



Donna Matrazzo  
**The Writing Works**

19300 NW Sauvie Island Rd.  
Portland, OR 97231  
(503) 621-3049  
matrazzo@msn.com

**Odyssey Productions, Inc.**  
**Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge**

## "JOURNEY OF THE TIGLAX"

Final Script

## "JOURNEY OF THE TIGLAX"

### FADE IN:

a1. "Official" US Fish & Wildlife lead-in with logos.

### dissolve to:

A montage of a few of the most spectacular, startling, breathtaking scenes from all the filming that epitomize the astounding numbers and extraordinary species of wildlife, especially seabirds, in the Refuge. For example:

1. Thousands of auklets, swirling in perfect unison and gracefulness above the sea.

**Music:** Dramatic, exciting music UP AND UNDER

**SFX:** Natural sounds of thousands of birds

**Art Sows Voiceover:**

*"It's really ... a spectacle ..."*

*"Raw nature at its greatest kind of intensity."*

2. A rocky cliff wall nesting site of thousands of murre, perched on every ledge and flying to and fro.

**SFX:** Natural sounds of murre

*"You can see hundreds of thousands or literally millions of birds at one time"*

3. An extreme close-up of a Whiskered auklet with its prominent breeding plumes.

**SFX:** Auklet sounds

4. A beach covered with hundreds of sea lions.

**SFX:** The voluminous barks of sea lions

5. The entire screen filled with tens of thousands of least auklets so thick that the sea and sky are indistinguishable.

*"...In some ways it must have been like ... the great herds of buffalo that are now gone.*

*...It's truly an unbelievable experience."*

**Music:** UP AND UNDER

### dissolve to:

A few captivating scenes that give the feeling of wonderful wildlife Refuges. For example:

8. A close shot of a walrus.

**Narrator's Voiceover:**

DAPPLED THROUGHOUT THE U.S.  
ARE WONDROUS PLACES ...  
PROTECTED,  
SO THAT WILDLIFE COMES FIRST:

9. A wide shot of a scenic island with seals along its shoreline and birds taking off and landing.

...OUR NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES.

dissolve to:

A sequence of scenes that creates a sense of remoteness. For example:

10. A sprinkling of islands filmed from the air looking like tiny specks in a vast sea.

BUT NONE IS SO VAST,  
OR SO REMOTE ...  
AS THE ALASKA MARITIME  
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.

11. Fog-shrouded islands across the horizon, filmed moving toward them from a boat.

TWO THOUSAND, FIVE  
HUNDRED ISLANDS  
AND HEADLANDS ...

12. Islands isolated and far in the distance.

Superimpose:

A very simplified map showing the Alaska mainland and coastline, Russia and the Arctic Circle, with the Refuge areas highlighted.

... SPANNING ALMOST 5,000  
MILES OF ALASKA COAST,  
NEARLY TO SIBERIA.

**Music: UP AND UNDER**dissolve to:

A montage of beauty shots that depicts the very diverse kinds of landscapes encompassed within the Refuge. For example:

13. Snow-covered island peak.

**[Chief Refuge Biologist VERNON BYRD or another Biologist, talks about how the Refuge islands are strikingly diverse.]**

16. An expanse of sea ice breaking up in the Arctic Circle.

**[In the Chukchi Sea north of the Arctic Circle, refuge lands are ice-choked much of the year...]**

14. Stock footage of a walrus or seals on pack ice.

**... home to walrus and musk ox.**

17. Mist wafting through the multihued shades of green in a plush rainforest.

**[In the Gulf of Alaska, near Sitka, the Refuge encompasses lush temperate rainforests.]**

18. Dramatic pinnacled sea stacks.

**[Rugged sea stacks and columns jut skyward along the Alaska Peninsula.]**

19. Wide shot of a high bluff on St. George in the Pribilofs, or another island in the Bering Sea Unit.

**[Low beaches sweep to high bluffs in the Bering Sea...]**

20. Waterfall that drops into the sea.

21. Smoke rising from the cone of a volcano.

**[... and smoking volcanoes in the Aleutians.]**

**SFX:** Noisy sounds of lots of activity at the harbor during ship loading UP

dissolve to:

A sequence of bustling lively shots at the port in Homer, as crew and scientists are loading gear on the ship. For example:

22. Wide shot of the *Tiglax* and all the activity – people moving around, boxes and bags being loaded onto the ship.

**SFX:** Snippets of conversation as ship is being loaded – i.e. "There's room for that equipment over here"... "Is that box heavy?"... "Those belong down in the galley", etc.

23. From on deck, items being carried up the ramp.

**Music:** UP

24. Screen full of an array of scientists' duffels, laptop bags and cases of equipment.

**Music:** UP AND UNDER

dissolve to:

A sequence of scenes as the *Tiglax* heads out. For example:

25. Looking out from the bow – perhaps from over-the-shoulder of one of the scientists – as the ship travels into the waves, with islands in the distance. Perhaps the weather is blustery, with waves crashing over the deck.

**Title:** *JOURNEY OF THE TIGLAX*

**Narrator's Voiceover:**

AN EXTRAORDINARY WAY  
TO EXPLORE THE REFUGE ...  
IS TO FOLLOW A SEASON'S  
JOURNEY OF THE TIGLAX ...

*[Pronounced TEK-la]*

26. Adventurous shot of *Tiglax* moving past a craggy sea arch.

... RESEARCH VESSEL FOR  
THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE  
SERVICE.

27. Side view of a scientist looking out from the ship with binoculars, perhaps through rain and fog.

28. Reverse angle of view from binoculars panning from one upcoming island to another.

... AND SEE THE REFUGE  
THROUGH THE  
EXPERIENCE OF THE  
SCIENTISTS WHO CAMP

AND WORK THERE.

**Music:** UP AND OUT

dissolve to:

29. Captain Kevin Bell works on his charts at a long table. He uses a protractor-like instrument – measuring, writing, drawing, and using a triangle.

**KEVIN BELL Voiceover:**

*"A lot of the islands along the Maritime Refuge are not well charted ...*

*"We ... use military maps and anything that's ever been written as far as mapping around these islands ... some old army maps from Pre- and after World War II.*

*... We have to improvise, actually make our own charts as we go because we are the only vessel that will transit these areas."*

dissolve to:

A few scenes that create a feeling of the wild experiences of the scientists from the ship. For example:

30. Scientists struggling to get into the Zodiac from the Tiglax ship amid breaking waves. The shots will have the feeling of the intense physical effort of this work.

**Narrator's Voiceover:**

THE TIGLAX IS A LIFELINE

TO THE REFUGE FIELD

CAMPS.

THE NAME "TIGLAX" MEANS

"EAGLE IN THE ALEUT

LANGUAGE.

FROM THE SECURITY OF

THE SHIP,

SCIENTISTS DISEMBARK TO

ISOLATED, WILD ISLANDS.

31. Scientists in the Zodiac moving on roily water through dark, foreboding sea stacks.

31A. Patient Biologist sitting in the fog or rain peering through a scope.

THEIR MISSION:  
TO STUDY AND RESTORE  
SPECIES.

...TO MONITOR POPULATION  
CYCLES IN SPECIES,  
AND BE WATCHFUL OF  
THOSE AT RISK.

... TO LEARN MORE ABOUT  
THE HABITATS THAT  
SUPPORT WILDLIFE.

32. Close shot of otters playing along a shoreline.

AND TO ENSURE THAT THE  
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
OF THE REFUGE ENDURES.

**SFX:** Loud, raucous sounds of thousands of seabirds UP  
AND UNDER

dissolve to:

33. The Tiglax approaches a headland with vast numbers of birds.

**Music:** UP AND UNDER

**Narrator's Voiceover:**  
THE ISLANDS ARE A  
SPECTACLE OF SEABIRDS.

34. Close shots of a multitude of seabirds, perched on the headland, flying off and landing.

Superimpose: [name of island]

MORE THAN 40 MILLION  
 SEABIRDS OF 30 DIFFERENT  
 SPECIES NEST ON THE  
 REFUGE.  
 MILLIONS MORE VISIT HERE.  
 THERE ARE MORE SEABIRDS  
 ON THE REFUGE ...  
 THAN ALL THE SEABIRDS  
 IN THE REST OF NORTH AMERICA.

35. An island that looks like a beehive, with birds hovering, circling, landing, filling the skies around it.

JUST ONE COLONY ON ONE  
 ISLAND CAN BE HOME  
 TO OVER ONE MILLION BIRDS ...  
 ... AND INCLUDE 15 OR  
 MORE SPECIES.  
 IT'S BEEN SAID THAT SAILORS  
 LONG AGO LISTENED FOR  
 THE CLAMOR OF BIRD CALLS  
 TO RECOGNIZE HEADLANDS  
 IN THICK FOG.

36. Vast numbers of birds fly by the camera almost in a blur.

*VERN BYRD Voiceover*

*"... A really amazing concentration of birds in the air and on the water."*

*"We have a number of unique sub-species that are isolated so long that they're just different ... For instance I think we've got five or six different recognized sub-species of ptarmigans ..."*

37. Close shot of a Whiskered Auklet.



*"We [got] full species too that are absolutely unique ... Whiskered auklet, for instance..."*

38. A rock ptarmigan.

*Jeff Williams:*

*"The Aleutians are a very remote location, and this remoteness has caused many species of birds to become distinct over time. For example ... rock ptarmigan."*

*or*

*"Rock ptarmigan have been present on the Aleutian Islands for a long period of time --perhaps as long as the last glaciation ... These populations ... have become distinct and have been recognized as a separate sub-species."*

39. A flock of birds skimming the surface of the sea; one, then another, then another, dips into the water to get a fish or other food.

**Narrator's Voiceover:**

SUCH VAST NUMBERS ARE  
A SIGN THAT THE  
BERING SEA IS  
A RICH "SOUP" ...

40. An underwater shot teeming with small fish and floating plankton.

... THRIVING WITH FISH AND  
PLANKTON TO FEED ON.

---

*This is page 9 of 38 pages*

*To see the complete script, contact me at [matrazzo@msn.com](mailto:matrazzo@msn.com)*

---

