

## San Francisco Ocean Film Festival.... in Alpena!

### Friday, Oct. 12, 2012: 7:00 PM (105 min)

Ocean Oases: Protecting Seamounts and Canyons of the Atlantic (7 min)  
Project Manta (52 min)  
Gloop (4 min)  
Fish Meat: Choose Your Farm Wisely (42 min)

### Saturday, Oct. 13: 1:00 PM (98 min)

Eight Bit (5 min)  
Where Journeys Meet (31 min)  
Sanctuary: the Last Stand for Sharks (20 min)  
Into the Deep with Elephant Seals (12 min)  
Early Learning (35 min)

### Saturday, Oct. 13: 7:00 PM (105 min)

Cool Critters: Lake Erie Water Snakes (3 min)  
Jigantic Jenga (5 min)  
The Great Huki (7 min)  
People of a Feather (90 min)

## FILM SYNOPSES:

### ***Ocean Oases: Protecting Seamounts and Canyons of the Atlantic (USA) (7 min)***

Ocean explorer Philippe Cousteau describes mysterious underwater canyons carved by ancient rivers, and seamounts formed from ancient volcanoes, both found off the East Coast of North America. They are home to an extraordinary universe of life—a life threatened by fishing trawlers, seismic exploration and drilling.



### ***Project Manta (Australia) (52 min)***

It is one of the largest creatures in the ocean, yet little is known about the graceful, harmless, slow-swimming manta rays that can be seven meters wide. Australian researchers on the Great Barrier Reef attach acoustic tags and spy on their comings and goings.



### ***Gloop (UK) (4 min)***

Once upon a time, plastic was invented, and our planet may never recover. "Gloop" is a sinister fairy tale that tracks the meteoric rise of plastic from its discovery in Leo Baekeland's gloomy laboratory a century ago. It is a cautionary tale about the price we must pay—and do pay—for opening this plastic Pandora's box.



### ***Fish Meat: Choose Your Farm Wisely (USA) (42 min)***

The increasing dominance of aquaculture and mariculture means, today, that your fish is more likely to be farmed using wide variations in production standards, feed quality and sustainability. Two friends, a fish ecologist and an ecological engineer, explore the beautiful Aegean coast and the mountains of Turkey to discover the benefits, risks and tradeoffs involved in fish farming.



### ***Eight Bit (USA) (5 min)***

A fun and edgy animated short, where surfers become characters in a video game and enter a world of visual and musical adventure. We've all seen surfing video games, but this is a game when the surfing is real. It's outside of the box and something that surfing has never been part of. It takes surfing as the real thing and makes it into a video game.

### ***Where Journeys Meet (USA) (31 min)***

You can never have too many penguins. There's no narration but there's fascinating photography: Macaroni Penguins, Western Rockhoppers, kings, gentoos, Adelies, chinstraps, emperors are shown eating mating, parenting and marching. Add albatrosses and seals to complete all the major wildlife found on the islands of the Southern Ocean. Hunter Johnson's music adds humor, elegance, and rhythmic energy.



**Sanctuary: the Last Stand for Sharks (USA) (20 min)**

Beautiful cinematography tells the story of multi-generational efforts in the Bahamas to help protect sharks while emphasizing their grace and importance in our ecosystems. Not the menacing creature they've been made out to be, sharks are key to their environment as proven by the Bahamian community in a model replicated elsewhere around the world.

**Into the Deep with Elephant Seals (USA) (12 min)**

Each winter thousands of giant elephant seals — some weighing nearly 4,500 pounds — arrive to breed at Año Nuevo State Reserve south of San Francisco. Scientists seize this chance to use state of the art technology to unwrap the secrets of these world-class deep divers and amazing breath-hold specialists. Plunge to new depths of discovery with these gnarly marvels!



**Early Learning (Poland) (35 min)**

Mikolaj, an intern at a marine station, falls asleep on his first job—nighttime observation of pregnant seals. He is not the first, his mentor chides him, but Mikolaj quickly becomes a responsible member of a scientific team working to restore the endangered Baltic gray seal population. Sensitive cinematography and a rich sound track give warmth and humor to this film.

**Cool Critters: Lake Erie Water Snakes (USA) (3 min)**

Lake Erie: not quite the ocean, but those in Ohio would argue that it's as big as the ocean! And who doesn't like snakes? Meet "The Snake Island Lady," herpetologist Kristin Stanford, who handles the snakes with ease while studying their survival over the last decade. Very cool indeed!



**Jigantic Jenga (Japan) (5 min)**

In this lighthearted game with oversized Jenga blocks, where you remove a block from a tower creating an increasingly unstable structure as the game progresses, the stakes are high (literally). Students quickly learn that removing too many pieces of the ecosystem puzzle can result in the total collapse of an ecological community.



**The Great Huki (USA) (7 min)**

An organized community of volunteers can save a place they love. For decades, the natural ecosystem of Maunalua Bay on Oahu has been overgrown with non-native algae. This is a big success story that highlights how the community "pulled together" ("huki" in Hawaiian), and removed the algae from this enormous bay one grueling bag at a time.



**People of a Feather**

**(Canada) (90 min)**

Currents around southern Hudson Bay's Belcher Islands once created a favorable environment for eider ducks essential to the Islands' Inuit people. Starting in 1974, hydroelectric development on rivers flowing into Canada's James Bay has altered those currents and even seasonal cycles. Using extraordinary cinematography and complementary acoustics, this film argues that these northern people's struggle to preserve their world is our struggle, too.