us the most with their unique adaptations, and they encourage us to consider how we can use our own "superpowers" to protect them. **(Thursday, 6 pm, Alcona County Library)**

Fishing with Wally, Ellie Schmidt (USA) 20 min 

This beautiful black and white film depicts a day in the life of a Hawaiian, Uncle Wally, going out to fish with his family. He practices drop-net fishing, which is a traditional Hawaiian fishing method. Uncle Wally hopes to conserve and pass on this dying form to the next generation. **(Saturday, 10 am, Theater 2)**



The Forest Stands Tall, Abbey Dias (USA) 2 min



From kelp forests in the ocean to forests on land, lifeforms evolved together as ecosystems – where function and diversity are more than the sum of the parts. As the world changes rapidly, we must learn from nature and reflect on the strength of this diversity. Stunning cinematography in this film explores how the ocean is intertwined with our lives, and why we must protect it. **(Friday, 6 pm, Theater 1)**

Fresh Waves, Zachary Irving (Michigan) 30 min



Downtown Alpena's Mural Project, Fresh Waves, first kicked off in 2019. This documentary tells the story of the project's first year – how it all started, why the first artist, Aaron Golbeck, an Alpena native dreamed of bringing this project to our community, and how the DDA and other members of the Downtown Arts Community hope to see the project grow in future years.

(Sunday, 11 am, Theater 2)

Freshwater, Ian Planchon, Lynn Melling (USA) 51 min



Freshwater is a documentary that dives into the cold waters of Lake Superior along Minnesota's North Shore. It contains 10% of Earth's freshwater, yet this massive force of nature remains largely unexplored. One group of people, however, is intimately aware of its power. From the surfers who catch its waves to the scientists who study its depths, learn why Lake Superior is a precious resource that should never be taken for granted.

(Sunday, 1 pm, Theater 2)

Get to Know Great Lakes B-WET, NOAA Great Lakes Bay Education and Training Program (USA) 5 min



Get to know Great Lakes B-WET through this video profile of grantee, Inland Seas Education Association. Through the Great Lakes Watershed Field Course, Inland Seas staff educate students and teachers on the importance of the Great Lakes basin.

(Saturday, 3pm, Theater 1)

Get to Know Great Lakes B-WET: Huron Pines, NOAA Great Lakes Bay Education and Training Program (USA) 4 min



Get to know Great Lakes B-WET through this video profile of grantee, Huron Pines. Through their partnership with the Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative, they bring organizations together in support of students and teachers who are using the outdoors as a classroom and taking on environmental stewardship projects for their local community in the Lake Huron watershed.

(Saturday, 3pm, Theater 1)

The Great Storm of 1872, Corey Adkins (USA) 13 min



On November 27, 1872, the schooner-barges *Jupiter* and *Saturn* broke their tow lines and went aground west of Whitefish Point. 15 people died that day... 15 souls never seen again. Travel back to that fateful day with the Great



Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society and meet a family who finally learns the story of their ancestor who died 150 years ago in the *Great Storm of 1872*. **(Thursday, 6 pm, Alcona County Library)**

Great White Sharks, Lakan Duskin (USA), 3 min



Learn a lot about the great white shark — but from the perspective of a 10-year-old mastering the use of Lego in a stop-motion animation film. Complete with Shark Trivia and a call to action to tell friends and families about how to protect these important apex predators, this is a delightful short film for audiences of all ages.

(Monday, 6 pm, Rogers City Theater)

Hungry Jellyfish, Sabrina Inderbitzi (Switzerland) 4 min



Jellyfish are not so passive as they first appear. Their long-poisoned tentacles need only to graze a passing fish to make it helpless prey, its digestion openly exposed to the camera. **(Sunday, 11 am, Theater 2)**

I just went for a swim, Adam Dostalek (Australia) 18 min



Just your average swimmer, Laura Tischendorf decided at 37, after years of feeling unworthy, that she wanted to achieve something extraordinary, so she decided on an adventure. She would swim around Lord Howe Island off Tasmania, the first woman to do so. **(Saturday, 10 am, Theater 1)**

Ice Boating, Rob Green, Sandra Svoboda, Great Lakes Now/Detroit Public TV (Michigan) 11 min



Ron Sherry is the most accomplished ice boat racer in the world, and he calls the Great Lakes home. He not only races ice boats, he builds them. Great Lakes Now Host Ward Detwiler visits Ron's workshop to learn about the sport and then takes to the ice to test his own sailing skills on a frozen lake.

(Friday, 6 pm, Theater 1)

ICEolation, Sophie Ballagh, Ewan Blyth (Antarctica) 28 min



"We felt ready for anything, but we quickly realized the true meaning of being 'out there'." Two adventurers undertake a self-supported sea kayak expedition through Antarctica's icy waterways. At once an exploration of solitude and partnership, they discover serenity within themselves, a strengthened bond between them and the shared joy of an immersive experience (and some new friends too!). **(Saturday, 6 pm, Theater 1)**

In Too Deep - The True Cost of Deep Sea Mining, Maarten van Rouveroy (Netherlands) 19 min



The deep sea is our least understood ecosystem. Home to millions of species, many undiscovered, it regulates vital systems and stores vast quantities of carbon dioxide. It also holds a trove of minerals worth trillions of dollars that the mining industry is racing to exploit. Looming is one of the greatest environmental threats the ocean has ever faced. A small island nation holds the key. **(Friday, 6 pm, Theater 1)**



INTO THE BLUE: The Wonders of The Coral Triangle, Robert Fonollosa (Spain) 50 min



Located between the Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean, the Coral Triangle is often referred to as the global center of marine biodiversity. Home to hundreds of marine species, pristine coral reefs and some of the most colorful inhabitants of the ocean. Go deep into the blue around the Indonesian islands of Raja Ampat, Sulawesi, and Komodo and be mesmerized by stunning, up-close ocean beauty. **(Sunday, 1 pm, Theater 2)**

It's Time to Listen, Louisa Gilbert (Canada) 7 min



At OrcaLab, Paul Spong and his colleagues have documented killer whales functionally deafened by ships' noise that obscures the orcas' own sonar, essential for finding prey. Suddenly, COVID changed all that: shipping all but ceased, creating a baseline of natural sound levels and behaviors. Soon scientists may have evidence to motivate governments to better manage maritime transport, and protect the whales. **(Saturday, 10 am, Theater 2)**

Lake Huron Red Tails, Nick Lusardi (Michigan) 9 min



The story of Tuskegee Airman Frank Moody, his tragic accident in Lake Huron, and the team that works to preserve his history more than 70 years later.

(Saturday, 10 am, Theater 2)

Lake Surfistas, Rob Green, Sandra Svoboda, Great Lakes Now/Detroit Public TV (Michigan) 7 min



The Lake Surfistas is a group of women who surf and stand up paddle board the Great Lakes. Founded by a couple Ontario surfers, it has more than 1,100 members, mostly on the Canadian side of the lakes, with a handful of members in Ohio and New York. Meet these hardy women as they ride the waves of Lake Ontario, braving snow and ice for the sport they love. **(Sunday, 1 pm, Theater 1)**

The Last Vaquita, Ed Harrison (UK) 13 min



In the Gulf of California, a small porpoise, the vaquita, which can only be found there, has been reduced to 15 animals. They are bycatch trapped in nets for an equally endangered fish, the totoaba, captured for their bladders. Two British graphic design brothers were asked by the Sea Shepherd organization to create relevant silkscreen artwork. They decided to see the porpoise themselves, came to Mexico—and made this film for positive change.

(Sunday, 11 am, Theater 1)

Lionfish: Ocean Murder Hedgehogs, Sarah Baumann (USA) 2 min



Your full attention will be needed for this fast-paced, information-dense animation primer about the invasive lionfish in Atlantic and Caribbean waters. The prolific lionfish decimate reefs and have few predators. Luckily, lionfish are easily caught and are edible, even tasty! **(Sunday, 1 pm, Theater 2)**



Lost in the Site of Salvation: The Wreck of the Atlanta, Corey Adkins (USA) 12 min



On May 4th, 1891, the schooner-barge *Atlanta* broke its tow in a powerful spring storm on Lake Superior. After hours of battling the gales, *Atlanta's* 7-man crew were forced to abandon ship. This film festival premiere tells the dramatic story of the ship's crewmen and their near-death experience. Travel 650 feet below the surface to find the *Atlanta*, a vessel that hasn't been seen in 130 years. **(Sunday, 3 pm, Theater 1)**

Love for a Lighthouse, Rob Green, Sandra Svoboda, Great Lakes Now/Detroit Public TV (Michigan) 12 min



The Spectacle Reef Lighthouse sits 17 miles from the mainland in the Straits of Mackinac. Built in 1869, it became a model for lighthouses constructed on the Great Lakes. A group of volunteers bought the lighthouse and are dedicated to preserving and restoring it with the goal to make Spectacle Reef a educational center where people can learn about the history of Great Lakes lighthouses. **(Saturday, 6 pm, Theater 1)**

Mangrove Forests: Roots of the Sea I Marine Ecosystem Diaries, Rebecca Daniel (UK) 4 min



Step into the magical world of mangroves! Along tropical coastlines from Indonesia to the Caribbean, mangrove forests support a plethora of life – including human communities. Providing a safe environment for juvenile marine species and protecting the coast from erosion and large storms, mangroves are fascinating and incredibly important marine ecosystems. Let's do our part to conserve them. **(Saturday, 1 pm, Theater 1)**

The Mud on their Hands, Jason Whalen, Chris Zuker (USA) 14 min

Everything changed after Katrina. Many fled the destruction but Rev. Tyronne Edwards of Phoenix, LA led the effort to rebuild the town his family has lived in for five generations. After a lifetime of community organizing – climate activism and inspiring future generations to protect their home from future storm surge has become Tyronne's latest calling. **(Sunday, 11 am, Theater 2)**

My Journey Across the Ocean, Madeleine Kelly Toomey (USA) 4 min



A sophisticated animated short film based on a real-life, two-year family sailing adventure from across the Atlantic, the Mediterranean and through the Caribbean. As a first-time filmmaker, Toomey sails to some of the most remote, uninhabited places on the ocean, only to discover that everyday plastics have found their way there – before her! By offering solutions on how to diminish our dependence on plastics, she returns to shore hopeful for our future. **(Sunday, 1 pm, Theater 2)**

The Ocean Solution, Darcy Hennessey Turenne (USA) 14 min



Farming under the sea? Meet Bren Smith, the ocean farming pioneer whose vertical kelp and shellfish farms are transforming the way food is produced. He discovered a new method of restorative ocean farming, producing large quantities of nutritious food while fighting the climate crisis, cleaning the ocean, creating aquatic habitat, and sustaining his organic sea-farming way of life. **(Saturday, 1 pm, Theater 1)**



Open Ocean, Nathan Siegel (Spain) 83 min

“A masterclass in how to live.” Words of passionate supporter Dani, of her friend, Spanish firefighter Didac Costa and his ragtag team of mostly volunteers who put everything on the line to tackle arguably the most extreme sailing event – the Vendée Globe– a solo, non-stop and unassisted sailing race around the world. A gripping portrait of an introvert obsessed with a dream and his ability to overcome some of the most perilous challenges at sea.

(Saturday, 1 pm, Theater 2)



The Origin - Life around the Hot Spring, (Germany) 4 min

Many scientists believe primordial life sprang from geothermal vents in the ocean’s deep trenches. There, a witch’s brew of chemicals, ignited by volcanic infernos in the cold and dark, sparked the creation of organic molecules and proto-cellular forms. Now, meet what evolution has produced: elegant sea creatures that still “hot-tub” at volcanic hot springs—but in the sun-warmed shallows of Sulawesi’s lush reefs. **(Sunday, 1 pm, Theater 1)**



The Oyster Farmer, Kika Tuff (USA) 5 min

In 2007, something started killing oysters on the Oregon Coast. To root out the cause, the usual remedies were tried, but it took a marine scientist to nail the culprit: ocean acidification, which took calcium and carbon out of the water when oysters most need them for shell formation. With special treatment, most of the hatchery beds recovered, but the problem remains. **(Saturday, 1 pm, Theater 2)**



Planktonium, Jan van IJken (Netherlands) 15 min

Embark on a psychedelic journey into the realm of bizarre and exquisite sea creatures of impossibly minuscule size, a whirling, spinning, pulsing tumble through their underwater cosmos. Hard to imagine, but plankton gives us the very air we breathe. The score features the primal music of ice, of ocean, and of air. Without a word, this film sings the song of life. **(Thursday, 6 pm, Alcona County Library)**



Ploverville, Christy Frank (USA) 20 min

After an 83-year absence, two tiny endangered birds arrive in a small midwest community. People unite to protect them, facing heartbreak and overcoming challenges, only to discover their own lives changing in the process.

(Sunday, 3 pm, Theater 2)

Poisonous Ponds: Tackling Toxic Coal Ash, Rob Green, Sandra Svoboda, Great Lakes Now/Detroit Public TV

(Michigan) 27 min  

Investigating the complicated policy and impacts of coal ash in the Great Lakes through the student reporting initiative “Poisonous Ponds: Tackling Toxic Coal Ash.” Coal ash threats on Lake Michigan, ideas for beneficial reuse



and more in this special collaboration with Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications. **(Thursday, 6 pm, Alcona County Library)**

Protected Waters: Exploring Laguna Madre, Jennifer Idol and Alex Rose (USA) 10 min 

Join Alex Rose and Jennifer Idol on an adventure in the world's largest hypersaline lagoon, the Laguna Madre in south Texas. They share glimpses into this diverse ecosystem and the important life it supports such as the critically endangered Kemp's Ridley sea turtle.

(Saturday, 1 pm, Theater 1)

Rockport, Nick Lusardi (Michigan) 2 min  

Two teenagers give life to an abandoned quarry.

(Sunday, 1 pm, Theater 2)

Selma, Maciek Jabłoński (Poland) 92 min 

In the Antarctic summer of 2015, the Polish yacht, *Selma*, headed south from Hobart, Tasmania, its goal: to get closer to the geographical South Pole than any other sailing vessel ever had. The 11 crew members were picked by experienced co-captain and organizer, Piotr Kuznar, who says of them: "On this kind of trip, you need [people] good at cracking jokes." You will see why by the film's end. **(Sunday, 1 pm, Theater 1)**

Sharks of the Sea of Cortés: A Lost Treasure?, James Ketchum (Mexico) 27 min 

Once, dense schools of hammerheads and giant manta rays made the Sea of Cortés a diving mecca, and tourism flourished. But in the 1990s shark fishery permits were issued indiscriminately, and multinational fleets "strip mined" populations. This triggered a cascade of collapse among several species, and tourism plummeted. But today, scientists and fishermen work together to heal and protect this priceless marine ecosystem.

(Monday, 6 pm, Rogers City Theater)

Shut Down Line 5: The Line 5 Series Continues, Barton Bund (USA) 42 min  

In late 2020, Governor Gretchen Whitmer ordered the dangerous old pipeline closed forever. But Enbridge Line 5 still runs every day at full capacity. Attorney General Dana Nessel joins us to describe the unprecedented legal situation, Ed Timm and Roger Gauthier destroy the myth of the Line 5 Tunnel, and the ant-pipeline movement rises up.

(Sunday, 3 pm, Theater 2)

Sink Hole Paddle Micro Adventure, Zachary Irving (Michigan) 4 min  

A scenic paddle over an underwater sinkhole in El Cajon Bay in Lake Huron, Michigan.

(Saturday, 6 pm, Theater 1)



Soul of the Ocean, Howard Wesley Hall (USA) 78 min



Soul of the Ocean explores the complexity of ocean ecosystems. Spectacular underwater cinematography reveals communities of interdependent marine species and highlights the critical role biodiversity plays in maintaining a healthy ocean. Every species has a part to play. As humans become increasingly intimate with the ocean, we discover that we have a huge part to play as well. **(Saturday, 10 am, Theater 1)**

Stranded: A Whale Rescue Tale, Bruce Nairn, Ashley Love (USA) 25 min



In Florida, five pilot whales inexplicably stranded on a popular beach, trigger an emergency operation involving federally permitted marine-mammal responders, researchers, and volunteers. Their mission, despite challenges that forced tough choices: to return the whales safely to deep water, while ensuring the rescuers' welfare. Actual footage shows how the drama played out with these cetacean patients. **(Thursday, 6 pm, Alcona County Library)**

Sturgeon Guarding, Rob Green, Sandra Svoboda, Great Lakes Now/Detroit Public TV (Michigan) 8 min



Lake Sturgeon are some of the most interesting and distinctive fish in the Great Lakes. But their caviar is valuable and that's led to poaching. This once-abundant species has become endangered in the Great Lakes, so some groups have taken extraordinary measures to save them. **(Sunday, 11 am, Theater 1)**

Tess Felix: Portrait Artist, Cynthia Abbott, Andrea E. Leland (USA) 8 min



After a big storm, a local artist Tess Felix went down to the beach only to discover plastic debris covering the whole shoreline. Realizing the gravity of plastic pollution in the ocean, she started creating vibrant portraits of people she admires out of abandoned plastic to spark conversations around the issue.

(Saturday, 10 am, Theater 1)

Vampires of the Great Lakes, Rob Green, Sandra Svoboda, Great Lakes Now/Detroit Public TV (Michigan) 10 min



Sea lamprey, known as the "vampire fish of the Great Lakes," are an invasive species that nearly decimated the Great Lakes fishery in the 1940s and 1950s. Then scientists developed a chemical control measure called lampricide to keep numbers in check. See it being used in Ohio's Grand River.

(Sunday, 3 pm, Theater 2)

Water's True Cost, Rob Green, Sandra Svoboda, Great Lakes Now/Detroit Public TV (Michigan)



Throughout the Great Lakes region and across the U.S., water systems are aging. In some communities, this means water bills that residents can't afford or water that's unsafe to drink. It means that vulnerable systems are even more at risk in changing climate. As the nation prepares to pour hundreds of billions of federal dollars into rescuing water systems, the Great Lakes News Collaborative investigates the true cost of water in the Great Lakes region and beyond.

(Saturday, 1 pm, Theater 2)



The Witness is a Whale, (Austria) 52 min

When top-secret Soviet whaling records surfaced, scientists learned the enormity of their crimes, not just against whales, but against the oceans themselves. Fisheries languished in waters once productive; an entire humpback population disappeared. "Witness" chronicles the dark history of modern whaling, desperate campaigns to save whales and how these majestic creatures evolved as they did, as emperors of the ocean and as hope for our future.

(Sunday, 11 am, Theater 2)



Great Lakes Untamed, Terra Mater Studios (USA)

Carved by the retreat of a two-million-year-old glacier, North America's five great lakes form the largest freshwater ecosystem on Earth. This three-part series explores the region through the seasons and follows the remarkable creatures that live there.

Episode 1: Great Lakes Untamed: Source to Sea, 53 min

The Great Lakes contain as much as one-fifth of the planet's supply. Each lake is a vast body of water with its own mood and story. And each plays a part in a much larger system, carrying water on a journey that spans half a continent and more than three centuries. Follow its dramatic path east and discover how this enormous watershed nourishes a rich, diverse web of life, from endangered loons and piping plovers and loons to beavers and wolves to monarch butterflies on their epic migrations south. **(Saturday, 3 pm, Theater 1)**

Episode 2: The Big Freeze, 52 min

Winter comes hard and fast around the Great Lakes, a throwback to the Ice Age that once gripped this region 20,000 years ago. For the many animals that live in and around these vast bodies of water, they must adapt to a world of thickening ice, blankets of snow, and a dome of ultra-cold air called the polar vortex. Enter a world of ice-fishing otters, glowing flying squirrels, singing cod, and other remarkable creatures, all trying to carve out a life in one of the most extreme, unpredictable environments on the planet. **(Saturday, 6 pm, Theater 1)**

Episode 3: Marvels and Mysteries, 52 min

After a long, brutal winter, spring casts a warm glow over the Great Lakes of North America, unleashing frozen waters, and revealing a host of natural marvels and mysteries. From the glowing, lava-like rocks of Superior to the wild spotted salamander eggs of Huron to Bessie, the giant serpent of Erie, we explore the visual wonders of the season from lake to lake. We also reveal how the area's inhabitants take advantage of the rich bounty springtime offers, while scientists battle to protect native species from new, invasive creatures.

(Sunday, 3 pm, Theater 1)



Great Lakes Area of Concern Revitalization Video Series, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant/Great Lakes Outreach Media (USA) 

- **Community Revitalization: Great Lakes Area of Concern, 9 min**
- **Muskegon's Revitalization: Great Lakes Area of Concern, 5 min**
- **Duluth's Revitalization: The St. Louis River Area of Concern, 6 min**
- **Buffalo's Revitalization: The Buffalo River Area of Concern, 5 min**
- **Ashtabula's Revitalization: The Ashtabula River Area of Concern, 5 min**
- **Sheboygan's Revitalization: The Sheboygan River Area of Concern, 5 min**

Many Great Lakes communities that have carried the burden of legacy pollution for decades have an opportunity for a new lease on life when local waterways are finally cleaned up. This video series features five cities along waterways deemed Areas of Concern (AOCs) that are in various stages of the cleanup process and are experiencing revitalization. Local government representatives, business owners and residents share the impact of this work on recreation, tourism, economic development, housing and quality of life in the area. Video interviews reveal stories about rivers and lakes that have been brought back to life and are bringing people to the water. **(Saturday 3 pm, Theater 1)**



NOAA Bay Watershed Education and Training Program Vignette Series, NOAA Office of Education/Great Lakes

Outreach Media (USA) 

NOAA Bay Watershed Education and Training Program Overview, 4 min

NOAA Hawaii Bay Watershed Education and Training Program Regional Vignette, 4 min

NOAA Gulf of Mexico Bay Watershed Education and Training Program Regional Vignette, 4 min

NOAA California Bay Watershed Education and Training Program Regional Vignette, 4 min

Around the country, students are becoming stewards of their local watersheds. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Bay Watershed Education and Training Program (B-WET) is empowering students to take action through Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs), multi-stage activities that include learning both outdoors and in the classroom. Interviews with NOAA B-WET program staff highlight the place-based experiential learning opportunities for students and teachers in regions throughout the United States.

(Saturday 3 pm, Theater 1)



Coastal Engineering Education in Racine Interview Series, Wisconsin Sea Grant (Wisconsin)



Adam Bechle, 2 min

Anne Moser, 2 min

Ginny Carlton, 2 min

Lydia Salus, 1 min

Taneka Golden, 3 min

People, Place, and Practice pulled together experiential learning, place-based education and engaged partnerships to explore the past, the present and future of a healthy Great Lakes coast in the city of Racine, Wisconsin. The NOAA B-WET funded project engaged middle school students in the Racine Unified School District in a Meaningful Watershed Education Experience centered around coastal engineering and the natural coastal processes that have shaped and continue to shape their city and its Lake Michigan waterfront. Interviews highlight the experiences of NOAA B-WET and local teachers teaching coastal engineering through the partnership with Wisconsin Sea Grant and the Great Lakes Community Conservation Corps. **(Saturday 3 pm, Theater 1)**



All too Clear (Trailer), Zach Melnick (USA) 3 min

Life in the deep waters of the Great Lakes of North America has vanished, making them incredibly clear. Is this an insurmountable problem, or an unexpected opportunity to restore the world's largest freshwater ecosystem?

(Friday, 6pm, Theater 1)

When Hope Breaks Through (Trailer), Matthew Wagner (USA) 4 min



Mike Shoreman becomes the first disabled person to paddleboard across all five Great Lakes! He has done so in order to raise money for mental health in Canada and the United States. This short promo points to a 2023 full length documentary. **(Saturday, 6pm, Theater 1)**



Playing in the lobby throughout the festival, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday

ONMS 50th Short, Nick Zachar (USA) 10 seconds

ONMS 50th "OKickoff" Film, Nick Zachar (USA) 3 min

ONMS 50th "Recap" Film, Nick Zachar (USA) 2 min

ONMS Sanctuary Advisory Council, Nick Zachar (USA) 4 min

Climate in National Marine Sanctuaries, Nick Zachar (USA) 4 min

Sanctuary System Beauty Film, Nick Zachar (USA) 4 min

Steward Spotlight: Jaxine Wolfe, Nick Zachar (USA) 1 min

Steward Spotlight: Lonny Anderson, Nick Zachar (USA) 2 min

Earth is Blue: Sea Otters, Nick Zachar (USA) 1 min

Earth is Blue: Invertebrates of the West Coast, Nick Zachar (USA) 1 min

Earth is Blue: Orcas, Nick Zachar (USA) 1 min

Earth is Blue: Elephant Seals, Nick Zachar (USA) 1 min

Earth is Blue: Gray Whales, Nick Zachar (USA) 1 min

Earth is Blue: Sand Tiger Sharks, Nick Zachar (USA) 1 min

Earth is Blue: Moray Eel, Nick Zachar (USA) 1 min

Earth is Blue: Banks 101, Nick Zachar (USA) 5 min

Earth is Blue: Coral Reef 3-Park Series, Nick Zachar (USA) 6 min

Stories from the Blue: Jenny Stock, Nick Zachar (USA) 6 min

Stories from the Blue: Teachers at Wisconsin Shipwreck Coast National Marine Sanctuary, Nick Zachar (USA) 7 min

Sinkhole Teaser, Nick Zachar (USA) 1 min