Surf, Sand and Silversides: The California Grunion is a short documentary about the spectacular natural phenomenon of midnight runs, and the challenges a native fish species faces on southern California’s most popular urban beaches.

Natural phenomenon and cultural icon, California Grunion surf by the thousands onto California’s sandy beaches for a midnight rendezvous. Shot in high definition on location at more than a dozen different California beaches, this documentary shares discoveries about the grunion life cycle, its embryonic development buried in beach sand, and its place in the marine web of life. Its unique ecology makes it vulnerable to unintentional human impacts during spawning and nesting. Inspired by these charismatic fish, a group of citizen scientists called Grunion Greeters are cooperating with local residents, government agencies, environmentalists, and scientists to find new ways to balance human recreation and wildlife conservation on California’s beaches.

TRT 24:49 min.

Awards: Best Short Documentary (LA City Cinema Fest), Excellence in Scriptwriting (Best Shorts), Sound Editing (International Wildlife Film Festival), Best Eco-Friendly Film (Toronto Beaches Film Festival).

Official Selection: San Francisco Ocean Film Festival, Newport Beach Film Festival, Temecula Valley Film Festival, SoCal Film Fest, BLUE Ocean Film and Conservation Event.

© Beach Ecology Coalition, 2012