

THE NINTH ANNUAL

WATER DOCS

AN Ecologos FILM FESTIVAL

PROGRAMME

NOVEMBER 4-8, 2020

EXCLUSIVELY ONLINE

f 9 0 0

waterdocs.ca

"We've known for a long time that water is alive. Water can hear you." - Grandmother Josephine Mandamin

It is my distinct honour and privilege to welcome you to the 9th Annual Water Docs Film Festival.

Last year, Water Docs honoured the legacy of my late mother - Josephine Mandamin (Beedawsige) or Grandmother Josephine as many of you might better recognize her name, by presenting her with the annual Water Warrior Award. My father's greatniece and water advocate Autumn Peltier was co-presented with the same award, and was fortunate to attend the festival to accept both awards.

Grandmother Josephine devoted her life to raising awareness of the connection Nibi (water) has with all living things, covering more than 10,000 miles on sacred water walks around all five of our Great Lakes and other waterways around the world to do so.

Her selfless work has inspired people of all walks of life to take up this work to help heal and offer respects to various waters among Turtle Island and beyond.

Water Docs is more than just a film festival - it aims to stir and inspire people deeply through documentary film experiences. taking attendees on a very important Water Journey by raising awareness about water's fragile existence. One of my late mother's last messages was: "always love Nibi." I invite attendees to bear this message and learnings from the festival in mind, and reflect on how they might be applied in their daily lives moving forward.

To everyone involved in Water Docs – from the filmmakers and artists, to organizers,

audience members, and volunteers, please accept my warmest wishes for a wonderful festival.

> For all our Relations. Regina Mandamin (Waabun-anang-oons)







Whenever climate change gets ugly, it is generally because of too much or too little water. Water is right there at the centre of it all. Really, that's what climate change is - changes in the hydrological cycle. The Water Docs Film Festival is proud if its nine-year commitment to alerting and educating the public about the profound necessity to protect water – to grow awareness, to advocate for meaningful policies, and to take direct hands-on action.

The Water Docs Film Festival is all about converting the power of documentary films, the storytelling of our time, into personal and community action to protect water and avert its threatening darker sides.

Welcome to the 9th annual festival. And thank you to each and every one of you who kept the faith and stuck by us during the postponement of our festival due to the pandemic. We hope you will enjoy all the films on offer. Water Docs screens a variety of quality films - some showcasing water's exquisite beauty, indeed its spirit that moves humans deeply; some celebrating courageous local action to protect water; most with tremendous motivating power to take action to subvert the threats to water coming from all sides. I wouldn't miss a single one of these fine films.

Ecologos has always been a defender of water, and always will be. Now, however, in light of the monumental challenges we humans face, our core focus will be expanded from simply Water to Water and Climate Change.

This year's festival is a bold experiment in recreating that very special film festival experience but entirely online. We intend to learn everything we can about how to do this professionally and then to reach out to a brand new global audience. We could not do this without a team of volunteers who donate hundreds of hours to our cause. Thank you, we are all deeply indebted to you.

LETTER FROM MAUDE BARLOW

It's my great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to everyone participating in the 9th Annual Water Docs Film Festival.

Over the next five days, Water Docs promises to immerse you in films and events that invoke a spirit of reverence for water, inform people about threats to water, and inspire citizen action to protect water.

This festival creates a space for filmmakers from across Canada and around the world to entertain, educate, and inspire audience members to take action for water. This vear's first ever Cinema Sit-in provides an opportunity for attendees to unite in solidarity and share

in cinematic storytelling while learning how to personally contribute to creating the best possible world for future generations.

Thank you to the Water Docs Film Festival team for curating a wonderful event. I commend the festival programmers, filmmakers, artists, community sponsors, special guests, audience members, and volunteers for their commitment to

supporting Water Docs and by extension – water, the earth's most precious resource.

Have a wonderful time! Maude Barlow



Enjoy the festival! Stan Gibson **Co-founder and Executive Director Ecologos/Water Docs**



WATER DOCS WHERE-YOU-LIVE

Water Docs Where-You-Live helps you bring outstanding, water-themed documentaries to your own community, any time of the year.



Its reach is snowballing through neighbourhood organizations, existing partnerships such as with the Ursuline Sisters and the Rotary Club in Chatham and emerging partnerships such as with Sudbury's Cinéfest International Film Festival, Ontario's second biggest documentary festival.

WATER DOCS @ SCHOOL ACTION PROJECTS

Water Docs Action School Projects is school-year-long learning and action program for grade 7 and 8 classes.



Through provided

lesson plans, classes learn about the importance of watersheds, implement a hands-on action project to address local watershed issues, and create a short documentary and social media campaign about their project. WD@S is in its 7th year in partnership with Learning for a Sustainable Future (LSF).





WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2020 @ 12:00 P.M. TO SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2020 @ 7:50 P.M

Ecologos has partnered with Learning for a Sustainable Future (LSF) to deliver Water Docs @ School (WD@S): a free, curriculum-connected community action program that actively engages Ontario grade 7-8 students in addressing water issues through authentic inquiry, project-based learning, and video production. This program builds students' understanding of water and instills in them a commitment to water stewardship. Participating classes compete to showcase their films.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL 2019/2020 PARTICIPANTS AND OUR WINNERS!

FILM







Best Film **FLUSHABLE WIPES** Parkview Public School

Best Film Runner Up #1 **GO REUSABLE** Parkview Public School

Best Film Runner Up #2 MICRO MURDERERS Fern Avenue Public School

PROJECT





Best Proiect FERN FIGHTING FAST FASHION Fern Avenue Public School



Best Project - Runner Up #2 **VIRTUAL WATER SQUAD** Charles Gordon Public School



Best Project - Runner Up #1 WATER WATCHERS Fern Avenue Public School



Best Project - Runner Up #3 **HOW GARBAGE AFFECTS AQUATIC LIFE** Edgewater Park Public School

Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada





We are united as a **Blue Community** to honour water as a:

- human right
- shared commons
- sacred gift

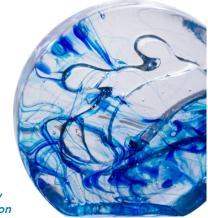
Join us at: www.BlueCommunityCSJ.org

Launched in 2018 on World Water Day, our annual Water Warrior Award is presented each year at The Water Docs Film Festival to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to protecting and raising awareness about threats and issues facing water. The award has been designed to highlight the work of someone who exemplifies and embodies Ecologos' mission - namely, to restore the human connection to water while motivating people to take action to protect our planet's most precious element.

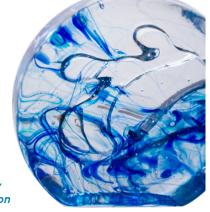
Ecologos commissioned a local Toronto glass artist - Aurora Darwin - to design and create the awards that will be given each year to the selected water warrior. Aurora was featured in the documentary The Peel Project, which had its Toronto premiere at the 2017 Water Docs Film Festival. During the premiere, Aurora displayed some of her artwork, inspired by her journey down the Peel River Watershed during the making of the documentary. We worked with Aurora to design a beautiful glass wave, capturing the powerful ability inherent in art to move hearts and minds to take action for water.

The inaugural Water Warrior Award was presented to Canadian activist, author and National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians, Maude Barlow followed in 2019 by two special water warriors whose powerful message about water has rippled through communities around the world: Grandmother Josephine Mandamin and her great niece, Autumn Peltier.

In 2020 the award is being presented to Captain Paul Watson, the subject of the documentary film WATSON, screening on Wednesday, November 4 (see page 12 for details). (Please see facing page for more information.)



Award Photo: Beverly Robinson







2019 Water Warrior Award Recipients: Grandmother Josephine Mandamin and Autumn Peltier

CAPTAIN PAUL WATSON

This year the Water Docs Film Festival is awarding Captain Paul Watson with the 2020 Water Warrior Award. A lifetime marine wildlife conservationist and environmental activist, Watson was one of the founding members and directors of Greenpeace. The president of Ecuador bestowed Watson with the Amazon Peace Prize in 2007 and in 2012 he became only the second person after Captain Jacques Cousteau to be awarded the Jules Verne Award, an honour dedicated to environmentalists and adventurers.

In 1977 Watson left Greenpeace and founded the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society. A renowned speaker, accomplished author, master mariner and lifelong environmentalist, Watson has been awarded many honours for his dedication to the oceans and to the planet. Among many commendations for his work, he has received the Genesis Award for Lifetime Achievement, was named as one of the Top 20 Environmental Heroes of the 20th Century by Time magazine, and has been inducted into the U.S. Animal Rights Hall of Fame.

"This is not just a movement to protect whales and sharks, seals and fish, it is a movement to protect humanity and all other species on this planet."

- Paul Watson

OUR VOLUNTEER WATER ADVOCATES MAKE OUR FILM FESTIVAL POSSIBLE!

Our volunteers are the backbone of the Water Docs Film Festival! A few of us are staff, but the vast majority of Water Docs contributors are volunteers who share a passion for both water justice and the arts. Some work year 'round on the planning and delivery of Water Docs activities, while others offer their time and support at the film festival itself, each contributing a special energy and enthusiasm to our collective love of all things water.

As such, our continued success and growth is a direct result of this combined passion and effort that keeps Water Docs afloat. From the members of our design and programming teams, to the many incredible faces you meet at our film festival, it is their ongoing dedication that helps us spread the word about having reverence for water,

the threats that imperil water, and the actions citizens can engage in to protect water.

Water Docs' mission is to stir and inspire people deeply through documentary film, and move the dial on public opinion by hosting unique documentary experiences that inspire individual and collective community engagement and action to reduce carbon emissions and protect water locally. This year's festival schedule of twenty films is the result of many hours of watching a much larger number of submissions and of all the logistical, fundraising, public outreach and training efforts that support it.

The Water Docs Film Festival could not happen without all of our volunteers and we are so very grateful for each and every one of them.



DESIGN TEAM VOLUNTEERS

Allenna Leonard
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Emily Bridgehouse
Emily Curling
Enid Comars
Gigi Shanks
Grace Crowe
Jonelle Gunderson
Mary Almeida
Meaghan Keon
Patricia Garcia
Ronnie Seagren

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Daniela Kelloway

Social Media Manager

Adrianna Couto

Local Community Outreach

Maxime Matthew

Fundraising & Communications
Assistant

EMCEE

Rick Miller

Rick Miller is a writer/director/actor/musician/ educator who has performed in five languages on five continents, and who Entertainment Weekly called "one of the 100 most creative people alive today". He has personally created shows such as the BOOM Trilogy and MacHomer, as well as many family oriented pieces and an educational animated series called Kidoons with Craig Francis. Rick is from Montreal, and lives in Toronto with his partner Stephanie Baptist and their two daughters.

EVENT PARTNER



2020 WATER DOCS FILM FEST	TIVAL	
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SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4			FILMS/FILMMAKERS		
7:00PM	THE CAPTAIN IS IN! WATER WARRIOR AWARD PRESENTATION	PWYC	WATSON Lesley Chilcott		
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5			FILMS/FILMMAKERS		
7:00PM	ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL OPENING NIGHT	Water, spirituality, journey of discovery. It's up to us to be good stewards of our oceans.	Wetlands Persia Beheshti TIDES Justine Beaulieu Poudrier Our Oceans: A Journey of Discovery Charlie Luckock		
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6			FILMS/FILMMAKERS		
Join a movement of concerned citizens for water and the planet! In fact, we're so serious about water and climate action that we've added an additional screening following Little Yellow Boots that you won't want to miss and, as an added bonus, if you decide to take advantage of the Activist Double Feature, you'll SAVE \$5 on the second screening. The more we know and the more we come together, the more we can do to fight the current climate crisis!					
6:00PM	CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIVIST DOUBLE FEATURE – PART I	Uniting audiences in an urgent call for climate action.	FLUVIOUS Pere Puigbert Little Yellow Boots John Webster		
8:30PM	STAND-UP FOR WATER! ACTIVIST DOUBLE FEATURE – PART II	Don't miss this evening of community resistance, resilience and solidarity in the fight against colonialism and climate racism.	Mni Wiconi Michael Genz & Jeremias Galante And That Is How The Rivers Came To Be Miguel Araoz Cartagena & Stephanie Boyd The Condor And The Eagle Sophie & Clement Guerra		
SATURDAY	Y, NOVEMBER 7		FILMS/FILMMAKERS		
7:00PM	LIFE ON THE LINE THE WATER DOCS 2020 BEST FILM AWARDS	Come and see the best of this year's film submissions.	Valley of the Southern North Byron M. Dueck Sea of Shadows Richard Ladkani		
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8			FILMS/FILMMAKERS		
2:00PM	WATER DROPS SHORTS PROGRAM CLOSING MATINÉE	Short water stories from around the world specially curated for our short film lovers!	Cold Stunned Henley Moore & David Coffey Child of the Cenote Andre Musgrove Green Gold? Nicky Milne Italy & (This Is) Water Ioan Gavriel & Anja Franziska Plaschg WATER John Harvey Call of the Lake Cassidy McAuliffe The Beaver Believers Sarah Koenigsberg Hall of Fishes Jennifer Boles Pilliga Rising Mark Pearce		

FILM DESCRIPTIONS **FILM DESCRIPTIONS**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

7:00PM

THE CAPTAIN IS IN!

AND THE 2020 WATER WARRIOR AWARD GOES TO ... **CAPTAIN PAUL WATSON**

Join us to celebrate a life of passion for our oceans. Co-hosted by Ontario Water Works Assn. Student Chapter.

WATSON

CANADIAN PREMIERE AUSTRIA | 2019 | 100 min FILMMAKER: Lesley Chilcott

Sea Shepherd founder Paul Watson has spent his life sailing the globe to keep our oceans and their inhabitants safe. A daring ship's captain

with no fear of danger, Watson and his crews have confronted illegal whaling vessels from Europe to the Southern Ocean, seal hunters in Canada, and shark finners in Central America. University of Toronto Student Chapter Impervious to threats, with more than one nation issuing





warrants for his arrest, WATSON continues to intervene on behalf of his "clients": the ocean creatures endangered by overfishing and illegal activities on the high seas.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

7:00PM

ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

OPENING NIGHT

Water, spirituality, journey of discovery. It's up to us to be good stewards of our oceans.

WETLANDS

CANADIAN PREMIERE

USA | 2019 | 3 min FILMMAKER: Persia Beheshti

Dive into the celestial waters inhabited by mermaids inside an aquatic center in Virginia. This film explores mankind's

relationship with water. Water has always been associated with mythology which has provoked the creation of mermaid water deities. WETLANDS fuses mermaid culture with water and spirituality with an



ONTARIO PREMIERE CANADA | 2019 | 8.5 min

FILMMAKER: Justine Beaulieu Poudrier

Filmed on the beautiful Pacific Northwest Coast of Canada, TIDES is an experimental, short documentary that plunges us into the forms, colours and sounds of the ocean,

amplified by the deep and meditative soundtrack of James Forest. Far from the traditional narrative, this film is an invitation to observe and explore the complexity of the interaction between humans and water.



OUR OCEA

a Journey of Discovery

OUR OCEANS: A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY

CANADIAN PREMIERE

SOUTH AFRICA | 2019 | 90 min FILMMAKER: Charlie Luckock

OUR OCEANS are in a state of crisis, and we're the ones responsible for it. A team of scientists, divers and photographers set out on a journey of discovery along one of the longest, and richest, coastlines

in the world. Along the way, they unveil three incredible natural events to the world, whilst

6:00PM

highlighting the impending threats, and all the while promoting the protection of our oceans.

CLIMATE CHANGE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

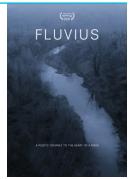
ACTIVIST DOUBLE FEATURE I

FLUVIUS

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE SPAIN | 2019 | 12 min

FILMMAKER: Pere Puigbert

A poetic journey to the heart of a river on its flow towards the sea. The film travels along the Fluvia river, which rises in the north of Catalonia and merges into the Mediterranean Sea. The name



Fluvia comes from the Latin word Fluvius, which means "river" or experimental, ethereal approach. "running water".

FILM DESCRIPTIONS FILM DESCRIPTIONS

LITTLE YELLOW BOOTS

CANADIAN PREMIERE FINLAND | 2017 | 95 min FILMMAKER: John Webster

How can one help one's grandchild, or greatgrandchild, fifty years from now? What do we pass

on to those who come after us, for both good and for bad? And what difference can one person make in the world? These are the universal questions that drive LITTLE YELLOW BOOTS, a cinematic letter to filmmaker John Webster's great-grandchild, a girl who will be born in the 2060s, and whose little yellow boots will walk on a very different shoreline to the one we knew.



8:30PM

STAND-UP FOR WATER!

ACTIVIST DOUBLE FEATURE II

MNI WICONI: WATER IS LIFE

CANADIAN PREMIERE

USA | 2018 | 3 min

FILMMAKERS: Michael Genz & Jeremias Galante

A short film on the environment and how the fossil fuel industry is affecting climate change. It's a black and white hand-drawn

film dedicated to Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Dakota Territory. The main theme is about the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL).

AND THAT IS HOW THE RIVERS CAME TO BE

PERU | 2019 | 3 min

FILMMAKERS: Miguel Araoz Cartagena & Stephanie Boyd

This animation takes us back in time to the moment when a mighty Kukama God created the Amazon's rivers with his bow and arrow.



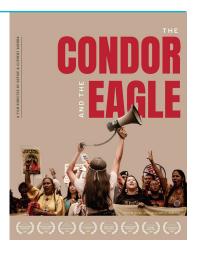
MNI WIČONI

THE CONDOR AND THE EAGLE

USA | 2019 | 79 min

FILMMAKERS: Sophie & Clement Guerra

Four Indigenous leaders embark on an extraordinary trans-continental adventure from the Canadian Boreal forests to deep into the heart of the Amazonian jungle to unite the peoples of North and South America and deepen the meaning of "Climate Justice". THE CONDOR AND THE EAGLE documentary offers a glimpse into a developing spiritual renaissance as the film's four protagonists learn from each other's long legacy of resistance to colonialism and its extractive economy.



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

7:00PM

LIFE ON THE LINE

THE BEST OF THE BEST

WATER DOCS 2020 BEST FILM AWARDS PRESENTATIONS

This year we will present our **Best Short** Film Award to Byron M. Dueck, the director of Valley of the Southern North and our **Best Feature Film Award** to Wolfgang Knöpfler & Walter Köhler, the producers of Sea of Shadows. Join us to discover and celebrate the best films submitted to the festival this year.

VALLEY OF THE SOUTHERN NORTH

CANADA | 2018 | 19.5 min FILMMAKER: Byron M. Dueck

VALLEY OF THE SOUTHERN NORTH is a love letter to The Peace Valley and the people and creatures that make it their home. The Site C dam, now under construction, will destroy the ancestral territory of the Dane Zaa and Cree, violate treaties and displace residents, farmers and wildlife living along its shores.



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FILM DESCRIPTIONS FILM DESCRIPTIONS

SEA OF SHADOWS

AUSTRIA | 2019 | 105 min FILMMAKER: Richard Ladkani

When Mexican drug cartels and Chinese traffickers join forces to poach the rare totoaba fish in the Sea of Cortez, their deadly methods threaten virtually all marine life in the region, including the most elusive and endangered whale species on Earth, the vaquita porpoise. SEA OF SHADOWS follows a team of dedicated scientists, high-tech conservationists, investigative journalists and courageous undercover agents as well as the Mexican Navy as they put their lives on the line to save the last remaining vaquitas and bring the vicious international crime syndicate to justice.



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

2:00PM

WATER DROPS SHORTS PROGRAM

A WATER DOCS FILM FESTIVAL FAVOURITE!

8 to 9 great short films about water curated especially for you!

COLD STUNNED

CANADIAN PREMIERE USA | 2019 | 12 min

FILMMAKERS: Henley Moore & David Coffey

Every year, National Aquarium Animal Rescue cares for dozens of cold-stunned sea turtles after they strand on the shores of Cape Cod amid cold weather snaps. Often suffering from pneumonia and infections when rescued in Massachusetts, the turtles are transported to Baltimore for long-term treatment. Each turtle's path through rehabilitation not only



drives home the efforts of conservation efforts worldwide, but also helps connect staff, volunteers, and the public with the natural world, helping to inspire a new way to see the ocean and our connection to it.

CHILD OF THE CENOTE

CANADIAN PREMIERE BAHAMAS | 2019 | 5 min FILMMAKER: André Musgrove

CHILD OF THE CENOTE is a short film about a freediver embarking on an underwater journey throughout the underwater caves of the Mexican Yucatan Peninsula, called Cenotes.

CHILD OF THE CENOTE WATERDES 2020

She follows the light that shines within the deepest and darkest part of the caves only to discover something she least expects. This entire film was shot freediving (on breath-hold).

GREEN GOLD?

CANADIAN PREMIERE UK | 2019 | 26 min

FILMMAKER: Nicky Milne

As the global demand for the superfood avocados has soared, Chile has become the world's third-largest exporter of avocados. But the community of Petorca, Chile, says drought, and the insatiable appetite for avocado has brought desperate water shortages.



ITALY & (THIS IS) WATER

ONTARIO PREMIERE AUSTRIA | 2019 | 5.5 min

FILMMAKERS: Ioan Gavriel & Anja Franziska Plaschg

A single day: from the tender break of dawn to the darkest night. One out of many days to come? Quite possibly the very last. A long farewell, an ultimate goodbye to a life we have grown to hold dear. Leading to a head-on dive into a new reality, into a new state of being.



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FILM DESCRIPTIONS FILM DESCRIPTIONS

WATER

AUSTRALIA | 2017 | 12.5 min FILMMAKER: John Harvey

Set in 2047, with strict population controls in place, heavily pregnant Layla manages to evade authorities but finds herself stranded on a dry salt lake with little water.



CALL OF THE LAKE

TORONTO PREMIERE
CANADA | 2018 | 4 min
FILMMAKER: Cassidy McAuliffe

CALL OF THE LAKE is a short documentary about a Grandmother and Granddaughter's shared love for a Lake in Northern Ontario. The film was shot in Sudbury, Ontario where each person in the production currently resides.



THE BEAVER BELIEVERS

ONTARIO PREMIERE USA | 2018 | 20 min

FILMMAKER: Sarah Koenigsberg

THE BEAVER BELIEVERS shares the urgent yet whimsical story of an unlikely cadre of activists - a biologist, a hydrologist, a botanist, an ecologist, a psychologist, and a hairdresser - who share a common goal: restoring the North American Beaver, that most industrious, ingenious, furry little bucktoothed

engineer, to the watersheds of the American West. As a keystone species, beaver enrich their ecosystems, creating the biodiversity, complexity, and resiliency our watersheds need to absorb the impacts of climate change.



HALL OF FISHES

CANADIAN PREMIERE
USA | 2019 | 9 min
FILMMAKER: Jennifer Boles

HALL OF FISHES recomposes some of the earliest moving images of the ocean floor to illuminate the colonial webs of power and notions of limitless that have shaped the fraught relationship between humans and the sea.



PILLIGA RISING

TORONTO PREMIERE
AUSTRALIA | 2019 | 40 min
FILMMAKER: Mark Pearce

A salt-of-the-earth farmer, a German potter, a young Indigenous multimedia artist and an experienced citizen scientist rise up to protect their communities against a proposed coal seam gasfield in the Pilliga forest; a million acres of iconic Australian bush. An oil and gas corporation plan to drill 850 wells through the Great Artesian Basin — one of the largest underground freshwater reservoirs in the world — which flows beneath



the Pilliga. Now, the people who live in this rural New South Wales region are united to protect the land and water against this threat and determined to win their freedom.



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE WATER DOCS FILM FESTIVAL!

March 2021 will be our 10th anniversary and we want to celebrate this milestone with you. Be sure to sign up for our newsletter and follow us on social media to be kept in-the-loop and get all the latest news.



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