

# GREEN SCREEN

INTERNATIONALES NATURFILMFESTIVAL ECKERNFÖRDE

04. - 19. SEPTEMBER 2021

## Laudatio

### GREEN REPORT

#### „The Whale File“

**Script:** Mark Fletcher

**Director and Cinematography:** Cheryl Dean, Nick Dean

**A Coproduction of Spindrift Images, Mark Fletcher Productions and Terra Mater Factual Studios**

Hardly any ecosystem is so underestimated and at the same time so tormented by man as the sea. The intimate underwater shots of the social life of the gigantic right whales, the scenes of a mother whale defending her young from the bites of a seagull or the insights into the symbiotic coexistence of small sea creatures make this film worth seeing. But what makes it worthy of an award is the investigative data research, through which a little-known environmental scandal is reconstructed in detail, to which thousands of animals fell victim. And this is embedded in breathtaking images.

It had already become known in the nineties that the Soviet Union secretly continued to hunt whales on a grand scale during the years of the Cold War, despite international agreements on catch quotas and whaling bans. The extent of this mass slaughter in the sea and how the machinery of cover-up ran is reconstructed in "The Whale File" with the help of contemporary witnesses, some of whom have kept records from whaling ships.

Embedded with breathtaking images of sperm whales, right whales or orcas, deep-sea octopuses and other sea creatures, the result is an important documentary that shows how seriously humans have permanently altered the ocean ecosystem.

The award in the Green Report category therefore goes to "The Whale File" by Mark Fletcher.