

International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)

Asia Workshop:

IYAFA 2022-Celebrating Sustainable and Equitable Small-scale Fisheries

5 to 8 May, 2022

Bangkok, Thailand

FILMS ON FISHERIES AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES IN ASIA

Selected by Alain Le Sann, President of the 'Pêcheurs du monde' (Fishers of the World) film festival in Lorient, France

Bangladesh

Shunte Ki Pao! (Are You Listening!)

2012 | Bengali /English | Documentary | 90 minutes

Direction: Kamar Ahmad Simon

Synopsis: By the coastal belts of Bangladesh, in a small village named 'Sutarkhali', Rakhi lives with her man Soumen and their son Rahul. Fighting against all the odds of the woods, along with around a 100 families, they cultivate the land for generations. In May, 2009 when Rahul is only four years old, a tidal surge hits the coastal belts of Bangladesh. For the family, life is not the same anymore.

Preview:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5kbIkOAOIw&ab_channel=BangladeshHighCommissionNewDelhi

Happy Rain

2015 | Bengali/English | Documentary | 52 minutes

Direction: Isabelle Antunès

Synopsis: Every year, streams and rivers descending from China, Nepal, Bhutan and India, swell, overflow, flood and nourish the Bangladeshi land throughout the long monsoon months.

In Daudkandi, two hours south-east of Dhaka, the capital, Morshed Millat Sakiul, wanted to find a way to transform this terrible floods into an opportunity, so he created an NGO to exploit the lands and build infrastructures of fish farming. A story of hope and determination that continues to evolve 15 years later.

Watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tO-D5X2tEKQ&ab_channel=SLICE

Ligne Noire (Black Line)

2017 | Bengali | Short | 10 minutes

Direction: Mark Olexa and Francesca Scalisi Spanish Premiere

Synopsis: A woman drags along a fishing net from the banks of a murky river. A voice comes over a bullhorn announcing the water is not potable. It could be any country; it could be any woman from any people agonizing under the uncontrolled practices of civilization at work. Concise, unmitigated audiovisual paradigm of a raw planet.

Preview:

https://vimeo.com/237578595?embedded=true&source=video_title&owner=15294709

Borneo

Walking Under Water

2014 | English | Documentary | 106 minutes

Direction: Eliza Kubarska

Synopsis: The Badjao people once lived freely, spending majority of their time on the water, but with the encroachment of modern civilization their way of life has become nearly extinct. Alexan, last compressor diver from a small island near Borneo, teaches 10-year-old Sari everything he knows, from dangerous fishing techniques and wisdom about the underwater world to the temptations of the tourist economy. While Alexan refuses to accept that the world of his ancestors is gone, Sari is torn between his longing to be a fisherman like his uncle and the tug of the new world in the form of nearby resort.

Preview: <https://verticalvision.pl/portfolio/badjaofilm/>

India

Phum Shang (Floating Life)

2014 | Manipuri/English | Documentary | 52 minutes

Direction: Haobam Paban Kumar

Synopsis: Loktak, the only floating lake in the world and the largest freshwater lake in North-East India, is characterized by its unique floating biomass 'phumdi', which is the primary source of livelihood for the communities around the lake. Today, as Loktak is considered a dying lake, government agencies and local conservationists are struggling to save it from serious problems due to human induced developmental activities.

Preview:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HZefRw2DlI4&ab_channel=MinistryofInformation%26Broadcasting

Paddayi (West)

2018 | Tulu | 130 minutes

Direction: Abhaya Simha

Synopsis: This modern-day adaptation of William Shakespeare's 'Macbeth' plays out in a tiny fishing village on the borders of mega city in South India. Madhava and Sugandhi are a newly married couple from the fishing community. Their lust for better life and thirst for upward mobility is ignited by the prophecies from the spirit that wanders the land. Dinesha, owner of the fleet gives them new dreams and hopes. But when their life was on a new high,

Dinesha betrays and takes back what he gave. Now Madhava and Sugandhi are determined for a bitter revenge.

Preview: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8afTLW-f0o&ab_channel=AbhayaSimha

Sengadal: The Dead Sea

2011 | Tamil/English | Documentary | 96 minutes

Direction: Leena Manimekalai

Synopsis: On the Indian mainland, across the waters, arrive the Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka, an unending stream of people dispossessed of their lands and Gods, to an uncertain future with ever receding hopes of return. With active participation from locals, 'Sengadal' offers an evocative account of the plight of the displaced.

Watch: <https://mubi.com/films/sengadal>

Ocean Grabbing – New Laws of the Sea

2019 | English/Spanish/Hindi/Sinhalese | Documentary | 90 minutes

Direction: Matthias Heeder and Monika Hielscher

Synopsis: Around the globe, the rights of use and ownership of marine and coastal zones are being reallocated. Fishermen and coastal inhabitants are being deprived of their livelihoods. Known as "ocean grabbing", the consequences of this development are in evidence: the privatisation of coastal regions for industrial and tourism projects to environment protection measures. This investigative documentary examines the consequences of these new global structures based on four examples, including India and Sri Lanka.

Preview: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hLG9-FwUo_s&ab_channel=DeauvilleGreenAwards

The Invisible Hands

2019 | Telugu/Hindi/English | Documentary | 8 minutes

Direction: Shrayansh and Shrinkhla Pandey

Synopsis: The short documentary documents life of Ratna and several women like her working in fish trade in Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh in south India). They are breaking barriers and opening new avenues to fight their financial troubles and to create a mark for themselves in a male dominated sector where their work is often overlooked and underpaid.

Watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2pO04_vikg&t=76s&ab_channel=SimpleDay

Indonesia

The Silent Blues of the Ocean

2016 | Bahasa/English | Documentary | 27 minutes

Direction: Arfan Sabran and Andi F. Azzahra

Synopsis: A traditional fishing village lost their home and access to the sea due to the expending reclamation project on Makassar's coastline. But now they have to survive in a city, without an ocean that was once both their field and backyard.

Preview: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aQ49eEr0DTI&ab_channel=ArfanSabran

Sulawesi, a Day in the Life of a Badjo Family

2013 | French | Documentary | 53 minutes

Direction: Patrick Profit

Synopsis: The relationship of indigenous peoples to their environment is based on a cosmivision where man is inseparable from nature. This close relationship between man and his environment can be observed among the Badjos nomadic people of Sulawesi. In the Togian Islands, in the village of Papan, Dafrin, 35, lives with his wife and five children. Here everyone fishes: grandparents, parents, children and even the imam or the traditional midwife of the village, who are none other than Dafrin's parents. But sedentarization, the disappearance of fishing grounds and global warming constitute serious threats for this people.

Watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xjtiER7gutg&ab_channel=PatrickProfit

Iran

Moshta

2019 | Persian | Documentary | 60 minutes

Direction: Talheh Daryanavard

Synopsis: On the beaches of Qeshm Island in southern Iran, a group of fishermen using archaic techniques conserve a huge fishing trap called “Moshta”. But the sea no longer yields the bounty of days gone by. Despite a landscape of timeless poetic beauty, we witness the harsh reality of a changing world. Dedicated to his father, this documentary conveys the deeply personal sentiments of a filmmaker who feels great empathy with a community that is helpless in the face of economic change.

Waterfolks

2019 | Persian | 30 minutes

Direction: Azadeh Bizargiti

Synopsis: Sakineh and Sobra are two of the many fisherwomen of Hangam Island in the Persian Gulf. They go to sea every day to support their families. This film is a close-up of their daily life at sea and on shore. No narration is needed as their story tells itself through stunningly beautiful images.

Preview:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4g_oV78zgVQ&ab_channel=SebastopolDocumentaryFilmFestival2019

Shadegan

2019 | Persian | 15 min

Direction: Ako Salemi

Synopsis: On a golden morning, 12-year-old Milad sails out across the Shadegan Wetlands in Khuzestan, a province in southwestern Iran. Like many locals, Milad and his family depend on the water and the fish for their livelihood. He does his part, but that doesn't mean his day is exactly demanding. On the way to his fishing nets, he has plenty of time to linger. He plays

a tune on a straw, takes a nap in the boat, and cooks himself some fish. Yet Milad's life is by no means carefree, and here, too, the threat of drought and pollution looms.

Preview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VuQd1s2Lxkg>

South Korea

Haenyo, the women of the sea

2018 | Short animation | 5 minutes

Direction: Eloïc Gimenez

Synopsis: This film focuses on the life of the Haenyo, the diving women of Jeju in South Korea, with 7 idiomatic expressions from the island. The animated sketches also highlight the musicality of the spoken language.

Preview: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qIaGRRxbZMQ&ab_channel=KISKIS-keepitshort

The Philippines

Batanes: A Documentary on the Environment in the Philippines:

2012 | English/Filipino | Documentary | 53 minutes

Direction: Nick Deocampo

Synopsis: Visiting the Philippines' northernmost island, Batanes, the documentary discovers a world of "hiwaga," or enchantment, wrapping the island's human, physical and spiritual ecologies. While documenting the Ivatan fishing practice called "mataw" fishing, the documentary strays into the world of native shamanism, whose power to divine through symbols human-nature relations, and provides a unique insight on how ordinary people are able to co-habit and preserve the natural world together with unseen spirits.

Watch: <https://cultureunplugged.com/documentary/watch-online/play/53328/Batanes--A-Documentary-on-the-Environment-in-the-Philippines>

Taiwan

The Lost Sea

2013 | Taiwanese | Documentary | 68 minutes

Direction: HUNG Chun-hsiu

Synopsis: In the waters around Kinmen Island, there is a curious creature which has existed for over 200 million years: the horseshoe crab. People in Kinmen have made a living from the sea for over 300 years. They have even survived a historic cross-strait conflict. Kin-men's martial controls have saved the horseshoe crab habitats and preserved the synergy between Kin-men fishermen and their sea. Today, as tourism and investment grows in the region, what will happen to Kin-men's ancient horseshoe crabs, its rich fishing grounds, and its people?

Preview: <https://www.tidf.org.tw/en/films/858>

Timor Leste

Wawata Topu: Mermaids of Timor-Leste

2013 | Rasua / English | Documentary | 33 minutes

Synopsis: Wawata Topu (women divers in the local dialect) is a documentary about four generations of fisherwomen striving to make a living in the coastal village of Adara, West Ataúro in Timor-Leste. Their daily lives, their economic practices and their vital concerns, as well as the contradicting discourses and social barriers they face, are shown in this ethnographic portrait that makes visible their critical contribution to the household economies and the fishing community at large.

Watch: <https://vimeo.com/81265144>

Series

Meeting the People of the Sea (A la rencontre des peuples des mers)

2018- | TV Series | 30 x 26 minutes

Sailor Marc Thiercelin's travels to meet those who, like him, have the ocean as their horizon. In Asia, he meetings fishing and coastal communities in Thailand, India, Vietnam, Timor, Indonesia, Philippines, Taiwan, Bangladesh and Oman. In Timor, it is alongside a clan of women divers that he explores the seabed of the Indian Ocean. In Thailand, he embarks alongside the last nomads of the Mergui Archipelago. From these encounters, Marc not only discovered the daily life of little-known communities, but lifestyles, techniques and beliefs very different from his.

Preview: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=StPgeUGOA5o&ab_channel=ScanVoile