

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,000

On this episode of Expedition X.

2

00:00:03,000 --> 00:00:06,000

Woo!

3

00:00:06,000 --> 00:00:07,000

All right, champ.

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00:00:07,000 --> 00:00:08,000

Here's God.

5

00:00:08,000 --> 00:00:12,000

Phil and Jess investigate reports of a giant lake monster.

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00:00:12,000 --> 00:00:14,000

The thing looked long as my vote.

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00:00:14,000 --> 00:00:19,000

Said to inhabit the murky abyss of Vermont's Lake Champlain.

8

00:00:19,000 --> 00:00:22,000

It was unlike anything I had ever seen before.

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00:00:22,000 --> 00:00:24,000

Is it a massive fish?

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00:00:24,000 --> 00:00:28,000

Something's definitely trying to eat the light.

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00:00:28,000 --> 00:00:32,000

A prehistoric beast lost to science.

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00:00:32,000 --> 00:00:33,000

Look at this.

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00:00:33,000 --> 00:00:36,000

I mean, this thing must have weighed a ton.

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00:00:36,000 --> 00:00:38,000

Or something even more dangerous.

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00:00:38,000 --> 00:00:40,000

I'm seeing something.

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00:00:40,000 --> 00:00:41,000

Well, wait.

17

00:00:41,000 --> 00:00:43,000

There's something in there.

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00:00:46,000 --> 00:00:49,000

The visibility is so bad.

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00:00:51,000 --> 00:00:53,000

We have something down here.

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00:00:53,000 --> 00:00:54,000

What was that?

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00:00:54,000 --> 00:00:55,000

Phil!

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00:00:55,000 --> 00:00:58,000

America's Lake Monster.

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00:00:58,000 --> 00:01:00,000

My name is Josh Gates.

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00:01:00,000 --> 00:01:05,000

In my travels, I've experienced strange things that defy logic

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00:01:05,000 --> 00:01:07,000

and made me question everything.

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00:01:07,000 --> 00:01:09,000

Oh my God.

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00:01:09,000 --> 00:01:14,000

Now, I've put together a team to investigate the stranger side of the unknown.

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00:01:14,000 --> 00:01:16,000

Let's go.

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00:01:16,000 --> 00:01:20,000

Phil Torres is a scientist who hunts for rational explanations.

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00:01:20,000 --> 00:01:24,000

The recorder can actually film two stones.

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00:01:24,000 --> 00:01:28,000

Jessica Chobot's paranormal research has made her a true believer.

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00:01:28,000 --> 00:01:30,000

Phil, do you see that?

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00:01:30,000 --> 00:01:31,000

I just saw some papers across.

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00:01:31,000 --> 00:01:34,000

Together, we're searching for answers

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00:01:34,000 --> 00:01:35,000

What is that?

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00:01:35,000 --> 00:01:38,000

to the world's most extraordinary mysteries.

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00:01:38,000 --> 00:01:42,000

This is Expedition X.

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00:01:46,000 --> 00:01:50,000

All right, Phil, Jess, I don't need to tell you how difficult it is

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00:01:50,000 --> 00:01:53,000

to capture photographic evidence of some of these strange things

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00:01:53,000 --> 00:01:55,000

that I send you to investigate.

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00:01:55,000 --> 00:01:58,000

Well, Josh, it can be hard to photograph things that aren't there.

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00:01:58,000 --> 00:02:00,000

That's not very nice.

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00:02:00,000 --> 00:02:03,000

Just because something's elusive doesn't mean it doesn't exist.

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00:02:03,000 --> 00:02:05,000

Look, Phil, I'm with you a lot of the time, right?

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00:02:05,000 --> 00:02:08,000

But there is one very famous photo that I want to talk about today.

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00:02:08,000 --> 00:02:13,000

It was taken by a woman named Sandra Mansy in Vermont in 1977.

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00:02:13,000 --> 00:02:15,000

The Mansy photo!

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00:02:15,000 --> 00:02:19,000

Here it is. It depicts what many people believe is the head and neck

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00:02:19,000 --> 00:02:23,000

of some sort of very large creature protruding from the surface of Lake Champlain.

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00:02:23,000 --> 00:02:25,000

This thing is legendary.

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00:02:25,000 --> 00:02:26,000

Even I've seen this before.

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00:02:26,000 --> 00:02:28,000

Now, well, I mean, it's famous for a good reason.

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00:02:28,000 --> 00:02:32,000

This thing has held up to academic scrutiny for well over 40 years.

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00:02:32,000 --> 00:02:38,000

And if I'm remembering correctly, the University of Arizona actually put it through a computer analysis

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00:02:38,000 --> 00:02:41,000

and deemed that it was authentic.

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00:02:41,000 --> 00:02:44,000

Well, they proved that the photo wasn't doctored.

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00:02:44,000 --> 00:02:45,000

Right.

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00:02:45,000 --> 00:02:49,000

Yes, it's not a forgery, but as to what's in the photo, that is still up for debate.

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00:02:49,000 --> 00:02:51,000

Well, it's the Lake Monster, Josh.

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00:02:51,000 --> 00:02:52,000

It's obvious.

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00:02:52,000 --> 00:02:53,000

It's obvious.

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00:02:53,000 --> 00:02:59,000

There's no question it's a compelling legend, but the story of the creature that people called Champlain

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00:02:59,000 --> 00:03:01,000

started way before this photo was taken.

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00:03:05,000 --> 00:03:09,000

The recorded history of Champlain sightings dates back to the 1700s,

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00:03:09,000 --> 00:03:14,000

when the native Abonacchi tribe warns French explorers about a serpent-like creature,

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00:03:14,000 --> 00:03:17,000

Gittyskog, that inhabits Lake Champlain.

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00:03:17,000 --> 00:03:24,000

But the legend really takes off in 1819, when a man known as Captain Crumb reports seeing

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00:03:24,000 --> 00:03:28,000

a monstrous beast raising its massive head out of the water.

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00:03:28,000 --> 00:03:34,000

Subsequent sightings in the 1800s include a railroad crew who see an enormous serpent

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00:03:34,000 --> 00:03:39,000

with silvery scales, a local sheriff who swears he encounters a snake-like creature

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00:03:39,000 --> 00:03:47,000

about 30 feet long, and the most intriguing report, a mass sighting on the steamship WB Eddy,

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00:03:47,000 --> 00:03:53,000

when at least 100 passengers and crew watch as the craft supposedly runs into the animal

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00:03:53,000 --> 00:03:55,000

and nearly capsizes.

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00:03:55,000 --> 00:04:00,000

Then there's the famous Mansi photo taken in 1977.

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00:04:00,000 --> 00:04:06,000

In 1999, an image analysis is conducted, and it's proclaimed that the Mansi photograph

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00:04:06,000 --> 00:04:13,000

is genuine, one of the few pieces of compelling evidence for an unknown animal in any lake in the world.

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00:04:13,000 --> 00:04:20,000

Champlain sightings have continued to this day with more than 300 alleged incidents and rising.

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00:04:20,000 --> 00:04:25,000

The lake borders New York and Vermont, and both states have taken unprecedented acts

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00:04:25,000 --> 00:04:29,000

to legally protect this mysterious animal.

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00:04:29,000 --> 00:04:34,000

Whatever the truth is, Champe isn't going away anytime soon.

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00:04:34,000 --> 00:04:39,000

Believers speculate that Champe could be anything from the descendant of an ancient whale

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00:04:39,000 --> 00:04:48,000

to a relative of the prehistoric Plesiosaur, or even some other as yet unidentified creature of monstrous proportions.

83

00:04:51,000 --> 00:04:53,000

Alright, Jess, I take it you approve.

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00:04:53,000 --> 00:04:55,000

I approve this message.

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00:04:55,000 --> 00:05:00,000

I think it is super smart of the legislators to protect the thing before they lose it.

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00:05:00,000 --> 00:05:03,000

And look, there is some precedent here for this, right?

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00:05:03,000 --> 00:05:05,000

I mean, take the mega-mouth shark.

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00:05:05,000 --> 00:05:09,000

Real animal, huge animal, wasn't discovered until the late 70s.

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00:05:09,000 --> 00:05:12,000

Sure, and you also have these cases of what are known as Lazarus species.

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00:05:12,000 --> 00:05:14,000

They're animals that were presumed to be extinct.

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00:05:14,000 --> 00:05:17,000

They're in the fossil record, then they reappear modern times.

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00:05:17,000 --> 00:05:20,000

One example is the rat squirrel, real thing.

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00:05:20,000 --> 00:05:21,000

Really?

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00:05:21,000 --> 00:05:28,000

And it was thought to be extinct for 11 million years before being rediscovered in Laos in 1996.

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00:05:28,000 --> 00:05:31,000

I feel like Phil's making my point that this thing could be real.

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00:05:31,000 --> 00:05:34,000

I'm not saying it's not possible.

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00:05:34,000 --> 00:05:38,000

I'm just saying we have to go through the scientific process to really prove this.

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00:05:38,000 --> 00:05:40,000

We've got to find a live specimen.

99

00:05:40,000 --> 00:05:42,000

Now may be the best time to do that.

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00:05:42,000 --> 00:05:45,000

You know, with these recent sightings, credible sightings,

101

00:05:45,000 --> 00:05:48,000

I think you should go to Vermont, try to meet these eyewitnesses,

102

00:05:48,000 --> 00:05:52,000

figure out what they really saw, get out on Lake Champlain, get in Lake Champlain.

103

00:05:52,000 --> 00:05:55,000

You know, see if you can come face to face with whatever that is.

104

00:05:55,000 --> 00:05:56,000

Sounds good to me.

105

00:05:56,000 --> 00:05:57,000

Jess, what do you think?

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00:05:57,000 --> 00:05:59,000

Let's catch a lake monster.

107

00:05:59,000 --> 00:06:04,000

It's just a five-hour drive north from New York City to Burlington, Vermont,

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00:06:04,000 --> 00:06:07,000

and the rumored home of a Leviathan.

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00:06:09,000 --> 00:06:12,000

There's been so many reports here of champs.

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00:06:12,000 --> 00:06:14,000

So like, what's the thing that's living in the lake?

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00:06:14,000 --> 00:06:19,000

Maybe it's just a known species of fish that gets particularly huge.

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00:06:19,000 --> 00:06:24,000

Or is it actually an ancient dinosaur or something that kind of got lake-locked

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00:06:24,000 --> 00:06:27,000

and has managed to adapt and live?

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00:06:27,000 --> 00:06:29,000

Maybe there is still something in this lake waiting to be found.

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00:06:29,000 --> 00:06:30,000

Waiting to be found?

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00:06:30,000 --> 00:06:35,000

Or it's something that is known that just keeps getting misidentified over time.

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00:06:35,000 --> 00:06:37,000

It just seems weird that we have a foot in each other's theories.

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00:06:37,000 --> 00:06:41,000

Like, I feel like that actually gives us a chance to potentially solve this thing.

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00:06:41,000 --> 00:06:42,000

Totally.

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00:06:42,000 --> 00:06:45,000

Obviously something in the water.

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00:06:46,000 --> 00:06:48,000

Oh, pull over here, pull over here.

122

00:06:48,000 --> 00:06:53,000

As we pull into Champ Territory, I see the perfect spot to begin our search.

123

00:06:53,000 --> 00:06:54,000

Alright, come on.

124

00:06:54,000 --> 00:07:00,000

You can't investigate a legendary photo of a lake monster without taking a few of your own.

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00:07:00,000 --> 00:07:01,000

What?

126

00:07:01,000 --> 00:07:02,000

Really what?

127

00:07:02,000 --> 00:07:03,000

Take a picture.

128

00:07:05,000 --> 00:07:06,000

Nice.

129

00:07:06,000 --> 00:07:07,000

You done?

130

00:07:07,000 --> 00:07:08,000

Not done.

131

00:07:08,000 --> 00:07:09,000

Okay.

132

00:07:10,000 --> 00:07:11,000

Ooh, the swim.

133

00:07:11,000 --> 00:07:12,000

Nice.

134

00:07:14,000 --> 00:07:15,000

Nailed it.

135

00:07:18,000 --> 00:07:20,000

Now that we're officially in Champ's domain,

136

00:07:20,000 --> 00:07:24,000

we continue north to Kerry Bay to meet with eyewitness Kyle Cortiana.

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00:07:24,000 --> 00:07:26,000

I'm actually excited to meet Kyle.

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00:07:26,000 --> 00:07:28,000

I mean, he's a pro fisherman.

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00:07:28,000 --> 00:07:33,000

And if he thinks he's seen something, that's pretty good evidence, gotta say.

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00:07:33,000 --> 00:07:34,000

Yeah.

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00:07:38,000 --> 00:07:41,000

Kyle's been fishing since the age of three and has since gone pro,

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00:07:41,000 --> 00:07:47,000

reeling in trophy bass on the fishing league worldwide pro circuit for the last four years.

143

00:07:47,000 --> 00:07:52,000

And just recently, Kyle spotted and filmed a massive object in Lake Champlain,

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00:07:52,000 --> 00:07:57,000

something of incomprehensible size that he believes was the famous champ.

145

00:07:57,000 --> 00:07:58,000

Kyle.

146

00:07:58,000 --> 00:07:59,000

Hi, Kyle.

147

00:07:59,000 --> 00:08:00,000

How's it going?

148

00:08:00,000 --> 00:08:01,000

Good. How are you?

149

00:08:01,000 --> 00:08:02,000

Doing pretty good.

150

00:08:02,000 --> 00:08:05,000

And my understanding is you've got one heck of a champ story.

151

00:08:05,000 --> 00:08:06,000

I do. I have quite the story.

152

00:08:06,000 --> 00:08:08,000

I was here fishing for a professional bass tournament.

153

00:08:08,000 --> 00:08:10,000

I was coming back in and it was last life.

154

00:08:10,000 --> 00:08:12,000

And I was coming back through an area.

155

00:08:12,000 --> 00:08:14,000

There was no wind. It was dead calm.

156

00:08:14,000 --> 00:08:17,000

And I was actually on the phone with my father and told my dad,

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00:08:17,000 --> 00:08:20,000

I was like, look, I'm seeing this monster.

158

00:08:21,000 --> 00:08:23,000

It kind of in disbelief.

159

00:08:23,000 --> 00:08:25,000

There were times where the thing looked long as my boat

160

00:08:25,000 --> 00:08:28,000

and it looked like a log, but the thing was moving.

161

00:08:29,000 --> 00:08:32,000

And I got off the phone and I started recording footage of it.

162

00:08:34,000 --> 00:08:36,000

And I actually went past the object.

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00:08:36,000 --> 00:08:39,000

And when I circled back around, it actually allowed me to see it

164

00:08:39,000 --> 00:08:43,000

because before the water was flat, then when the waves hit it,

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00:08:43,000 --> 00:08:46,000

the object started to show itself in between the waves.

166

00:08:46,000 --> 00:08:48,000

I was like, am I really seeing this?

167

00:08:48,000 --> 00:08:49,000

And at some point, did it go under?

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00:08:49,000 --> 00:08:51,000

It did. It went under right in front of the camera.

169

00:08:54,000 --> 00:08:57,000

So you have like a video or tape of this thing?

170

00:08:57,000 --> 00:08:59,000

Yeah, I sure do. I have it on my phone.

171

00:08:59,000 --> 00:09:01,000

Here it is right here. I'll let you guys watch it.

172

00:09:01,000 --> 00:09:02,000

Thanks.

173

00:09:02,000 --> 00:09:03,000

Oh, wow.

174

00:09:03,000 --> 00:09:05,000

That does look long.

175

00:09:06,000 --> 00:09:08,000

I mean, that's something huge.

176

00:09:13,000 --> 00:09:16,000

Wow. That definitely is something big in the water.

177

00:09:17,000 --> 00:09:19,000

So I'm guessing as a professional fisherman,

178

00:09:19,000 --> 00:09:23,000

you've been to countless lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, everywhere.

179

00:09:23,000 --> 00:09:25,000

And you've never seen anything like this.

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00:09:25,000 --> 00:09:26,000

Never seen anything like it.

181

00:09:26,000 --> 00:09:29,000

Are there any types of fish that could get that big

182

00:09:29,000 --> 00:09:31,000

that live in this lake in the deep parts?

183

00:09:31,000 --> 00:09:34,000

The biggest fish that I'm aware of that's in here is Sturgeon.

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00:09:34,000 --> 00:09:37,000

There are more than 90 species of fish in Lake Champlain,

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00:09:37,000 --> 00:09:41,000

but the Sturgeon is the undisputed heavyweight champion,

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00:09:41,000 --> 00:09:44,000

growing to over eight feet long and 300 pounds.

187

00:09:45,000 --> 00:09:48,000

But Kyle's convinced that what he captured on camera

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00:09:48,000 --> 00:09:50,000

could swallow a giant Sturgeon whole.

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00:09:52,000 --> 00:09:53,000

I'm an engineer by trade as well,

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00:09:53,000 --> 00:09:56,000

so I've tried to scale the wave distances and get measurements.

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00:09:56,000 --> 00:09:59,000

And it's questionable as long as my boat, which over 20 feet.

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00:09:59,000 --> 00:10:01,000

I've watched my own video over and over,

193

00:10:01,000 --> 00:10:05,000

and I just can't come up with something that makes sense.

194

00:10:05,000 --> 00:10:08,000

It's clear as day that you ran into something weird out there.

195

00:10:08,000 --> 00:10:09,000

A million percent.

196

00:10:10,000 --> 00:10:13,000

If you wouldn't mind, I mean, we'd love to get out to the spot

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00:10:13,000 --> 00:10:14,000

where you actually saw this.

198

00:10:14,000 --> 00:10:15,000

You bet. Yeah.

199

00:10:15,000 --> 00:10:16,000

I'll be happy to take you guys out there.

200

00:10:16,000 --> 00:10:18,000

I got another tournament, so I can't stick around long,

201

00:10:18,000 --> 00:10:20,000

but I'll be happy to show you where it happened.

202

00:10:20,000 --> 00:10:21,000

Okay. Perfect.

203

00:10:24,000 --> 00:10:27,000

Kyle leads us to where he had his sighting.

204

00:10:28,000 --> 00:10:30,000

We're in rough out here today.

205

00:10:30,000 --> 00:10:31,000

Oh, yeah.

206

00:10:31,000 --> 00:10:35,000

And we finally get a sense of how big this lake really is.

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00:10:35,000 --> 00:10:40,000

Lake Champlain is 120 miles long, up to 400 feet deep,

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00:10:40,000 --> 00:10:44,000

and was briefly considered to be the sixth great lake.

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00:10:44,000 --> 00:10:48,000

If there ever was a place for an elusive lake monster to survive,

210

00:10:48,000 --> 00:10:49,000

this is it.

211

00:10:49,000 --> 00:10:50,000

Woo-hoo-hoo!

212

00:10:51,000 --> 00:10:53,000

All right, Cham. Seriously, guys.

213

00:11:01,000 --> 00:11:03,000

So this is the spot, huh?

214

00:11:05,000 --> 00:11:07,000

Yeah, this is the spot. It's the worst time.

215

00:11:07,000 --> 00:11:08,000

Perfect.

216

00:11:10,000 --> 00:11:12,000

I think we're going to try to spend a couple hours

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00:11:12,000 --> 00:11:13,000

and see where we can find.

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00:11:13,000 --> 00:11:15,000

Good luck. I'll be finding.

219

00:11:15,000 --> 00:11:17,000

Okay, thanks. We'll let you know.

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00:11:17,000 --> 00:11:18,000

Please do.

221

00:11:19,000 --> 00:11:31,000

Kyle's recent sighting took place in this area.

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00:11:31,000 --> 00:11:37,000

There's about 350 feet of murky water between us and the lake bed below.

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00:11:37,000 --> 00:11:40,000

Easily enough habitat to hide a giant.

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00:11:45,000 --> 00:11:48,000

Even though the sun starts to drift below the horizon,

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00:11:48,000 --> 00:11:52,000

we came prepared for an all-night investigation.

226

00:11:53,000 --> 00:11:56,000

He might be nocturnal, so he might just not be out yet.

227

00:11:56,000 --> 00:11:58,000

You know, I'll take that theory.

228

00:11:58,000 --> 00:12:00,000

Like, there are animals like squid.

229

00:12:00,000 --> 00:12:02,000

We'll spend day in deep waters,

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00:12:02,000 --> 00:12:04,000

and then at night they come up to feed.

231

00:12:04,000 --> 00:12:07,000

Yeah, I've always liked the idea that, you know,

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00:12:07,000 --> 00:12:09,000

maybe it's an ancient plesiosaur

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00:12:09,000 --> 00:12:12,000

that had to adapt to a new way of life.

234

00:12:12,000 --> 00:12:16,000

But that doesn't necessarily mean that there is a plesiosaur

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00:12:16,000 --> 00:12:19,000

living in here because plesiosaurs went extinct

236

00:12:19,000 --> 00:12:22,000

like 60, 70 million years ago.

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00:12:22,000 --> 00:12:24,000

You said it yourself before.

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00:12:24,000 --> 00:12:26,000

What about all those stories about animals

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00:12:26,000 --> 00:12:29,000

that people thought were extinct and then they find it?

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00:12:29,000 --> 00:12:30,000

Yeah.

241

00:12:30,000 --> 00:12:32,000

So why couldn't they find a champ?

242

00:12:34,000 --> 00:12:38,000

While rediscovering a living, breathing prehistoric creature

243

00:12:38,000 --> 00:12:41,000

such as the plesiosaur sounds like a tall order,

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00:12:41,000 --> 00:12:45,000

a number of long lost animals have actually risen from the dead.

245

00:12:45,000 --> 00:12:47,000

Well, kind of.

246

00:12:47,000 --> 00:12:50,000

Take the Silicanth, a large prehistoric fish

247

00:12:50,000 --> 00:12:54,000

that can grow to over 6.5 feet and weigh 200 pounds.

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00:12:54,000 --> 00:12:58,000

It was believed that they went extinct 65 million years ago,

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00:12:58,000 --> 00:13:01,000

until it was rediscovered again in 1938.

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00:13:05,000 --> 00:13:08,000

As far as a place where ancient animals could be hiding,

251

00:13:08,000 --> 00:13:10,000

Lake Champlain is somewhat ideal.

252

00:13:10,000 --> 00:13:12,000

Scientists have discovered fossils here

253

00:13:12,000 --> 00:13:15,000

that date back over 400 million years.

254

00:13:15,000 --> 00:13:17,000

And the teams come equipped with gear

255

00:13:17,000 --> 00:13:19,000

to investigate the lake's mysteries.

256

00:13:19,000 --> 00:13:21,000

The fish camera, huh?

257

00:13:21,000 --> 00:13:22,000

Yeah.

258

00:13:22,000 --> 00:13:24,000

I mean, this thing's amazing.

259

00:13:24,000 --> 00:13:27,000

I mean, you could send this HD camera deep into the water to get...

260

00:13:27,000 --> 00:13:29,000

Get fish selfies.

261

00:13:29,000 --> 00:13:31,000

It's a very cool fish camera.

262

00:13:31,000 --> 00:13:33,000

It is cool. It is cool.

263

00:13:33,000 --> 00:13:36,000

Tonight, this high-definition camera will be our eyes underwater.

264

00:13:36,000 --> 00:13:39,000

And since bright lights are known to attract underwater animals

265

00:13:39,000 --> 00:13:43,000

like squid, maybe this will help bring more action our way.

266

00:13:43,000 --> 00:13:47,000

If Champlain is real and as big as eyewitnesses claim,

267

00:13:47,000 --> 00:13:51,000

it would need to consume potentially thousands of pounds of food

268

00:13:51,000 --> 00:13:53,000

to sustain itself.

269

00:13:58,000 --> 00:14:01,000

I'm thinking what I can do is toss in the bait,

270

00:14:01,000 --> 00:14:03,000

and maybe if it doesn't attract Champlain to eat it,

271

00:14:03,000 --> 00:14:06,000

it'll at least attract other fish that might attract Champlain.

272

00:14:06,000 --> 00:14:07,000

Yeah.

273

00:14:09,000 --> 00:14:12,000

All right, Jess, take a look at the camera.

274

00:14:12,000 --> 00:14:14,000

Oh, check that out.

275

00:14:14,000 --> 00:14:17,000

Getting a pretty good view of the bottom of the lake.

276

00:14:17,000 --> 00:14:18,000

Mm-hmm.

277

00:14:18,000 --> 00:14:22,000

Our camera has descended 350 feet down to the lake bed.

278

00:14:22,000 --> 00:14:25,000

From here, I'll move it around to get a 20-foot panoramic view

279

00:14:25,000 --> 00:14:30,000

of anything that's enticed by the light on the camera or the bait.

280

00:14:33,000 --> 00:14:35,000

Oh, did you see that little fish jump?

281

00:14:35,000 --> 00:14:36,000

Ooh.

282

00:14:36,000 --> 00:14:38,000

That was a good one right there.

283

00:14:38,000 --> 00:14:39,000

Yeah.

284

00:14:39,000 --> 00:14:42,000

Oh, we're getting some activity.

285

00:14:42,000 --> 00:14:44,000

Yeah, it was a huge fish.

286

00:14:48,000 --> 00:14:50,000

Whoa.

287

00:14:50,000 --> 00:14:53,000

Something's definitely trying to eat the light.

288

00:14:53,000 --> 00:14:55,000

Holy crap.

289

00:14:57,000 --> 00:14:58,000

Right there.

290

00:14:58,000 --> 00:14:59,000

It did it again.

291

00:14:59,000 --> 00:15:02,000

Something was definitely interested in our camera,

292

00:15:02,000 --> 00:15:04,000

but it's impossible to tell what it was.

293

00:15:04,000 --> 00:15:08,000

Is it just a large fish or something else?

294

00:15:10,000 --> 00:15:13,000

I start thumping the water to draw it in closer

295

00:15:13,000 --> 00:15:17,000

because vibrations at the surface make fish curious.

296

00:15:17,000 --> 00:15:21,000

I just make loud noises on the surface of the water.

297

00:15:21,000 --> 00:15:24,000

It's known to just draw things in.

298

00:15:34,000 --> 00:15:36,000

I think I got it.

299

00:15:41,000 --> 00:15:43,000

Something just did her bow.

300

00:15:47,000 --> 00:15:50,000

I'm going to go and turn on the lights.

301

00:15:58,000 --> 00:16:00,000

Wait, wait. Back left, back left.

302

00:16:00,000 --> 00:16:02,000

I'm seeing something.

303

00:16:02,000 --> 00:16:03,000

We got something.

304

00:16:03,000 --> 00:16:04,000

Do you remember?

305

00:16:04,000 --> 00:16:05,000

Down, down, down.

306

00:16:05,000 --> 00:16:06,000

Went too far.

307

00:16:06,000 --> 00:16:07,000

Down, down.

308

00:16:07,000 --> 00:16:09,000

One more.

309

00:16:10,000 --> 00:16:11,000

What do you see?

310

00:16:13,000 --> 00:16:15,000

There's something in there.

311

00:16:15,000 --> 00:16:17,000

It was big, whatever I saw.

312

00:16:20,000 --> 00:16:22,000

Where is it now?

313

00:16:23,000 --> 00:16:25,000

It just went under the boat.

314

00:16:26,000 --> 00:16:28,000

My team is on Lake Champlain,

315

00:16:28,000 --> 00:16:30,000

where the mysterious lake monster named Champ

316

00:16:30,000 --> 00:16:34,000

was reportedly seen by professional fisherman Kyle Cortiana.

317

00:16:34,000 --> 00:16:38,000

And the team's efforts to lure something seems to have worked.

318

00:16:38,000 --> 00:16:39,000

It just went under the boat.

319

00:16:39,000 --> 00:16:41,000

A little too well.

320

00:16:41,000 --> 00:16:43,000

There's something in there.

321

00:16:46,000 --> 00:16:47,000

Where is it?

322

00:16:47,000 --> 00:16:50,000

It was really hard to tell, but it was definitely big.

323

00:16:50,000 --> 00:16:51,000

Right there.

324

00:16:51,000 --> 00:16:53,000

I'm going to go and get it.

325

00:16:53,000 --> 00:16:54,000

I'm going to help.

326

00:16:54,000 --> 00:16:56,000

There's definitely a big right in this area.

327

00:16:56,000 --> 00:16:57,000

Okay, well, I'm going to move back.

328

00:16:57,000 --> 00:16:58,000

I'm going to light. Keep your eyes on the water.

329

00:16:58,000 --> 00:16:59,000

Alright.

330

00:17:11,000 --> 00:17:12,000

What do you see?

331

00:17:13,000 --> 00:17:16,000

So, I don't know, I'm kind of thinking whatever

332

00:17:16,000 --> 00:17:18,000

I just saw up here, I think it's gone.

333

00:17:18,000 --> 00:17:19,000

Seriously?

334

00:17:19,000 --> 00:17:20,000

Yeah.

335

00:17:20,000 --> 00:17:23,640

something definitely caused a big thud against the boat.

336

00:17:23,640 --> 00:17:25,480

This whole boat shifted.

337

00:17:25,480 --> 00:17:27,240

So something big hit us.

338

00:17:28,180 --> 00:17:30,440

We had light in the water.

339

00:17:30,440 --> 00:17:33,220

And I was something,

340

00:17:33,220 --> 00:17:35,840

kind of sending those vibrations throughout this area.

341

00:17:35,840 --> 00:17:38,880

So something about the combination

342

00:17:38,880 --> 00:17:43,520

or one of those factors seem to have caused some reaction.

343

00:17:43,520 --> 00:17:45,840

I still would stay out here and try a few more times

344

00:17:45,840 --> 00:17:46,720

and see what happens.

345

00:17:46,720 --> 00:17:47,560

Yeah.

346

00:17:47,560 --> 00:17:48,400

Give it a couple more thuds.

347

00:17:48,400 --> 00:17:49,440

See if it comes back.

348

00:17:49,440 --> 00:17:50,280

Okay.

349

00:17:53,600 --> 00:17:55,160

We continue to chum the water

350

00:17:55,160 --> 00:17:57,160

and try to lure back the creature

351

00:17:57,160 --> 00:18:00,480

with light and vibrations into the early morning.

352

00:18:00,480 --> 00:18:03,000

But the waters of Lake Champlain have calmed.

353

00:18:03,000 --> 00:18:05,580

So as dawn breaks, we head back to shore.

354

00:18:09,440 --> 00:18:11,320

We'll need help to track down Champ

355

00:18:11,320 --> 00:18:13,120

in such a massive lake.

356

00:18:13,120 --> 00:18:15,920

So we've traveled south to meet with local champ expert,

357

00:18:15,920 --> 00:18:16,880

Katie Elizabeth.

358

00:18:18,040 --> 00:18:18,960

Hi, Katie.

359

00:18:18,960 --> 00:18:19,800

Nice to meet you guys.

360

00:18:19,800 --> 00:18:21,200

Nice to meet you too.

361

00:18:21,200 --> 00:18:23,040

Katie is an author, investigator

362

00:18:23,040 --> 00:18:25,200

and the founder of Champ Search.

363

00:18:25,200 --> 00:18:27,560

For eight years, she's been actively combing

364

00:18:27,560 --> 00:18:29,440

every inch of Lake Champlain,

365

00:18:29,440 --> 00:18:31,360

gathering evidence of the monster

366

00:18:31,360 --> 00:18:33,620

and cataloging reported sightings.

367

00:18:33,620 --> 00:18:37,320

And she believes the Lake Monster frequents this marsh.

368

00:18:37,320 --> 00:18:39,520

What got you interested in Champlain the first place?

369

00:18:39,520 --> 00:18:42,640

In 2012, I took a trip to Lake Champlain.

370

00:18:42,640 --> 00:18:46,040

I saw this object pop up to the surface of the water.

371

00:18:46,040 --> 00:18:48,760

I would estimate it was around 15 feet in length,

372

00:18:49,120 --> 00:18:50,520

blackish brown in color.

373

00:18:50,520 --> 00:18:51,520

Were you out on a boat?

374

00:18:51,520 --> 00:18:52,520

Were you walking on the shore?

375

00:18:52,520 --> 00:18:55,760

No, I was actually sitting on a bench eating my breakfast.

376

00:18:55,760 --> 00:18:56,840

I'm looking at it and I'm like,

377

00:18:56,840 --> 00:18:58,920

well, maybe I'm trying to be logical, you know?

378

00:18:58,920 --> 00:19:02,320

I'm like, maybe it's an otter, maybe it's a big snake.

379

00:19:02,320 --> 00:19:03,840

I didn't know what to think,

380

00:19:03,840 --> 00:19:06,400

but it was unlike anything I had ever seen before.

381

00:19:06,400 --> 00:19:07,440

Wow.

382

00:19:07,440 --> 00:19:09,200

Okay, interesting.

383

00:19:09,200 --> 00:19:12,240

What's your theory on what champ might be?

384

00:19:12,240 --> 00:19:16,280

I believe that these animals are an ancient species.

385

00:19:16,280 --> 00:19:19,960

My idea is that these animals are either reptile or amphibian

386

00:19:19,960 --> 00:19:22,880

or perhaps a very strange hybrid of both.

387

00:19:22,880 --> 00:19:25,800

In the wintertime, the lake can freeze completely over.

388

00:19:25,800 --> 00:19:28,000

So these animals need to be breathing somehow

389

00:19:28,000 --> 00:19:29,480

to stay alive.

390

00:19:29,480 --> 00:19:31,240

They could be breathing through their skin

391

00:19:31,240 --> 00:19:33,040

or like the common snapping turtle

392

00:19:33,040 --> 00:19:35,280

that's here in the Lake Champlain region,

393

00:19:35,280 --> 00:19:38,040

they actually breathe through specialized skin cells

394

00:19:38,040 --> 00:19:39,120

beneath their tail.

395

00:19:40,400 --> 00:19:43,120

Katie's theory is actually based in science.

396

00:19:43,120 --> 00:19:44,760

Both reptiles and amphibians

397

00:19:44,760 --> 00:19:47,200

can stay underwater for extended amounts of time

398

00:19:47,200 --> 00:19:49,040

due to their unique anatomy.

399

00:19:49,040 --> 00:19:50,920

Amphibians are able to absorb oxygen

400

00:19:50,920 --> 00:19:52,720

through their permeable skin

401

00:19:52,720 --> 00:19:56,000

while reptiles have an extremely efficient lung capacity.

402

00:19:56,000 --> 00:19:57,720

If Katie's theory is correct,

403

00:19:57,720 --> 00:20:00,160

this could explain how they survive in the lake

404

00:20:00,160 --> 00:20:02,200

and why they aren't seen often.

405

00:20:02,200 --> 00:20:03,960

But I'm not necessarily buying,

406

00:20:03,960 --> 00:20:06,400

there's a giant hybrid frog reptile thing

407

00:20:06,400 --> 00:20:08,320

the size of a dinosaur.

408

00:20:08,320 --> 00:20:11,200

There's been many reports in the marsh systems,

409

00:20:11,200 --> 00:20:13,160

particularly at night.

410

00:20:13,160 --> 00:20:15,120

So you think there's a possibility

411

00:20:15,120 --> 00:20:17,880

that champ actually comes onto land?

412

00:20:17,880 --> 00:20:18,880

Yes, matter of fact,

413

00:20:18,880 --> 00:20:21,800

that's why I had you guys meet me here in this location.

414

00:20:21,800 --> 00:20:25,240

There's been prints and tracks found here, drag marks.

415

00:20:25,240 --> 00:20:26,080

Right here.

416

00:20:26,080 --> 00:20:26,920

Yes, right here.

417

00:20:26,920 --> 00:20:28,280

Why would they favor this area?

418

00:20:28,280 --> 00:20:29,360

It's a great place to feed

419

00:20:29,360 --> 00:20:33,160

because you have snakes, turtles, frogs, little fish.

420

00:20:33,160 --> 00:20:35,360

They could be opportunistic feeders

421

00:20:35,360 --> 00:20:37,200

because there has been reports of them

422

00:20:37,200 --> 00:20:39,840

snatching seagulls off the surface of the water.

423

00:20:39,840 --> 00:20:40,720

Interesting.

424

00:20:40,720 --> 00:20:42,120

I witnessed statements are one thing,

425

00:20:42,360 --> 00:20:44,520

have you ever managed to actually get some evidence

426

00:20:44,520 --> 00:20:48,040

of there potentially being a giant lake monster living here?

427

00:20:48,040 --> 00:20:48,880

Yes, I have.

428

00:20:51,120 --> 00:20:55,440

These are sonar images that I obtained on August 5th, 2019.

429

00:20:55,440 --> 00:20:57,760

My research partners and I were in the boat

430

00:20:57,760 --> 00:21:00,640

and we noticed these strange anomalies

431

00:21:00,640 --> 00:21:02,040

on the bottom of the lake.

432

00:21:02,040 --> 00:21:03,120

And once I enlarged it,

433

00:21:03,120 --> 00:21:04,520

I saw that horse-like head

434

00:21:04,520 --> 00:21:07,320

with the horn-like protuberances on top.

435

00:21:07,320 --> 00:21:09,760

Katie's sonar captured an image of what could be

436

00:21:09,760 --> 00:21:12,000

an unidentified animal underwater

437

00:21:12,000 --> 00:21:13,840

resting on the lake bottom.

438

00:21:13,840 --> 00:21:16,720

The shape matches previous eyewitness descriptions

439

00:21:16,720 --> 00:21:18,840

of a long-necked creature.

440

00:21:18,840 --> 00:21:22,960

Further north, I saw strange anomalies at the surface.

441

00:21:24,360 --> 00:21:25,760

Oh my gosh, you're right.

442

00:21:25,760 --> 00:21:28,680

There's the animal and then there is its wake.

443

00:21:28,680 --> 00:21:30,040

Yes.

444

00:21:30,040 --> 00:21:31,920

I have to admit, that does look similar

445

00:21:31,920 --> 00:21:34,000

to what we saw in Kyle's video.

446

00:21:34,000 --> 00:21:35,240

There's definitely something in here

447

00:21:35,240 --> 00:21:37,160

that people are calling champ.

448

00:21:37,160 --> 00:21:38,000

Absolutely.

449

00:21:40,320 --> 00:21:43,880

If Katie's right, champ comes to this marsh to feed.

450

00:21:43,880 --> 00:21:46,520

And for me, the discovery of strange tracks

451

00:21:46,520 --> 00:21:48,680

or drag marks coming out of the lake

452

00:21:48,680 --> 00:21:50,400

strengthens her theory.

453

00:21:50,400 --> 00:21:52,800

If this lake monster is a night predator,

454

00:21:52,800 --> 00:21:56,520

then our best chance of an encounter is right now.

455

00:21:58,640 --> 00:21:59,800

See a lot of frogs.

456

00:21:59,800 --> 00:22:01,760

Yeah, a lot of frogs out here.

457

00:22:01,760 --> 00:22:02,600

Katie was right.

458

00:22:02,600 --> 00:22:05,360

Definitely a lot of food here for champ.

459

00:22:05,360 --> 00:22:06,760

And in the dead of night,

460

00:22:06,760 --> 00:22:10,200

this place is looking like a monster buffet.

461

00:22:10,200 --> 00:22:11,040

Got one.

462

00:22:11,040 --> 00:22:12,800

Got that leopard frog.

463

00:22:12,800 --> 00:22:15,000

So this is the classic amphibian.

464

00:22:15,000 --> 00:22:17,280

And you know, Katie was thinking that champ

465

00:22:17,280 --> 00:22:18,640

could be an amphibian,

466

00:22:18,640 --> 00:22:20,920

because this thing can breathe through its mouth

467

00:22:20,920 --> 00:22:22,720

also through its skin,

468

00:22:22,720 --> 00:22:25,120

which would be why champ doesn't come up

469

00:22:25,120 --> 00:22:26,160

to the surface very much

470

00:22:26,160 --> 00:22:28,160

because essentially it doesn't need to.

471

00:22:28,160 --> 00:22:29,000

Yeah.

472

00:22:29,000 --> 00:22:30,800

This is dusk spot where multiple people

473

00:22:30,800 --> 00:22:32,360

have claimed to see champ,

474

00:22:32,360 --> 00:22:35,160

not only in the water, but on shore.

475

00:22:35,160 --> 00:22:36,000

Yeah.

476

00:22:36,000 --> 00:22:37,960

So I have the camera traps in my bag.

477

00:22:37,960 --> 00:22:38,800

OK.

478

00:22:38,800 --> 00:22:40,520

I think we should find a good place in the mud

479

00:22:40,520 --> 00:22:42,680

where we can really dig these posts in.

480

00:22:42,680 --> 00:22:44,680

I just want to make sure if we're not going to lose these cameras.

481

00:22:44,680 --> 00:22:45,680

OK, works for me.

482

00:22:47,600 --> 00:22:50,280

We've brought a dozen infrared waterproof cameras

483

00:22:50,280 --> 00:22:51,960

to spread throughout the area.

484

00:22:51,960 --> 00:22:54,160

If this is a potential champ hotspot,

485

00:22:54,160 --> 00:22:55,720

we need to keep the cameras rolling

486

00:22:55,720 --> 00:22:58,520

in case something decides to emerge from the water.

487

00:23:06,800 --> 00:23:07,720

Oh.

488

00:23:07,720 --> 00:23:08,560

What was that?

489

00:23:08,560 --> 00:23:10,480

What the hell was that?

490

00:23:10,480 --> 00:23:12,560

That sounded like something big.

491

00:23:12,560 --> 00:23:13,720

Oh, I see the ripples.

492

00:23:13,720 --> 00:23:14,880

Oh, f***.

493

00:23:14,880 --> 00:23:16,280

Let's go check that out.

494

00:23:26,360 --> 00:23:27,400

Look at this.

495

00:23:27,400 --> 00:23:28,360

That's a drag mark.

496

00:23:28,360 --> 00:23:29,240

Oh, my God.

497

00:23:29,240 --> 00:23:30,640

That's huge.

498

00:23:36,000 --> 00:23:37,840

There's some marks on this side.

499

00:23:37,840 --> 00:23:40,040

Oh, yeah, look at that.

500

00:23:40,040 --> 00:23:41,560

So bizarre.

501

00:23:41,560 --> 00:23:44,320

Are you thinking that whatever just made that splash,

502

00:23:44,320 --> 00:23:45,360

the same thing as this?

503

00:23:45,360 --> 00:23:47,920

It's in the same exact area.

504

00:23:47,920 --> 00:23:49,720

I think that splash could accommodate

505

00:23:49,720 --> 00:23:51,160

something that is this big.

506

00:23:51,160 --> 00:23:53,040

I don't know, but it stays shallow.

507

00:23:53,040 --> 00:23:54,360

It's a big splash.

508

00:23:54,360 --> 00:23:55,280

I don't know.

509

00:23:55,280 --> 00:23:56,240

I don't know.

510

00:23:56,240 --> 00:23:57,240

I don't know.

511

00:23:57,240 --> 00:23:58,040

I don't know.

512

00:23:58,040 --> 00:23:59,040

I don't know.

513

00:23:59,040 --> 00:24:00,040

I don't know.

514

00:24:00,040 --> 00:24:01,040

I don't know.

515

00:24:01,040 --> 00:24:02,040

I don't know.

516

00:24:02,040 --> 00:24:03,040

I don't know.

517

00:24:03,040 --> 00:24:04,040

I don't know.

518

00:24:04,040 --> 00:24:05,040

I don't know.

519

00:24:05,080 --> 00:24:06,080

But it stays shallow.

520

00:24:06,080 --> 00:24:08,440

Like, we would have seen something in the water.

521

00:24:08,440 --> 00:24:09,440

We would have seen a wave.

522

00:24:09,440 --> 00:24:10,440

Where did that thing go?

523

00:24:10,440 --> 00:24:11,440

I don't know.

524

00:24:11,440 --> 00:24:12,440

I'm checking for an eye shine.

525

00:24:17,120 --> 00:24:18,440

No, I've not seen any eye shine.

526

00:24:18,440 --> 00:24:20,520

OK, I've got the flare camera, so let's take that out.

527

00:24:20,520 --> 00:24:21,520

OK.

528

00:24:24,520 --> 00:24:25,720

Give it a good scan.

529

00:24:29,360 --> 00:24:30,840

I don't see anything over there.

530

00:24:33,640 --> 00:24:34,640

Nothing there?

531

00:24:35,240 --> 00:24:36,240

The rain's starting.

532

00:24:36,240 --> 00:24:37,240

Yeah.

533

00:24:37,240 --> 00:24:38,240

I don't want to lose the tracks.

534

00:24:38,240 --> 00:24:41,240

I think we've got to take photos of that before it gets washed away.

535

00:24:41,240 --> 00:24:42,240

Oh, that's a good idea.

536

00:24:44,240 --> 00:24:47,240

There's no sign of whatever made that splash or these stress tracks,

537

00:24:47,240 --> 00:24:51,240

but we need to move fast if we're going to collect any evidence.

538

00:24:53,240 --> 00:24:57,040

I mean, this thing must have weighed a ton and been super strong

539

00:24:57,040 --> 00:25:00,240

because it took you quite a while to pound those stakes into the ground.

540

00:25:00,240 --> 00:25:02,840

The mud is way more dense than I thought it was going to be.

541

00:25:02,840 --> 00:25:06,440

I've seen sea turtle tracks that look like this on ocean shores,

542

00:25:06,440 --> 00:25:10,440

but it is a lake and I don't think the snapping turtles get quite this big.

543

00:25:10,440 --> 00:25:12,440

The largest ones grow to just over a foot.

544

00:25:12,440 --> 00:25:15,440

All right, well, let's go put out the cameras and see if it'll come back.

545

00:25:16,440 --> 00:25:21,440

If a large creature does frequent this marsh to feed, we need to know.

546

00:25:21,440 --> 00:25:24,440

So we're going to keep our infrared cameras rolling here

547

00:25:24,440 --> 00:25:28,440

in case the animal that just fled the area makes another appearance.

548

00:25:29,440 --> 00:25:30,440

That looks good.

549

00:25:30,440 --> 00:25:31,440

Come take a selfie.

550

00:25:32,040 --> 00:25:33,040

Come take a selfie, champ.

551

00:25:38,040 --> 00:25:42,040

It's day three of our investigation and while we've met some compelling

552

00:25:42,040 --> 00:25:46,040

eyewitnesses and had an interesting encounter of our own out on the water,

553

00:25:46,040 --> 00:25:50,040

I don't think we're any closer to solving this mystery.

554

00:25:50,040 --> 00:25:55,040

A big part of this for me is trying to figure out what is biologically possible.

555

00:25:55,040 --> 00:25:58,040

We have a big lake, so how could this thing feed?

556

00:25:58,040 --> 00:26:01,040

How could it have a sustainable population?

557

00:26:01,640 --> 00:26:04,640

How could it stay underwater for all this time and not be seen?

558

00:26:04,640 --> 00:26:06,640

There's just all these questions I have.

559

00:26:06,640 --> 00:26:09,640

What exists out there that this could be similar to?

560

00:26:11,640 --> 00:26:15,640

So we're headed to the Lehi Center, a science and nature museum near the lake

561

00:26:15,640 --> 00:26:18,640

for what I think this investigation desperately needs,

562

00:26:18,640 --> 00:26:21,640

a rational, scientific point of view.

563

00:26:21,640 --> 00:26:23,640

Welcome to the Lehi Center for Lake Champlain.

564

00:26:23,640 --> 00:26:27,640

I've arranged a meeting with director of programs Nina Ritibinio,

565

00:26:27,640 --> 00:26:30,640

an expert on the local ecosystem and the champ legend.

566

00:26:31,640 --> 00:26:34,640

I'm loving the champ stuff here.

567

00:26:34,640 --> 00:26:36,640

I know, aren't they cute all together?

568

00:26:36,640 --> 00:26:37,640

They're so cute.

569

00:26:37,640 --> 00:26:42,640

Well, and that's actually why we're here is we're actually kind of seeing if we can't find champ.

570

00:26:42,640 --> 00:26:43,640

An excellent quest.

571

00:26:43,640 --> 00:26:48,640

Do you have anything a little less adorable and more in the vein of like hard champ evidence here?

572

00:26:48,640 --> 00:26:49,640

We do actually.

573

00:26:49,640 --> 00:26:51,640

We host the famous man Z-Photo.

574

00:26:51,640 --> 00:26:52,640

Oh, that's cool.

575

00:26:52,640 --> 00:26:53,640

Like Z-Photo.

576

00:26:53,640 --> 00:26:54,640

Z-Photo.

577

00:26:54,640 --> 00:26:55,640

Can we see it?

578

00:26:55,640 --> 00:26:56,640

Yeah.

579

00:26:57,640 --> 00:27:02,640

The original man Z-Photo is so much more detailed than the low resolution replica we've seen before.

580

00:27:02,640 --> 00:27:05,640

You can see that the body is clearly defined.

581

00:27:05,640 --> 00:27:08,640

It doesn't look like an optical illusion caused by a shadow.

582

00:27:09,640 --> 00:27:11,640

Oh, wow. Check that out.

583

00:27:11,640 --> 00:27:14,640

What do you think is the most convincing evidence that exists?

584

00:27:14,640 --> 00:27:15,640

Do you think it's this?

585

00:27:15,640 --> 00:27:18,640

I think it really depends on what you consider, consider evidence.

586

00:27:18,640 --> 00:27:24,640

Until you have a live, live animal, it's really hard to confirm the existence of something.

587

00:27:24,640 --> 00:27:25,640

What do you see in it?

588

00:27:25,640 --> 00:27:34,640

All right, so I see two possibilities, either a hump in a neck or maybe an animal on its side with a flipper in the air.

589

00:27:34,640 --> 00:27:36,640

So you're convinced definitely animal.

590

00:27:36,640 --> 00:27:38,640

Yeah, I'm convinced animal.

591

00:27:38,640 --> 00:27:40,640

I mean, it looks a lot like an animal.

592

00:27:40,640 --> 00:27:46,640

I'm trying to tell if that's like a fish diving out and we're kind of catching a little arch of it.

593

00:27:46,640 --> 00:27:49,640

I mean, it looks a lot like a giant lake monster.

594

00:27:49,640 --> 00:27:51,640

Yeah, it does. It's convincing.

595

00:27:51,640 --> 00:27:52,640

So what do you think it is?

596

00:27:52,640 --> 00:27:59,640

It could be a wake of a boat or it could be different animals, large animals, collections of animals.

597

00:27:59,640 --> 00:28:01,640

How big do you think this thing is?

598

00:28:01,640 --> 00:28:07,640

From a photo, it's impossible to tell, but we know people usually report champ to be between 10 and 40 feet.

599

00:28:07,640 --> 00:28:12,640

We have animals here that are approaching that 10 foot size, but 40 feet is pretty big.

600

00:28:12,640 --> 00:28:19,640

Lake Champlain is swarming with 90 known species of fish, but there's no way any of them could grow to 40 feet.

601

00:28:19,640 --> 00:28:27,640

But there is one kind of freshwater fish here that, well, let's just say if it was swimming by and you didn't know what it was, your heart might jump out of your chest.

602

00:28:27,640 --> 00:28:29,640

Oh my gosh.

603

00:28:29,640 --> 00:28:30,640

Look at these things.

604

00:28:30,640 --> 00:28:31,640

Aren't they amazing?

605

00:28:31,640 --> 00:28:32,640

So these are the sturgeon.

606

00:28:32,640 --> 00:28:36,640

This is the largest fish we have in Lake Champlain. They can get up to eight feet.

607

00:28:36,640 --> 00:28:37,640

How long do they live for?

608

00:28:37,640 --> 00:28:40,640

They're really long live fish. They can live 80 hundred years.

609

00:28:40,640 --> 00:28:45,640

To me, you see an eight foot one of those guys jumping out of the water, giant lake monster.

610

00:28:45,640 --> 00:28:48,640

So possibility, but not a total yes.

611

00:28:48,640 --> 00:28:57,640

Not only are these sturgeon huge, they're hardly seen because they're bottom feeders, except in the rare instance when they breach the surface,

612

00:28:57,640 --> 00:29:02,640

which could resemble the head of a lake monster to a casual observer.

613

00:29:02,640 --> 00:29:08,640

It explains why chumpsiding seldom occur and why they cause such a stir when they do.

614

00:29:08,640 --> 00:29:13,640

But just when I'm thinking this case is closed, Nina drops this nugget on us.

615

00:29:13,640 --> 00:29:15,640

This is the Charlotte whale.

616

00:29:15,640 --> 00:29:17,640

Oh, look at those teeth.

617

00:29:17,640 --> 00:29:19,640

That lived in Lake Champlain.

618

00:29:19,640 --> 00:29:22,640

Yeah, it's unusual because Vermont has no coast.

619

00:29:22,640 --> 00:29:23,640

Yeah.

620

00:29:23,640 --> 00:29:24,640

Yeah. So how did the whale get here?

621

00:29:24,640 --> 00:29:32,640

Lake Champlain's been here about 10,000 years, but right before that there was something called the Champlain Sea that was connected to the Atlantic Ocean.

622

00:29:32,640 --> 00:29:37,640

So at that time, we had whales able to move into the area.

623

00:29:37,640 --> 00:29:38,640

Wow.

624

00:29:38,640 --> 00:29:43,640

So that's an example of a pretty large animal, even whales larger than this that would have been in this area.

625

00:29:43,640 --> 00:29:54,640

Hearing that Lake Champlain was an inland salt sea strengthens my belief that there could still be a large aquatic creature living in these waters.

626

00:29:54,640 --> 00:30:00,640

We do have these examples of animals that have been able to move between salt water and freshwater,

627

00:30:00,640 --> 00:30:04,640

and there have been plesiosores that have been found in brackish waters,

628

00:30:04,640 --> 00:30:07,640

and brackish waters we start to see this mixing of salt water and freshwater.

629

00:30:07,640 --> 00:30:10,640

Interesting. So you're saying there's a chance.

630

00:30:10,640 --> 00:30:12,640

Evolution does some weird stuff.

631

00:30:12,640 --> 00:30:16,640

I mean, there's always a possibility, but the sturgeon is a 65-million-year-old species.

632

00:30:16,640 --> 00:30:19,640

There you go. It sounds like this is feasible.

633

00:30:19,640 --> 00:30:21,640

Something to be further investigated.

634

00:30:21,640 --> 00:30:22,640

Yeah.

635

00:30:22,640 --> 00:30:30,640

If Cham did exist the way that people are reporting their sightings, is there anywhere in Lake Champlain that would be a good habitat for it?

636

00:30:30,640 --> 00:30:33,640

Well, a lot of Champlain sightings happen in the deepest parts of the lake.

637

00:30:34,640 --> 00:30:42,640

I'm shocked to hear that Nina doesn't rule out that a giant unknown creature might actually be living in the darkest depths of the lake.

638

00:30:42,640 --> 00:30:46,640

While I'm keeping an open mind, I'm not sure where Jess and I go from here.

639

00:30:46,640 --> 00:30:49,640

So we're checking in with Josh for some guidance.

640

00:30:49,640 --> 00:30:51,640

Hey, Phil and Jess, how are you?

641

00:30:51,640 --> 00:30:52,640

Hey, good.

642

00:30:52,640 --> 00:30:54,640

So, you find a lake monster yet?

643

00:30:54,640 --> 00:30:56,640

Not quite yet.

644

00:30:56,640 --> 00:31:00,640

Listen, we've talked to some really compelling witnesses, but we've also talked to some experts here,

645

00:31:00,640 --> 00:31:06,640

and I'm really thinking that what people may be seeing out here could just be a sturgeon.

646

00:31:06,640 --> 00:31:13,640

They don't come to the surface very often, but when they do, you could imagine someone mistaking that for a giant lake monster.

647

00:31:13,640 --> 00:31:15,640

Lake Champlain is huge.

648

00:31:15,640 --> 00:31:18,640

I mean, they have found whale skeletons there.

649

00:31:18,640 --> 00:31:20,640

This thing used to be connected to the ocean.

650

00:31:20,640 --> 00:31:27,640

In my opinion, there is a really good chance that something like a pleasiosaur or some sort of other ancient creature got stuck in there

651

00:31:27,640 --> 00:31:32,640

and then now has evolved over time to be the thing that people are reporting as champ.

652

00:31:32,640 --> 00:31:36,640

So that's kind of similar to what you hear about Loch Ness, right?

653

00:31:36,640 --> 00:31:46,640

This other body of water connected to the ocean, and there's always been this idea among believers Nessie is somehow using underwater caves or tunnels as a kind of sanctuary.

654

00:31:46,640 --> 00:31:49,640

I wonder if that might be an interesting approach here.

655

00:31:49,640 --> 00:31:54,640

I mean, I think you should really dig into, no pun intended, the geology of the lake itself.

656

00:31:54,640 --> 00:32:02,640

Are there any geological features below the surface that could provide a kind of long term underwater habitat for this creature?

657

00:32:02,640 --> 00:32:03,640

Yeah, I think that makes sense.

658

00:32:03,640 --> 00:32:06,640

It wouldn't surprise me at all to find out that there's some caves down there.

659

00:32:06,640 --> 00:32:09,640

To that end, I'm going to be sending you an underwater ROV.

660

00:32:09,640 --> 00:32:12,640

We really want to get a look at the underside of this lake.

661

00:32:12,640 --> 00:32:14,640

We're going to need eyes to do it.

662

00:32:14,640 --> 00:32:17,640

So you'll have that at your disposal to help with the investigation.

663

00:32:17,640 --> 00:32:18,640

Perfect. I called dibs.

664

00:32:20,640 --> 00:32:22,640

I think we got to go diving and by we, I mean you.

665

00:32:23,640 --> 00:32:25,640

Don't get eaten by a lake monster.

666

00:32:25,640 --> 00:32:26,640

Yeah, good advice.

667

00:32:26,640 --> 00:32:27,640

Good luck.

668

00:32:27,640 --> 00:32:28,640

Thanks.

669

00:32:29,640 --> 00:32:41,640

According to a 2012 study, it's believed that large fish prefer to hang out in coral or rocky overhangs, possibly to protect themselves from ultraviolet sunlight or to lie and wait for prey.

670

00:32:41,640 --> 00:32:50,640

Assuming champ is no different, Jess and I poured over maritime maps of the lake, lining them up with hundreds of champ sightings and check this out.

671

00:32:50,640 --> 00:33:00,640

Here in the heart of the majority of sightings is a geological landmark called Ferris Rock, an infamous maritime hazard that is claimed more than its fair share of shipwrecks.

672

00:33:00,640 --> 00:33:06,640

It's a massive underwater mountain that easily could shelter the lake's largest animals.

673

00:33:06,640 --> 00:33:11,640

If champ is real, then Ferris Rock is just the kind of place we're going to find them.

674

00:33:13,640 --> 00:33:16,640

Okay, so we're anchored in at Ferris Rock.

675

00:33:16,640 --> 00:33:17,640

So are you ready to go?

676

00:33:17,640 --> 00:33:28,640

If there is some sort of lake monster around here, and that's a big if, my thought is it's probably something that's either at depths or in some of the natural places to hide out at in this lake.

677

00:33:28,640 --> 00:33:37,640

I'm going to be looking out for different crevices, different cracks that could lead to a bigger chamber down there, and you with this underwater ROV can basically be back up.

678

00:33:37,640 --> 00:33:41,640

Why don't you take the south side of the rock formation?

679

00:33:41,640 --> 00:33:48,640

I'll take the north side. That way if you scare anything out, I have a chance of capturing it on the ROV camera.

680

00:33:48,640 --> 00:33:51,640

All right. Well, I feel like this is a shot to find champ.

681

00:33:51,640 --> 00:33:53,640

Yeah, you excited?

682

00:33:53,640 --> 00:34:01,640

You know, you'll be up here safe on the boat. I'll be down there looking for a giant lake monster.

683

00:34:02,640 --> 00:34:13,640

As Phil gears up, I prep our remote operated underwater vehicle, a submersible robot with a high definition camera that can descend to a depth of 650 feet.

684

00:34:13,640 --> 00:34:20,640

If a large unidentified creature is hiding in these depths, we have the technology to document it.

685

00:34:20,640 --> 00:34:21,640

All right, you good?

686

00:34:21,640 --> 00:34:22,640

I think I'm all set.

687

00:34:22,640 --> 00:34:26,640

Okay, well, good luck. Be careful.

688

00:34:26,640 --> 00:34:27,640

You got it.

689

00:34:31,640 --> 00:34:34,640

You have it.

690

00:34:40,640 --> 00:34:51,640

We're ending the imaginary swampclipse.

691

00:34:51,640 --> 00:34:57,640

We have an establishing super Onunium m veramente.

692

00:34:57,640 --> 00:35:17,940

I

693

00:35:17,940 --> 00:35:23,100

witnesses have spotted champ over the centuries, but it is rare, which means it definitely

694

00:35:23,100 --> 00:35:28,520

has found a good hiding spot deep in the lake, and Ferris Rock is our best bet.

695

00:35:28,520 --> 00:35:33,700

Phil will explore the south side of the formation, looking for any crevices that may lead to

696

00:35:33,700 --> 00:35:39,100

a larger chamber, while I navigate the ROV on the north side.

697

00:35:39,100 --> 00:35:44,980

While Phil's gear and physiology can only safely handle a depth of about 150 feet, this

698

00:35:44,980 --> 00:35:51,980

remote operated vehicle can explore much deeper into the abyss.

699

00:36:14,980 --> 00:36:28,700

It's really tricky to maneuver this.

700

00:36:28,700 --> 00:36:31,500

All the spaces are pretty narrow.

701

00:36:31,500 --> 00:36:35,500

Where's the ROV at?

702

00:36:35,500 --> 00:36:42,500

ROV's at 60 feet, looking for schools of fish and any crevices large enough to fit the ROV.

703

00:36:42,500 --> 00:36:43,500

Go deeper.

704

00:36:43,500 --> 00:36:44,500

Copy that.

705

00:36:44,520 --> 00:36:45,520

Descending to 150 feet.

706

00:36:45,520 --> 00:36:48,020

We've gotten some huge fish, probably between 2 and 4 feet.

707

00:36:48,020 --> 00:36:50,380

There is something big down here.

708

00:36:50,380 --> 00:36:51,380

It's got plenty of food.

709

00:36:51,380 --> 00:36:52,380

I've seen any sturgeon yet, though.

710

00:36:52,380 --> 00:36:53,380

Woah.

711

00:36:53,380 --> 00:36:54,380

There's a huge drop off here.

712

00:36:54,380 --> 00:36:55,380

This drop off looks bottomless.

713

00:36:55,380 --> 00:36:56,380

I'll keep scaling down this rock face.

714

00:36:56,380 --> 00:36:57,380

It's a huge fish.

715

00:36:57,380 --> 00:37:04,380

I've seen any sturgeon yet, though.

716

00:37:04,380 --> 00:37:13,380

There's a huge drop off here.

717

00:37:13,380 --> 00:37:20,380

I'm scaling down this rock face until I hit my depth limit.

718

00:37:20,380 --> 00:37:27,380

Descending 200 feet.

719

00:37:27,380 --> 00:37:31,380

The deep red gull?

720

00:37:31,380 --> 00:37:33,380

The darker it is.

721

00:37:33,380 --> 00:37:36,380

Can you still hear me?

722

00:37:36,380 --> 00:37:39,380

I can hear you.

723

00:37:39,380 --> 00:37:46,380

Descending to 150 feet.

724

00:37:46,380 --> 00:37:52,380

Looks like some of these cracks need to be in a bigger chamber under this rock.

725

00:37:52,380 --> 00:37:53,380

Big enough to hold a champ?

726

00:37:53,380 --> 00:37:54,380

It's really hard to tell.

727

00:37:54,380 --> 00:37:59,380

I can't squeeze through the opening with my take on.

728

00:37:59,380 --> 00:38:02,380

I've just seen if there's another way in.

729

00:38:02,380 --> 00:38:06,380

I've got to find an entrance that's large enough to safely enter.

730

00:38:06,380 --> 00:38:11,380

If my equipment gets snagged on these rocks, this potential underwater haven could become

731

00:38:11,380 --> 00:38:13,380

extremely treacherous.

732

00:38:13,380 --> 00:38:15,380

It is working down here.

733

00:38:15,380 --> 00:38:17,380

Visibility is between 5 and 10 feet at some points.

734

00:38:17,380 --> 00:38:22,380

If you touch this sill, it just completely clouds the water around.

735

00:38:22,380 --> 00:38:27,380

I mean, visibility is so bad.

736

00:38:27,380 --> 00:38:35,380

Phil would have to be on top of anything that was living down there before he even noticed it.

737

00:38:35,380 --> 00:38:47,380

If Phil spots something, I hope he's at a safe distance.

738

00:38:47,380 --> 00:38:51,380

Oh my god, that's huge.

739

00:38:51,380 --> 00:38:55,380

We got something down here.

740

00:38:55,380 --> 00:38:57,380

What was that?

741

00:38:57,380 --> 00:38:59,380

Did you see that?

742

00:38:59,380 --> 00:39:01,380

What did you see? What did you see?

743

00:39:01,380 --> 00:39:04,380

It was something big. It was moving. I think it went to deeper water.

744

00:39:04,380 --> 00:39:07,380

That was a huge s***.

745

00:39:07,380 --> 00:39:10,380

Oh my god, where did it go?

746

00:39:10,380 --> 00:39:13,380

Bring the ROV over. Now. Hurry.

747

00:39:13,380 --> 00:39:15,380

Whatever that was, its descent was fast.

748

00:39:15,380 --> 00:39:26,380

If we have any chance of capturing it on video, we'll have to use the ROV since it can move much more quickly.

749

00:39:26,380 --> 00:39:36,380

My descent always needs to be slow and deliberate to avoid organ damage from increased water pressure.

750

00:39:36,380 --> 00:39:40,380

Whatever I just saw is speeding down to the deepest part of the lake.

751

00:39:40,380 --> 00:39:45,380

Still can't see the ROV.

752

00:39:45,380 --> 00:39:49,380

Yeah, I see you with the ROV. So just grab it and point it where you want it to go.

753

00:39:49,380 --> 00:39:52,380

Alright, a little closer. A little closer.

754

00:39:52,380 --> 00:39:53,380

Alright, got it.

755

00:39:53,380 --> 00:39:59,380

I'm turning you to face the edge of this ledge. It went straight and down into deeper waters.

756

00:39:59,380 --> 00:40:04,380

Alright, got it. Copy.

757

00:40:04,380 --> 00:40:08,380

I'm beyond a little rosy. I'm way beyond my depth limit.

758

00:40:08,380 --> 00:40:16,380

I'm pushing the limits of nitrogen narcosis at this depth, which can bring intoxicating effects and lead to a loss in consciousness.

759

00:40:16,380 --> 00:40:21,380

This happens when you breathe compressed gas at depths over 100 feet.

760

00:40:21,380 --> 00:40:30,380

That's why recreational divers are advised not to descend beyond 140 feet.

761

00:40:30,380 --> 00:40:39,380

I've got to ascend before I start feeling even more disoriented.

762

00:40:39,380 --> 00:40:41,380

Bill, are you okay?

763

00:40:41,380 --> 00:40:46,380

It just went too deep, too fast after whatever that thing was.

764

00:40:46,380 --> 00:40:54,380

The ROV is going to have to take it from here.

765

00:40:54,380 --> 00:40:59,380

As Phil takes off his scuba gear, I man the ROV for any sign of the animal.

766

00:40:59,380 --> 00:41:05,380

The depth gauge indicates we're already at 250 feet.

767

00:41:05,380 --> 00:41:08,380

Alright, what did you see?

768

00:41:08,380 --> 00:41:15,380

I don't know what it was, but we've swummed basically along that ledge there underneath one of the overhangs.

769

00:41:15,380 --> 00:41:21,380

It's a huge cloud of soil. It just kicked up. Just something took off that was big.

770

00:41:21,380 --> 00:41:25,380

I kind of got a glimpse of it, but visibility, once something hits 10 feet, 15 feet,

771

00:41:25,380 --> 00:41:28,380

you just kind of make out a little bit of something.

772

00:41:28,380 --> 00:41:30,380

Bill, anything?

773

00:41:30,380 --> 00:41:33,380

Let's take this down 100 more feet.

774

00:41:33,380 --> 00:41:35,380

I've got different looks down there.

775

00:41:35,380 --> 00:41:38,380

It's so hard to see.

776

00:41:38,380 --> 00:41:44,380

I just keep seeing stuff on the left and right, but I don't think that's...

777

00:41:44,380 --> 00:41:46,380

What's this?

778

00:41:46,380 --> 00:41:47,380

Do you see that?

779

00:41:47,380 --> 00:41:49,380

It looks thick.

780

00:41:49,380 --> 00:41:52,380

What is that?

781

00:41:56,380 --> 00:42:02,380

Thirty years before the iconic Manzi photo was taken, another famous photograph was snapped across

the pond.

782

00:42:02,380 --> 00:42:06,380

And unless you've been living under a lake, you've seen it.

783

00:42:06,380 --> 00:42:12,380

It came to be known as the Surgeon's photo, and it purportedly depicted champ Scottish doppelganger, the Loch Ness monster.

784

00:42:12,380 --> 00:42:13,940

the Loch Ness Monster.

785

00:42:13,940 --> 00:42:15,420

For decades, the photo was considered

786

00:42:15,420 --> 00:42:19,280

the high watermark of evidence of a bona fide lake monster.

787

00:42:19,280 --> 00:42:24,020

But in 1984, a tangled thread of lies started unraveling.

788

00:42:24,020 --> 00:42:26,660

A photo analysis was performed that determined

789

00:42:26,660 --> 00:42:29,860

the object was only two or three feet long.

790

00:42:29,860 --> 00:42:33,100

Then, in 1994, the nail in the coffin,

791

00:42:33,100 --> 00:42:35,860

a man named Christopher Spurling outed everyone

792

00:42:35,860 --> 00:42:38,240

involved on his deathbed, confessing

793

00:42:38,240 --> 00:42:40,940

that the creature in the photo was just a modeled sea

794

00:42:40,960 --> 00:42:44,500

serpent head attached to a small toy submarine.

795

00:42:44,500 --> 00:42:45,480

Whoops.

796

00:42:45,480 --> 00:42:48,240

By comparison, to this day, the manzee photo,

797

00:42:48,240 --> 00:42:52,540

depicting Champ, has held up to scientific scrutiny.

798

00:42:52,540 --> 00:42:53,280

Sorry, Nessie.

799

00:42:59,960 --> 00:43:00,860

What's this?

800

00:43:00,860 --> 00:43:01,900

Did you see that?

801

00:43:01,900 --> 00:43:03,160

What is that?

802

00:43:03,160 --> 00:43:04,360

That looks big.

803

00:43:04,360 --> 00:43:07,020

Phil and Jess are chasing a large creature that

804

00:43:07,020 --> 00:43:10,840

could be the elusive Champ using an ROV, piloted

805

00:43:10,860 --> 00:43:13,800

into the murky depths of Lake Champlain.

806

00:43:13,800 --> 00:43:15,000

We got something coming up.

807

00:43:15,000 --> 00:43:16,600

Absolutely.

808

00:43:16,600 --> 00:43:17,800

Whoa.

809

00:43:17,800 --> 00:43:19,640

Look at that.

810

00:43:19,640 --> 00:43:20,440

What is that?

811

00:43:20,440 --> 00:43:21,240

Get closer.

812

00:43:21,240 --> 00:43:22,780

Get closer.

813

00:43:22,780 --> 00:43:24,740

That's a shipwreck.

814

00:43:24,740 --> 00:43:25,740

Wow, that's a shipwreck.

815

00:43:25,740 --> 00:43:26,740

We found a shipwreck.

816

00:43:29,420 --> 00:43:30,560

That is huge.

817

00:43:30,560 --> 00:43:33,560

Check that out.

818

00:43:33,560 --> 00:43:35,800

This lake has got all sorts of things down below.

819

00:43:35,800 --> 00:43:36,800

Wow.

820

00:43:36,860 --> 00:43:41,800

OK, whatever I saw led us straight to the shipwreck.

821

00:43:41,800 --> 00:43:42,200

Yeah.

822

00:43:42,200 --> 00:43:43,760

I mean, maybe it's using it as shelter.

823

00:43:43,760 --> 00:43:44,160

Yeah.

824

00:43:44,160 --> 00:43:47,100

Let me see how close I can get.

825

00:43:47,100 --> 00:43:50,200

For more than 250 years, Lake Champlain

826

00:43:50,200 --> 00:43:51,740

has been a hub of commerce.

827

00:43:51,740 --> 00:43:53,600

And on this heavily trafficked lake,

828

00:43:53,600 --> 00:43:55,680

accidents were inevitable.

829

00:43:55,680 --> 00:43:58,880

To date, there's approximately 300 shipwrecks

830

00:43:58,880 --> 00:44:01,920

that provide shelter for creatures of the deep.

831

00:44:01,920 --> 00:44:05,420

I don't know how old this thing is, but it looks super old.

832

00:44:05,420 --> 00:44:06,220

Super old.

833

00:44:06,280 --> 00:44:07,640

Look how much it's caved.

834

00:44:07,640 --> 00:44:08,380

Mm-hmm.

835

00:44:08,380 --> 00:44:11,480

I know a lot of fish use shipwrecks as refuge.

836

00:44:11,480 --> 00:44:14,520

So easily whatever I saw could be in there right now.

837

00:44:14,520 --> 00:44:16,580

I mean, this would make a good hiding place or home

838

00:44:16,580 --> 00:44:18,220

or a champ.

839

00:44:18,220 --> 00:44:21,560

In 2020, scientists completed two research projects

840

00:44:21,560 --> 00:44:23,760

that revealed large aquatic predators

841

00:44:23,760 --> 00:44:26,460

may actually prefer artificial habitats,

842

00:44:26,460 --> 00:44:29,940

like sunken ships, over a natural environment.

843

00:44:29,940 --> 00:44:32,260

If the large unidentified creature people call

844

00:44:32,260 --> 00:44:35,180

champ is also a predator, it's very possible

845

00:44:35,180 --> 00:44:38,640

it would frequent this wreck as well.

846

00:44:38,640 --> 00:44:40,400

Maybe just settle it right here.

847

00:44:40,400 --> 00:44:41,840

I should see if anything happens.

848

00:44:41,840 --> 00:44:42,800

Yeah, leave it right here.

849

00:44:52,800 --> 00:44:53,800

Whoa, whoa, whoa.

850

00:44:53,800 --> 00:44:55,440

What do we got?

851

00:44:55,440 --> 00:44:57,320

It's like a hurricane down there.

852

00:44:57,320 --> 00:45:00,360

It's throwing an ROV around like a rag doll.

853

00:45:00,360 --> 00:45:03,520

Something just turned the lake floor into a washing machine

854

00:45:03,540 --> 00:45:06,940

and kicked up a 30-foot cloud of muck.

855

00:45:06,940 --> 00:45:08,540

There has to be something here.

856

00:45:09,980 --> 00:45:11,580

Where is this thing?

857

00:45:11,580 --> 00:45:13,860

Whatever it was, it has to be close.

858

00:45:15,340 --> 00:45:17,780

We pivot the ROV in every direction

859

00:45:17,780 --> 00:45:20,140

and continue to patrol the lake floor.

860

00:45:29,580 --> 00:45:30,420

I think it's gone.

861

00:45:30,420 --> 00:45:31,260

I think we lost it.

862

00:45:32,260 --> 00:45:35,240

And I'm not seeing anything.

863

00:45:37,640 --> 00:45:39,400

We continue to scan the lake bed

864

00:45:39,400 --> 00:45:43,160

using up every bit of charge on our ROV unit.

865

00:45:43,160 --> 00:45:46,560

Whatever we encountered earlier seems to have evaded us.

866

00:45:46,560 --> 00:45:48,840

With no way to further explore the depths,

867

00:45:48,840 --> 00:45:51,200

we have no choice but to call it a day.

868

00:46:01,840 --> 00:46:05,360

Water covers 71% of our planet's surface,

869

00:46:05,360 --> 00:46:09,160

but its mysterious depths remain a world of their own.

870

00:46:09,160 --> 00:46:11,680

Many scientists call this underwater realm

871

00:46:11,680 --> 00:46:14,320

the final frontier of our planet,

872

00:46:14,320 --> 00:46:16,840

but has Champ, a colossal creature,

873

00:46:16,840 --> 00:46:20,760

managed to elude our detection for thousands of years.

874

00:46:20,760 --> 00:46:22,760

After retrieving and reviewing the footage

875

00:46:22,760 --> 00:46:25,560

from the infrared cameras left rolling in the marsh,

876

00:46:25,560 --> 00:46:27,440

my team found no further evidence

877

00:46:27,440 --> 00:46:30,160

that a large creature made landfall.

878

00:46:30,180 --> 00:46:32,620

Though Phil did share the photos of the drag marks

879

00:46:32,620 --> 00:46:35,100

with his peers and no one could identify

880

00:46:35,100 --> 00:46:36,580

what could have made them.

881

00:46:36,580 --> 00:46:40,020

And after enhancing the footage caught on the ROV camera.

882

00:46:40,020 --> 00:46:41,820

Whoa, whoa, whoa, what do we got?

883

00:46:41,820 --> 00:46:44,700

The animal that kicked up a massive cloud of sediment

884

00:46:44,700 --> 00:46:46,740

could not be identified.

885

00:46:46,740 --> 00:46:50,380

We came out here looking for a champ experience

886

00:46:50,380 --> 00:46:51,460

and we got one.

887

00:46:51,460 --> 00:46:53,620

I just wish we would have gotten a better look at it.

888

00:46:53,620 --> 00:46:56,340

The champ experience is seeing something giant

889

00:46:56,340 --> 00:46:58,020

and unknown swimming in the water

890

00:46:58,020 --> 00:46:59,520

than absolutely.

891

00:46:59,520 --> 00:47:03,400

If I had to make a bet, I would say maybe

892

00:47:03,400 --> 00:47:06,280

it's a giant record breaking sturgeon

893

00:47:06,280 --> 00:47:09,160

that are taking people by surprise, myself included.

894

00:47:09,160 --> 00:47:11,400

A frightening looking fish in its own right,

895

00:47:11,400 --> 00:47:13,680

sturgeon sightings are nearly as elusive

896

00:47:13,680 --> 00:47:16,000

as the lake monster it's undoubtedly

897

00:47:16,000 --> 00:47:17,760

sometimes mistaken for.

898

00:47:18,800 --> 00:47:21,800

But for centuries, highly credible reports of champ

899

00:47:21,800 --> 00:47:23,120

have persisted.

900

00:47:23,120 --> 00:47:24,720

There's even that famous photo

901

00:47:24,720 --> 00:47:27,280

that scholars are unable to explain,

902

00:47:27,340 --> 00:47:30,500

alluring many to a more fantastic explanation.

903

00:47:30,500 --> 00:47:33,060

I think that it's an ancient creature of some sort

904

00:47:33,060 --> 00:47:37,500

that in my opinion has managed to adapt to the area,

905

00:47:37,500 --> 00:47:40,620

got stuck in there back when it was part of the sea

906

00:47:40,620 --> 00:47:42,860

that they haven't been able to identify

907

00:47:42,860 --> 00:47:45,300

that people refer to as champ.

908

00:47:45,300 --> 00:47:46,140

I don't know.

909

00:47:47,260 --> 00:47:49,220

With so much of the underwater world

910

00:47:49,220 --> 00:47:51,260

hidden from our curious watch,

911

00:47:51,260 --> 00:47:53,220

don't be surprised if one day

912

00:47:53,220 --> 00:47:56,660

the mystery of champ finally breaks the surface.

913

00:47:58,060 --> 00:48:01,420

For more information on Expedition X,

914

00:48:01,420 --> 00:48:04,860

head to discovery.com slash expedition X.