



**5 Gyres Arctic Expedition** (Italy), 4 min

Franco Borgogno

In 2016, members of the 5 Gyres Arctic Expedition ventured north above the Arctic Circle to better understand global microplastic pollution. A crew of scientists, sailors, educators, and entrepreneurs collected samples and scoured beaches to gather data to tell the story of plastic in our ocean, and drive solutions back to where the problem begins. 5 Gyres is a non-profit organization that empowers action against the global health crisis of plastic pollution through science, education, and adventure.

**@415Plumber'sPlasticObsession** (USA), 7 min

Jeff den Broeder

Grabbing a few rays at the beach could get you stuck by a used needle, though it rarely leads to a lifelong environmental preoccupation. But that's what happened to Aaron, a plumber who now spends a couple of hours a day scouring San Francisco's Ocean Beach for plastic—dolls' arms, key rings, animals, and soldiers. He works alone, enjoying the meditative silence.

**An Ocean Mystery: The Missing Catch** (USA), 46 min

Alison Barrat

If Newfoundland officials had listened to local near-shore fisherman on the dwindling size of their catches that data might have helped avert the catastrophic 1992 closing of the cod fishery. Incomplete data—from Newfoundland to the Bahamas to Senegal—is leading to a frightening underestimation of the world fish catch. To make that catch sustainable, this film argues, governments, scientists, and fisherman urgently need to work together.

**Appetite for Invasives** (USA), 6 min

Emily Driscoll

You'll need an adventurous spirit to dine here and an appetite for the unusual. Follow exotic food chef, Gene Ruurka, as he transforms invasive species like the venomous Lionfish and Asian Carp, into recipes served at the Explorers Club 112th Annual Dinner.

**Beneath the Surface** (Canada), 19 min

Fred Kroetsch

Daniel Ernett becomes the first quadruple amputee to be certified in open water scuba diving. But he does not stop there and decides to dive with sharks. Daniel's positive take on life and his determination to keep pushing his limits inspire the people around him.

**Bezerke** (Australia), 15 min

Andrew Kainer

Hard to believe Russell Bierke is only 18. This Aussie phenom is fearless. The film traces his days of surfing back to his childhood, where he got his start at becoming one of the next generation's big wave surfers. With insights from 11-time world champion, Kelly Slater, the film highlights Russell's amazing win at Cape Fear.

**#BiodiversityIs Unity** (Michigan), 3 min — *2017 TBIFF Student Film Competition, 1<sup>st</sup> Place & People's Choice*

DyShauna Rutherford

In this award winning film, Rogers City High School student DyShauna Rutherford explores the issue of biodiversity, the variety of life in the world or in a particular habitat or ecosystem. Focusing on trees, the film examines how they support life. By connecting trees to the community, she also highlights how biodiversity unites us together.

**Bluefin** (Canada), 55 min

John Hopkins

Allowed to grow to maturity, blue fin tuna can reach the age of 30, weigh two tons, and swim like a torpedo. In a visit to Blue Lake, Prince Edward Island, Canada, we find that trying to protect these magnificent creatures is complex. Because we can't observe their lives we don't think of tuna as wild animals, and find it way too easy to kill—and eat—them.

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**Blue Serengeti (USA), 42 min**

Robert Nixon

Vaster than the Great Serengeti Parks of Africa, the Pacific Ocean is brimming with its own predators who swim across the ocean to feed on the abundant prey in the waters of the California National Marine Sanctuaries. Renowned Stanford University marine biologist, Dr. Barbara Block, uses cutting edge camera tags to track the movements of marine creatures, giving us a rare, first-hand perspective on the life of a great white shark.

**Blue Ventures (USA), 6 min**

Gabriel Diamond

Fisheries conservation and marine protection are a challenge in poor coastal communities; people need to eat and the fish keep getting smaller and fewer. A new model demonstrates that applying traditional knowledge in Madagascar with seasonal closures and market management benefits the fish and the bottom line.

**Borneo Shark Special (Malaysia), 12 min**

Will Foster-Grundy

Arguably the most iconic animal in our oceans, sharks draw divers to Borneo from all over the world. Though there are still areas with healthy populations on Borneo's Sipadan Island, sharks worldwide are under threat as a direct result of the shark fin soup industry. Marine conservationist David McGuire of Shark Stewards and his host, Aaron "Bertie" Gekoski, get up close and personal with these majestic animals and take a look at what's being done to save them.

**Coral in Crisis! (Malaysia), 5 min**

Will Foster-Grundy

While corals around the world suffer from warming and high acidity, others have been bleached and blasted into oblivion. In Sabah, Borneo, conservationists have taken whatever materials are at hand to construct artificial reefs on which corals can reestablish themselves. Maybe our guides can find a species of coral unknown to science...or have fun trying!

**Crossing Lake Huron (Michigan), 30 min**

Corey Adkins

Experience the white-knuckle thrill of three men attempting to cross Lake Huron from the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary to Tobermorey, Ontario on nothing but stand up paddle boards. This 90-mile open water crossing travels through Shipwreck Alley and some of the most treacherous waters in the world. This is their story and what makes their charity different from the rest.

**Earth Is Blue: Your National Marine Sanctuary System (USA), 3 min**

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

When astronauts first launched toward the moon and looked back at our planet for the first time, they made an unexpected discovery: Earth Is Blue. Working with communities around the country, NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is making a difference for the sake of our blue planet.

**Faber Navalis (Italy), 30 min**

Maurizio Borriello

It might seem like just a video about the restoration of a wooden ship, but the actual subject of this film is the ecstatic state of mind of the shipwright: an Italian researcher in maritime ethnography who decided to learn traditional boatbuilding. *Faber Navalis* is a beautifully crafted documentary by this renaissance-like director.

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**Facing the Surge** (USA), 25 min

Diogo Castro Freire

Leadership emerges in times of crisis at many levels. The people of Norfolk, Virginia now find their homes, their livelihoods, and their very lives on the line as the relentless sea encroaches. *Facing the Surge* reveals how they discover strength, hope, and solutions amid sodden ruins, and push their leaders to address the large-scale impacts of sea level rise.

**Finisterra** (Mexico), 6 min

Erick Higuera

Breathtaking coastal landscapes of Mexico's Revillagigedos Islands and in the Sea of Cortez converge with the vast open ocean. Spectacular cinematography combined with dramatic music takes us underwater to explore the diversity, abundance, and interdependency of marine life. *Finisterra* features a gray whale and her calf, tomados of schooling fish, colossal manta rays, pods of dolphin, and sharks the apex predators of the ocean. Let's not take this place for granted!

**Freightened: The Real Price of Shipping** (Spain), 52 min

Denis Delestrac

Out of sight, out of mind. The inconspicuous but enormous environmental cost of ocean freighters is carefully examined in this powerful, eye opening film. It looks at the price we all pay for ocean trade, showing us the stark similarity of being "frightened" (long i) and "Freightened" (long a). Both will leave you a bit apprehensive.

**From the Golden Gate to the Farallones** (USA), 37 min

Jack Bushell

Aussie transplant, Simon Dominguez, attempts the first solo 30-mile swim from San Francisco to the Devils' Teeth: islands of the great white shark. First-time Bay Area filmmaker, Jack Bushaw, unwinds a tale of danger, jellyfish, blood in the water and, along the way, an encounter with "The Landlord."

**Galloping Extinction: Last Stand of the Seahorse** (Malaysia), 14 min

Will Foster-Grundy

What do you get if you cross the head of a horse, with the snout of an aardvark, eyes of a chameleon, pouch of a kangaroo, and tail of a monkey? The answer is the intriguing and charismatic seahorse – the only species in which the male gives birth! Learn about this magical, mystical animal and its plight. Divers love to spot these magnificent creatures, but too often they are the target of the traditional Chinese medicine trade.

**High Hopes: The Future of Dungeness Crab** (USA), 6 min

Benjamin Drummond & Sara Joy Steele

West Coast fisheries rely heavily on Dungeness crab. As ocean acidification advances, scientists are becoming more concerned with potential impacts to this species. This could threaten not only fishermen's livelihood but also the whole ecosystem.

**Hunger at Sea** (France), 57 min

Hal Hampson

This film follows blue whales, sharks, sea lions, frigate birds, dolphins, and albatrosses to reveal the strategies they use to hunt for prey in the big blue. The open ocean is an immense wilderness that covers more than half the surface of our planet, yet for the most part it's a watery desert, largely devoid of life. Predators face an endless search to find and catch food, yet these great tracts of ocean are home to some of the most remarkable hunters on the planet.

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**Immiscible: The Fight Over Line 5** (Michigan), 46 min

Olivia Dimmer, Daniel Stephens, Austin Torres, & Annette Kim

Every single day, 23 million gallons of oil pump through 64-year-old pipelines under the largest freshwater system on the planet. The Great Lakes are a delicate ecosystem and a sanctuary to over 40 million citizens who depend on them for their livelihoods, whether they realize it or not. This film explores the growing tension between water activists and big oil companies and features interviews from leading organizations in the fight to decommission Enbridge Line 5 in the Straits of Mackinac, members of indigenous communities at risk, concerned residents, as well as Enbridge Energy's public response to this conflict.

**It Ain't Pretty** (USA), 69 min

Dayla Soul

There is a small tribe of women called "Outer Bar Babes" who surf Ocean Beach in San Francisco, well known for its challenging and gnarly beach breaks. This film touches on sexism and the obstacles that female big wave surfers face at every turn, but there is also a growing wave to shatter the stereotype and inspire all women and girls to go beyond what is considered possible.

**Last Fisherman** (UK), 76 min

James Stier

The Rame Peninsula is the forgotten corner of Cornwall, England. Here, Malcolm Baker, 70+ years of age, fishes using traditional methods. He makes his own fishing pots and wooden boats and mends his own nets. Comments by Malcolm's fellow townsfolk celebrate his individual strength and passion as we learn about the conflicts and changes he faces. An unlikely friendship forms with an Austrian youth worker (and filmmaker), drawn to a simpler way of life and the preservation of traditional skills.

**Little Teeth – Saving Sharks on Bali** (Germany), 7 min

Henrik Schmitt

A surfer on the Indonesian island of Bali is horrified watching sharks being killed for their fins. He sets up floating pens and convinces local fishermen, who catch juvenile sharks in their nets, to sell them to him while they are still alive. Once the stressed sharks have recovered they are released into a nearby marine park. Tourists can book eco tours, feed the sharks, and even swim with them.

**Making of Anthropomocene** (USA), 2 min

Chris Jones

We have so influenced the world's climate and environment—in the process plasticizing the entire biosphere, including our bodies—that it only makes sense to name our geological age after our very own clever selves. Something to be proud of, right? Well, maybe not.

**Maug's Caldera: A Natural Laboratory** (USA), 30 min

Alexa Elliott

Maug is a partially submerged volcanic crater in the tropical Pacific. It is a natural laboratory: shallow enough for diving, shielded from the open ocean for stable waters, and with distinct temperature and acidification gradients—ideal for measuring their variable effects on the growth of coral and algae. Scientists have a field day on this voyage to the unknown isle.

**My Haggan Dream** (USA), 8 min

Robert Sams

On the island of Saipan, a young girl's mysterious dream about a haggan, or green sea turtle, leads her to investigate and help protect the sea turtles that live around her

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**Plastic is Forever (USA), 19 min**

Dylan D'Haeye

What happens when you throw plastic trash away? Dylan, a 13-year-old from the San Juan Islands, follows plastic trash to where it ends up and shows how kids can help make a difference in a world that is increasingly dependent on plastic.

**Plastics 101 (Michigan), 5 min — *STUDENT FILM***

Ella M. White Elementary Students

This film was produced through the Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative's network with the help of 5th graders at Ella M. White Elementary in Alpena, Michigan. After finding plastic in their local Thunder Bay River, students developed *Plastics 101* to raise awareness about the issue and showcase ways to take action to protect our Great Lakes and ocean.

**Project Shiphunt: Discovering the *M.F. Merrick* (USA), 6 min**

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Dr. James Delgado and five high-school students from Saginaw use state-of-the-art technology to search for a lost ship in Lake Huron's infamous 'Shipwreck Alley.' Teaming up with the world's leading oceanographic researchers, these students go looking for shipwrecks, and find much more.

**Power and Fragility: An Astronaut's View of Earth (USA), 4 min**

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

As National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Administrator Dr. Kathryn Sullivan says, "No matter what you see out your living room window or off of your back porch, you are first and foremost a citizen of the planet—and a citizen of an ocean planet." With that in mind, NOAA launched the #EarthIsBlue campaign to bring you incredible images and videos of America's underwater treasures.

**Resurface (USA), 22 min**

Josh Izenberg & Wynn Padula

When handfuls of pills don't relieve veterans' traumatic memories, where can they turn for help? One place is Van Curaza's Operation Surf. The concentration needed for surfing keeps them present in their bodies, allowing the ocean to begin a healing process. An Iraq veteran says, pointing to the waves, "I died in that spot and was reborn a different person...my body came to life."

**Sea Urchins Pull Themselves Inside Out to Be Reborn (USA), 3 min**

Joshua Cassidy

Conceived in the open ocean, tiny spaceship-shaped sea urchin larvae search the vast ocean to find the perfect habitat to land. After this incredible odyssey as a small planktonic ball, they undergo one of the most remarkable transformations in nature. The embryo pulls itself inside out and little tube feet emerge that help them move around and eat kelp. Eventually, they become a rugged sphere of spines that can withstand the harshest marine conditions and live for centuries.

**Solidarity and the Art of Sustainable Lobster Fishing (Canada), 5 min**

Steve de Neef

Local fisherman in the small village of Punta Allen, Mexico have created a unique sustainable lobster-fishing co-op. The development of special methods and self-regulation ensure they never over-harvest. Such solidarity benefits the community and makes generosity possible when unpredictable freshwater intrusion affects parts of the fishery.

**Southend (USA), 30 min**

Pat Noyes

This film is an up-close look at the tough, eccentric souls that surf southern Lake Michigan—and the gritty industrial landscape where their waves crash. *Southend* features footage from Lake Huron's Presque Isle, Michigan...a top Great Lakes surf spot!

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**Stories from the Blue: A Teacher's Perspective** (Michigan), 3 min

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

Through his "Shipwreck Alley" class, high school teacher John Caplis connects Alpena High School students directly to Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and through it, to Great Lakes history, ecology, geology, meteorology and more. "The idea that we're exposing two-thirds of every kid who graduates from Alpena High School to Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and its mission and the positive effect it has on the community—I think that's a powerful thing," he says. Experience John's *Story from the Blue* and learn about the amazing educational collaboration his class has fostered.

**Stories from the Blue: Florida Keys Buoy Team** (USA), 3 min

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

Mooring buoys help protect fragile ecosystems in places like Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary by reducing the need for boats to drop anchor. But who maintains the sanctuary's vast collection of buoys? Meet the Florida Keys buoy team!

**Stories from the Blue: From Student to Superintendent** (USA), 3 min

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary superintendent Carol Bernthal first visited the Washington coast as a teenager. "I just remember walking out onto this point and looking out at the ocean and being overwhelmed by the power and the history of this place," she says. That moment inspired her, and today, Carol dedicates herself to protecting this amazing national marine sanctuary. Watch this film to experience her *Story from the Blue*.

**Stories from the Blue: Kimokeo Kapahulehua** (USA), 3 min

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

"Call nā po'e ka lani, nā po'e moana, nā po'e ka hōnua -- the people of the heavens, the people of the ocean, and the people of the land, we're all just one big family in how we work together in preserving everything," says Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary volunteer Kimokeo Kapahulehua. Watch this film to hear Kimokeo's *Story from the Blue*.

**Stories from the Blue: Nancy Foster Scholarship** (USA), 3 min

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

Nancy Foster Scholar Emily Aiken explains that through working with national marine sanctuaries, "I have the opportunity now to fully engage and reach my full potential—and that has been incredible to experience." Check out this film to learn about Emily's *Story from the Blue*. For the first time, this year's Nancy Foster Scholarship training and orientation will take place in Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary!

**Stories from the Blue: Native Legends or Science** (USA), 3 min

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

"Science is our measuring stick to figure out if our legends are true," explains Hanohano Na'ehu of Hui o Kuapā - Keawanui Fishpond in Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary. By collaborating with scientists, Hanohano confirms the stories that native Hawaiians have used for generations to guide how they care for nature and interact with the environment. Watch this film to hear Hanohano's *Story from the Blue*.

**Stories from the Blue: Profit and Protection** (USA), 4 min

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

"Why do I care? Because we want clean water here and we want vibrant life." Bruce Popham runs the Marathon Boat Yard Marine Center and is a member of the Sanctuary Advisory Council for Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Check out his *Story from the Blue* to learn what the sanctuary means to him and how he is working to preserve the amazing ecosystems of the Florida Keys.

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**Stories from the Blue: Razor Clam Dig (USA), 3 min**

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

Indigenous tribes like the Quinault Indian Nation have depended on the ocean for millennia. Today, species like the razor clam provide Quinault members with sustenance and income. Watch this short film to hear this Quinault *Story from the Blue* and to learn how Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary helps support culturally-important ecosystems.

**Stories from the Blue: The MATE ROV Competition (Michigan), 3 min**

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

Each year, Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary helps regional schools participate in the MATE ROV (underwater robot) competition. Check out this *Story from the Blue* to learn how building submersibles helps students get a leg up on the competition for complex jobs in marine industries.

**Stories from the Blue: Uncle Sol (USA), 4 min**

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

"The manner in which we care for our land is going to be the manner in which the ocean is going to reflect that," explains Sol Kaho'ohalahala. Sol is a seventh-generation resident of the island of Lāna'i, which is surrounded by the waters of Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary. Watch this film to hear his *Story from the Blue*.

**Sylvia Earle Visits the Gulf of California Hope Spot (USA), 7 min**

Kip Evans

This renowned oceanographer considers the best place to dive, "Almost anywhere – 50 years ago." The legendarily rich sea off Baja California, Mexico, has suffered from overfishing and under-protection. But at Cabo Pulmo Marine Reserve, the community has taken the lead in conservation. Sea life is returning: the reefs are glorious nurseries for myriad fish, and the nets in surrounding areas are filling once again.

**The Accord (USA), 19 min**

RC Cone

In Iceland, where surf culture is minimal, surf shops are sparse, and there are miles of coastline with endless possibilities, surfing can be a never ending search for the conditions when swells and wind align. Follow these Icelandic surfers and their tumultuous relationship with the fickle North Atlantic Wind.

**The Big Five Dive (Michigan), 30 min**

Elizabeth Kaiser

*The Big Five Dive* is an adventure documentary about a group of women attempting to dive one historic site in all five Great Lakes in under 24 hours, in an effort to raise awareness of women in SCUBA diving, a historically male-dominated sport and career. Set against the backdrop of some of the Great Lakes estimated 6,000 shipwrecks, this group of women show that there is a place for everyone underwater.

**The Canoe (Canada), 27 min**

Goh Iromoto

This film captures the human connection and bond created by Canada's well-known craft and symbol, the canoe. Through the stories of five paddlers across the province of Ontario, Canada—a majestic background both in its landscape and history—the film underscores the strength of the human spirit and how the canoe can be a vessel for creating deep and meaningful connections.



**The Edge (USA), 5 min**

Carlos Toro

One man's passion for the beauty, power, and ecological importance of the shark takes his photographic art into the night sea, where sharks appear in a dramatically different way. This beautiful film testifies to the critical edge on which the Shark is surviving, in spite of abuse at the hand of Man.

**The End Game (Canada), 29 min**

Duane Sharman

Coral reefs are central to the health of the oceans, but ocean warming and acidification threaten the survival of many of them. Dr. Ruth Gates searches for the answer to why some corals survive ocean warming while others do not. The notion of "assisted evolution" may be a solution in what may now be the "The End Game" to saving the oceans' coral reefs.

**The Hama Hama Way (USA), 12 min**

Treva Wurmfeld

Along the mudflats of the Hama Hama River on the Olympic Peninsula, Adam and Lisa James are among the new generation of oyster farmers that are taking a different approach to raising the prize crustacean.

**The Man & the Sea (Australia), 3 min**

Andrew Kaineder

Australian surfer Derek Hynd celebrates his communion with nature through surfing on boards without fins. For Hynd, finless surfing is not just a subculture of surfing but goes deeper into a philosophy of life and one's relative position in the universe. The ocean is the ultimate teacher.

**The Snail-Smashing, Fish-Spearing, Eye-Popping Mantis Shrimp (USA), 4 min**

Elliott Kennerson & Joshua Cassidy

With extraordinary eyesight and the fastest strike in the animal kingdom, the Mantis Shrimp is one heavy hitter. It is not just their killer punch that is impressive; Mantis Shrimp have an elaborate visual system that allows them to use a "secret code" of polarized light.

**The Super Salmon (USA), 25 min**

Ryan Peterson

Ah, the salmon! Perhaps the most famous of fish, it is best known for its healthy omega three nutrients, but do people realize what is at stake for salmon to survive in the wilderness? With a gorgeous Alaskan backdrop, follow one amazing salmon on his long journey up the Sustina River, only to run into a government proposed dam that threatens its life. Along the way meet those who are helping protect both their way of life and the salmon's.

**Vey Nou Lagon (USA), 22 min**

Vanina Harel

When Georgie was a boy on the island of Mauritius fishing with his father, fish and octopus were abundant. Now that living off the ocean is no longer sustainable, he has become an advocate for conservation urging fellow fishermen to work with policy-makers to protect marine resources. Fishers from around the island and from the neighboring island of Rodrigues provide solutions, inspiring others to take simple actions at the individual level that make a difference.

**Way East (Austria), 21 min**

Aline Bock

Shrouded by the recent Fukushima nuclear spillage, two Austrian filmmakers visit Japan to make one film and instead discover another. The two adventurers ski and surf across the country discovering alternate lifestyles, the potential for renewable energy, and a rich culture of hope.

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**Why Just One?** (USA), 55 min

Michael Colin

In Costa Rica, a legal loophole creates a black market for sea turtle eggs, encouraging rampant poaching. When poachers murder a young conservationist, the *Sea Shepherd* crew sets out to stop them, and defend the sea turtles. The crew's lives—and the survival of these highly endangered sea turtles—hang in the balance.

**Window on the Undersea World** (USA), 5 min

Jeff Leicher

Unplug from technology and take a relaxing journey along the vibrant, coral-rich ocean floors of Bonaire, and Saba, Indonesia. Listen to a hypnotic electronic sound track and lose yourself among the sea turtles, octopi and frog fish—without ever getting wet.