



# UKGFF 2014: The Last Catch

May 27th, 2014



The Last Catch opens the UK Green Film Festival on Sunday 1st June with a gala screening followed by a Q&A with guest speakers at Hackney Picturehouse. [Click here for tickets.](#)



It's estimated that 72% of our earth is made up of oceans, all of which teem with life on unfathomable scales. The thought then, that a species of fish could soon be wiped out of existence by the nets of mankind is a staggering concept to comprehend. So extreme a stat this is, coupled with our own ignorance, you could be forgiven for thinking this is a myth of sorts, but Markus CM Schmidt is ready to dispel any disbelief with his hard hitting documentary, The Last Catch.

The film focuses on the global crisis concerning the catastrophic drop in the population of Bluefin Tuna, which in turn has impacted on the population of fishermen who once earned a living off this catch. Targeting the fundamental failure of ICAAT to impose restrictions on the volumes of Bluefin Tuna being caught and the corrupt fishermen operating in the Libyan waters, Schmidt educates us on how the swelled supply of Tuna, drove its value down, ultimately putting fishermen out of business, whilst simultaneously preventing the species from breeding.

Attacking the issue on three fronts, we are introduced to three primary individuals who have all been affected by the crisis and their responses to it. Roberto, a retired fisherman and now active Greenpeace campaigner presents to us the statistics, and leads us to the epicentre of the crisis at the heart of Japan. At the other end of the scale are the illegal fishermen like Raffael who uses legal loopholes to meet his quota; whilst sandwiched between the two is Roberto, where persistence to stick to EU quotas resulted in him and his family losing their boat and means of living.



Whilst the failure of ICAAT and the actions of the Japanese are the fundamental catalysts for the disaster, Schmidt presents the case as one against humanity. A rather traumatising sequence of a Bluefin Tuna massacre by shotgun makes for uncomfortable viewing, but this is just Schmidt presenting it 'as it is' rather than cultivating a series of harrowing images in a blood thirsty attack on corporations or individuals.

If anything, there is a somewhat defeatist attitude to the film. The scale of this crisis is immense and yet nobody is really doing anything about it and there is the sense that Schmidt has resigned to the fact that nobody will. Perhaps Schmidt is more inclined to slap mankind around the face with the proverbial fish so we don't make the same mistake again, and, if it makes you reconsider eating the Tuna Sashimi the next time you pop in to Yo! Sushi, then it's an added bonus.

Words > Sam Lawrence

Tags: Bluefin Tuna, Documentary, Greenpeace, ICAAT, Markus Schmidt, The Last Catch, UK Green Film Festival, UKGFF, Wildlife

## More From Featured...



**UKGFF: Expedition to the End of the World**  
Expedition to the End of the World closes th...



**Pulp: A Film about Life, Death & Supermarkets**  
There is a chord in Babies. A G-Major...



**UKGFF 2014: The Last Catch**  
The Last Catch opens the UK Green Film...



**X-Men: Days of Future Past**  
Before Marvel got happy with The Avengers and...



**Video Nasties: The Definitive Guide Part 2 gets release date**  
New DVD set is a time capsule for a moment wh...

## Music

- Music Home Page
- Music Features
- Music News
- Releases
- Live Reviews
- Festivals
- Free Downloads

## Film

- Film Home Page
- Film Features
- Film News
- Film Reviews

## Game

- Games Home Page
- Games Features
- Games News
- Game Reviews

## Culture

- Culture Home Page
- Culture Features
- Culture Reviews
- Rhythm Circus TV Shoots

