

# WILD OCEAN

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## ***WILD OCEAN IS A SPECTACULAR UNDERWATER ADVENTURE WHERE AFRICA MEETS THE SEA***

[Evanston, IL] – *Wild Ocean* is an action-packed, inspirational giant screen documentary exploring the interplay between man and our endangered ocean ecosystem. The film highlights one of nature’s greatest migration spectacles, plunging viewers into an underwater feeding frenzy, an epic struggle for survival where whales, sharks, dolphins, seals, gannets and billions of fish collide with the most voracious sea predator, mankind. Filmed off the Wild Coast of South Africa and set to the rhythm of the local people, *Wild Ocean* reveals the economic and cultural impact of the ocean while celebrating communal efforts to protect our invaluable marine resources.

The film chronicles a massive annual feeding frenzy as predators pursue billions of sardines along the KwaZulu-Natal shoreline, known to locals as the Wild Coast. For the people living along the African shore, this migration has provided a food source for countless generations, while farther out at sea, ocean predators travel from great distances to feast. Bottlenose dolphins create superpods, thousands strong, to track down the huge shoals using sonar. Sharks sense blood in the water and join the hunt. Seals and common dolphins chase the fish from cooler currents up the coast into the warmer tropical waters. Diving birds, cape gannets, join the battle with aerial attacks from the sky. All of these animals are drawn to the scene, enmeshed in one of the most incredible mass feeding melees in the natural world. Eat—or get eaten.

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Unfortunately such a richness of life is now rare in our seas. For centuries the ocean was considered a vast limitless resource. However, as fishing practices grew more industrialized and efficient throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, entire fish stocks around North America, Europe, and Asia began to collapse. The fish, hauled onto boats by the ton, were an integral part of a complex marine ecosystem, a link in a great food chain on which many predators depend. Eventually, entire fish species were decimated and the ocean predator populations rapidly declined. Today a new threat, global climate change, threatens to further damage the ocean's fragile ecology. While *Wild Ocean* explores the causes and effects of human impact, it is an inspirational film looking toward a bright future, taking audiences to a rare unspoiled marine wilderness to glimpse what the oceans of the world once looked like. The film champions the creation of marine reserves necessary to bring our oceans back to life. South Africa leads the way.

Selected by Earthwatch Institute as Film of the Year for 2009, *Wild Ocean* has also been honored with two prestigious GSCA Achievement Awards for Best Original Score and Best Sound Design. The film was a 2009 finalist in three categories of the prestigious Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Competition (Best Special Venue Film, Best Sound, and Best Editing), and received the Best Film: Special Venue award. In addition, it was selected as a 2008 finalist at the Wildscreen International Film Festival, known as the "green Oscars".

*Wild Ocean* is a timely and uplifting film that celebrates the life in our oceans and the animals that now depend on us to survive. It is a film about the people that come together to protect our world—a spectacular adventure taking place where Africa meets the sea.

*Wild Ocean* is a production of Giant Screen Films and Yes/No Productions. The film is written and directed by Luke Cresswell and Steve McNicholas, the Academy Award nominated creators of the international sensation *STOMP*. Cresswell and McNicholas have previously teamed with Giant Screen Films on the award-winning giant-screen film, *Pulse: a STOMP Odyssey*. Photography is by award winning director of photography, Reed Smoot, with underwater photography by D.J. Roller. Original music by Cresswell and McNicholas with sound design and mix by Mike Roberts and Brian Eimer.

[www.wildoceanfilm.com](http://www.wildoceanfilm.com)

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