



Official selection International Ocean Film Festival



Filmmaker or film representative will be available for Q&A



Filmed in National Marine Sanctuary waters



Filmed in the Great Lakes

68 Voices (Mexico), Nadia Rojas, 1 min



This is a story of the cosmogony of the Seri people in northern Mexico. All the animals in the sea dived down to bring sand up from the depths of the ocean, but only the largest sea turtle that ever lived – the Caguama - succeeded. From that sand the Earth was created.

Adaptation Bangladesh: Sea Level Rise (USA), Justin DeShields, 12 min



Glacial waters from northern mountains and the warming waters of the Bay of Bengal are expected, by 2050, to force 16 million Bangladeshi from their homes. So these resourceful people have adapted: schools are on boats with rooftop solar panels to power computers; thriving vegetable gardens float on mats of water hyacinth; self-sufficient floating villages are being planned. Such adaptations offer models to the many others who will one day share their plight.

Albatross (USA), Chris Jordan, 97 min



If you only see one film about birds this is the one – a prayer, a love poem, and an elegy. Running to take off, a Laysan Albatross can look like Bobo the clown. But once aloft, it becomes the magical essence of soaring flight. A million breed on Midway Island, where the birds have no natural predators, enabling Chris Jordan to film close up their graceful courtship dances and their encouragement to chicks breaking out of their shells. Jordan also shows us ravenous chicks gulping down plastic mistakenly scooped up by parents on foraging journeys. The horrific fatal effects of this man-made detritus are not easily forgotten.

Alice in Borneo's Wonderland, (USA), David McGuire, 12 min



Alice, a sixteen-year-old aspiring biologist, learns to SCUBA dive off the coast of Malaysian Borneo and discovers a wondrous world. With the help of Shark Steward instructors she learns to respect the key predators of that astonishing world—the sharks, endangered worldwide because of shark finning. Her next step is to share with other students her new knowledge about the importance of protecting the oceans.

Art for a Sea Change (USA), John Quigley, 4 min



Listen, Unite, Protect, Save Our Seas. Starting in San Francisco, twenty years ago, over a hundred thousand youth from California to China have connected with the sea – cleaning beaches and sending ocean messages scribed in the sand with their own bodies.

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A Herring Opera (USA), Tessa Schmidt, 27 min

Stylistically unique, this film portrays the spring herring fishing season in Sitka, Alaska. Presented as an “opera” in several acts, it presents the drama between commercial fishing operations and the local fishermen. Interwoven in the story are details of life in a small Alaskan town and the beauty of the spawning herring.

Beneath the Surface: The Line 5 Pipeline in the Great Lakes (USA), Detroit Public TV, 27 min



Detroit Public TV’s Great Lakes Bureau examines the controversy surrounding the Line 5 pipeline built by Enbridge Inc., a pipeline that was constructed on the lakebed between Michigan’s Lower and Upper Peninsula more than a half century ago. It operates under the water near the Mackinac Bridge in a spot that’s considered one of the most scenic areas of the Great Lakes and is known for its strong currents between Lake Michigan and Lake Huron. This film takes viewers on a journey across the Great Lakes to hear voices on all sides of this issue, including residents who live in a community devastated by the nation’s largest inland oil spill along Michigan’s Kalamazoo River.

Big Pacific (New Zealand), Samantha McKegg and Samantha Young, 53 min



In an ocean that covers one third of the Earth’s surface are many mysteries: the “arribada” in Costa Rica when half a million turtles all converge on the same beach; strange symmetrical patterns in the sand off Japan; the daily migration of the chambered nautilus; the 10-eyed horseshoe crab; and firefly shrimp each with 20,000 eggs. There are even huge stone cities built by ancient, long gone civilizations.

BLUE (UK) Sarah Beard, 76 min



BLUE is a feature documentary film charting the drastic decline in the health of our oceans. With more than half of all marine life lost and the expansion of the industrialization of the seas, the film sets out the challenges we are facing and the opportunities for positive change. Filmed on location in Australia, Hawaii, the South Pacific, the Philippines and Indonesia, BLUE changes the way we think about our liquid world and inspires the audience to action.

Bon Voyage (Switzerland), Marc Wilkins, 21 min



A couple’s pleasant Mediterranean sailing trip is thrown into tension-filled turmoil by an encounter with refugees desperate to escape their violence-torn North African homelands. In just 20 minutes, this powerful film puts us in the middle of a moral quandary, not unlike some of our own that demand life and death choices.

Chiripajas (Russia/Spain), Olga Poliektova, Jaume Quiles, 2 min



This film tells the big adventure of one small baby turtle. Lost and trapped in ocean pollution, he strives to reach the ocean and search for his family. A beach cleanup saves the day!

Coastal Shipwrecks, (Michigan), Noble Odyssey Foundation, 13 min



Follow the Great Lakes Division of Navy Sea Cadets as they explore shallow shipwrecks from Port Austin to Port Huron, Michigan. These adventurous cadets, ages 11 - 18 and under the guidance of Captain Luke Clyburn, also document these historically-significant shipwrecks to help preserve them for future generations.



Crossing Superior (Michigan), Corey Adkins, 50 min

Crossing Lake Superior follows a riveting 60-mile journey three men took with their paddle boards across a lake that is often a force to be reckoned with. Eleven-time Emmy award winner Corey Adkins tagged along to document the 22-hour journey with Stand Up for Great Lakes, including humored encounters with freighters, a permit to do something special over waters restricted by the Canadian government, and the emotional landing at Whitefish Point. Learn why they chose this kind of adventure to raise money for the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum in this special documentary.



Cuban Wave Riders (USA), Liz Magee, Taylor McNulty, 20 min

"When I caught that first wave" the Cuban surfer says, "it was...like medicine for the soul." Any stoked surfer would say amen to that, but for this film's Cuban surfers, locating that medicine often means long trips on bumpy roads and bruising walks across rocky beaches. Right now, there are only about 80 surfers in Cuba. More are welcome, the surfers say, "but not too many."



Dedicate: Diving Free (Norway), Shams, 8 min

A chemical engineer turned free-diving photographer, Jacques de Vos has pursued his love for orcas since childhood. He shares the magic and wonder of being in the water and interacting with humpback whales and orcas off the coast of Norway.



Dive to be Alive, (Germany), Florian Fischer, 5 min

Diving keeps you alive, and you don't become a zombie in the mind-controlled world in which we live in.' ... claims Hayward Coleman, the 70 years old yogi master.



Flip Float and Follow: A Drowning Prevention Strategy, (USA), Pat Noyes, 16 min

The Great Lakes Surf Rescue Project are a group of men and women who have donated 1000's of hours of their time to educate children and adults to the dangers inherent in recreational use of the Great Lakes. Some are dedicated first responders and others are just regular folk who have been called to action through terrible and extraordinary circumstances. They train and certify beach lifeguards and give informative presentations at schools and conferences all over the Midwest. *Flip, Float, and Follow* is a term they have coined that is supposed to be like the "Stop, Drop, and Roll" for water safety.



Fishpeople (USA), Keith Malloy, 49 min

To some, the ocean is a fearsome and dangerous place. But to others, it's a limitless world of fun, freedom, and an opportunity to live life to the fullest. This film's unique cast of characters have dedicated their lives to the sea: from surfers and spear fishers to a long-distance swimmer, a former coal miner and a group of at-risk kids from the streets of San Francisco, together they introduce us to the transformative effects of time spent in the ocean—and of finding fulfillment in the saltwater wilderness that lies just beyond the shore.



From the Shadows (Spain), Jacques de Vos, 15 min

Boats from Tromsø, fish in the Norwegian fiords for herring and cod. The wildlife is out too, including whales. The sound of the fishing boats brings in orcas and humpback whales from 10 miles away. Pods come in to catch the fish that escape the nets; some whales are eating the spoils, and others sky hopping to watch the fish brought aboard and anticipate the next fall out. In the water, alongside the whales, day and night, are videographers recording it all.

Grand Traverse: A Great Lakes Reef Restoration (USA), Jason Whalen, 8 min



This mini-documentary involves three species, 450 tons of rocks, and one chance for a comeback. Scientists from The Nature Conservancy, Central Michigan University, and The Michigan Department of Natural Resources teamed up to dump 450 tons of limestone rock to restore a degraded spawning reef in northern Lake Michigan. The reef is part of a complex that is the only place in Lake Michigan where three important native fish species—lake herring, lake whitefish and lake trout—are all known to spawn.

How Do Pelicans Survive Their Death Defying Dives (USA), Elliott Kennerson, 4 min



A few years back, millions of sardines crammed into San Francisco Bay and Aquatic Park Cove. Brown pelicans, so striking in soaring flight, dove with wings akimbo to scoop them up. How do these pterodactyl look-alikes survive hitting the water at 45 miles an hour? They've had 30 million years to adapt—bones, feathers, bill, and pouch—as this film explains.

Irreparable Harm (USA), Colin Arisman, 20 min



In Alaska, a Tlingit settlement must abandon traditional foods, and perhaps their homes. A silver mine's mercury- and lead-tainted discharge pours into Knight Inlet in vast quantities, poisoning marine life the Tlingit depends on. Faced with blatant lies, "disappeared" studies, and industry stonewalling, the state turns a blind eye. But natives and scientists push back: "If you call out to the Earth, Earth can hear you."

Islands from Mexico: Revillagigedo Archipelago (Mexico), Nadia Rojas, 49 min



The gem of the Mexican Pacific Ocean, this remote archipelago hosts hammerhead sharks, humpback whales, and some of the best diving in the Northeast Pacific Ocean. Brought to light by dive ecotourism, this Mexican Galapagos has also become the target of tuna fishers and shark finners. A team of Mexican biologists explore and study this sub-tropical biodiversity and help establish the largest no fishing marine reserve off North America.

Kim Swims (USA), Kate Webber, 75 min



Kim Chambers was the first woman (and one of only four people) to swim solo the 26 miles between the Farrallon Islands and San Francisco. This feat is the culmination — so far — of Kim's life story, from growing up on a sheep farm in New Zealand to working in the Bay Area tech industry and experiencing a life-changing accident.

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Line 5: Worst Case Scenario (USA), Barton Bund, 43 min



An old, damaged energy pipeline threatens the future of the Great Lakes. The LINE 5 series follows the people fighting to prevent a catastrophic oil spill in the Straits of Mackinac. This third installment looks closely at the legal and political battle surrounding the issue. Spectacular cinematography and in-depth interviews paint an intimate portrait of this freshwater crisis. With Sen. Gary Peters, Roger Gauthier, Beth Wallace, Mike Shriberg, Andy Buchsbaum, and Frank Ettawageshik.

Lionfish - New Pirates of the Caribbean (Germany), Ulf Marquardt, 52 min



The extraordinary lionfish, festooned with numerous and strange appendages, has long been a highlight for snorkelers and scuba divers in the Pacific Ocean where it has its place in the piscine pecking order. After it was thoughtlessly introduced into the Caribbean and the Atlantic, however, the lionfish took advantage of the lack of predators and its population skyrocketed. This is one fish you need have no compunction about eating.

Making Waves: Battle for the Great Lakes (USA), Jessica and Brendan Walsh, 120 min



With more than 180 invasive species in the Great Lakes watershed, and new invasives on the radar, the future of the Great Lakes is at stake. *Making Waves* traces the path of the invasion and joins researchers on the front lines as they combat invasives and work to restore native species, in an effort to prevent a biological takeover of the Great Lakes

Melting Stars (Canada), Kate Green, 15 min



This film unravels the mystery behind one of the most catastrophic species die-offs in recorded history — the sea star wasting syndrome that started in 2013. Find out why the sea stars have died, what factors led to the epidemic, and the effects of the die-off on intertidal ecosystems from Alaska to Mexico.

Mexican Fishing Bats (Canada), Meigan Henry, 6 min



Most marine mammals swim, but these tiny winged denizens of caves on the island of Partida in the Sea of Cortez rely on the sea as much as any sea lion. An intrepid young scientist studies these endangered Mexican fishing bats as they flit every night into the desert darkness to fish, attempting to unravel their secrets before they become lost forever.

Michigan Micro Adventures (Michigan), Zach Irving, 11 min



Father and son team Gary and Ely Irving take you on a guided tour snorkelling the *Portland* shipwreck, a two-masted schooner that sank in Bell Bay on October 13, 1877. Gary and Ely offer an inside look on the history and adventure you can make at this Michigan hotspot. The team tour the pathway and ruins of the old town of Bell just off the shore of Lake Huron.



Microplastics 101 (Michigan), NE Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative, 12 min   

Breaking news: What's in your water? Fifth graders from Ella White Elementary in Alpena break down the issue of microplastics - from source to solution - in this entertaining news-style film. Stay tuned for fifth grade field work, a reusable lunch packing demonstration, and a conversation with Alpena's own Plastics FLOAT 4-H club! And remember, Refuse to Single Use!

Muskegon Lake: A Great Lakes Area of Concern (Michigan), David Ruck, 12 min  

Muskegon Lake was designated a Great Lakes Area of Concern after years of neglect and abuse at the hands of logging companies, foundries, and every day citizens who used the lake as an industrial dump. Taking matters into their own hands, citizens leveraged new laws designed to help communities like Muskegon reclaim their aquatic resources. This is the story of how people came together to save Muskegon Lake.

Nonoy and the Sea Monster (Austria), Florian Kozak, 5 min 

When his parents talk of the sea monster that is wiping out the fish they need for survival, Nonoy, their young and imaginative son, creates a weapon whose magic powers will take care of the beast for good. Go get him, Nonoy!

North Branch (Michigan), Andrew J. Morgan & Nick Nummerdor, 19 min  

Throughout the 1970s, brothers Jerry and Jeff Kellogg of Muskegon, Michigan were a force to be reckoned with in the sport of marathon canoe racing. Growing up along the north branch of the Au Sable River as second-generation paddlers, the brothers won their first local race as teenagers and never looked back. They took home consecutive wins in the 120-mile Au Sable Canoe Marathon; all while battling 15 hours of steady paddling through the night. Their contribution to the sport of canoe racing set new standards for racers to come with over a decade worth of top 5 finishes.

Oceanic Aliens (USA), Mike Johnson, 6 min 

What really lies in the depths of our oceans? How much do we really know about what lives there? More is known about outer space than our oceans. This short documentary illustrates just one example of a little known class of bioluminescent species and their amazing attributes.

One Breath: A Life Without Gravity (UK) Sebastian Solberg, 7 min 

Husband and wife free divers Eusebio and Christina Saenz de Santamaria share many adventures underwater. Among them is an attempt to set a new world record for diving depth for two people together: 100 meters. Try holding your breath along with them.

FILM LIST- SEE SCHEDULE FOR INDIVIDUAL FILM TIMES



Patterns of the Ocean (Germany), Claudia Schmitt, 45 min

The eagles of the sea, manta rays are a giant, gentle and graceful kind of flat shark. With a wingspan of 21 feet and weighing well over a ton, these acrobatic denizens are favorites among scuba divers. Now coveted as a dubious traditional medicine, these rays are becoming a substitute for shark fin and are rapidly becoming endangered. A German team of filmmakers tirelessly document the work of scientists and conservationists in Indonesia, working to save these beautiful animals from extinction.

Radical Rust Belt (USA), Pat Noyes, 10 min



1 van, 2 friends, 3 days, 4 Surfboards, a dozen Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwiches, and 1,640 miles of shoreline. This is a surf trip around Lake Michigan, this is Rust Belt Surf. Special thanks to Ryan at Third Coast Surf Shop and all the Ersulas Crew in St. Joe



Reefs at Risk (USA), Malina Fagan, 11 min

The health of reefs near Hawaii started to decline around 1985, about the same time the tourist industry in the islands exploded. Any connection? All those visitors are lathered in sunscreen that often includes the chemical oxybenzone, an endocrine disruptor, lethal to coral—and fish, and dolphins (and maybe you).



Return of the Harbor Porpoises (USA), Jim Sugar, 10 min

In the late 1930s, San Francisco Bay was dying. Sewage, industrial waste, and military preparations for World War II sounded a death knell for its marine life. The shy, diminutive porpoises that lived there disappeared. Then, activists and agencies decided to heal the bay, and 65 years later, biologists documented the porpoises' lusty return. This film is a song of homecoming, of hope.



Sea Grant in the Great Lakes (USA), 73 min

For more than 50 years, the National Sea Grant College Program has supported coastal and Great Lakes communities through research, extension, and education. The Great Lakes, the world's largest freshwater system, are a tremendous resource shared among eight U.S. states and two Canadian provinces. Come learn what Great Lakes Sea Grant programs are doing on behalf of the Great Lakes.



Seeking Sanctuary (UK), Nick Jones, 11min

Shark researcher Ornella Weideli's laboratory is the remote, uninhabited St. Joseph's atoll in the Seychelles in the Indian Ocean. It has become a sanctuary for a wide diversity of wildlife, including baby sharks whose primary predators in the shallow lagoon are their cousins.



Seven Generation River (USA), Detroit Public TV, 27 min



In a time of cultural turmoil, deep divisions between Americans, our environment and our natural resources are caught in the crossfire. In an approach that blends the latest science with their traditional ways, a small band of Native Americans nestled into southwest corner of the Great Lakes might have the key to healing our divisions, healing nature, healing ourselves. They are the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, and they are infusing their cultural values with science to protect and preserve waterways.

Shipwreck Hunters (Spain), Edu Lavandeira, 35 min

The *Cardenal Cisneros* was one of the big hopes of the Spanish Armada in the beginning of the XX Century, but it sank shortly after it was launched. More than 100 years later, a group of experienced divers will submerge 65 meters deep to find it.

Souls of the Vermillion Sea (USA), Matthew Podolsky, 29 min



Beautifully shot in Mexico, this film documents the imminent extinction of an entire species: the vaquita, or Gulf of California porpoise. Drowned in illegal fishing nets intended to capture totaba, an endangered fish – illegally caught for questionable medical purposes –they die needless deaths. An international team now struggles valiantly to pull them back from the brink.

Stars (USA), Han Zhang, 5 min



A grandfather and his grandson sell stars on the street in a seaside town. One night their supply runs out, and the grandson embarks on a journey to fish for more stars.

Stories from the Blue (USA), Office of National Marine Sanctuaries



National marine sanctuaries and marine national monuments are home to thousands of species of marine life, from tiny plankton to enormous whale sharks and humpback whales. They are also the heart of many human communities, from native communities that have depended on the ocean for centuries and continue to do so, to vacationers who dive into sanctuary waters and surf their waves, to scientists and researchers who explore the ocean's depths. Join us as each month as we tell Stories from the Blue celebrating the people at the center of national marine sanctuaries and marine national monuments.

Tapping the Great Lakes (USA), Detroit Public TV, 27 min



The Great Lakes contain 20 percent of the world's surface fresh water supply. The value of the five lakes, which provide drinking water to more than 40 million people, is increasing as water across the globe becomes threatened by climate change and pollution. But who owns the water? In *Tapping the Great Lakes*, Detroit Public TV's Great Lakes Bureau takes a deep dive into several methods of water withdrawal and their impact on the Great Lakes.

The Agave Gun (USA), Ross Haines, 10 min



Legendary surfboard shaper Gary Linden continues to hone his skills even after 50 years into his career. His board materials include agave plants, the use of which requires masterful skills and a lot of patience. Alex Gray, a big wave surfer, inspires Gary to make an "agave gun" (big wave surfboard) and they go on a spiritual journey together.



The Amazing Lifecycle of the European Eel (UK), Sofia Castello y Tickell, 4 min



A delightful stop motion animation featuring the European eel's life cycle and unusual theories behind it. Did you know that the Romans kept them as pets and adorned them with jewelry? The oldest known European eel lived to be over 100 years old. Nowadays they swim to the Sargasso Sea to complete their life cycles.

The Big Wave Project (Australia), Tim Bonython, 59 min



If surfers are considered a tribe, then big wave surfers are tribal gods. For five years Australian filmmaker Tim Bonython follows legendary surfers to legendary breaks and some unknown gargantuan tow-in monsters. He tracks storms and swells across the planet to find and surf the gnarliest, most insurmountable mountains of ocean. Big gun surfers including Jamie Mitchell, Aaron Gold, Ryan Hipwood, Grant "Twiggy" Baker, Billy Kemper, and Mark Healey survive the impossible and develop a brotherhood of the Big Wave.

The Hundred-Year-Old Whale (Canada), Tony Wosk, 15 min



"Granny," the centenarian killer whale matriarch of Puget Sound, has survived capture, starvation, bullets, and even toxic pollutants. She nurtured her descendants, and shared her knowledge, gathered over a lifetime, with the remnants of her critically endangered Southern Resident family.

The Fight for Flight (USA), Jason Whalen, 16 min



A film about the spring songbird migration through the Great Lakes region and the people who interact with them. Each year, millions of birds travel between Central and South America to Canada and the northern United States. Migration is very difficult for birds and humans make the journey even more challenging. From research to rehab, it takes a lot to understand and conserve this natural phenomenon.

The Mystery of the Gnaraloo Sea Turtles (Australia), Dof Dickinson, 24 min



See stunning underwater footage that tracks the mysterious journey of the Gnaraloo Loggerhead turtles in Western Australia. Scientists attached satellite trackers and underwater cameras to the backs of female turtles for the first time. Dive in and learn about life after they leave nesting beaches.

These Fish Are All About Sex on the Beach (USA), Joshua Cassidy, 4 min



Shortly after a new full moon and high tides, the California grunion come out of the sea and onto the beach for an unusual mass mating tryst. The resulting offspring must find their way to the sea and it is not easy.



The Story of Force Blue, (USA) Sara & Bobby Sheehan, 43 min

Force Blue is a nonprofit organization that seeks to unite the community of Special Operations veterans with the world of marine resource conservation for the betterment of both. It's the story of the six (6) men who comprise Force Blue's Team One — how each of them has dealt with their own personal struggles to reorient to civilian life after years of combat deployments, and how, together, they are now as a force for change. This new "mission" to heal the planet is giving them a pathway home.



Water, Blood and Spermaceti (USA), Nicholas Dean and Cheryl Dean, 7 min

In the 1950s, Grigory Derviz, in his twenties, went to Russia's Kiril Islands north of Japan, to join a whaling expedition—a world of rough seas, lots of blood, and spermaceti, a substance found in the head cavities of sperm whales and used in manufactured goods. He impressively captured the whalers in the "heroic" Soviet style of his day, but he no longer sees their work that way.



WBKB's "On the Deck" Series (Alpena!), Michael Beiermeister

Around the turn of the century, hundreds of ships felt the wrath of Lake Huron. Some would call the lake a permanent home. Join Mike Beiermeister and archaeologists from Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary as they look to bring to life the tales of a few of these vessels that found a final resting place in Lake Huron. Watch for episodes of WBKB's new "On the Deck" series throughout the festival!