**FULL PROGRAMME CIMASUB 2025**

**BRONZE SESSION (1st)**

**Komodo sirens - Sonja Bader**

*Author's origin: Germany.  
Filming location: Komodo.  
Duration: 3 minutes.***Official Selection.**

**Sonja Bader** invites viewers to immerse themselves in an unforgettable underwater journey aboard the **Mermaid Liveaboard**, visiting iconic locations such as **Saleh Bay** and the **Sangeang volcano**, until reaching the majestic **Komodo National Park**.

Through images of breathtaking beauty, the short film reveals the richness and diversity of Indonesian marine life: from the imposing whale sharks to delicate creatures such as blue-ringed octopuses. Combining **scuba diving and freediving**, the film captures the magic, color, and energy of the ocean, offering an immersive experience that celebrates the connection between humans and the underwater world.

**Mar Rojo - Elphinstone, Fury Shoals, Daedalus - Jorge Martínez Vázquez**

*Author's origin: Coruña.   
Recording location: Egypt.  
Duration: 4 minutes.***Official Selection.**

A blue canvas that comes to life. This short film is an immersion into the wild soul of Egypt's southern Red Sea, a wordless journey where music becomes the language of the oceans.

From the depths of Elphinstone and Daedalus Reef, where life clings to walls that disappear into the infinite blue, to the light filtering through the galleries of Sha'ab Claudia in Fury Shoals, the sea reveals itself in all its splendor. Here, the majesty of giant green turtles coexists with the stealthy elegance of longimanus and white tip sharks. Playful dolphins dance on the surface while giant moray eels guard their territories and corals, both hard and soft, paint an underwater landscape of unfathomable beauty.

A visual hymn to nature, a symphony of shapes and colors that invites you to breathe in the inexhaustible energy of the depths.

**Of Water and Wonder - Suhas Shyamsundar**

*Author's origin: India.  
Filming location: India and the Philippines.  
Duration: 6 minutes.***Official Selection.**

This work combines visual narrative and the poetry of the ocean to tell the inner journey of a young woman who leaves the hustle and bustle of the city in search of something deeper.

Guided by a need for connection and calm, the protagonist dives into the sea and discovers, through diving, a universe of silence, color, and movement that transforms her way of seeing the world. In the depths, anxiety dissolves into wonder, and loneliness turns into peace.

With beautiful underwater images and a contemplative atmosphere, Of Water and Wonder is a **tribute to the healing power of water and the transformative power of nature**, a visual meditation on the human being's reunion with itself through the ocean.

**Les gardiennes de l'Océan - René Heuzey**

*Author's origin: France.   
Filming location: Polynesia, Mayotte, and Madagascar.  
Duration: 6 minutes.***Special mention from the jury for filming the beauty of large cetaceans.**

A musical tribute to **whales**, the ancestral guardians of the ocean, who have lived in harmony for more than **40 million years**.

Through beautiful underwater images and an immersive soundtrack, the work invites us to reflect on humanity's relationship with nature and the impact of our presence on marine ecosystems.

Poetic and moving, Les gardiennes de l'Océan is a **hymn to freedom and respect for marine life**, a visual plea to let whales—the true protectors of the ocean—live in peace, as they have done since the dawn of time.

**Una vida de pez - Leandro Blanco**

*Author's origin: Madrid.  
Recording location: The world.  
Duration: 5 minutes.*

**Award: BRONZE Railing in the SHORT FILMS category.**

This work is a visual celebration of the immense diversity of the underwater world.

Through stunning images, the short film offers a brief but powerful tour of the variety of fish that inhabit our oceans, showcasing their unique shapes, colors, and behaviors.

More than just an exhibition, A Fish's Life is a tribute to the richness and fragility of marine life, inviting viewers to marvel at the biodiversity that inhabits the waves and to reflect on the importance of protecting it.

**Epic Run A Ritual in the Abyss - Weiwei Gao**

*Author's origin: United States.   
Recording location: California.  
Duration: 3 minutes.***Official Selection.**

This work reveals a spectacle hidden beneath the ocean's surface: every fall, thousands of squid emerge from the depths to spawn in a synchronized, iridescent dance.

Filmed in a mysterious underwater canyon, the film transforms this natural phenomenon into a poetic meditation on life, resilience, and transformation. The seabed becomes a luminous cradle of new beginnings, where nature celebrates its infinite cycle with beauty and mystery.

**SOCAVA Vida sumergida - Enrique Talledo**

*Author's origin: Cantabria.   
Recording location: Cantabrian Sea.  
Duration: 29 minutes.***Cantabrian Award.**

This documentary is part of the **BIODIV/SOCAVA Project**, an initiative of the Spanish Institute of Oceanography and the Santander Oceanographic Center, supported by the Ministry of Ecological Transition, aimed at assessing and protecting the seabed in eastern Cantabria.

Through high-quality underwater images, the documentary shows the richness and diversity of life beneath the waters of the Cantabrian Sea, revealing unique ecosystems full of mystery. Marine scientists are working on a detailed report certifying the enormous ecological value of these waters, making SOCAVA: Vida sumergida a powerful call for the conservation of the marine environment and a tribute to the life that beats beneath the surface of the Cantabrian Sea.

**The Mother Of Diamonds. Kimberlite - Alexander Benedik**

*Author's origin: Austria.   
Recording location: Greenland.  
Duration: 5 minutes.***Official Selection.**

A freediving expedition that recounts the extraordinary search for **kimberlite**, a mineral rich in diamonds formed deep within the Earth's core.

Trapped inside a translucent and surreal iceberg, this mineral travels from the Greenland ice sheet to the Arctic Sea, offering a unique image of the power and beauty of nature. The Mother of Diamonds. Kimberlite is a visual ode to the mystery, exploration, and majesty of the planet's most remote underwater landscapes.

**Seascape Underwater Cinematic Collage - Clayton Conn**

*Author's origin: United States.   
Recording location: Mexico.  
Duration: 10 minutes.***Award: BRONZE railing in the MUSICAL category.**

*Seascape: Underwater Cinematic Collage* offers a contemplative and poetic look at ecosystems beneath the sea's surface.

Filmed during a week-long expedition, *Seascape* is presented as a sensory collage that transports the viewer through tides and currents, immersing them in a leisurely and meditative journey. The short film seeks to awaken respect and awareness for the immensity and fragility of the underwater world, inviting viewers to discover the depth and beauty of a reality that exists beyond our terrestrial life.

**La Costa Quebrada: Naturaleza entre las mareas - Nat Savage**

*Author's origin: United Kingdom.   
Recording location: Cantabria.  
Duration: 19 minutes.***Award: BRONZE Railing in the DOCUMENTARY category.**

This work offers a visual journey through a rugged stretch of the Cantabrian coastline formed over millennia.

The documentary explores the diversity of habitats that make up this unique enclave: the intertidal zone, dramatic cliffs, nearby islands, and coastal fields, spaces that are home to a rich variety of wildlife. *La Costa Quebrada: Naturaleza entre las mareas* is a tribute to the untamed beauty of the sea and the land, showcasing the strength and fragility of an ecosystem where nature reveals itself in its purest form.

**SILVER SESSION (2nd)**

**UnWRECKed - Bingqian Gao***Author's origin: United Kingdom.* *Filming locations: Dominica, Greece, and Indonesia.**Duration: 3 minutes.***Official Selection.**

*UnWRECKed is an artistic meditation on change, resilience, and the ability to create beauty from destruction.*

*Combining underwater imagery with a personal narrative, the film draws parallels between the transformation of underwater shipwrecks and the process of overcoming adversity in life. Inspired by the director's own experience—from a traumatic period in the corporate world to finding peace in freediving and nature—UnWRECKed invites reflection on our connection with nature, ourselves, and the community, showing how challenges can become opportunities to reinvent ourselves and create something new and valuable.*

**Extinction. For a bowl of soup - Hendrik S. Schmitt + Claudia Schmitt**

*Author's origin: Germany.  
Recording location: Spain.  
Duration: 3 minutes.***Special mention from the jury for ecological awareness message.**

During an investigation conducted alongside the NGO Elasmocean in Europe's largest fishing port, Vigo, it was documented how hundreds of thousands of blue sharks, many of them juveniles, are caught annually for their fins. Despite demands from more than one million EU citizens to ban this trade, the practice remains legal and continues to destroy entire species.

This short film is an urgent wake-up call about the need to end the shark fin trade in the European Union and a cry in defense of the oceans and their most vulnerable species.

**La belleza que aun podemos salvar - José Ramón Castelló Fortet**

*Author's origin: Madrid.  
Recording location: Florida (United States).  
Duration: 3 minutes.***Official Selection.**

This work is a poetic journey to the heart of the ocean, where beauty, life, and the song of the sea emerge against the shadow of destruction caused by humans.

Through evocative and emotive images, the short film conveys a message of hope: the ocean still breathes, still waits, and calls on us to protect it. It is an invitation to reconnect with nature and to assume our responsibility to preserve the life that dwells beneath the waves.

**Norway, welcome to the darkness - Sonja Bader**

*Author's origin: Germany.  
Recording location: Norway.  
Duration: 6 minutes.***Female Videographer Award**

Aboard *Kinfish*, the author guides us on a freediving and snorkeling adventure, showing intimate and magical encounters with orcas and humpback whales.

Between spectacular images and exciting moments below the surface, the short film celebrates the majesty of the oceans and reminds us of the richness and fragility of marine life. A visual experience that inspires respect, awe, and the desire to protect our planet.

**Dhangethi - Memories from Alif Dhaal - Jorge Martínez Vázquez**

*Author's origin: A Coruña.  
Recording location: Maldives.  
Duration: 5 minutes.***Award: SILVER Railing in the MUSICAL category.**

Alif Dhaal is the Maldivian name for the southern part of the Ari Atoll. Among its many islands, Dhangethi—a small paradise barely a kilometer long—hides an extraordinarily rich marine world beneath its waters. The short film immerses us in its currents teeming with life, where large schools of colorful fish mingle with imposing gray reef sharks and white tip reef sharks. From the explosion of color at Kudarah Thila to the deep waters teeming with sharks at Dhigurah, Dhangethi is a visual celebration of the diversity and beauty of the oceans.

**El alga invasora - Rugulopteryx Okamurae - Julio Junquera Aparicio**

*Author's origin: Cádiz.  
Recording location: Cádiz, Azores, and Madeira.  
Duration: 15 minutes.***Special mention by the jury for raising awareness of a serious current environmental issue.**

This work exposes an urgent threat to marine ecosystems.  
The documentary addresses the arrival of the Rugulopteryx Okamurae algae, native to the Northwest Pacific, on the Iberian Peninsula, and how its spread is profoundly transforming the Mediterranean and Atlantic seas. This invasive species displaces local fauna and causes accelerated coastal deterioration, altering the natural balance. A visual call to raise awareness about the importance of protecting our oceans from biological invasions.

**Un cuento del mar - El Farandulero**

*Author's origin: Tenerife.  
Filming location: Tenerife and the Maldives.  
Duration: 4 minutes.***Award: SILVER Railing in the SHORT FILMS category.**This work combines autobiography, fiction, and documentary to create a unique narrative.  
The story recounts the journey of the author and his crew as they sail the waters of the Canary Islands archipelago with a clear mission: to show what remains of the islands' wilderness and expose a web of lies and corruption attributed to the regional government. With its poetic imagery and social commitment, Un cuento del mar is a blend of denunciation, reflection, and visual beauty.

**Komodo - David Galvañ Fernández**

*Author's origin: Alicante.  
Recording location: Indonesia.  
Duration: 4 minutes.***Official Selection.**

In the heart of Komodo National Park, Indonesia, lies a vibrant underwater world teeming with life. This paradise, located in the Indian Ocean, is dotted with islands and extraordinary coral reefs. With every dive, you can enjoy the beauty and intensity of marine life in this unique ecosystem.

Through underwater images, the video shows the diversity of species that inhabit these waters, where everything from the most fragile and tiny creatures and colorful corals to the largest fish in the ocean have been captured on camera. The camera dives into the depths of the ocean, revealing the complexity and beauty of this underwater world.

**The Island of Giants - Nuno Sá**

*Author's origin: Portugal.  
Recording location: Portugal.  
Duration: 50 minutes.***Award: SILVER Railing in the DOCUMENTARY category.**

The Azores, a marine sanctuary in the middle of the Atlantic, are a route for great ocean travelers on their extraordinary migrations. Recently, tuna fishermen from one of its islands have had surprising encounters with a population of enormous whale sharks previously unknown to science.

A team of scientists, armed with special cameras, embarks on an underwater expedition to unravel this mysterious relationship between whale sharks and large schools of tuna. In the depths of the Azorean waters, they will experience a unique encounter that will forever change our understanding of the life of the world's largest fish. A journey of science, nature, and discovery like no other.

**GOLD SESSION (3rd)**

**The first to fall - Olivier Bourgeois, Emma Pettersson**

*Author's origin: Andorra.  
Recording location: Thailand.  
Duration: 6 minutes.***Special Selection in collaboration with the IUCN SSC Coral Specialist Group.**

In November 2024, scientists reveal an alarming reality: 44% of the world's reef-building corals face a high risk of extinction. The short film follows more than thirty experts gathered in Bangkok as they confront the devastating effects of climate change: increasingly frequent and severe mass bleaching events, ecosystem collapse, declining fisheries, loss of coastal protection, and vulnerable human communities.

At the heart of the story is a scientific community racing against time to create the world's first Red List of coral reef ecosystems, a crucial tool for guiding global action and deciding whether corals will be the first major victim of climate change. An urgent, scientific, and deeply human story.

**The Tiny Wonders of Anilao. Philippines 2025 - Valera Sakhnenko**

*Author's origin: Canada.  
Recording location: Philippines.  
Duration: 4 minutes.***Award: GOLDEN Railing in the MUSICAL category.**

“The Tiny Wonders of Anilao” takes you into the magical, hidden world beneath the surface, where tiny creatures, many smaller than a grain of rice, dazzle with their colors, behavior, and mystery. From rare nudibranchs to camouflaged creatures, Anilao's rich macro life is not only beautiful but also vital to the health of the entire ocean. By showcasing its fragile beauty, this film is a silent call to protect marine life, because when the small things disappear, the big things soon follow.

**SLIDESHOW - The best photographs from CIMASUB 2025.***Duration: 7 minutes.*

This 7-minute slideshow invites us to enjoy an exquisite collection of the best photographs presented at the latest edition of the festival. Accompanied by an immersive soundtrack, the images highlight the talent of photographers from around the world, including award-winning works.

**Magic Moments - Alfred Schaschl**

*Author's origin: Austria.  
Recording location: Indonesia.  
Duration: 5 minutes.***Award: GOLDEN RAILING in the SHORT FILMS category.**

This film takes us on a journey guided by a silent love for the sea: its infinite power, its mystery, and the secrets hidden beneath its surface. It shows those rare moments when the veil is lifted and the invisible becomes visible, transforming the experience into something almost magical. A visual tribute to the beauty and fragility of our oceans, and to the transience of life. Amongst breathtaking images, a painful reflection also emerges on how greed and the lust for power threaten this underwater world. A story full of wonder, hope, and the urgency to protect the invisible, narrated with passion and respect for life.

**Shark Preyed - Marco y Andrea Spinelli**

*Author's origin: Italy.  
Filming locations: Spain, Italy, Senegal, Maldives, Philippines, Panama, and Morocco.  
Duration: 45 minutes.***Award: GOLDEN RAILING in the DOCUMENTARY category.**

The Spinelli brothers, united by a deep connection to the sea—Andrea, a marine biologist, and Marco, a documentary filmmaker and environmental communicator—embark on a journey to reveal the hidden side of the shark meat trade between Italy and Spain, showing how it is often consumed unknowingly.

Through images in markets, data analysis, and exclusive interviews, the documentary uncovers a little-known reality: sharks sold under misleading names, accidental catches, ghost nets, and the fin trade that fuels a poorly regulated global market. But *Shark Preyed* goes beyond denunciation: it is an exploration of our relationship with these animals, demonized for decades and now threatened with extinction.

Featuring internationally recognized experts, the film seeks to open our eyes to an urgent crisis: more than 100 million sharks are killed each year, and a third of the species are endangered. *Shark Preyed* is a call to action before it's too late.