



Sea Save Foundation Newsletter



"Big Blue Town" Surfs into Finals at Blue Ocean Film Festival

An on-screen romance between a mermaid and a shark cowboy has made a splash at this year's Blue Ocean Film Festival. The music video, produced by Sea Save Foundation for the song "Big Blue Town," which was written and performed by Stephanie Quayle, is a finalist in the categories "Best Short Film" and "Best Use of Music". ([View video trailer here](#))

The video was directed by Sea Save's Georgienne Bradley, a Women Divers Hall of Fame inductee and "SCUBA Diving" Sea Hero; edited by Emmy and Eddie Award winner, Kelly Coskran ("Deadliest Catch," "Shark Tank," "The Amazing Race"); and supported by two-time Emmy winner Thom Beers ("Deadliest Catch," "Ax Men," "Monster Garage"). All topside sequences were shot at Sunset House, Cayman Islands.

Stephanie Quayle, a dynamic country singer/songwriter and Rebel Engine recording artist, wrote "Big Blue Town" after meeting Sea Save Foundation director Georgienne Bradley, who explained the problem of unsustainable shark fishing. Quayle, an ardent philanthropist, donated the song to Sea Save Foundation to help increase awareness of this issue and to raise funds for Sea Save's ocean conservation efforts. The song is "country for a cause, from sea to shining sea!"

The video, features vibrant undersea footage from around the world, and all topside sequences were shot at Sunset House, Cayman Islands. The short film sends the message that sharks are essential to healthy, balanced ocean ecosystems. Without sharks to cull sick fish, disease can quickly sweep through fisheries, with devastating economic and social

ramifications.

*Wanted signs started floating all over the streets
Poachers caught talking up their plans to defeat
My gray-skinned cowboy started making his rounds
To protect his one and only big blue town...*

Lyrics from "Big Blue Town"

Reaching the country music demographic is a huge breakthrough, explains Tiffany Koenig, communications director at Sea Save Foundation: "We won't make progress if we don't expand our audience. This song has the potential to reach many people who are unaware of the threats posed by unsustainable finning."

The global effort to stop shark finning has been gaining momentum. This inhumane and unsustainable practice involves severing fins from living sharks, which are then thrown overboard to slowly die. The fins, which are used in a ceremonial soup, command a high market value.

Early review of the "Big Blue Town" video resulted in two award nominations at the Blue Ocean Film Festival, including Best Use of Music. This category includes music videos and celebrates "the vital role music and the soundtrack play in creating visual media that engage viewers," according to the festival website.

The video is also a finalist in the Best Short Film category, which honors the best ocean-related videos under three minutes in length and "recognizes excellence in storytelling, impact and creativity."

The Blue Ocean Film Festival and Conservation Summit runs next week, November 3-9, in St. Petersburg, Florida. Sea Save Foundation's director, Georgienne Bradley, will be in attendance and will send live updates via Facebook and Twitter as she meets with filmmakers, scientists, explorers, and entertainment executives who support Sea Save's mission to encourage stewardship of our oceans.

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