



**International Ocean Film Festival Official Selection**



**Filmmaker or film representative scheduled for Q&A**



**Filmed in the Great Lakes**



**Film Premiere**

**And Yet, I Remain**, Rick Wall (South Africa) 8 min



A South African body-surfer who loses his leg to a great white shark, later returns to the sea as a freediver to heal. Beneath the surface, he forms a deeper relationship with the sea and the species that took his limb. He discovers a sense of humility and connectedness he had not previously known, and learns that acceptance is not resignation.

**(Thursday, 6pm, Harrisville)**

**The Arctic Halocline**, Amy Lauren (USA) 21 min



The Arctic Ocean is becoming saltier and warmer, a phenomenon called “Atlantification.” The thin transition layer that protects sea ice from warm Atlantic water is weakening and may be pushing the Arctic towards an irreversible climate tipping point. Bundle up and join an international team of oceanographers on location. They have been monitoring the Eastern Arctic continuously since 2002. **(Sunday, 10am, Theater 1)**

**Big Wave Guardians**, Luke Stirtz (USA) 90 min



What enables surfers to push the limits of what’s possible for the next biggest wave? The latest safety equipment? Physical training? It’s the small group of people in Hawaii’s North Shore risking their lives to rescue others in the world’s most dangerous waves, while reinventing water safety techniques. These watermen are the true ambassadors of aloha. **(Sunday, 1pm, Theater 1)**

**Black Godfather of Scuba**, Matt Kay (USA) 25 min



Black Godfather of Scuba follows the extraordinary life and mission of Dr. Albert Jose “Doc” Jones, co-founder of the National Association of Black Scuba Divers. For Doc, scuba diving has never just been a ‘sport’. As a marine biologist, war veteran and diving pioneer, the ocean has been central to both his profession, his sense of community and his wellbeing. After diving at the wreck of the Henrietta Marie, the first lost slave ship ever to be recovered, he dedicated himself to finding and recovering the remains of others, and to making sure those lost souls would never be forgotten. **(Friday, 6pm, Theater 1)**



**Blue Carbon, Paul Nicklen (USA) 3 min**

Narrated by Cristina Mittemeier, co-founder of SeaLegacy, and the 2021 IOFF Ocean Champion, this film reminds us of the importance of our oceans in heeding the call of the UN Decade of the Ocean for Sustainable Development. This short film emphasizes that the relationship between our ocean, the air, and the land is critical for a successful blue economy and healthy ecosystems – but only if we act now. **(Sunday, 11am, Theater 2)**



**Bottle Cap, Marie Hyon, Marco Spier (USA) 5 min**

Fiddler crabs are distinctive for their two claws of unequal size. When Shelton, a fiddler crab, finds a plastic bottle cap he is elated that he has found the perfect prosthesis – or is it? The usefulness and bounty of plastic may not be what Shelton thinks. **(Saturday, 10am, Theater 1)**



**CG 36381 “Going Home” Corey Adkins (USA) 2 min**

CG 36381 is a cosmetically restored 1923 Coast Guard Motor lifeboat. In this short 2 minute drone piece you’ll witness the breath-taking journey the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Societies new exhibit took from E.J. Mertaugh Boat works in Hessel, MI to Whitefish Point, MI. Once at Whitefish Point you’ll see CG 36381 “fly” over the buildings and into its new home at the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum! **(Thursday, 6pm, Harrisville)**



**Changing Seas: Vanishing Whales, Alexa Elliott (USA) 27 min**

Once-endangered humpback whales that migrate between Hawai’ian breeding grounds and Alaska’s feeding grounds were considered an outstanding conservation success story. But in 2016, whale sightings across the North Pacific plummeted, well-known individual whales disappeared, and scientists struggled to learn the cause. A severe marine heat wave combined with an El Niño and a changing climate became the triple-whammy smoking gun. Learn how these whales are now faring, and what could be in store for them. **(Saturday, 1pm, Theater 2)**



**Cold Refuge, Judy Irving (USA) 79 min**

Most people looking at the cold water of San Francisco Bay shudder at the thought of swimming in it. But a few have the opposite reaction. The water stimulates all their senses offering a respite from their real problems, whether they are physical, psychological, societal or professional. For them, “you are either swimming away from life, or toward it.” **(Sunday, 1pm, Theater 2)**



**Collision, Philip Hamilton (UK) 80 min**

Insatiable demand for consumer goods has spurred an unprecedented increase in global shipping, causing massive whale mortality from vessel strikes. Where ships transit through important whale feeding and breeding habitats, “share the road” becomes a matter of life or death, for individuals and even species. Conservationists and the global maritime industry are combining new technologies and simple strategies to slow and shift vessel traffic and to save our endangered whales. **(Saturday, 10am, Theater 1)**



**Crossing Lake Ontario**, Corey Adkins (USA) 20 min

*"Crossing Lake Ontario"* is the end. It marks the end of a goal that took 3 men 8 years to accomplish, to cross all 5 Great Lakes on Stand Up Paddle Boards. Even though Lake Ontario is the smallest Great Lakes, it seemed to be the mightiest of them all. Join Kwin Morris, Jeff Guy and Joe Lorenz on one of their toughest crossings and the end of the adventure of a lifetime while *"Crossing Lake Ontario"*. **(Friday, 6pm, Theater 1)**



**Deep Look: Barnacles Go to Unbelievable Lengths to Hook Up**, Josh Cassidy (USA) 4 min

A brief and humorous, yet informational, look at acorn barnacles' feeding and sex life. Acorn barnacles are hermaphrodites and rather promiscuous, but this short, cute, narrated film is child friendly. **(Sunday, 1pm, Theater 1)**



**Deep Look: Skeleton Shrimp Use 18 Appendages to Feed, Fight and... Frolic**, Mike Seely (USA) 5 min

Using playful narration, this brief film highlights the quirkiness, confusing anatomy, and reproduction system of Skeleton Shrimp. These peculiar crustaceans have an important role in the food chain, both as a food source and as a means of breaking down decaying material. As a bonus you will get a ringside seat to one of their boxing matches. **(Wednesday, 6pm, Rogers Theater)**



**Deep Rising**, Matthieu Rytz (USA) 98 min

In this compelling exposé, actor Jason Momoa (the original "Aquaman") plunges to the depths of the sea and of corporate and geopolitical greed and intrigue that purports to create "green" energy from rare seafloor minerals—at huge environmental costs. Gorgeous images of exotic species are juxtaposed with hucksters touting massive extraction of "bankable" metals. Scientists and environmentalists champion abundant, accessible alternatives, but profits determine which innovations are developed. Machiavelli would be proud. **(Sunday, 11am, Theater 2)**

**Earth is Blue: Jellies**, Nick Zachar, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (USA) 3 min

Learn about the jellies of your National Marine Sanctuary System. **(Wednesday, 6pm, Rogers Theater)**



**Gender Outlaw: A Bodysurfing Story**, Peter Williams (USA) 16 min

Tyler Wilde is a bodysurfer and physical education teacher in Manhattan Beach, CA. When Tyler discovered the sport of bodysurfing and joined the "Gillis Beach Bodysurfing Association" he was faced with challenges of personal sex change and acceptance, both physical and emotional. Unexpectedly, Tyler's classroom students and surfing friends provided Tyler with inspiration and support while he reconciled with his new identity. **(Sunday, 1pm, Theater 1)**



**The Gift of Bathsheba**, Zach Hellmuth (USA) 4 min

Some of the best stories are told in the shortest format. Such is the case when we meet Kevin 'Buju' Nicholls' and discover his zealous connection, both on the ocean and on land, of his village, Bathsheba, located on the east coast of Barbados. **(Sunday, 3pm, Theater 1)**



**Havana Libre, Corey McLean (USA) 85 min**

Surfing is illegal in Cuba. Despite this, some surfers there bear the tattoo “Never Stop Surfing” and a small group of passionate surfers are seeking to legitimize surfing by attempting to work with the government – and without it. Lacking proper materials and equipment to make surfboards, they find ingenious and resourceful ways to discreetly catch the waves while the rest of the world beckons. These surfers understand that their heart is in their home country, but also that surfing has become an Olympic sport. To this day the struggle continues to make surfing “libre” in Havana. **(Sunday, 3pm, Theater 2)**



**Horseshoe Crabs: Survival of a Living Dinosaur, Andrea Kramar (USA) 6 min**

This short film brings awareness of the role horseshoe crabs play not just as a food source for migrating birds, but as a resource for scientists to test the safety of vaccines. The crab population is in danger both because of their usefulness to science and because of habitat loss due to coastal development. The film brings to light some of the people who are trying to monitor and protect this important species of crab. **(Wednesday, 6pm, Rogers Theater)**



**Huff, David Mangum (USA) 7 min**

Discover the beauty and mysteries of the Florida Everglades through the eyes of Steve, a well-respected tarpon guide and longtime resident of the area. Over the years he has seen how the quiet landscape of wildlife and lush mangroves has changed over time. An intimate story of the connections we make with nature and how the bond holds over time. **(Sunday, 1pm, Theater 2)**



**Hypnotise, Ste Everington (Australia) 4 min**

Hypnotise is a visual symphony, a film to enjoy through the senses. A sunken ship, transformed by 17 years beneath the waves, has become part of the habitat of some 200 species of fish. Dive in and enjoy the beauty, rhythm, and visual feast of this short movie. **(Friday, 6pm, Theater 1)**



**I Want Sun, Manlio David Martinez (Honduras) 30 min**

An intimate portrait of Roatan’s fragile ecosystems – from the largest remaining stand of staghorn coral in the Caribbean, to the seagrass meadows and mangrove forests that connect coastal habitats and fauna across the Bay Islands of Honduras. Unsustainable development and excessive tourism are threatening the natural marine environment on which this small island community depends. **(Saturday, 10am, Theater 2)**



**The Impossible Wave, Jessica Frankovelgia Johnson, Jay Johnson (USA) 40 min**

A story about the 27-year-long journey to bring surfing to the Olympics. What started as one man’s dream evolved into a movement. The struggle, the persistence, and the incredible passion made what initially seemed impossible, possible. The Olympic Games surfing competition debuted in Tokyo 2020 and will be held in Tahiti for the Paris 2024 Summer Olympics. **(Saturday, 1pm, Theater 2)**



**Inseparable: Ava**, Andrew Harrison Brown (USA) 11 min

Thirteen-year-old Ava is inseparable from her surfboard. But she is also inseparable from her Makah culture, the people of the sea, with deep roots in the Olympic Peninsula. For the Makah, the ocean is the primary source of their food and their remaining traditions. Find out more at [warmcurrent.org](http://warmcurrent.org). **(Sunday, 3pm, 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, they had to abandon ship. This premiere of this mini documentary will explain what happened to the crew of 7 that day and how a letter from one of the crewmen describes how close to death he was. Then, we'll take you 650 feet below the surface of Superior to take a look at the *Atlanta*, a vessel that hasn't been seen in over 131 years. **(Saturday, 1pm, Theater 2)**



**Mediterranean: LIFE UNDER SIEGE**, Fred Fougea (France) 91 min

The Mediterranean Sea makes up one percent of the earth's watery world, yet 30 percent of the world's shipping plies its waters. Natural life on and beneath its surface pays the price. Sei whales, Bluefin tuna, and seagrass, which is found nowhere else and is the planet's oldest life form, are all negatively affected by the Sea's legion of users. Measures have been taken to protect the tuna and sea grass. Thoughtful narration and superb cinematography raise the question: Are these and other measures enough to save all the sea's threatened species? **(Sunday, 3pm, Theater 1)**



**Molokai and the Frog**, José Gerardo Flores Ruiz (Mexico) 19 min

Open water swimmer Rene Martinez Saenz, aka "The Frog," tackles the infamous Moloka'i Kaiwi Channel, at 28 miles the longest of the "Ocean 7" ultramarathon swim challenges. Timing optimal conditions by the phases of the moon, and plowing through 13-foot wind-whipped waves, he battles darkness and pain, arriving on Oahu's white-sand shore to claim victory. There he finds his most cherished reward waiting for him. **(Sunday, 3pm, Theater 2)**



**New Boats**, Lansana Mansaray (Sierra Leone) 50 min

An intimate portrayal of life in a West African fishing village, showcasing the day-to-day challenges its residents face when the impact of Chinese fishing at night in their area affects their economy and threatens the livelihood of the local community. This is a unique, rich, and multilayered perspective—a portrayal by a local filmmaker of a community and its culture. **(Thursday, 6pm, Harrisville)**



**Patrick and the Whale**, Mark Fletcher (Austria) 72 min

Perhaps it's every person's dream to get up close and personal with a sperm whale. For twenty years, Patrick Dykstra has done just that, learning over time how whales see and hear and how to approach a whale as close as possible without touching it. His relationship with "Dolores" in Dominica will leave you both envious of his ability to connect and in awe of his sacrifice. **(Friday, 6pm, Theater 1)**



**Planting Coral Forests, Johann Vorster (Kenya) 27 min**

Join community champion Katana Ngala of the Kuruwitu Conservation and Welfare Association to explore the vibrant, protected coral reefs along Kenya's coastline. Healthy coral reefs play a vital role in providing food and livelihoods for local fishermen. Concerned about immense degradation from overfishing and rising temperatures, Katana Ngala began restoring coral reefs in 2019 as part of a local community-based initiative. **(Thursday, 6pm, Harrisville)**



**PLSTC, Laen Sanches (France) 2 min**

No words are needed when telling the story of PLSTC. This stop-motion animated movie takes an artistic approach to tackling the issue of plastic pollution in our oceans and the impact it has on wildlife and the environment. A powerful message communicated through beautifully made and realistically looking art. Don't blink, you might miss something! **(Saturday, 1pm, Theater 1)**



**Protected Waters: Exploring La Jolla, Jennifer Idol and Alex Rose (USA) 15 min**

Join Alex Rose and Jennifer Idol as they dive into La Jolla Marine Protected Areas. The long-term conservation of marine resources and services for ecosystems depends on these designated areas. They'll dig into some of the shark science surrounding this geographically unique area outside San Diego as they bring in local experts on leopard sharks and critically endangered tope sharks. La Jolla is a known destination for biodiversity that includes the revered California sea lion, bizarre mola mola, critically endangered giant sea bass, and prehistoric shovelnose guitarfish. **(Saturday, 10am, Theater 1)**



**Relentless, Thomas Lindsey Haskin (USA) 91 min**

J.K. Simmons narrates *Relentless* which explores the mystery behind how and why the fish most prized by people nearly disappeared from the largest freshwater ecosystem on Earth: the Great Lakes. **(Wednesday, 6pm, Rogers Theater)**



**Restoring the Farallon Islands: A Critical Conservation Opportunity, Brandon Schilling (USA) 4 min**

Just 27 miles off San Francisco, the Farallon Islands National Wildlife Refuge - the Devil's Teeth - are bedeviled by 50,000 invasive mice causing death and destruction among endangered seabirds, rare salamanders and plants, and creating imbalance throughout the ecosystem. Experts advocate immediate, complete eradication as the only lasting solution. Yet some opponents propose a birth control "alternative" that could be deadlier than the mice. **(Saturday, 1pm, Theater 1)**



**Ripple: Casting for Change, John Curtis (USA) 32 min**

Six elementary school girls fly to an island in the middle of Lake Michigan to test their fly fishing skill. The girls are members of a school sponsored Adventure Club that focuses on building community, belonging, and leadership skills to change the narrative of what girls can and can not do. During the two day trip the girls discuss the pressures of growing up in a digital world and the need for nature based connections like fly fishing. **(Sunday, 11am, Theater 1)**



**Rise of the Clambassador**, Alexander Davidowski (USA) 8 min



"It just kind of took him up, snuck up on him" says the mayor of Cedar Key, off Florida's tip. The "him" is playwright Michael Bobbitt, a newcomer to the key who loves his new clammer's life and what the clams do for the Key's water. Not only do the clams filter it, but they mature here faster than anywhere else. And they're beautiful! A Clambassador without a doubt. **(Sunday, 11am, Theater 1)**

**Robots in the Deep**, Leo Richards (UK) 13 min



Remotely operated vehicles (ROV's) allow scientists to obtain specimens and high resolution images and video non-intrusively at depths reaching down to 4,500 meters. The film tracks ROV, Subastian, as it explores hydrothermal vents and the delicate and challenging midwater region of the Gulf of California to discover and document new ocean species. **(Sunday, 3pm, Theater 1)**

**SAGRES**, José Eduardo Zuzarte (Portugal) 44 min



Growing up in Sagres, Portugal, it was natural for Joana to start bodyboarding. The region offers rugged coastlines with countless waves. Although born to German parents, she is deeply rooted in the local culture that is closely connected to the forces of nature. This film depicts her delicate dance with the ocean against a backdrop of regional music and a simple life. **(Saturday, 10am, Theater 2)**

**Sanctuaries 360°**, Nick Zachar, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (USA)

Dive in without the need to get wet! Explore your National Marine Sanctuaries, a network of underwater parks encompassing more than 600,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters. From the thriving kelp forests of Channel Islands to the emerald blue waters of the Florida Keys, and from the shipwrecks of Lake Huron to turtle cleaning stations in Hawai'i, few places on the planet can compete with the diversity of the National Marine Sanctuary System.

**SB2508: A Death Threat to Everglades Restoration**, Noah Alexander Miller (USA) 30 min



Restoring Florida's Everglades is a hot topic in the southern tip of the state, where 'Big Sugar' has a strong presence and the fight over equitable water rights is fought on a daily basis. In February 2022, tensions rise within the Florida Senate upon the introduction of SB250, written to give advantages to the sugar industry. In steps the passionate fishermen of Captains for Clean Water, who will encourage you to take action in your own community. **(Thursday, 6pm, Harrisville)**



**Seagrass for Sea Change**, Whitney Beer-Kerr (Australia) 12 min

Posidonia seagrasses, which are an important habitat, an effective form of carbon capture, and a stabilizing factor for the shoreline, are diminishing worldwide. Boat moorings with dragging chains destroy seagrass meadows. This film documents a pilot program to restore the seagrasses in Botany Bay, Sydney, by replacing the moorings and enlisting the public to collect seagrass shoots for replanting. **(Saturday, 10am, Theater 1)**



**The Shark with a Thousand Names**, Hendrik Sebastian Schmitt (Germany) 18 min

Many myths and fairy tales revolve around whale sharks in Indonesia. They harbor the spirits of ancestors and save people from drowning. As the only shark species in Indonesia that is fully protected by law, they are a sign of good luck and prosperity, creating a very special relationship between them and some fishermen. A team of storytellers take us on a journey into an almost unknown region in Indonesia to tell a rare story of peaceful coexistence between humans and sharks. **(Saturday, 10am, Theater 2)**



**The Storm Chaser**, Jack Pirie (UK) 7 min

Storms hold mythical power over us. Dramatic and thrilling, yet affecting and meditative. Always beyond our control, and sometimes foreboding. While sensible souls retreat, a big-wave windsurfer heads out in pursuit of an extreme, illuminated moment with the tempestuous sea. An interplay unfolds, resembling more a ceremonial dance than a death-defying feat. A film of contradiction and harmony. **(Friday, 6pm, Theater 1)**



**Tangled in the Tides**, Henk Ekermans, Barend van der Watt (South Africa) 50 min

Woven into the landscape along Southern Mexico's Pacific coastal lowland, a resilient Red Mangrove tree conquers the elements in a world repeatedly inundated by the tides and then exposed to the air. At 40 meters, one of the tallest mangroves' tangled arching root system is a magical realm of extremes – an ecosystem that provides shelter and food to a wide array of fish, crabs and crocodiles. **(Sunday, 11am, Theater 1)**



**Truluck**, Matt Cannon, Jake Smallwood (UK) 20 min

Seeing a pod of dolphins for the first time jolts Steve Truluck awake from his office-bound life. Wanting more, he moves to the Orkney Islands north of Scotland, where he works as a window washer, his springer spaniel, Riley, at his side. Seeing out his front window a sperm whale do a full breach makes Truluck still want more. Noticing his enthusiasm, a tour-boat captain asks him to be his guide, especially for spotting orcas, who visit the islands from Iceland every year. Riley happily approves, making a stuffed orca his go-to toy. **(Saturday, 10am, Theater 2)**



**Washed Ashore**, Ley Heimgartner, Cameron Nielsen (USA) 16 min

Since 2019, 500 gray whales have washed ashore along their annual West Coast migration route, succumbing either to starvation, net entanglement or ship strike. Biologists from Canada, the US and Mexico are trying to learn why so many are being affected. **(Sunday, 1pm, Theater 2)**



**When Hope Breaks Through, Matthew Wagner (USA) 90 min**



This documentary follows the inspiring story of Mike Shoreman, a disabled paddleboarder who attempts to become the first person with disabilities to cross all five Great Lakes. In 2018 Mike was diagnosed with a neurological condition that left him paralyzed, with vertigo, hearing and vision loss, ultimately leading to depression and a mental health breakdown. This riveting documentary explores the current state of the mental health crisis in Canada and our relationships with our own mental health. The film immerses the audience in Mike's epic five crossings, encompassing over 300 kilometers of open water paddling with his dedicated crossings team. Together these strangers come together and form an inseparable bond as they face and conquer obstacles from boats breaking down, medical emergencies to hallucinations and everything in between. **(Saturday, 1pm, Theater 1)**

**WindShipped, Jon Bowermaster (USA) 39 min**



Looking for a carbon-neutral alternative to modern day shipping? Try sail freight! For the past three years the 65-foot "steel-hulled schooner 'Apollonia' " has delivered 95,000 pounds of cargo up and down the Hudson River by sail. 2,500 miles on less than 30 gallons of diesel fuel -- a throwback to a time when there were 1,200 schooners on the river every day. Even now, some buyers prefer the non-polluting, (slower) anti-Amazon way of making deliveries.

**(Saturday, 1pm, Theater 2)**