



OCEAN IN MOTION ASIA SHORT FILM COMPETITION

1. Competition Overview

The Ocean In Motion Asia Short Film Competition invites filmmakers, storytellers, students, conservationists, and ocean advocates to submit original short films focused on ocean-related themes.

We welcome creative, educational, inspiring, and thought-provoking films that raise awareness about the ocean and its importance to our planet.

2. Eligibility

- Open to filmmakers worldwide
- Films from Asia or made in Asia receive extra scoring credit (5 automatic points out of a total of 100 points for scoring)
- All ages may enter
- Entries may be submitted by individuals or teams
- Films must be original work created by the entrant(s)
- Films can be produced via smart phones, traditional cameras or any other devices used to create a short film
- You must own or have secured rights to all music, footage, and materials used
- Use of AI will ONLY be permitted on the Category for Best AI Short Film (under 7 minutes long). There is not a category for a 15minute AI film. If AI is being used in other non AI category films, that film will be disqualified from the awards process
- Films must be rights-free for use by Ocean In Motion Film Festivals anywhere in the world where it hosts live events

3. Film Categories

A. By Length

- **Under 7 Minutes** (not more than 45 seconds of credits can be added to this length)
- **Under 15 Minutes** (not more than 60 seconds of credits can be added to this length)

B. Themes (Include but Not Limited To)

Films may explore any ocean-related topic, including:

- Marine Sports
- Adventure & Exploration
- Ocean Science
- Coastal & Maritime Culture
- Marine Ecosystems
- Plastic Pollution
- Marine Animals & Wildlife
- Overfishing
- Aquaculture
- Ocean Innovation & Solutions

Any ocean-related theme is eligible.

C. Awards & Recognition Categories

Winning categories include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Best Film (Overall)
- 2) Best Film by Under 18yrs of Age
- 3) Best Film by Women Producers
- 4) Best Foreign Language Film
- 5) Asia Impact Award (extra scoring credit for films from or made in Asia)

4. Technical Requirements

- Films must be no longer than 15 minutes
- Films must be submitted digitally
- Accepted formats: MP4 or MOV preferred
- Minimum resolution: 1080p recommended
- Films may be shot on any device:
 - Smartphone (iPhone or other)
 - DSLR or cinema camera
 - Drone
 - Any digital video device
- Films made after December 31, 2022 will also be accepted for submission

Subtitles in English are required for non-English films.

5. Submission Process

- All entries must be submitted online via our site on Film Freeway, with information to be provided before the end of June, 2026
- Submission portal via Film Freeway, with information at www.oceanrecov.org
- Submission deadline:
September 25, 2026 (11:59 PM EST (New York))

Late submissions will not be considered and no refunds.

6. Submission Fees

Early Wave Submissions before **July 31st, 11:59pm EST**

Students Under Aged 22: US\$15

All Others: US\$30

Mid Ripple Submissions before **August 31st, 11:59pm EST**

Students Under Aged 22: US\$20

All Others: US\$40

Final Wave Submissions before the September 25th deadline, 11:59pm EST

Students Under Aged 22: US\$25

All Others: US\$50

7. Judging Criteria

Films will be evaluated by a panel of judges based on:

- Relevance to ocean themes
- Storytelling & originality
- Creativity & innovation
- Educational or impact value
- Cinematography & production quality
- Emotional resonance
- Potential to inspire positive action

Films made in Asia or with ocean content from Asia will receive additional scoring consideration (automatic 5 points out of 100 potential points for scoring).

8. Prizes

- **Total Prize Pool: USD \$25,000**
- Cash awards distributed among winning categories.
- Winning films may be screened at Ocean In Motion Film Festival Asia 2026/27.

Prizes per Category

1st Place: US\$800.00

2nd Place: US\$500.00

3rd Place: US\$350.00

Sponsorship packages are available for supporting each category(s), and also one or more of the film festival hosting locations. Please contact Kai for more information: kai@oceanrecov.org

Selected films may be showcased in:

- Hong Kong
- Singapore
- Bangkok
- Tokyo
- Taipei

9. Rights & Permissions

By submitting a film:

- You grant Ocean In Motion Asia non-exclusive rights to screen at any of its film festival events, in any city, for a period of five years
- You allow use of clips, stills, and trailers for promotional purposes
- You retain full ownership of your film
- The organizers may request screening-quality files if selected

10. Code of Conduct

- Films must not contain unlawful, defamatory, or hateful content
- Content must respect marine wildlife protection laws
- No staging of harmful environmental practices for filming purposes
- Drone footage must comply with local aviation laws

11. Important Dates

- Call for Entries Opens: June 8, 2026 (World Ocean Day)
- Submission Deadline: September 25, 2026
- Winners Announced: During Ocean In Motion Asia Festival 2026 or by October 26th, 2026 online.

12. Contact & More Information

For detailed updates, FAQs, and submission guidelines:

www.oceanrecov.org/ocean-in-motion-asia

Email: kai@oceanrecov.org

