



## Fish Frenzy

Fourteen-year-old Gus, his father Sean, and younger sister Talus return with their latest film shot mostly off the Rhode Island coast. Gus and Talus demonstrate how to make fishing lures, then find and catch the fish. This is the second film for the Nightengale family, who got their start with *Gull Island* when Gus was six years old. This documentary shows an appreciation for the world we live in... Rhode Island!

**Recommended for all ages**

**Themes:** family; childhood; identity; nature; community; teamwork; animals; environment; science

**Director(s):** Sean Nightengale | **25 min** | **Documentary** | **2016** | **Country:** USA | **Language:** English

**Official film website:** [www.gusoutdoors.com](http://www.gusoutdoors.com)



### SET THE STAGE | THOUGHT-STARTERS

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Sean Nightengale started the Gus Outdoors educational video series back in 2010, when his son Gus was just six years old. Early on, Gus expressed interest in the naturalist work of Jeff Corwin and Steve Irwin, and began re-enacting these adventures in his own backyard. After seeing this passion for wildlife work, Sean began making films of Gus's adventures with the purpose of helping educate kids about the natural world. Since then, the Nightengales have created three episodes: *Gull Island*, *Lizard Town* and *Fish Frenzy*.

#### WORDS TO KNOW

- **Schoolie:** A fish, especially a young fish, that swims in a school. A school of fish is any group of fish that swims together in a coordinated manner.
- **Tackle Box:** Tackle refers to the equipment used by fisherman when fishing; a tackle box is a container that stores this fishing equipment.
- **Naturalist:** An expert in or student of natural history.
- **Voice-Over Narration:** A production technique in which a voice that is not part of the narrative (non-diegetic) is used in a radio, television production, filmmaking, theatre, or other presentations.
- **Camera Shot:** A single uninterrupted section of footage. Shots can be described by how close or far they are from the subject, or by the perspective it shows the audience.

For more film terms, refer to the PCFF Film Glossary ([pcfFri.org/FilmHub](http://pcfFri.org/FilmHub)).

### TALK ABOUT IT | DISCUSSION

- What did you learn about fishing or Rhode Island fishing culture from watching this film? What questions do you have?
- What did you think about the choice to have Gus narrate the film? How might the documentary been different had it been narrated by Gus's dad or an adult naturalist? Would you have been as interested in the subject matter?
- *Gus Outdoors* is an educational series filmed in a documentary style. Are there any stylistic differences between this film and other documentaries you have seen?
- What traits do you think you need to have in order to be a good fisherman?
- Even though he is a fairly objective narrator, we also get to know his personality. How would you describe Gus's personality?
- Gus's family is made up of Rhode Island fisherman, and it is a tradition passed down through generations. What family traditions do you have? How have they been passed down? Do you plan on passing them down to your children?



Clues and Cues

#### Pay attention while watching

- Think about the different stories told in this documentary. How do they relate to each other?
- How does the filmmaker use images and sound to give the film a sense of place?

## GET CREATIVE | EXTENSION ACTIVITIES



For Activity Reel details, downloadable storyboard template and more, visit the the Film Hub website: [www.pcffri.org/FilmHub](http://www.pcffri.org/FilmHub)

### • Gone Fishing

*Materials Needed: Corks, wood, paint, spoons, paper clips (as hooks), miscellaneous materials*

Using household items, and what you learned from watching *Fish Frenzy*, construct your own fishing lures! These lures do not have to be functional, but should take into account tips discussed in the film (i.e. what fish are attracted to, how lures should function, etc.). Feel free to use these example lures ([www.wideopenspaces.com/baitin-budget-make-homemade-lures/](http://www.wideopenspaces.com/baitin-budget-make-homemade-lures/)) as inspiration. Then, share the thought process behind your creation!

## BEYOND THE FILM | ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Select from the following resources to complement the film and inspire further discussion or programming.

### BOOKS

#### • Gone Fishing

by Tamera Will Wissinger

Join nine-year-old Catfish Sam as he captures a day of adventure in his net—and through verse—in this novel told through poems and comic illustrations.

#### • A Second Chance

by KJ Houtman

A boy named Gus finally gets to fish in a professional tournament. Follow Gus as one of his dreams comes true—a chance to match his fishing skills up to the big guys. This book is part of the *Fish On Kids* book series.

### FILMS

#### • Gus Outdoors: Gull Island (2010)

Six-year-old naturalist Gus Nightengale explores Gull Island off the coast of Rhode Island. Over the course of four months, Gus discovers the challenges faced by newly hatched seabird chicks as they struggle to make it to adulthood.

#### • Gus Outdoors: Lizard Town (2011)

Gus from *Gull Island* returns in full form with his latest nature series installment: a trip to the Bahamas to meet some of the country's many spectacular creatures.

#### • Okee Dokee Brothers Through the Woods: An Appalachian Adventure (2015)

The Okee Dokee Brothers embark on a month-long trek on the Appalachian Trail, writing songs for their second album, "Through the Woods." This documentary invites viewers and listeners along for a journey of camping, old time mountain music, and a few shenanigans.

• Indicates PCFF festival selection

### LOCAL CONNECTIONS

#### • Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

A government agency that works to protect and promote the environment in Rhode Island. [www.dem.ri.gov/programs/fish-wildlife/aquatic-resource-education-program.php](http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/fish-wildlife/aquatic-resource-education-program.php)

#### • Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association

A nonprofit organization representing over 7,500 recreational anglers and 30 affiliated clubs, and is one of the largest saltwater fishing clubs in the US. [www.risaa.org](http://www.risaa.org)

#### • The Local Catch

A fishermen-run company bringing fresh, untreated, wild-caught, sustainable seafood to farmers markets in Rhode Island and Connecticut. [thelocalcatch.com/our-commitment](http://thelocalcatch.com/our-commitment)

### RELATED INTERNET LINKS

#### • Interview with Sean Nightengale about the Gus Outdoors series:

[www.newenglandfilm.com/magazine/2010/01/exploring-the-great-outdoors-with-gus](http://www.newenglandfilm.com/magazine/2010/01/exploring-the-great-outdoors-with-gus)

#### • Article about the sustainability of commercial fishing in Rhode Island:

[www.providencejournal.com/article/20160414/NEWS/160419530](http://www.providencejournal.com/article/20160414/NEWS/160419530)

