

21ST ANNUAL

# INTERNATIONAL OCEAN | APRIL 12-14, 2024 FILM FESTIVAL

COWELL THEATER  
FORT MASON CENTER FOR ARTS & CULTURE | SAN FRANCISCO

[INTLOCEANFILMFEST.ORG](http://INTLOCEANFILMFEST.ORG)



2021 United Nations Decade  
2030 of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development

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## STAFF

**Ana Blanco**, Executive Director  
**Thembi Nkosi**, Film Festival Assistant  
**Rebekah Renee**, Festival Operations Manager

# WELCOME

Welcome to the 21st Annual International Ocean Film Festival!

Thank you for joining us! It's been a banner year for the IOFF which is not something I would have anticipated saying a mere three years ago prior to the global pandemic. Over the last three years, our audience participation has steadily increased and we continue to see new audiences of all ages.

In 2023, we became the International Ocean Film Foundation to better reflect the year-round ocean conservation efforts that make up our five pillars of our education programs. In July of 2023, the film festival was approved by the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, for being an event that exemplifies their motto The Science We Need for the Ocean We Want.

This year we experienced a record number of film submissions, representing more than 40 countries, presenting a daunting task for our screening committee. Needless to say it was a challenge, but we believe we've curated the best possible mix of films and subject matter to truly celebrate all things ocean.

We are often asked how the festival continues to deliver world-class films in a three-day event that encompasses more than just film? My answer is always simple: it's the dedication and passion of so many ocean-loving volunteers—40 throughout the season and another 110+ on site during the three-day event. Many of our volunteers have an average of 7-9 years as volunteers and we are always looking for more people to join our compassionate and inclusive ocean community.

We are extremely grateful to our sponsors, donors, special guests and amazing filmmakers for helping to make this year's film festival a very special occasion. With their continued support and with audiences like you over the last 21 years, the IOFF is able to fulfill its mission of being the global platform for ocean education and literacy through independent film.

We hope you enjoy this amazing three-day journey with us,

For our oceans,



For our oceans,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ana Blanco".

Ana Blanco  
Executive Director



2021  
2030 United Nations Decade  
of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development

# TICKETS & PASSES

## COWELL THEATER

\* Visit [www.intloceanfilmfest.org](http://www.intloceanfilmfest.org) to purchase tickets or passes \*

### INDIVIDUAL FILM PROGRAM

Adult: \$25 • Senior (65+): \$20 • Child (12 & Younger): \$10



Skip waiting in line! Purchase a Festival Pass!

### WEEKEND PASS: \$250

Access to Programs 3-9, All Panel Discussion VIP Seating, Saturday Surf Night Party (21+ only), Priority Entry line

### VIP SATURDAY PASS: \$200

Access to Programs 3-6, All Panel Discussion VIP Seating, Saturday Surf Night Party (21+ only), Priority Entry line

### ADULT VIP SUNDAY PASS: \$50

Access to Programs 7-9, Panel Discussion VIP Seating (4/14)  
Adult: \$50 • Senior (65+): \$40, Priority Entry line

### SENIOR VIP SUNDAY PASS: \$40

Access to Programs 7-9, Panel Discussion VIP Seating (4/14)  
Adult: \$50 • Senior (65+): \$40, Priority Entry line



## SMITH RAFAEL FILM CENTER PRICES

Adult \$14 • Seniors/Youth \$10.50 • CAFILM Members \$8.50



## VENUES

### Cowell Theater

Fort Mason Center for Arts and Culture, San Francisco, CA

### Tidepool (The Store House, Building D)

Fort Mason Center for Arts and Culture, San Francisco, CA

### Smith Rafael Film Center

1118 - 4th Street, San Rafael, CA

NO FOOD/DRINKS ALLOWED IN THE THEATER. WATER OK.



# 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL OCEAN FILM FESTIVAL

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2024 Festival Calendar	
Smith Rafael Film Center	
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International  
**OCEAN**  
Film Festival

# 2024 FESTIVAL - ADVANCED SCREENING

SMITH RAFAEL FILM CENTER

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2024 | 7:00 PM



## Expedition Amana

**WORLD PREMIERE | 2024 GOLDEN GATE AWARD**

Mason Le\*, Kai Smith, Julian Goodman & Niki Wallin | USA | 3 min

Japanese explorer Jin Ishikawa has a question: Could ancient Californians, pre-dating the Polynesian arrival in Hawaii, have traversed the Pacific from what is now Northern California to Hawaii using boats made of natural materials? Jin seeks to test his theory by sailing a prototypical boat constructed of tule reeds with the goal of sailing from San Francisco to Hawaii. —ST



## Blue Whales: Return of the Giants

Hugh Pearson | UK | 45 min

Join whale scientist, Diane Gendron, as she finds new hope for the blue whales of Mexico's Gulf of California. Using low-and high-tech methods she measures and monitors the health of this breeding population that, after 30 years of study, she considers family. Across the globe in the Indian Ocean, another population of blues reappears, after an absence of over 50 years. What will their story be? —MJS

# OPENING NIGHT

Friday, April 12, 2024 | 7:00 PM

Doors open at 6:30 PM

Join us for a special evening as we kick-off the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual International Ocean Film Festival.

## **Blue Carbon: Nature's Hidden Power** *World Premiere*

Presented by the International Ocean Film Foundation in partnership with HHMI Tangled Bank Studios

**hhmi** | **Tangled Bank Studios**

Preceded by **Deep Trouble**

Film screening to be followed by Filmmaker Q&A session

## **OPENING NIGHT FILM ONLY**

Adult: \$30 • Senior (65+): \$25 • Child (12 & Younger): \$10



**Deep Trouble**



**Blue Carbon: Nature's Hidden Power**



21<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL  
International  
**OCEAN**  
Film Festival

# 2024 FESTIVAL PROGRAM

FORT MASON CENTER FOR ARTS & CULTURE

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024

## PROGRAM 1

Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture

4:00 pm



## Sequoias of the Sea

Natasha Benjamin\* & Ana Blanco\* | USA | 14 min

Kelp stalks—or stipes—can grow a foot a day to reach up to 175 feet, and until recently their underwater forests could be found in abundance along the shores of Northern California. But, after a wasting disease killed off the sunflower sea stars, the population of purple sea urchins exploded, and kelp is high on these invertebrates' diet. Today, divers are clearing places free of urchins so that kelp can return. —KH



## **Active Anilao**

### ***BAY AREA PREMIERE***

Walter Marti\* | USA | 5 min

This is a short film capturing the lively underwater world of the Philippines' Anilao region. Experience the dynamic scenes beneath the waves with exceptional close-up photography and you will find out how the "sexy shrimp" got its name. —PH



## **The Passage**

### ***WORLD PREMIERE***

Boogs Rosales | Philippines | 20 min

Celebrated as "the center of the center of the universe" of marine biodiversity, the Verde Island Passage is considered by many to be the most diverse marine ecosystem on Earth. How the global pandemic affected this pristine location is the discussion of scientists, conservationists, tourism representatives and fisherfolk – all with an eye to nature's resiliency. —AB





## Wild Hope: Return of the Manatees

USA | 16 min

This concise, upbeat film captures the triumph of eelgrass restoration in Crystal River, Florida. The story unfolds as the community unites to safeguard manatees, which are threatened by invasive algae. A testament to grassroots efforts, this film inspires with creative solutions, that illustrate how everyone can make a difference in preserving ecosystems and protecting wildlife. —PH



## The Forgotten Coast

Chris Burkhard | USA | 17 min

Celebrated photographer Chris Burkhard has captured aerial images of Iceland's glacial tributaries for many years. Seeking a more deeply immersive connection to this landscape, he sets out with two friends to explore it on fat bikes and pack rafts. The goal: link 300 miles of fragmented black sand coastline. The challenges: legion. Torrential river crossings, freezing Atlantic waves and unforgiving Arctic weather. —BB





## **Deep Trouble**

Lavinia Currier\* | USA | 10 min

Two friends from different backgrounds make a desperate plea for a moratorium on the latest ocean scourge—deep sea mining. World-renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma and oceanographer Dr. Sylvia Earle urge us to speak up and put an end to corporate greed that reaches new lows--the bottom of the ocean, home to hundreds of yet to be discovered unique species. —AB



## **Blue Carbon: Nature's Hidden Power**

**WORLD PREMIERE**

Nicolas Brown\* | UK | 85 min

Join us on a global journey with Jayda Guy, a DJ and environmental toxicologist, to uncover a crucial element in combating climate change. As we listen to the voices of coastal peoples and the rhythm of Jayda's music, we discover the unsung heroes and untapped power of blue carbon, lying between land and sea. —YIO



21<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL  
International  
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# 2024 FESTIVAL PROGRAM

FORT MASON CENTER FOR ARTS & CULTURE

**SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024**

## PROGRAM 3

Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture

10:00 am



## **Konstantinus' Legacy - Awakening the Love for Nature**

Daniel Bichsel | Germany | 6 min

Pause, take a deep breath, and walk along Konstantinus as he guides you through the lavish nature of Batanta Island, Indonesia. Let his passion and love for the environment inspire you. The natural world isn't just a story to be told. It's our home. It's our shared world, worth dedicating one's life to protect. Watch as Konstantinus does just that. —JA

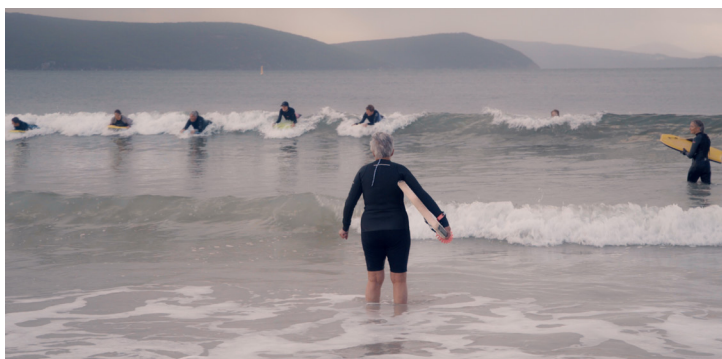


## 841

### *BAY AREA PREMIERE*

Rachel Burnett\* | USA | 16 min

A California sea otter known as "841" to the biologists inhabits the waters of Santa Cruz, California. What happens when "841" engages humans in her habitat? Interactions between "841" and people raise questions and spark debate in the local community about what is in the best interest of both humans and animals when the two meet face to face. —ST



## The Granny Grommets

### *U.S. PREMIERE*

Leah Rustomjee | Australia | 9 min

As young girls they missed out on the "Surfing Generation," but it's never too late, and this enthusiastic pod recently grabbed their boards and took to the waves, where they found a wonderful camaraderie—and horizontal surfing that's easier on the legs. —KH



## Disappearing Jewels

Will Kim | USA | 15 min

Stories, teachings—and warnings—about the health of our ocean come to life in vivid colors and animation, tracing interviews with three ocean and climate experts. Framed by the filmmaker's memories of his grandfather, this film is a bejeweled visual and sensory delight that translates seamlessly across facts, stories, emotions, and pure aesthetic joy. —ML



## Until the End of the World

**U.S. PREMIERE | 2024 ENVIRONMENT AWARD**

Francesco de Augustinis\* | Italy | 60 min

Take an epic visual journey to Europe, Africa and South America, where different and distant communities clash with the ever growing fish farming industry. Through the lens of an investigative journalist, viewers will be challenged to answer the question for themselves: Is the fish farming industry a viable, sustainable answer for food security for an increasingly growing global population? —AB

## PROGRAM 4

Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture

1:00 pm



### **Kahu Manō**

**WORLD PREMIERE**

David W McGuire\* | USA | 22 min

Kahu Manō are the shark guardians of the reef. Two free-diving young Hawaiian women, search the local waters for the islands' 40 shark species, all of them protected. The divers are assisted in caring for their environment by a concerned community, their elders, and their traditional gods. —KH



### **Shark Researchers: A New Approach to Shark Conservation** **U.S. PREMIERE**

Arnau Argemi González | Spain | 3 min

How can we convert Belizean fishermen, who have long relied on shark fishing for their livelihoods, into advocates for shark conservation? This film presents a transformative opportunity, introducing alternative livelihoods benefitting both the sharks and the local communities. —YIO





## Great White Summer

**WORLD PREMIERE**

Nick Budabin\* | USA | 79 min

Competing interests collide after the first fatal attack in eighty years brings attention to the various stakeholders in this beloved New England seashore: sharks, surfers, scientists, and society, all with their own interest at hand. With a backdrop of Cape Cod's legendary surfing waves, the white shark predator population is on the rise, and increasing encounters place lives and livelihoods in peril. —AB

*Cowell Theater Audience, Cold Refuge, 2023*





## PROGRAM 5

4:00 pm

Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture

Presented by: CINEMARE International Ocean Film Festival, Kiel, Germany, San Francisco Sister City Partnership



### Tahlequah the Whale: A Dance of Grief

**BAY AREA PREMIERE | 2024 ANIMATION AWARD**

Daniel Kreizberg | Lithuania | 15 min

This film intertwines the heart-wrenching journey of orca mother Tahlequah, carrying her deceased newborn across the Salish Sea in July 2018, with broader human tales of loss. Woven into the film's rich orchestral tapestry are the authentic orca archival sounds, captured by underwater hydrophones. With stunning frame-by-frame animation, this poignant story explores grief, resilience, and our collective responsibility towards the planet's future. —GCC



### Orca: Black & White Gold

Sarah Nörenberg | Austria | 93 min

Most of the world no longer traps and imprisons wild whales, but Russian captured orcas are still being held in cramped "whale jails" while their jailers look for illegal buyers from oceanariums, mainly in China. Intrepid activists, often undercover, investigate the miscreants—catchers, sellers, buyers—and the enforcers. The Russian government is cooperating, even asking Jean-Michael Cousteau for help. —KH

## PROGRAM 6 - SURF NIGHT

7:00 pm

Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture



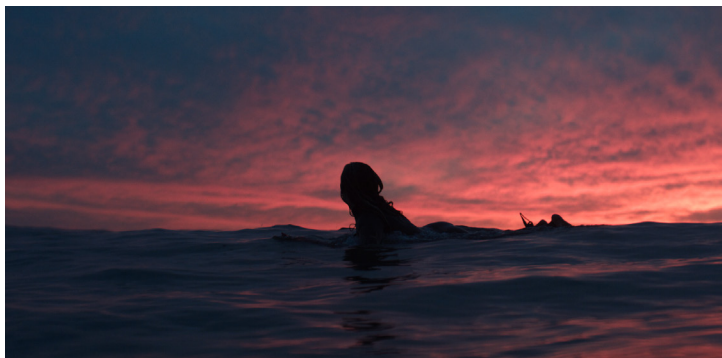
### With the Tide

*BAY AREA PREMIERE*

*2024 DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION AWARD*

Chelsea J. Jolly\* | USA | 25 min

Yakutat, with 400 residents, sits at the mouth of Yakutat Bay north of Glacier Bay, Alaska. Home to the Tlingit people for centuries, the region offers fishing, hunting and wild natural beauty, but not much for teenagers—until one native resident returns from college and introduces them to the pleasures of joyful, spirit-strengthening surfing, right where they live. Whole families become involved, contributing boards, wetsuits, and a mix of Tlingit traditions. —SJPH



### Zoe

Gaby Scott\* | USA | 27 min

A portrait of a Northern California wunderkind building her professional big wave surfing career. With fearless determination, Zoe doggedly follows her path with uncommon focus and grit. Guided by a community of mentors, she is undaunted by the sacrifices and effort required to achieve her dream. It's an inspiring film about a passionate young athlete's pursuit of excellence and happiness. —BB



## Daughters of the Waves

2024 OCEAN SPORTS AWARD

Lisa Monin & Sebastien Daguerressar | France | 53 min

Would you dare to surf one of the most beautiful yet terrifying waves in the world? At Teahupo'o, Tahiti, amongst a new generation of Tahitian female surfers, the Fierro sisters are trailblazing their way and reclaiming their Polynesian heritage. Vahine, the eldest, is leading the charge and defining her own path in the legendary waves of Teahupo'o. —Y10



2023 Panel Discussion: Collision: Whales & Ships: Commerce, Conservation & Coexistence



2023 Free Student Education Program



21<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL  
International  
**OCEAN**  
Film Festival

# 2024 FESTIVAL PROGRAM

FORT MASON CENTER FOR ARTS & CULTURE

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024

## PROGRAM 7

Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture

10:00 am



## Deep Look: How Does the Mussel Grow its Beard?

Josh Cassidy | USA | 4 min

Dive into the microscopic world of California mussels as they ingeniously craft their byssal threads, or “beards,” to anchor themselves onto rocks and huddle together for dear life. With a delicate touch, their sensitive foot seemingly spins threads from thin air, cementing them to the substrata with a natural adhesive that rivals the strongest superglues. —GCC



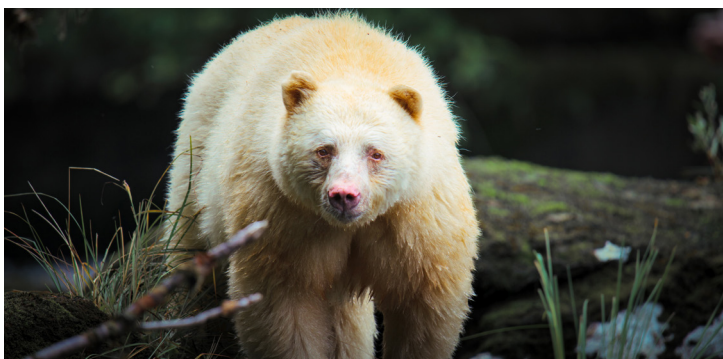


## **Expedition Amana**

**WORLD PREMIERE | 2024 GOLDEN GATE AWARD**

Mason Le\*, Kai Smith, Julian Goodman & Niki Wallin | USA | 3 min

Japanese explorer Jin Ishikawa has a question: Could ancient Californians, pre-dating the Polynesian arrival in Hawaii, have traversed the Pacific from what is now Northern California to Hawaii using boats made of natural materials? Jin seeks to test his theory by sailing a prototypical boat constructed of tule reeds with the goal of sailing from San Francisco to Hawaii. —ST



## **Keepers of the Land**

**BAY AREA PREMIERE | 2024 COASTAL CULTURE AWARD**

Deirdre Leowinata\* & Douglas Neasloss\* | Canada | 29 min

In the heart of Canada's Great Bear Rainforest, the Kitasoo Xaí'xais Nation is developing ecosystem monitoring and action programs, finding strength in stories and culture, and emerging as a stewardship leader in Canada. Made with exquisite footage, this is a meditative and deeply moving story about indigenous resurgence and reviving human connection with the land and ocean that we call home. —ML



## Daughter of the Sea

Nicole Gormley & Nancy Kwon | USA | 17 min

*Daughter of the Sea* follows Jaeyoun Kim's transition from corporate life in Seoul to her roots as a haenyeo, a free diver in Mara Island, South Korea. The film beautifully blends Kim's stunning dive cinematography with a deep exploration of overcoming depression and finding fulfillment, in the healing power of home and nature. —PH



## Fish with A Story

Karen Logan & Melissa Raemakers | South Africa | 45 min

A group of women from a small coastal town in South Africa guide us through their community's conservation efforts, and their country's deeply troubled colonial past. From beautiful to chilling, we're inspired by the resilience of the main characters. Though their past is rooted in scarcity, they create a world of abundance they generously share with others. Powerful storytelling, highlighting voices that lead straight to the viewer's heart. —JA





## **Kingdom of Ice: Antarctica's Leopard Seals**

**2024 SHORT AWARD**

Paul Nicklen & Andy Mann | Canada | 9 min

This bite-sized film takes a "Gary Larsen-esque" look at one of Antarctica's most fearsome predators, leopard seals. The bane of hapless penguins, they confront divers with a fearless ferocity and razor-sharp teeth. The humans soon discover they are objects of special interest: but as pals...or prey? See how one encounter revealed our "role" in their world (prepare to be humbled). —MJS



## **Why Blame the Seagulls?**

**U.S. PREMIERE | 2024 JURY AWARD**

Philip Hamilton | UK | 36 min

Patagonia's Peninsula Valdés teems with penguins, elephant seals, and majestic southern right whales that breed in its lagoons. The area's "boomtown" development, driven by nature tourism, has made some wildlife tragic victims of human success. Hungry kelp gulls strip flesh from whales and their calves as they surface to breathe, and calf mortality has risen. Discover the dynamics behind their plight and the steps that could ultimately resolve it. —MJS



## A Disappearing Forest

Tyler Schiffman | USA | 9 min

"Within the last decade 96% of the kelp forests along California's coasts have disappeared. If that many trees disappeared, it would be front-page news everywhere." Urgently narrated by Greg Downie, a commercial urchin diver who, with the disappearance of red sea urchin, has lost his livelihood. This film educates us about the interdependence of kelp forests, sea-stars, urchins, and the people who play a role in keeping the ecosystem in balance. —ML



## Alien Contact

**2024 MARINE WILDLIFE AWARD**

Rick Rosenthal\* | USA | 50 min

Join Emmy award-winning filmmaker Rick Rosenthal and neurobiologist Dr. Csilla Ari's groundbreaking exploration into the minds of enigmatic giant manta rays. As they piece together evidence of their cooperating with humans, they discover greater depths of cognitive ability than previously understood. The film challenges preconceptions of marine intelligence by proposing the extraordinary idea that mantas may possess self-awareness. —BB



## Return of the Mangroves

**WORLD PREMIERE**

Leo Thom | USA | 9 min

Embark on a riveting journey with the Mangrove Action Project team as they return to El Salvador's enchanting Bay of Jiquilisco, a battleground in the fight to save Central America's vast mangrove forests. Twelve years after groundbreaking restoration efforts, the team returns to unveil the transformative power of their community-based ecological mangrove restoration approach and the resilient communities that call it home. —GCC



## Dahican

Boogs Rosales | Philippines | 16 min

Dahican illuminates the transformation of Filipino fishermen from turtle hunters to dedicated conservationists. The film captures their journey, emphasizing the crucial role of educating the younger generation in sustaining these efforts. A testament to the power of conservation awareness. The film is an uplifting exploration of positive change within communities striving to protect and preserve endangered species. —PH



## Haulout

**2024 JURY AWARD**

Evgenia Arbugaeva & Maxim Arbugaeva | UK | 25 min

Walrus of the Chukchi Sea north of the Bering Strait need breaks—haulouts—now and then, but global warming has melted the ice floes they once used to rest and give birth. The result: up to 100,000 walrus including young calves one night crowd into the planet's largest haulout, startling Russian marine biologist, Maxim Chakilev, who monitors the site every year. Hundreds are crushed in their overcrowded panic. —SJPH



## The Blue Quest - Palawan

**WORLD PREMIERE | 2024 CONSERVATION AWARD**

Clément Pourtal\* & Jérôme Brousse | France | 47 min

In 2012, a retired French couple began restoring a small, devastated island in the Philippines' Palawan UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, planting thousands of trees and mangroves and rebuilding reefs. Their Sea Academy spreads knowledge of the Reserve's crucial food and economic importance for the local population. In a different way, "Mama Ranger" and the young rangers and scientists of reserve's isolated Tubatahah reefs, share what they learn of the area's wildlife with local fishermen and visiting divers. —SJPH



# SCREENING COMMITTEE

The International Ocean Film Festival solicits films from around the world, using a collaborative, team-oriented approach to curate the final line-up of films. The 2024 Call for Submissions drew a record number of submissions from filmmakers, directors, producers, and other festivals from around the world.

The Screening Committee spends many hours reviewing each entry, discussing the subject matter, production quality, originality, editing, script and anticipated interest by the audience. An impressive list of 35 films met the qualifications to be featured in this year's film festival. We hope that you are as impressed and engaged by the content, quality and messaging of these films as we are.

We are fortunate to have the following volunteers on our screening committee:



**Jana  
Ašenbrennerová**  
JA



**Sidney J.P.  
Hollister**  
SJPH



**Ana Blanco**  
AB



**Keith Howell**  
KH



**Bill Brick**  
BB



**Yuko Inatsuki  
Oberjat**  
YIO



**Gretchen C.  
Coffman, Ph.D.**  
GCC



**Marina  
Luccioni**  
ML



**Cecilia  
Cordero**  
CC



**Mary Jane  
Schramm**  
MJS



**Philip Harvey**  
PH



**Stan Teng**  
ST

# PANEL DISCUSSIONS

## TIDEPOL

Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture | San Francisco, CA

Join us in the Tidepool (Building D at Fort Mason) for all of our Panel Discussions, a free event produced as part of the educational outreach from the International Ocean Film Foundation.



### Ocean Frontiers: Demystifying Blue Carbon and the Blue Economy

PANEL DISCUSSION #1  
SATURDAY, APRIL 13  
12PM - 1:30PM



Moderator: Ted Janulis  
Investable Oceans



Maria Brown  
GFNMS/CBNMS



Doug Heske  
Newday Impact  
Investing



Jayda Guy  
Blue Carbon  
Film

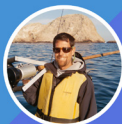


### Sharks & Us: Can Knowledge Lead to Coexistence?

PANEL DISCUSSION #2  
SATURDAY, APRIL 13  
3:30PM - 5PM



Moderator: Mary Jane Schramm  
International Ocean Film Festival



Scot Anderson  
California White  
Shark Project



Paul Kanive Ph.D  
California White  
Shark Project



Ron Elliott  
Captain/CWSP  
Supporter



Nick Budabin,  
Filmmaker,  
Great White  
Summer



# PANEL DISCUSSIONS

## TIDEPOL

Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture | San Francisco, CA

Join us in the Tidepool (Building D at Fort Mason) for all of our Panel Discussions, a free event produced as part of the educational outreach from the International Ocean Film Foundation.



### Delivering on the Promise of 30x30

PANEL DISCUSSION #3  
SUNDAY, APRIL 14  
12PM - 1:30PM



Moderator: Sarah Hameed  
Marine Conservation Institute



Clément Pourtal  
Filmmaker  
The Blue Quest



Javier Sancho  
Velazquez  
EEAS



Michael Esgro  
Ocean Protection  
Council



### Filming for Impact

PANEL DISCUSSION #4  
SUNDAY, APRIL 14  
3:30PM - 5PM



Moderator: Rick Rosenthal  
Director, Alien Contact



Owen Bissell  
Wildlife  
Cinematographer



Katya Shirokov  
Wild Logic



Lisa Landers  
Filmmaker  
Giants Rising



Ana Blanco  
Executive Director  
IOFF

# ALPHA LIST

**841**

Rachel Burnett | USA | 16 min

PG 13

## **A Disappearing Forest**

Tyler Shiffman | USA | 9 min

PG 24

## **Active Anilao**

Walter Marti | USA | 5 min

PG 9

## **Alien Contact**

Rick Rosenthal | USA | 50 min

PG 24

## **Blue Carbon: Nature's Hidden Power**

Nicolas Brown | UK | 85 min

PG 11

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PG 26

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PG 6

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PG 25

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PG 22

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PG 19

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Josh Cassidy | USA | 4 min

PG 20

## **Deep Trouble**

Lavinia Currier | USA | 10 min

PG 11

## **Disappearing Jewels**

Will Kim | USA | 15 min

PG 14

## **Expedition Amana**

Mason Le, Kai Smith, Julian Goodman & Niki Wallin | USA | 3 min

PG 5 | PG 21

# ALPHA LIST

- Fish with A Story** PG 22  
Karen Logan & Melissa Raemakers | South Africa | 45 min
- The Forgotten Coast** PG 10  
Chris Burkhard | USA | 17 min
- The Granny Grommets** PG 13  
Leah Rustomjee | Australia | 9 min
- Great White Summer** PG 16  
Nick Budabin | USA | 79 min
- Haulout** PG 26  
Evgenia Arbugaeva & Maxim Arbugaeva | UK | 25 min
- Kahu Manō** PG 15  
David McGuire | USA | 22 min
- Keepers of the Land** PG 21  
Deirdre Leowinata\* & Douglas Neasloss | Canada | 29 min
- Kingdom of Ice: Antarctica's Leopard Seals** PG 23  
Paul Nicklen & Andy Mann | Canada | 9 min
- Konstantinus' Legacy - Awakening the Love for Nature** PG 12  
Daniel Bichsel | Germany | 6 min
- Orca - Black & White Gold** PG 17  
Sarah Nörenberg | Austria | 93 min
- The Passage** PG 9  
Boogs Rosales | Philippines | 20 min
- Return of the Mangroves** PG 25  
Leo Thom | USA | 9 min
- Sequoias of the Sea** PG 8  
Natasha Benjamin & Ana Blanco | USA | 14 min
- Shark Researchers: A New Approach to Shark Conservation** PG 15  
Arnau Argemi González | Spain | 3 min

# ALPHA LIST

## Tahlequah the Whale: A Dance of Grief

Daniel Kreizberg | Lithuania | 15 min

PG 17

## Until the End of the World

Francesco de Augustinis | Italy | 60 min

PG 14

## Why Blame the Seagulls?

Philip Hamilton | UK | 36 min

PG 23

## Wild Hope: Return of the Manatees

USA | 16 min

PG 10

## With the Tide

Chelsea J. Jolly | USA | 25 min

PG 18

## Zoe

Gaby Scott | USA | 27 min

PG 18



Thank you for supporting the mission of the International Ocean Film Foundation at this year's *Off the Reef Benefit Auction*

# 2024 OCEAN CHAMPIONS



## **Ms. Daniela Fernandez**

*Founder and CEO, Sustainable Ocean Alliance*

Daniela is a visionary nonprofit leader and social entrepreneur, who has made it her life's mission to restore the health of the ocean. She founded Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA) in her dorm room at Georgetown University when she was only 19 years old. Since 2014, Daniela helped create the world's largest network of young ocean leaders, establishing a presence in 165 countries, and accelerating more than 270 solutions to heal, protect, and restore our ocean.



## **Ms. Jennifer Stock**

*Education Outreach Coordinator, Greater Farallones/Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries*

Jennifer is a veteran naturalist and environmental educator. Her career includes working as an interpretive park ranger with the National Park Service, as an environmental educator with Nature Bridge and Catalina Island Marine Institute, and for the past 23 years an all-around educator/communicator for NOAA's Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries. Jenny has created exhibits, teaching programs, hands-on activities and curricula, workshops, outreach events, and digital media to share and communicate about our coastal ocean treasures to increase appreciation and stewardship of them.



# 18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FREE STUDENT EDUCATION PROGRAM

*Presented by RingCentral and Brightmark*

This year marks the 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Free Student Education Program, hosting more than 1,200 students from around the Bay Area and beyond. For many students this is their first time seeing films about the ocean, and most can't wait to come back. This lively program gives students the opportunity to ask questions and engage with the filmmakers, while inspiring them to learn more about the ocean.

This year's line-up includes the opportunity for students to learn about nudebranches, gain a better understanding about the importance of the fur of sea otters, experience a day in the life of an aquatic biologist and learn about smaller cat sharks. Our hope is that our young audiences leave the festival buzzing with a new awareness of why the ocean matters and what they can do to protect it.

Film line-up:

**BRIGHTMARK AND FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY  
841**

**A DISAPPEARING FOREST**

**DEEP LOOK: HOW DOES THE MUSSEL GROW ITS BEARD?**

**DEEP TROUBLE**

**KINGDOM OF ICE: ANTARCTICA'S LEOPARD SEALS**



# 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL STUDENT FILM COMPETITION

SATURDAY, APRIL 13 & SUNDAY, APRIL 14 | SEMINAR ROOM  
One-Hour Screenings at 9:30 AM & 3:30 PM  
Free Admission

Our mission is to inspire our audiences to learn more about the ocean through independent film, especially amongst the next generation of ocean conservationists. By engaging young students in the joys of filmmaking, they can tell their own story about the ocean and compete for the chance to have their film projected on the big screen. Most students learn not only what its like to be a filmmaker but they see the ocean in a different light.

In 2012, the IOFF launched the first Student Film Competition and received a mere nine entries. Designed to encourage students to tell their own story, many of the films end with a call to action, recognizing that stories and films can impact human behavior. The rules are simple: the films must be about the ocean, produced entirely by students, be less than five minutes long and include credits for all content used from outside sources. This year's films are impressive, surprising and cover a wide range of topics.



## MIDDLE SCHOOL FINALISTS

**Improve** | Khanh Tue Nguyen | Vietnam | 4 min

**IOFF** | Stella Vu | USA | 3 min

**Minecraft** | Max Lu | USA | 5 min

**Hooked: The Unwanted Innocents** | Collin | USA | 3 min

**Ethics v. Marine Conservation** | Renzo N. Mendoza | USA | 5 min

## HIGH SCHOOL FINALISTS

**Life's Tides** | Julianna Huffman | USA | 3 min

**Inside the Waves** | Ngô Khánh Thư | Vietnam | 4 min

**Phytoplankton In a Nutshell** | Don Petchsangroj | Thailand | 4 min

**Siento el Océano a Través del Kayak (I Feel the Ocean Through My Kayak)** | Rosario Elizabeth Valenzuela Landeros | Mexico | 2 min

**Two Sides** | Aslı Baloğlu | Turkey | 4 min

*Award winning films are selected on the basis of artistic technique and the ability of the student filmmaker or group of student filmmakers, to create a film essay that leaves the audience better informed about and engaged with the ocean.*

# OCEAN HEROES

The International Ocean Film Foundation (IOFF) is proud to partner with Bay Area and national organizations whose mission and purpose are dedicated to protecting our oceans and marine life. We call them our Ocean Heroes. Please visit our Ocean Heroes on Saturday and Sunday in the Cowell Theater Lobby from 10am - 6pm.



The Marine Mammal Center®



*saltyblue*



SAN FRANCISCO MARITIME NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATION



**GREATER FARALLONES & CORDELL BANK**  
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES

**WILD OYSTER PROJECT**



Marine Conservation Institute

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Your support helps us achieve our five pillars of ocean education programs:

## Global Online Education Program

Streaming free films to grade 6-12 students

## International Student Film Competition

Inspiring creativity with a purpose

## International Traveling Program

Sharing our content to amplify our impact

## Year-Round Ocean Film Field Trips

Offering ocean film experiences to inform students

## Annual Ocean Film Festival

Presenting award-winning films from around the world



21<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL  
International  
**OCEAN**  
Film Festival

## 2024 VIRTUAL

# INTERNATIONAL OCEAN FILM FESTIVAL

**APRIL 15-22, 2024**

You have another opportunity to see award-winning ocean-inspired films from around the world in our virtual online program. Select films from the in-person event will be featured and 12 new films have been added. Visit our website for more information and we look forward to sharing more inspiring ocean stories with you online.

**[INTOCEANFILMFEST.ORG](https://intocceanfilmfest.org)**









## **VISITING FORT MASON CENTER FOR ARTS & CULTURE**

Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture is located along the northern waterfront between Aquatic Park and the Marina Green. With 1.4 million annual visitors attending thousands of annual events, exhibitions and performances, Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture is a vibrant cultural hub located within the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

### **DIRECTIONS**

The Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture main campus entrance is off Marina Blvd at Buchanan Street. The General's Residence and Chapel are located in upper Fort Mason, which is accessed by a separate vehicle entrance than the main campus. The entrance for the General's Residence and the Chapel is off Bay Street at Franklin.

### **PARKING**

Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture offers paid parking spots for your convenience. Please keep in mind that the meters are enforced 24/7.