

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,500

On this episode, Expedition X journeys to a remote lake

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00:00:04,500 --> 00:00:07,500

in the last frontier, Alaska.

3

00:00:07,500 --> 00:00:10,000

Whoo-hoo-hoo!

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

Jess and Phil investigate new reports of an aquatic beast

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

believed to inhabit these waters.

6

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

How big do you suspect this creature is?

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

Up to over 50 feet.

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

She looks at me and looks back at the lake

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

and says, what the F is that?

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

Nobody has ever laid eyes on this.

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

Ever.

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

Now, my team is launching an arsenal of modern technology.

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

All right, going in.

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

To get to the bottom...

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00:00:37,000 --> 00:00:39,000

Tons of salmon right there.

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

...of what lurks in the frigid depths.

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

Hang on!

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

It's getting really murky down there.

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

What's this? What's this?

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00:00:50,000 --> 00:00:52,000

Oh, my God!

21

00:00:52,000 --> 00:00:54,000

That's big. That's dark. What is that?

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

What is that?

23

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

Alaskan Lake Monster.

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

My name is Josh Gates.

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00:01:02,000 --> 00:01:05,000

In my travels, I've experienced strange things

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00:01:05,000 --> 00:01:08,000

that defy logic and made me question everything.

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00:01:08,000 --> 00:01:10,000

Oh, my God.

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00:01:10,000 --> 00:01:13,000

Now, I've put together a team to investigate

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00:01:13,000 --> 00:01:15,000

the stranger side of the unknown.

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00:01:15,000 --> 00:01:17,000

Let's go!

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00:01:17,000 --> 00:01:21,000

Phil Torres is a scientist who hunts for rational explanations.

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00:01:21,000 --> 00:01:25,000

This is the corner for actually Phil's stationery.

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00:01:25,000 --> 00:01:29,000

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

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00:01:29,000 --> 00:01:31,000

If you're here with us, knock again.

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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 --> 00:01:36,000

What is happening here, Jess?

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00:01:36,000 --> 00:01:39,000

...to the world's most extraordinary mysteries.

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00:01:39,000 --> 00:01:42,000

This is Expedition X.

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00:01:47,000 --> 00:01:50,000

All right, Phil, Jess, for your next investigation,

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00:01:50,000 --> 00:01:54,000

I am sending you to a place that is as remote as it gets.

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00:01:54,000 --> 00:01:56,000

Uh-oh. I like the sound of this.

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00:01:56,000 --> 00:01:58,000

In fact, it is so remote and so wild

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

that you are probably gonna need this.

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

And you know what? Maybe even this.

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

Bear spray, huh?

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

That is a lot of bear spray.

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00:02:08,000 --> 00:02:11,000

Sure is. That's because there are a lot of bears there.

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00:02:11,000 --> 00:02:14,000

In fact, it's home to the largest brown bear population on Earth

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00:02:14,000 --> 00:02:18,000

and not coincidentally, the largest red salmon population on Earth.

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00:02:18,000 --> 00:02:20,000

Ooh, I think I got this one, Jess.

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00:02:20,000 --> 00:02:21,000

We're going to Alaska.

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00:02:21,000 --> 00:02:22,000

That's right.

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00:02:22,000 --> 00:02:24,000

We're going to Alaska.

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00:02:24,000 --> 00:02:26,000

That is actually pretty cool.

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00:02:26,000 --> 00:02:29,000

I'm actually surprised that it took you this long to send us there

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00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:32,000

because it is like a magnet for the unexplained.

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00:02:32,000 --> 00:02:34,000

It's true. There's a lot of weird stories in Alaska,

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00:02:34,000 --> 00:02:36,000

but in this particular case,

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00:02:36,000 --> 00:02:39,000

we're talking about something that many native Alaskans,

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00:02:39,000 --> 00:02:44,000

and in fact some scientists even, insist is absolutely real.

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00:02:44,000 --> 00:02:48,000

A large, unidentified creature that supposedly lives

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00:02:48,000 --> 00:02:51,000

in a thousand-foot deep lake.

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00:02:55,000 --> 00:02:59,000

Iliamna is the largest lake in the last frontier.

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

Sitting in southern Alaska and connected to the Bering Sea,

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

it has been a life source to the indigenous people

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00:03:05,000 --> 00:03:08,000

living along its shores for nearly 10,000 years,

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00:03:08,000 --> 00:03:11,000

providing food and allowing them to build an economy

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00:03:11,000 --> 00:03:14,000

around the abundant salmon.

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00:03:15,000 --> 00:03:18,000

But for generations, the Alaska natives have claimed

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00:03:18,000 --> 00:03:21,000

there's more than just fish swimming in Iliamna.

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00:03:21,000 --> 00:03:26,000

Local Tlingit legends describe a 30-foot aquatic beast

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00:03:26,000 --> 00:03:30,000

with a wolf-like head and razor-sharp teeth.

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00:03:30,000 --> 00:03:33,000

They call it the Gnaka date.

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00:03:33,000 --> 00:03:36,000

To the elite people, it is known as the jiggi knock,

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00:03:36,000 --> 00:03:39,000

an aggressive predator that stalks these frigid waters,

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00:03:39,000 --> 00:03:44,000

hunting its prey, be it animal or human.

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00:03:44,000 --> 00:03:47,000

Local Lore says the creature attacks fishermen,

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00:03:47,000 --> 00:03:50,000

specifically targeting boats painted red.

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00:03:54,000 --> 00:03:58,000

In the 1940s, with increased airplane traffic over Alaska,

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00:03:58,000 --> 00:04:01,000

comes a dramatic surge in sightings by bush pilots

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00:04:01,000 --> 00:04:05,000

of a dark-colored, oversized beast in the lake.

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00:04:06,000 --> 00:04:10,000

In 1963, a biologist from Alaska Fish and Game

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00:04:10,000 --> 00:04:14,000

spots what he describes as a 30-foot-long creature

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00:04:14,000 --> 00:04:16,000

cruising below the surface.

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00:04:16,000 --> 00:04:20,000

In that same decade, NASA astronauts report similar sightings

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00:04:20,000 --> 00:04:24,000

while conducting training flights around the lake.

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00:04:24,000 --> 00:04:28,000

By 1980, reports of a mystery creature up to 50 feet long

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00:04:28,000 --> 00:04:31,000

become so prevalent that an Anchorage newspaper

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00:04:31,000 --> 00:04:35,000

offers a \$100,000 reward for solid proof

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00:04:35,000 --> 00:04:38,000

of the Iliamna Lake monster.

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00:04:40,000 --> 00:04:44,000

The reward never pays out, but the reports persist.

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00:04:46,000 --> 00:04:49,000

Now, a spate of recent sightings has attracted the attention

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00:04:49,000 --> 00:04:51,000

of the state's Fisheries Commission.

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00:04:51,000 --> 00:04:54,000

The office keeps an open file to document the reports,

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00:04:54,000 --> 00:04:58,000

and two biologists are so convinced there's a unique species here.

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00:04:58,000 --> 00:05:01,000

They've started their own investigation and believe

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00:05:01,000 --> 00:05:04,000

they're close to solving the mystery.

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00:05:08,000 --> 00:05:11,000

So does that reward still stand, because I'll split it with you?

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00:05:11,000 --> 00:05:13,000

60-20-20, right?

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00:05:13,000 --> 00:05:15,000

I said you, Josh.

101

00:05:15,000 --> 00:05:16,000

All right, cool. Sure. 60-40.

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00:05:16,000 --> 00:05:17,000

You watch yourself, Jess.

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00:05:17,000 --> 00:05:18,000

What?

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00:05:18,000 --> 00:05:19,000

So what do you guys think?

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00:05:19,000 --> 00:05:22,000

Well, I think that legends like this always come from truth,

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00:05:22,000 --> 00:05:24,000

and this is a perfect example.

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00:05:24,000 --> 00:05:27,000

A lot of eyewitnesses have seen this over a long period of time.

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00:05:27,000 --> 00:05:31,000

So it's not a matter of if there's something living in this lake.

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00:05:31,000 --> 00:05:33,000

It's a matter of us going out there and finding it.

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00:05:33,000 --> 00:05:35,000

I agree with you there, Jess.

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00:05:35,000 --> 00:05:37,000

I think there's something in the lake,

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00:05:37,000 --> 00:05:40,000

but that doesn't mean that something is a lake monster.

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

It could be an overgrown fish.

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00:05:42,000 --> 00:05:44,000

It could be a school of fish that come up to the surface.

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00:05:44,000 --> 00:05:47,000

We don't know, but that's also why I think it's kind of awesome

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00:05:47,000 --> 00:05:50,000

that there's a team of scientists there dedicating energy

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00:05:50,000 --> 00:05:52,000

to try to solve this.

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00:05:52,000 --> 00:05:54,000

Well, I'm glad you feel that way,

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00:05:54,000 --> 00:05:56,000

because you're going to be joining forces with those scientists.

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00:05:56,000 --> 00:05:59,000

They are up at the lake right now doing research,

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00:05:59,000 --> 00:06:01,000

trying to figure out what this thing is,

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00:06:01,000 --> 00:06:05,000

and they have a limited window because Lake Iliamna freezes over in the winter.

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

Now, they've been using stationary underwater cameras.

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00:06:08,000 --> 00:06:12,000

What they don't have is an ROV, so we're going to help them with that.

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00:06:12,000 --> 00:06:15,000

Hopefully, the ability to maneuver around underwater

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00:06:15,000 --> 00:06:18,000

and get real-time video back might give us a breakthrough.

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00:06:18,000 --> 00:06:20,000

Awesome. I'm all over that ROV.

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00:06:20,000 --> 00:06:22,000

Video game geek gets the drive.

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00:06:22,000 --> 00:06:23,000

No complaints there.

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00:06:23,000 --> 00:06:24,000

So, the mission is simple.

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00:06:24,000 --> 00:06:28,000

Get to Iliamna Lake and figure out what people are seeing.

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00:06:28,000 --> 00:06:31,000

Could this be some sort of un-catalogged species

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00:06:31,000 --> 00:06:34,000

that natives have been witnessing for generations?

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00:06:34,000 --> 00:06:38,000

Or is this simply a case of misidentification of a known animal?

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00:06:38,000 --> 00:06:40,000

We're going to find a lake monster.

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00:06:40,000 --> 00:06:41,000

I feel it in my bones.

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

I like the confidence, Jess.

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00:06:42,000 --> 00:06:43,000

Thank you.

139

00:06:43,000 --> 00:06:45,000

I like the confidence. Also, don't get eaten by a bear.

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00:06:45,000 --> 00:06:46,000

That's your confidence.

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00:06:46,000 --> 00:06:47,000

Good luck.

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00:06:48,000 --> 00:06:52,000

Phil and Jess fly nearly 3,400 miles to Alaska's largest city,

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00:06:52,000 --> 00:06:54,000

Anchorage.

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00:06:58,000 --> 00:07:01,000

There, they connect with local pilot Tim LaPorte,

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

who's been transporting passengers and supplies to and from Iliamna

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00:07:05,000 --> 00:07:09,000

for 45 years in his fleet of PC-12s.

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

To travel more nimbly to this remote location

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00:07:12,000 --> 00:07:16,000

and to stay under our aircraft's strict 2,500-pound weight limit,

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00:07:16,000 --> 00:07:19,000

we've downsized the gear and the crew.

150

00:07:19,000 --> 00:07:21,000

Everybody had a light breakfast.

151

00:07:35,000 --> 00:07:36,000

What's up, guys?

152

00:07:36,000 --> 00:07:40,000

Being an Alaska bush pilot, you've got to be pretty good to fly up here.

153

00:07:40,000 --> 00:07:42,000

We're lucky.

154

00:07:42,000 --> 00:07:45,000

I'm hoping you're good for today.

155

00:07:46,000 --> 00:07:51,000

Alaska Roads will only take you so far over this rugged, undeveloped landscape.

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00:07:51,000 --> 00:07:54,000

So this small plane will carry our intrepid adventurers

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00:07:54,000 --> 00:07:59,000

the remaining 200 miles to Iliamna on their hunt for a monster.

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00:07:59,000 --> 00:08:04,000

What we're looking for at Iliamna Lake is the lake monster.

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00:08:04,000 --> 00:08:06,000

Have you heard stories about this thing?

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00:08:06,000 --> 00:08:10,000

Yeah, absolutely. It's been something that's been seen many, many, many times.

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

I actually saw it in 1977.

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00:08:12,000 --> 00:08:13,000

Really?

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00:08:13,000 --> 00:08:14,000

Seriously.

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00:08:14,000 --> 00:08:15,000

What did you see?

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00:08:15,000 --> 00:08:18,000

I had four guys flying out for fishing

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00:08:18,000 --> 00:08:24,000

and right straight underneath of us, a dark image was on the surface of the water there.

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00:08:24,000 --> 00:08:27,000

It made a great big arch.

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00:08:27,000 --> 00:08:31,000

And I still remember the waves radiating out from that.

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00:08:31,000 --> 00:08:33,000

Oh, my goodness.

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00:08:33,000 --> 00:08:39,000

There's way too many sightings over the years for there to be a myth, you know?

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00:08:39,000 --> 00:08:40,000

Yeah.

172

00:08:44,000 --> 00:08:46,000

We're about to fly over the lake.

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

Yes, you see the size of this thing?

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

This lake is huge.

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00:08:49,000 --> 00:08:52,000

I mean, I didn't think it could be living in this lake.

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00:08:52,000 --> 00:09:00,000

Situated on the Alaska Peninsula, Iliamna Lake is 77 miles long and 22 miles across at its widest point.

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00:09:00,000 --> 00:09:04,000

The 1,000 square mile lake connects to Bristol Bay and the Bering Sea.

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00:09:04,000 --> 00:09:07,000

The average depth is around 150 feet,

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00:09:07,000 --> 00:09:13,000

but in some spots it gets down to 1,000 feet, water deep enough to submerge the Eiffel Tower.

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

We got a lot of water to cover out here.

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00:09:16,000 --> 00:09:17,000

Yeah.

182

00:09:20,000 --> 00:09:27,000

Phil and Jess land at the Iliamna Airport and hop on the ground transportation I've lined up to get them across the village.

183

00:09:27,000 --> 00:09:38,000

Around here, cars are scarce and the roads are just a little bumpy.

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00:09:40,000 --> 00:09:45,000

Living in Alaska means sharing your backyard with moose, caribou and wolves,

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00:09:45,000 --> 00:09:50,000

not to mention the brown bears that greatly outnumber humans here.

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00:09:50,000 --> 00:09:52,000

It's pretty beautiful back here.

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

Yeah, it is.

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00:09:54,000 --> 00:09:57,000

At Iliamna, the power ratio is clear.

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00:09:57,000 --> 00:09:58,000

Nature rules.

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00:09:58,000 --> 00:10:00,000

People just try to survive.

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00:10:00,000 --> 00:10:03,000

And if we get hurt out here, we're on our own.

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

I've arranged for Phil and Jess to meet Bruce Wright and Mark Stagar at their base of operations.

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

They're a pair of real-life captain Ahab's held bent on finding their white whale,

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00:10:15,000 --> 00:10:17,000

or in this case, their dark lake monster.

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00:10:17,000 --> 00:10:24,000

Bruce was a biologist with Alaska Fish and Game and continues to study the state's ecological

habitats.

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00:10:24,000 --> 00:10:32,000

Mark has a degree in wildlife biology and is a retired colonel and former chief aviation officer for the Alaska Army National Guard.

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00:10:32,000 --> 00:10:34,000

Nice to meet a fellow biologist.

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00:10:34,000 --> 00:10:38,000

Interested to see what you guys can teach us about whatever's out there in the lake.

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00:10:38,000 --> 00:10:41,000

How big do you suspect this creature is?

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00:10:41,000 --> 00:10:43,000

Well, there's lots of different reports.

201

00:10:43,000 --> 00:10:46,000

I mean, up to over 50 feet.

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00:10:46,000 --> 00:10:50,000

That's crazy. What would something like that even eat?

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00:10:50,000 --> 00:10:55,000

We have five million sockeye salmon that come up to the lake on an average year.

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00:10:55,000 --> 00:10:59,000

And each of the females lays 2,000 to 5,000 eggs.

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00:10:59,000 --> 00:11:05,000

So now you're looking at maybe five, six billion salmon in the lake rearing.

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

And we know we have Northern Pike, Bourbet, Lake Trout, all these other predatory fish out there.

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00:11:11,000 --> 00:11:14,000

Meaning there's plenty of fish here to sustain a monster.

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00:11:14,000 --> 00:11:17,000

So you're saying there's a top predator in the water and we don't know what it is yet?

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00:11:17,000 --> 00:11:20,000

We first started off trying to catch this thing.

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00:11:20,000 --> 00:11:22,000

We thought, well, if we catch it, we would know.

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00:11:22,000 --> 00:11:25,000

And we would set down up to 15 hooks.

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00:11:25,000 --> 00:11:31,000

We were using a 38 pound anchor and we'd put it on the bottom baited with a full salmon head.

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00:11:33,000 --> 00:11:37,000

We had planned to only leave it out overnight, but due to the weather, couldn't get back to it.

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00:11:37,000 --> 00:11:41,000

When we did come back to it, as I was slowly coming in to retrieve the line,

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00:11:41,000 --> 00:11:45,000

I noticed that the line was not going out the same way that we had put it out.

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00:11:47,000 --> 00:11:49,000

And it actually had moved quite a bit.

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00:11:52,000 --> 00:11:55,000

And we started pulling the line up.

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00:11:56,000 --> 00:11:59,000

And the line was just totally tangled up.

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00:11:59,000 --> 00:12:01,000

Several of the hooks were gone.

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00:12:02,000 --> 00:12:06,000

And of the 14 fish heads, 10 of them were gone.

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00:12:07,000 --> 00:12:10,000

And the 38 pound anchor was drug 50 yards.

222

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

Oh, whoa. So this thing is strong.

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00:12:13,000 --> 00:12:18,000

Yeah. So at that point, I absolutely knew there was something in this lake.

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00:12:18,000 --> 00:12:20,000

So then what do you think it is?

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00:12:20,000 --> 00:12:21,000

I'm not sure what it is.

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00:12:21,000 --> 00:12:23,000

There's large top predators out there.

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00:12:23,000 --> 00:12:25,000

One is the seals.

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00:12:25,000 --> 00:12:28,000

We know there's freshwater seals that live in the lake year round.

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00:12:28,000 --> 00:12:30,000

I think that's something else.

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

I mean seals are marine mammals.

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00:12:32,000 --> 00:12:35,000

That to me says that there's something unique about this lake.

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00:12:35,000 --> 00:12:42,000

If the seal is a resident here and essentially shouldn't be based on the biology we know of seals around the world,

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00:12:42,000 --> 00:12:45,000

what else could be a resident here that shouldn't be here?

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

A lot of unknowns up here.

235

00:12:50,000 --> 00:12:56,000

Our plan is to head towards the eastern side of the lake where Mark says something sizable destroyed his bait system.

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00:12:56,000 --> 00:13:03,000

Locals say the monster is aggressive and territorial, so maybe whatever attacked their rig could still be in the area.

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00:13:06,000 --> 00:13:12,000

Summer in southern Alaska brings about 19 hours of daylight,

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00:13:12,000 --> 00:13:16,000

and even when the sun sets, it'll remain low in the sky.

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00:13:16,000 --> 00:13:20,000

That should give us a lot of extra light for this investigation.

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00:13:21,000 --> 00:13:24,000

We did a recon a few days ago.

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00:13:24,000 --> 00:13:29,000

We saw some targets on our acoustic gear that were really intriguing.

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00:13:29,000 --> 00:13:34,000

We're trying to decipher if they were salmon or if they were something bigger.

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00:13:35,000 --> 00:13:40,000

Sure, a tightly grouped school of fish could look like one large mass on a sonar,

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00:13:40,000 --> 00:13:45,000

but with some reports claiming the mystery creature is upwards of 50 feet long,

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00:13:45,000 --> 00:13:48,000

the first place my biologist brain goes is whale.

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00:13:49,000 --> 00:13:53,000

Whales can reach that length, but this is a freshwater lake.

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00:13:53,000 --> 00:13:58,000

Even if a whale could survive in freshwater, could it get here from the Bering Sea?

248

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

People have claimed to see beluga whales in Iliamna.

249

00:14:01,000 --> 00:14:07,000

Now, they don't grow much past 15 feet, but if a beluga could somehow find its way here and survive,

250

00:14:07,000 --> 00:14:10,000

maybe a larger whale can too.

251

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

So this is close to where Tim or Pilots saw it as well.

252

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

Yeah, I'm close.

253

00:14:18,000 --> 00:14:21,000

We're at a bit of a hot spot for all the sightings.

254

00:14:24,000 --> 00:14:28,000

The first thing overboard is going to be Bruce and Mark's camera trap.

255

00:14:28,000 --> 00:14:33,000

We attach a waterproof camera to this baited metal cage and then tie a buoy to it.

256

00:14:33,000 --> 00:14:37,000

If anything swims this way looking for a meal, the camera should capture images

257

00:14:37,000 --> 00:14:40,000

that we'll be able to retrieve from the memory card.

258

00:14:40,000 --> 00:14:42,000

Alright, well let's grab the ROV.

259

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

But the ROV is the main event.

260

00:14:44,000 --> 00:14:52,000

It's got an onboard 4K ultra-high definition camera and a row of LED lights to help us see in the murky waters.

261

00:14:52,000 --> 00:14:57,000

This will be the first time anyone has used this tech in these waters to search for the creature.

262

00:14:57,000 --> 00:15:02,000

And Bruce believes it's just the tool he needs to finally get a visual on it.

263

00:15:05,000 --> 00:15:06,000

That's a good view.

264

00:15:06,000 --> 00:15:10,000

All the sediments we're seeing in the water, that's plankton.

265

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

All of this is phytoplankton. It's algae.

266

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

That's why this thing is so productive, this lake.

267

00:15:18,000 --> 00:15:20,000

Holy s\*\*\*, look at all this fish.

268

00:15:20,000 --> 00:15:21,000

That's a good sign.

269

00:15:21,000 --> 00:15:22,000

That's a very good sign.

270

00:15:22,000 --> 00:15:25,000

So where there's fish, there's something that eats fish.

271

00:15:28,000 --> 00:15:30,000

Got a big target at 40 feet.

272

00:15:30,000 --> 00:15:31,000

Big target at 40 feet?

273

00:15:31,000 --> 00:15:32,000

Yeah.

274

00:15:32,000 --> 00:15:33,000

How big?

275

00:15:33,000 --> 00:15:34,000

It's hard to tell.

276

00:15:34,000 --> 00:15:35,000

It's moving.

277

00:15:38,000 --> 00:15:40,000

Not seeing anything yet.

278

00:15:43,000 --> 00:15:44,000

What's that?

279

00:15:54,000 --> 00:15:55,000

What's that?

280

00:15:56,000 --> 00:15:58,000

Is that what we saw in the sonar?

281

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

Something just hit the ROV.

282

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

What is that?

283

00:16:06,000 --> 00:16:08,000

So what's dragging me?

284

00:16:08,000 --> 00:16:09,000

Look at this.

285

00:16:09,000 --> 00:16:11,000

That is weird.

286

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

All right, let's let the line go and let's see.

287

00:16:21,000 --> 00:16:22,000

Keep going up, keep going up.

288

00:16:22,000 --> 00:16:23,000

I'm pushing it.

289

00:16:23,000 --> 00:16:24,000

It's not going up.

290

00:16:24,000 --> 00:16:26,000

It just keeps dropping.

291

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

It's not responding at all.

292

00:16:28,000 --> 00:16:31,000

The camera's working, but the motor is shot.

293

00:16:31,000 --> 00:16:33,000

Literally dead in the water.

294

00:16:33,000 --> 00:16:36,000

I think it's possible our ROV was attacked

295

00:16:36,000 --> 00:16:40,000

by something that saw it as either a thread or a snack.

296

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

I don't understand why it's not going up.

297

00:16:44,000 --> 00:16:46,000

Despite Jess's mad video gaming skills,

298

00:16:46,000 --> 00:16:51,000

I think operator error might have had something to do with the ROV going down.

299

00:16:51,000 --> 00:16:56,000

But for argument's sake, let's say something near the lake floor did mess with it.

300

00:16:56,000 --> 00:16:58,000

Could it have been a sturgeon?

301

00:16:59,000 --> 00:17:03,000

Sturgeon can live 100 years and grow to 20 feet long,

302

00:17:03,000 --> 00:17:08,000

which makes them some of the world's oldest and largest freshwater fish.

303

00:17:08,000 --> 00:17:11,000

These bottom feeders aren't supposed to be in this lake,

304

00:17:11,000 --> 00:17:14,000

but they can be found in some southern Alaskan rivers.

305

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

If a sturgeon did manage to make it to Iliamna,

306

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

I can see how something that size in shallower water could get mistaken for a monster,

307

00:17:22,000 --> 00:17:26,000

especially from up in a plane like many of the reports.

308

00:17:27,000 --> 00:17:29,000

Alright, ROV's out of the water.

309

00:17:29,000 --> 00:17:30,000

Alright, good.

310

00:17:31,000 --> 00:17:35,000

Before we leave with our busted robot, we check Mark and Bruce's underwater camera.

311

00:17:35,000 --> 00:17:39,000

Maybe it snapped a shot of whatever was messing with our ROV,

312

00:17:39,000 --> 00:17:41,000

but no dice.

313

00:17:41,000 --> 00:17:44,000

So we drop it back in the water, hoping our luck changes.

314

00:17:48,000 --> 00:17:55,000

The next morning, Mark and Bruce are setting out more of their baited cameras in other parts of the lake.

315

00:17:55,000 --> 00:17:59,000

While they tackle that, there's an experiment I want to try.

316

00:17:59,000 --> 00:18:02,000

Alright, I want to head towards that red box over there.

317

00:18:02,000 --> 00:18:03,000

Yeah.

318

00:18:03,000 --> 00:18:08,000

Legend says the lake monster is drawn to the color red, even attacking red bottom boats.

319

00:18:08,000 --> 00:18:19,000

I'm going to put that part of the legend to the test at a section of the lake

320

00:18:19,000 --> 00:18:22,000

where there have been recent sightings from people on shore.

321

00:18:22,000 --> 00:18:28,000

So your idea is that this is the color that the locals claim the lake monster is attracted to.

322

00:18:28,000 --> 00:18:29,000

Exactly.

323

00:18:29,000 --> 00:18:31,000

And that's why they don't use red boats like this.

324

00:18:31,000 --> 00:18:33,000

And it makes sense because the salmon here are red.

325

00:18:33,000 --> 00:18:34,000

Okay.

326

00:18:34,000 --> 00:18:35,000

And that's its food source.

327

00:18:35,000 --> 00:18:38,000

So if it's attracted to that color because of its food source,

328

00:18:38,000 --> 00:18:41,000

maybe it'll be attracted to this kayak because it's the same color.

329

00:18:41,000 --> 00:18:42,000

Okay.

330

00:18:42,000 --> 00:18:46,000

I'm not saying there's a lake monster out here attacking red bottom boats,

331

00:18:46,000 --> 00:18:52,000

but research shows that even though they might not have the ability to actually distinguish colors,

332

00:18:52,000 --> 00:18:55,000

submarine life do appear to gravitate to certain colors.

333

00:18:55,000 --> 00:19:00,000

Sharks are often drawn to high contrast colors like yellow, orange and red.

334

00:19:00,000 --> 00:19:01,000

So who knows?

335

00:19:01,000 --> 00:19:05,000

Jess's experiment might not be as crazy as it sounds.

336

00:19:05,000 --> 00:19:10,000

So if we put this in the water, attach a trail cam to that red box over there,

337

00:19:10,000 --> 00:19:14,000

maybe we can get it to breach and we'll be able to capture it on the game camp.

338

00:19:14,000 --> 00:19:15,000

Yeah.

339

00:19:15,000 --> 00:19:17,000

We got one more thing you're going to like, Phil.

340

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

She got a mini seismometer.

341

00:19:20,000 --> 00:19:21,000

Oh.

342

00:19:21,000 --> 00:19:24,000

So that if anything hits this as if it was attacking it,

343

00:19:24,000 --> 00:19:26,000

we will be able to register it on that.

344

00:19:26,000 --> 00:19:27,000

Nice.

345

00:19:27,000 --> 00:19:31,000

I figure we can put this down here so that if anything hits from the bottom up,

346

00:19:31,000 --> 00:19:33,000

we'll be able to get it.

347

00:19:33,000 --> 00:19:34,000

Cool.

348

00:19:34,000 --> 00:19:35,000

Lighten up.

349

00:19:35,000 --> 00:19:36,000

Check it.

350

00:19:36,000 --> 00:19:37,000

Yeah.

351

00:19:37,000 --> 00:19:38,000

Very nice.

352

00:19:38,000 --> 00:19:39,000

Yeah.

353

00:19:39,000 --> 00:19:45,000

If there's any sudden movement of the kayak, this device will record it and send an alert to my phone.

354

00:19:45,000 --> 00:19:46,000

Cool.

355

00:19:46,000 --> 00:19:47,000

On.

356

00:19:47,000 --> 00:19:48,000

On.

357

00:19:48,000 --> 00:19:49,000

Okay.

358

00:19:49,000 --> 00:19:51,000

Let's get the kayak in the water.

359

00:19:51,000 --> 00:19:54,000

How she goes.

360

00:19:54,000 --> 00:19:55,000

Nice.

361

00:19:55,000 --> 00:19:57,000

Leave it out here overnight and get it in the morning.

362

00:19:57,000 --> 00:19:58,000

Let's do it.

363

00:19:58,000 --> 00:19:59,000

All right.

364

00:19:59,000 --> 00:20:04,000

Just as experiment gets me thinking, if the mystery creature is somehow drawn to red,

365

00:20:04,000 --> 00:20:09,000

is it possible that what we're looking for is some kind of shark that made its way up river?

366

00:20:09,000 --> 00:20:12,000

There are sharks that can survive in fresh water.

367

00:20:12,000 --> 00:20:16,000

The most common shark in the Bering Sea is the Pacific sleeper shark.

368

00:20:16,000 --> 00:20:23,000

Sleeper sharks are dark colored and have been known to reach upwards of 20 feet and 8,000 pounds.

369

00:20:23,000 --> 00:20:29,000

They've never been officially documented around Iliamna Lake, but I need to consider all options.

370

00:20:29,000 --> 00:20:33,000

If a shark is around here, where's the best place to find it?

371

00:20:33,000 --> 00:20:38,000

The New Island is a 22 mile river that flows south into Iliamna Lake.

372

00:20:38,000 --> 00:20:44,000

We're told it's a major pathway for a mind boggling migration of sockeye salmon and rainbow trout.

373

00:20:44,000 --> 00:20:49,000

So we've arranged for some high speed transport to navigate this epic waterway.

374

00:20:49,000 --> 00:20:51,000

You guys in here Captain John?

375

00:20:51,000 --> 00:20:52,000

Yep.

376

00:20:52,000 --> 00:20:53,000

You're gonna take us up river?

377

00:20:53,000 --> 00:20:54,000

I am.

378

00:20:54,000 --> 00:20:55,000

All right.

379

00:20:55,000 --> 00:20:56,000

What should we expect?

380

00:20:56,000 --> 00:20:58,000

Are we about to get wet?

381

00:20:58,000 --> 00:20:59,000

Possibly.

382

00:20:59,000 --> 00:21:00,000

We'll try not to.

383

00:21:00,000 --> 00:21:02,000

Try not to go overboard.

384

00:21:02,000 --> 00:21:03,000

Yeah.

385

00:21:03,000 --> 00:21:05,000

Try not to push you.

386

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

So have you ever seen a weird wake just naturally, just like one big wave coming in?

387

00:21:19,000 --> 00:21:20,000

Absolutely.

388

00:21:20,000 --> 00:21:27,000

You may see something above the water, you know, associated with the wake.

389

00:21:27,000 --> 00:21:30,000

What does that mean?

390

00:21:30,000 --> 00:21:32,000

That's the million dollar question.

391

00:21:32,000 --> 00:21:38,000

I guess the question here is, is it a lake monster or is it a wake monster?

392

00:21:38,000 --> 00:21:40,000

Oh my gosh.

393

00:21:40,000 --> 00:21:42,000

Can we kick him off the boat?

394

00:21:42,000 --> 00:21:53,000

Yes, it is impressive how much water is going through here.

395

00:21:53,000 --> 00:21:54,000

Yeah.

396

00:21:54,000 --> 00:22:00,000

With its sturdy aluminum hull, unique sledge shaped bow and high performance engine, Captain

397

00:22:00,000 --> 00:22:05,000

John's custom made boat is perfectly designed to maneuver through shallow rocky waters,

398

00:22:05,000 --> 00:22:09,000

getting us into remote areas inaccessible to many other boats.

399

00:22:09,000 --> 00:22:12,000

We're watching rapids coming up right ahead.

400

00:22:21,000 --> 00:22:23,000

This is insane.

401

00:22:23,000 --> 00:22:24,000

This is awesome.

402

00:22:24,000 --> 00:22:26,000

It's flying over the rapids.

403

00:22:31,000 --> 00:22:34,000

This man has no idea about like this.

404

00:22:34,000 --> 00:22:36,000

Get up and move over like this.

405

00:22:36,000 --> 00:22:38,000

You have done this before, right?

406

00:22:38,000 --> 00:22:39,000

Yeah.

407

00:22:39,000 --> 00:22:41,000

This is insane.

408

00:22:41,000 --> 00:22:43,000

Whoa.

409

00:22:43,000 --> 00:22:44,000

Whoa.

410

00:22:44,000 --> 00:22:47,000

You going between that?

411

00:22:47,000 --> 00:22:49,000

Oh boy.

412

00:22:58,000 --> 00:23:00,000

Oh my gosh.

413

00:23:00,000 --> 00:23:03,000

You going between that?

414

00:23:03,000 --> 00:23:04,000

Oh boy.

415

00:23:04,000 --> 00:23:05,000

No way.

416

00:23:05,000 --> 00:23:07,000

Hang on.

417

00:23:09,000 --> 00:23:11,000

Whoa.

418

00:23:11,000 --> 00:23:13,000

Oh my god.

419

00:23:13,000 --> 00:23:15,000

That was insane.

420

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

If I was a lake monster, I'd do this for fun.

421

00:23:20,000 --> 00:23:21,000

Oh yeah.

422

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

Full of delicious salmon.

423

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

You just open your mouth and you get a bite.

424

00:23:25,000 --> 00:23:30,000

As we skim over the rapids, I scan for any signs of a large aquatic predator.

425

00:23:30,000 --> 00:23:33,000

While Jess is looking for a lake monster behind the local lore,

426

00:23:33,000 --> 00:23:37,000

I'm trying to stay open minded on what known species it could possibly be.

427

00:23:37,000 --> 00:23:41,000

An overgrown fish like a sturgeon or even a rogue shark or whale

428

00:23:41,000 --> 00:23:45,000

that found its way up here from the Bering Sea.

429

00:23:45,000 --> 00:23:47,000

Oh my god.

430

00:23:47,000 --> 00:23:49,000

That is all fish.

431

00:23:49,000 --> 00:23:52,000

Tons of salmon right there.

432

00:23:52,000 --> 00:23:55,000

No doubt this river is an all you can eat buffet.

433

00:23:55,000 --> 00:23:57,000

Just ask the bears.

434

00:23:57,000 --> 00:23:59,000

We got a bear. We got a bear.

435

00:23:59,000 --> 00:24:00,000

Right on the edge of the bear.

436

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

Oh yeah.

437

00:24:01,000 --> 00:24:03,000

So the bears here get absolutely enormous

438

00:24:03,000 --> 00:24:06,000

because there's so much salmon, so much to eat.

439

00:24:06,000 --> 00:24:08,000

They can get up to 1,500 pounds.

440

00:24:08,000 --> 00:24:13,000

So that is just a perfect example that predators get big in this area.

441

00:24:14,000 --> 00:24:17,000

Oh, a bald eagle. Here she comes.

442

00:24:19,000 --> 00:24:21,000

Wow. How about that?

443

00:24:21,000 --> 00:24:22,000

That's cool.

444

00:24:22,000 --> 00:24:27,000

We've now spotted two apex predators that feast on the abundant fish in this river.

445

00:24:28,000 --> 00:24:32,000

But I'm not seeing any signs of anything big living in the water.

446

00:24:33,000 --> 00:24:36,000

And when that water turns into class 5 rapids,

447

00:24:36,000 --> 00:24:38,000

Holy s\*\*\*, it's insane.

448

00:24:38,000 --> 00:24:42,000

We decide to get out and assess from a different vantage point.

449

00:24:47,000 --> 00:24:50,000

Oh my god, look at this.

450

00:24:50,000 --> 00:24:52,000

Wow.

451

00:24:53,000 --> 00:24:55,000

Come on.

452

00:24:55,000 --> 00:24:58,000

Oh, check it out. You can see all the salmon over there.

453

00:24:58,000 --> 00:25:00,000

Oh yeah, they're all concentrated right there.

454

00:25:00,000 --> 00:25:03,000

I will say trying to fight against them like this, that'd be tough.

455

00:25:03,000 --> 00:25:06,000

I mean, I think it's possible it could be coming up this river to feed,

456

00:25:06,000 --> 00:25:10,000

but it wouldn't stay here too long, not in these rapids.

457

00:25:11,000 --> 00:25:16,000

Jess and I agree that this river is too shallow and too rough for a big aquatic creature.

458

00:25:16,000 --> 00:25:20,000

My guess is it lays dormant in the deep end of the lake

459

00:25:20,000 --> 00:25:22,000

and pops up when it needs to feed.

460

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

If something's hiding, it's going to be hiding in the depth.

461

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

Yeah.

462

00:25:26,000 --> 00:25:28,000

So should we get out of here before we get eaten by a bear?

463

00:25:28,000 --> 00:25:29,000

Yeah, I'd like that.

464

00:25:29,000 --> 00:25:32,000

When considering the plausibility of a lake monster,

465

00:25:32,000 --> 00:25:35,000

scientists say it would need two basic things to survive.

466

00:25:35,000 --> 00:25:39,000

Plenty of food and a suitable environment where it could stay hidden.

467

00:25:39,000 --> 00:25:42,000

Skeptics of the legendary Loch Ness monster

468

00:25:42,000 --> 00:25:47,000

cite the lack of fish in Loch Ness to sustain what would be Nessie's oversized appetite.

469

00:25:47,000 --> 00:25:50,000

But that's obviously not a problem in Iliamna.

470

00:25:50,000 --> 00:25:53,000

As for a place to stay hidden,

471

00:25:53,000 --> 00:25:56,000

my research reveals stories told by native elders

472

00:25:56,000 --> 00:25:59,000

who believe the creature makes its home in underwater caverns

473

00:25:59,000 --> 00:26:02,000

found in the deeper parts of the lake.

474

00:26:02,000 --> 00:26:05,000

But with a broken ROV and depths that are too great to dive,

475

00:26:05,000 --> 00:26:08,000

we have no way to look for those caves.

476

00:26:08,000 --> 00:26:10,000

We're going to need some help.

477

00:26:10,000 --> 00:26:11,000

Hey guys, how are you?

478

00:26:11,000 --> 00:26:12,000

Hi.

479

00:26:12,000 --> 00:26:13,000

Hey Josh.

480

00:26:13,000 --> 00:26:14,000

How's the last frontier treating you?

481

00:26:14,000 --> 00:26:15,000

It's gorgeous out here.

482

00:26:15,000 --> 00:26:16,000

But I'll tell you what,

483

00:26:16,000 --> 00:26:18,000

Lake Iliamna, there's something special about this place.

484

00:26:18,000 --> 00:26:21,000

It is giant, it is deep, it is remote,

485

00:26:21,000 --> 00:26:25,000

it is arguably the most well-preserved large lake on this hemisphere.

486

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

Yeah, great.

487

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

Have you caught the lake monster yet, Phil?

488

00:26:28,000 --> 00:26:30,000

Not quite.

489

00:26:30,000 --> 00:26:33,000

Okay, any idea what people are seeing there?

490

00:26:33,000 --> 00:26:36,000

I'd say we have a list of suspects out here.

491

00:26:36,000 --> 00:26:37,000

Could be a large fish.

492

00:26:37,000 --> 00:26:41,000

Could be a sleeper shark or it could be some other thing.

493

00:26:41,000 --> 00:26:43,000

We're trying to narrow it down.

494

00:26:43,000 --> 00:26:44,000

Sleeper shark?

495

00:26:44,000 --> 00:26:48,000

Okay, well I've got something that might help reel in your investigation.

496

00:26:48,000 --> 00:26:50,000

I've tracked down a new lead that I want you to follow up on.

497

00:26:50,000 --> 00:26:57,000

It's a pair of sisters that just came forward claiming they spotted the lake monster near their village.

498

00:26:57,000 --> 00:27:01,000

Not only that, they even managed to capture a video of what they saw.

499

00:27:01,000 --> 00:27:02,000

Wow, really?

500

00:27:02,000 --> 00:27:05,000

We also need your help with something else.

501

00:27:05,000 --> 00:27:09,000

Bruce and Mark, the biologists we teamed up with here, are so excited that we have an ROV.

502

00:27:09,000 --> 00:27:14,000

And for the first time ever, they were able to see a live feed of what's down below.

503

00:27:14,000 --> 00:27:16,000

Yeah, until the lake monster attacked it.

504

00:27:16,000 --> 00:27:17,000

Wait, what?

505

00:27:17,000 --> 00:27:20,000

Either that or Jess crashed it on the bottom.

506

00:27:20,000 --> 00:27:21,000

Show bot.

507

00:27:21,000 --> 00:27:23,000

Here's the thing.

508

00:27:23,000 --> 00:27:27,000

I've found stories that the creature lives deep in underwater caves.

509

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

So if we can find those caves.

510

00:27:29,000 --> 00:27:33,000

Long story short, we need an ROV now more than ever.

511

00:27:33,000 --> 00:27:37,000

Well a replacement ROV in a hurry considering where you are.

512

00:27:37,000 --> 00:27:38,000

A bit of a tall order.

513

00:27:38,000 --> 00:27:42,000

Also, I'm not sure I trust you anymore, but I will make some calls, see what I can come up with.

514

00:27:42,000 --> 00:27:45,000

In the meantime, go talk to those witnesses, okay?

515

00:27:45,000 --> 00:27:46,000

Sounds good.

516

00:27:47,000 --> 00:27:48,000

Bye.

517

00:27:48,000 --> 00:27:51,000

See you Josh.

518

00:27:51,000 --> 00:28:04,000

The next morning we meet sisters Christina and Alexana Salmon, prominent members of their village tribal council and whose family has lived on the shores of Iliamna for generations.

519

00:28:04,000 --> 00:28:05,000

So it was right here?

520

00:28:05,000 --> 00:28:06,000

This is where you saw it?

521

00:28:06,000 --> 00:28:07,000

Yes, from here.

522

00:28:07,000 --> 00:28:08,000

Okay.

523

00:28:08,000 --> 00:28:09,000

It was in the lake.

524

00:28:09,000 --> 00:28:10,000

Right where the boat is right there.

525

00:28:10,000 --> 00:28:11,000

Yes.

526

00:28:11,000 --> 00:28:12,000

Okay.

527

00:28:12,000 --> 00:28:13,000

But it was way bigger than that boat.

528

00:28:13,000 --> 00:28:16,000

Okay, you got to walk us through from the beginning.

529

00:28:16,000 --> 00:28:17,000

Okay.

530

00:28:17,000 --> 00:28:25,000

I came up and we're visiting right here and just like right now talking to you, you could see something moving.

531

00:28:25,000 --> 00:28:31,000

And she looks at me and looks back at the lake and says, what the F is that?

532

00:28:31,000 --> 00:28:34,000

My mind was trying to justify what I was seeing.

533

00:28:34,000 --> 00:28:37,000

Pretend it was a submarine that could bend and turn.

534

00:28:37,000 --> 00:28:39,000

So it was just flowing straight.

535

00:28:39,000 --> 00:28:49,000

And then turned and at that point we saw a big black hump as it was like diving back under and it just parted the water as it went.

536

00:28:49,000 --> 00:28:52,000

Now I understand you have footage of this thing.

537

00:28:52,000 --> 00:28:53,000

Yes.

538

00:28:53,000 --> 00:28:56,000

Whoa, look at that.

539

00:29:04,000 --> 00:29:07,000

Now I understand you have footage of this thing.

540

00:29:07,000 --> 00:29:08,000

Yes.

541

00:29:09,000 --> 00:29:11,000

Whoa, look at that.

542

00:29:11,000 --> 00:29:14,000

Wow, look at the size of that wake.

543

00:29:14,000 --> 00:29:21,000

The sisters video is compelling, but it's not exactly the concrete proof of an aquatic monster I

was hoping for.

544

00:29:21,000 --> 00:29:28,000

According to their testimony, by the time they whipped out a phone and hit record on the camera, they only managed to capture the very end of the sighting.

545

00:29:28,000 --> 00:29:33,000

But even that five seconds of video shows something leaving an impressive wake.

546

00:29:33,000 --> 00:29:36,000

So you actually saw it kind of crest like come out of the water a little bit.

547

00:29:36,000 --> 00:29:42,000

When we saw it, it was like a pure black, shiny, it looked like a whale.

548

00:29:42,000 --> 00:29:44,000

So was it a whale?

549

00:29:44,000 --> 00:29:48,000

There's no way a whale could have made it up the river with no one seeing it.

550

00:29:48,000 --> 00:29:50,000

It was something you've heard about your whole life.

551

00:29:50,000 --> 00:29:52,000

What have you heard?

552

00:29:52,000 --> 00:29:57,000

A lot of the elders have had sightings of it and they've always described it as big and gray.

553

00:29:57,000 --> 00:30:00,000

So there's something in the water here.

554

00:30:00,000 --> 00:30:02,000

There's gotta be.

555

00:30:02,000 --> 00:30:07,000

I believe the sisters had a chance sighting of the creature as it made a rare breach of the surface.

556

00:30:07,000 --> 00:30:12,000

But if we want to see it for ourselves, we have to go to where it lives.

557

00:30:14,000 --> 00:30:19,000

We meet back up with Bruce and Mark who've been busy placing underwater camera traps throughout the lake.

558

00:30:19,000 --> 00:30:24,000

We'll check the cameras later, but right now, we need to find these legendary caves.

559

00:30:24,000 --> 00:30:27,000

You can see caves on some of the islands as you go around.

560

00:30:27,000 --> 00:30:29,000

So maybe there's caves down below.

561

00:30:29,000 --> 00:30:31,000

The lake's pretty deep over here.

562

00:30:31,000 --> 00:30:35,000

And then there's been sightings all up in this area.

563

00:30:37,000 --> 00:30:41,000

Iliamna Lake sits on the northern edge of the Pacific Ring of Fire,

564

00:30:41,000 --> 00:30:47,000

meaning the topography here is the result of earthquakes, volcanic activity, or glaciation,

565

00:30:47,000 --> 00:30:53,000

any of which could create caves and tunnels, a.k.a. hiding spots for a large animal.

566

00:30:53,000 --> 00:30:57,000

To help us find them, Josh came through with a special delivery from Anchorage,

567

00:30:57,000 --> 00:31:01,000

a state-of-the-art ROV and a seasoned pilot to boot.

568

00:31:01,000 --> 00:31:03,000

Sorry, Jess.

569

00:31:04,000 --> 00:31:06,000

Welcome to the team.

570

00:31:06,000 --> 00:31:09,000

Yeah, it's a beautiful day to go out and take a break.

571

00:31:09,000 --> 00:31:11,000

You do know what we're going for here.

572

00:31:11,000 --> 00:31:13,000

I know that it's a monster.

573

00:31:13,000 --> 00:31:16,000

I guess technically we don't know what we're going for here, but we know it's big.

574

00:31:16,000 --> 00:31:21,000

But no one's been able to actually get this thing on tape, especially underwater.

575

00:31:21,000 --> 00:31:25,000

So that's where we hope you and your skills can help us out.

576

00:31:25,000 --> 00:31:27,000

Who knows what we'll see?

577

00:31:27,000 --> 00:31:29,000

I know. All right, let's hit it.

578

00:31:31,000 --> 00:31:38,000

We hightail it across the lake, traveling about 18 miles east to the search area Bruce pointed out on the map.

579

00:31:39,000 --> 00:31:45,000

You don't want direct sunlight when you're sending down an ROV because that sunlight bounces off the particles in the water

580

00:31:45,000 --> 00:31:47,000

and can actually make it harder to see.

581

00:31:47,000 --> 00:31:52,000

So having this fog overhead, it's not too hot out, conditions looking good.

582

00:31:52,000 --> 00:31:58,000

Bruce and Mark have identified several small rocky islands scattered in this corner of the lake

583

00:31:58,000 --> 00:32:01,000

that could be an indication of caves down below.

584

00:32:02,000 --> 00:32:05,000

Definitely see what will look like caves over there.

585

00:32:07,000 --> 00:32:09,000

We need to get an ROV in there.

586

00:32:10,000 --> 00:32:14,000

Jess is all in on the ROV finding caves where a monster might live,

587

00:32:14,000 --> 00:32:18,000

but I'll be using it to search for something that could be mistaken for a monster.

588

00:32:18,000 --> 00:32:22,000

To help with that hunt, Bruce breaks out another trick of the trade.

589

00:32:22,000 --> 00:32:29,000

This little thing right here, it's called a Mako Magnet, puts out a low frequency injured fish sound.

590

00:32:29,000 --> 00:32:34,000

So this thing puts out a low frequency noise that goes how far out?

591

00:32:34,000 --> 00:32:35,000

More than a mile.

592

00:32:35,000 --> 00:32:39,000

We could potentially bring in the lake monster.

593

00:32:39,000 --> 00:32:40,000

We don't know.

594

00:32:40,000 --> 00:32:44,000

We attach a waterproof camera to the Mako Magnet's cage.

595

00:32:44,000 --> 00:32:45,000

Let's get this up on the ledge.

596

00:32:45,000 --> 00:32:48,000

And to maximize our coverage all around the boat.

597

00:32:48,000 --> 00:32:49,000

Alright, going in.

598

00:32:49,000 --> 00:32:51,000

Down go the rest of our submersible cameras.

599

00:32:51,000 --> 00:32:57,000

If the Mako Magnet attracts something, we'll get a shot of it no matter where it approaches from.

600

00:32:57,000 --> 00:32:59,000

Now we just gotta get a robot in the water.

601

00:32:59,000 --> 00:33:03,000

With about \$45,000 worth of high-tech features built into it,

602

00:33:03,000 --> 00:33:08,000

this ROV is one of the most advanced underwater vehicles on the market,

603

00:33:08,000 --> 00:33:10,000

hence the need for a specially trained pilot.

604

00:33:11,000 --> 00:33:14,000

This robot can safely reach depths of a thousand feet.

605

00:33:16,000 --> 00:33:19,000

A lot of other ROVs would be crushed by the pressure.

606

00:33:19,000 --> 00:33:20,000

How's the video feed looking?

607

00:33:20,000 --> 00:33:21,000

It looks good.

608

00:33:21,000 --> 00:33:26,000

The plan is to navigate towards the island in search of rocky caves and ledges

609

00:33:26,000 --> 00:33:29,000

where a large monster could potentially hide.

610

00:33:29,000 --> 00:33:31,000

It is a little cloudier over on this side though.

611

00:33:34,000 --> 00:33:36,000

What is that back there?

612

00:33:36,000 --> 00:33:38,000

It's like a car bumper.

613

00:33:38,000 --> 00:33:39,000

Maybe it's an airplane.

614

00:33:39,000 --> 00:33:42,000

Oh, it could be a piece of an airplane maybe.

615

00:33:42,000 --> 00:33:43,000

It does look metal.

616

00:33:43,000 --> 00:33:45,000

I mean, it could only be a branch.

617

00:33:45,000 --> 00:33:46,000

It looks metallic.

618

00:33:46,000 --> 00:33:47,000

It does look like a branch, but right there it looks like...

619

00:33:47,000 --> 00:33:48,000

I think that's a branch.

620

00:33:48,000 --> 00:33:49,000

I think that's a branch.

621

00:33:49,000 --> 00:33:50,000

Yeah.

622

00:33:51,000 --> 00:33:53,000

It's getting really murky down there.

623

00:33:54,000 --> 00:33:55,000

Big tree.

624

00:33:55,000 --> 00:33:56,000

It's a whole bunch of trees.

625

00:34:03,000 --> 00:34:04,000

Look at that.

626

00:34:05,000 --> 00:34:06,000

That's a cliff-sedge.

627

00:34:09,000 --> 00:34:11,000

Wow, this is wild.

628

00:34:13,000 --> 00:34:14,000

Look at that.

629

00:34:14,000 --> 00:34:17,000

I'm going to go out away from the wall and then turn around and look back.

630

00:34:19,000 --> 00:34:21,000

Wow, look at that structure.

631

00:34:21,000 --> 00:34:24,000

Isn't it crazy nobody has ever laid eyes on this?

632

00:34:24,000 --> 00:34:25,000

Ever.

633

00:34:25,000 --> 00:34:27,000

Oh my gosh.

634

00:34:28,000 --> 00:34:29,000

That's incredible.

635

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

We're at 126.

636

00:34:36,000 --> 00:34:37,000

26?

637

00:34:37,000 --> 00:34:38,000

Let's just keep going.

638

00:34:38,000 --> 00:34:39,000

Keep going, because it is the end.

639

00:34:39,000 --> 00:34:40,000

Why not? No one has been down here.

640

00:34:44,000 --> 00:34:48,000

Big target showing up on the sonar right now.

641

00:34:48,000 --> 00:34:50,000

About 150 feet down.

642

00:34:51,000 --> 00:34:53,000

Let's keep heading down that cliff.

643

00:34:57,000 --> 00:34:59,000

What's this? What's this? What's this?

644

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

Whoa.

645

00:35:13,000 --> 00:35:19,000

When sharks typically live in the ocean, certain species have the ability to retain or recycle salt.

646

00:35:20,000 --> 00:35:25,000

The Ganges shark, as its name suggests, inhabits the bustling rivers of India.

647

00:35:25,000 --> 00:35:32,000

The spear-tooth shark can be found in the tropical riverbeds and estuaries of Papua New Guinea and Northern Australia.

648

00:35:32,000 --> 00:35:35,000

Then there's the meanest of the bunch, the bull shark.

649

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

This aggressive apex predator can swim hundreds of miles upriver.

650

00:35:40,000 --> 00:35:47,000

It's been documented in the Mississippi as far north as Illinois and in Louisiana's Lake Poncha Train.

651

00:35:47,000 --> 00:35:54,000

And some believe it was a bull shark and not a great white that famously terrorized the New Jersey Creek in 1916

652

00:35:54,000 --> 00:35:58,000

and later inspired my favorite beach read, Jaws.

653

00:35:58,000 --> 00:36:04,000

Meaning they could be hungrily hanging out in a freshwater lake or river near you.

654

00:36:05,000 --> 00:36:10,000

The big target is showing up on the sonar right now.

655

00:36:10,000 --> 00:36:12,000

About 150 feet down.

656

00:36:12,000 --> 00:36:14,000

Let's keep heading down that cliff.

657

00:36:16,000 --> 00:36:18,000

What's this? What's this? What's this?

658

00:36:19,000 --> 00:36:22,000

Whoa. That's big. That's dark.

659

00:36:22,000 --> 00:36:23,000

What is that?

660

00:36:30,000 --> 00:36:32,000

Do you still see anything on the sonar?

661

00:36:32,000 --> 00:36:33,000

Not anymore.

662

00:36:40,000 --> 00:36:42,000

Down to 170 feet.

663

00:36:43,000 --> 00:36:45,000

Still a straight drop too.

664

00:36:45,000 --> 00:36:53,000

If we can find a deep water cave, we may answer the question how an aquatic giant has managed to escape discovery.

665

00:36:54,000 --> 00:36:55,000

200 feet down.

666

00:36:58,000 --> 00:36:59,000

Is that starting to flat now?

667

00:36:59,000 --> 00:37:01,000

Yeah, it looks totally different.

668

00:37:01,000 --> 00:37:03,000

Looks totally different over here.

669

00:37:04,000 --> 00:37:05,000

220.

670

00:37:08,000 --> 00:37:09,000

240.

671

00:37:09,000 --> 00:37:10,000

Keep going.

672

00:37:13,000 --> 00:37:14,000

That looks cool.

673

00:37:16,000 --> 00:37:17,000

Let's look around.

674

00:37:21,000 --> 00:37:22,000

Look at those lines.

675

00:37:22,000 --> 00:37:23,000

Tracks.

676

00:37:23,000 --> 00:37:24,000

Yeah, tracks.

677

00:37:24,000 --> 00:37:26,000

There's definitely something living down there.

678

00:37:26,000 --> 00:37:27,000

That's pretty neat.

679

00:37:27,000 --> 00:37:28,000

It's really neat.

680

00:37:29,000 --> 00:37:31,000

I mean, I'm surprised we haven't seen any fish.

681

00:37:31,000 --> 00:37:35,000

It's almost like they're afraid of a giant robot with lasers coming at them.

682

00:37:35,000 --> 00:37:38,000

Lasers. Yeah, that's a good point.

683

00:37:38,000 --> 00:37:40,000

I would be.

684

00:37:43,000 --> 00:37:48,000

Well, tell you what, it is amazing to see the bottom of the slag.

685

00:37:48,000 --> 00:37:52,000

I think we could safely say this ROV went where no man or woman has gone before.

686

00:37:52,000 --> 00:37:53,000

Yeah.

687

00:37:53,000 --> 00:38:00,000

After another hour of searching, whatever we saw in our sonar seems to have taken off.

688

00:38:10,000 --> 00:38:12,000

We've been able to map out some of the bottom areas.

689

00:38:12,000 --> 00:38:17,000

We've gotten a sense of where there's potential food, where there's potential hiding spots.

690

00:38:17,000 --> 00:38:20,000

The potential for something to be living in here.

691

00:38:20,000 --> 00:38:21,000

That's massive.

692

00:38:21,000 --> 00:38:28,000

I mean, it has definitely enough space, tons of food and very little interaction with people.

693

00:38:28,000 --> 00:38:36,000

So if you're ever going to have a lake monster living anywhere, I feel like this is the best place for that to happen.

694

00:38:36,000 --> 00:38:41,000

And also this is just one island in the middle of a gigantic lake.

695

00:38:41,000 --> 00:38:46,000

I think it'd take us a year just to survey this little tiny island.

696

00:38:46,000 --> 00:38:47,000

Yep.

697

00:38:48,000 --> 00:39:01,000

The deep waters of Iliamna Lake in the sparsely populated wilds of Alaska could indeed be the perfect place for a large aquatic animal to remain undetected.

698

00:39:03,000 --> 00:39:10,000

But is it really a legendary monster or some known creature being mistaken for a monster?

699

00:39:11,000 --> 00:39:21,000

Jess's kayak experiment to test if the animal truly is drawn to the color red yielded no alerts from the seismograph or camera trap.

700

00:39:21,000 --> 00:39:28,000

And even though there are certain sharks that can inhabit fresh water, so far none have been confirmed here.

701

00:39:28,000 --> 00:39:30,000

Phil also considered the sturgeon.

702

00:39:30,000 --> 00:39:37,000

They are huge prehistoric looking fish, but they're also bottom feeders, rarely seen at the surface.

703

00:39:37,000 --> 00:39:41,000

And they're undocumented in lake waters this cold.

704

00:39:41,000 --> 00:39:45,000

We analyze the cell phone video captured by the salmon sisters.

705

00:39:45,000 --> 00:39:52,000

Even with digital enhancement, the visual here is a giant wake, but there is no proof of what caused it.

706

00:39:52,000 --> 00:39:55,000

So where does this leave us?

707

00:39:55,000 --> 00:40:04,000

Phil suspects that in a place so steeped in native lore, multiple sightings over decades of different aquatic species that aren't known to be here

708

00:40:04,000 --> 00:40:08,000

may have combined to inspire a monster myth.

709

00:40:08,000 --> 00:40:15,000

And after seeing first hand Iliamna's All You Can Eat salmon special, followed by a fast moving shadow at the Rocky Overhang,

710

00:40:15,000 --> 00:40:21,000

Jess is doubling down that there is something unclassified growing large in the lake.

711

00:40:21,000 --> 00:40:27,000

But what it is and where it came from is still a mystery, which brings us to this.

712

00:40:27,000 --> 00:40:32,000

Remember those underwater cameras Bruce and Mark have been placing throughout the lake?

713

00:40:32,000 --> 00:40:37,000

The data is in and the results are, well, adorable.

714

00:40:39,000 --> 00:40:44,000

This is an extremely rare and very cute freshwater seal.

715

00:40:44,000 --> 00:40:50,000

Iliamna Lake is one of the few places in the world that you'll find seals living in a freshwater habitat.

716

00:40:50,000 --> 00:40:56,000

And just like a certain legendary lake monster, there's a lot that scientists don't know about them.

717

00:40:57,000 --> 00:41:02,000

Like how they got here, why they came, and why they stay.

718

00:41:02,000 --> 00:41:10,000

The Iliamna seals average just 6 feet long, meaning they're probably not being mistaken for any monsters.

719

00:41:10,000 --> 00:41:21,000

But if they can be in the lake unseen by most, perhaps some other mysterious creature might have found its way here and could still be hiding in the depths.

720

00:41:21,000 --> 00:41:31,000

For more information on Expedition X, head to [Discovery.com](http://Discovery.com).