

Entangled.

An offshore fishing trawler is returning home after a long night working, her single crew member awakes from an unplanned rest with the city on the horizon. Suddenly out of time, the exhausted captain finds herself having to rush to stow the trawling lines; she starts making multiple mistakes, ones that threaten her chances to return both herself and her boat home in one piece.

EXT. DECK TARETOE, 0430 AM

It is nearly dawn, there is a sliver of sunlight on the horizon.

A beam trawler, TARETOE, is slowly moving through the water, the only lights on are the navigation lights. (TaretOE is displaying 'Restricted in ability to maneuver' lights). As well as the deck softly lit in red. All four of her nets are out. Two large ones port (left) and starboard (right), and two smaller aft (back).

She is heading towards a big city, but is still a little way off, she appears to be alone as she moves through the water.

INT. BRIDGE, TARETOE, CONTINUOUS

The bridge is set up for two occupants, two chairs, two sets of wet weather gear, two life jackets.

KAI ROBINSON the 37 year old Captain is alone on the small ship, the bridge is also lit in red, she is leaning against the map table, struggling to keep her eyes open as she keeps watch. She drifts off to sleep. A clock on the wall reads 4.30.

INT BRIDGE, TARETOE, 30 MINUTES LATER

An Alarm goes off. Kai is startled awake. Looking at the instrument Alarm, it is a 15 minute warning about approaching the channel, indicating all the nets should either be up, or being pulled up. Kai worriedly double checks the time, the clock behind her reads 5am, the sun is still low on the horizon, offering little light.

She moves to the helm, changing the auto pilot, she does another sweep of the horizon, before checking the instruments. The Radar shows nothing, but the AIS reports one container ship at its limits, 40 nautical miles away, leaving port.

KAI
Eyes up, big one coming out.

Kai pauses, looking around for another person before shaking her head, remembering she's alone. She takes a moment to check the autopilot is working, then leaves.

EXT. DECK, TARETOE, CONTINUOUS

Kai is working on autopilot herself, she turns right upon leaving the cabin, going to the port side of the ship. She grabs a large controller attached to the left crane, and pressing a button.

The winch drum beside her starts whirring, pulling in the net, the strain of the weight is wringing water into the deck. When most the net is out of the water, the beam automatically starts folding in on itself, so the net can close.

When a large catchment of fish is hovering beside the deck the winch stops. The crane arm moves in, releasing the net over a large catchment funnel. One corner remains attached, allowing the net to empty.

Kai moves to the funnel and presses a button, starting the conveyor belt as flapping fish fall through the funnel. There is a automated sorting system, removing large chunks of rubbish and debris from the fish.

The fish should drop into a holding tank, the rubbish into bins beside the conveyor belt. The first few fish flop to the deck, Kai looks at them in confusion, before her eyes widen in panic, running forward to open the tank hatch at the end of the conveyor belt. She then has to gather the fallen fish and put them in the tank.

The task done, Kai sits back against a pillar, putting her head between her knees and groaning.

The fish stop coming out of the funnel before the net is empty, causing the funnel to start beeping loudly. Kai is exhausted, slowly unfolding herself and going back to the funnel. She stops the conveyor belt while she opens up the funnel and removes the object that is blocking the pipe. It is a watermelon. She picks it up and stares at it for a moment, before shaking her head. She restarts the conveyor belt and the whole process resumes without further issue.

KAI
What the heck?

Kai puts the watermelon down, grabs the emptied net, and carefully folds it into a bin beneath the crane arm. She presses a button to fold the crane arm away as much as possible, then picks up the watermelon again.

She moves to a similar remote on the port aft. We spot a small light racing across the water to our left, on a collision course with us.

KAI
Seriously?! Of all days...

Kai slams her hand on the button to start the winch, it doesn't start, but she doesn't notice, already running for the bridge.

INT. BRIDGE, TERATEO, CONTINUOUS

Kai tosses the watermelon on the dash, grabbing a hold of the engine controls and pulling them back, slowing the ship so the small motorboat could cross in front.

KAI
I HAVE RIGHT OF WAY!

Kai sighs, taking a moment to breathe deeply, eyes closed and calming herself, before going back outside.

EXT. DECK, TERATEO, CONTINUOUS

It is still dark out, dawn slowly starting to spread across the horizon. Kai goes for the starboard aft net, repeating the net hauling process. She is unable to see that the left net is still out.

While the machines are doing its thing, Kai, and us, look out over the ocean. We can see the glimpses of home coming closer, lights and navigational buoys. Waves breaking on a rocky outcrop on the left side, marked by a east cardinal mark (sequence, three white flashes, 10 second gap, three more). Kai is yawning again, fighting to stay awake. The sight of the buoys remind her she is running out of time.

Kai goes to the right hand net, repeating the process of hauling in the nets again. Breathing a sigh of relief as she packs away the 'last one.'

EXT. UNDERWATER, OFF PORT AFT OF TERATEO, CONTINUOUS

We see that the aft net is only narrowly missing snagging on rocks that don't break the surface. Ahead of us, we see bigger, scragglier rocks, even closer to the side of the boat.

EXT. BRIDGE, TERATEO, FEW MINUTES LATER

Kai enters the bridge with a yawn, turning off auto-pilot, checking the AIS for the location of the big ship - it's

still coming up the right hand side of the channel, forcing her to stay left (maritime 'road rules').

KAI
Nearly home.

Dawn has broken, sharing a soft light.

EXT. UNDERWATER, OFF PORT AFT OF TERATEO, CONTINUOUS

The net is drifting inches off the rocks, ripping off small bits, fraying the rope of the net on the sturdier pieces.

It gets entangled and stuck.

INT, BRIDGE, TERATEO, CONTINUOUS

The entire ship lurches and swings around to the left. Kai cries out as she is thrown across the room. The Watermelon falls to the floor and smashes, going everywhere.

Kai quickly moves back to the helm, she grunts, fighting to turn the wheel to the right. She increases power, Terateo very slowly starts to turn back to the right.

EXT. UNDERWATER, OFF PORT AFT OF TERATEO, CONTINUOUS

The net gets even more tangled, pulled further onto the rocks by Terateo trying to straighten. The backwash from the props throws more of the net onto the rocks. The front of the boat swings around to the left again, we see the rocks scraping the bottom of the hull. A large rock is close to impaling her if she can't correct her course.

INT. BRIDGE, TERATEO, CONTINUOUS

Kai scans over her instruments, holding the wheel with all her strength. She can't see anything that could cause this. She pins her leg under the wheel, using the hand she has free to press buttons, desperately searching the data for why she is stuck. The pain of holding the wheel, and the stress of the day, everything that went wrong, has caused tears to fill her eyes.

Giving up on the idea that it's mechanical, she puts both hands on the wheel, wincing as she stands on the formerly pinned leg. She looks out at the back of the ship, and spots the aft port net out.

KAI

FUCK!

Kai brings the boat to a stop, leaving Terateo at the mercy of the tides. Kai slips over on a bit of watermelon as she runs out the door.

KAI

REALLY?

She gets up and leaves, a hand brushing watermelon off of her rear, the lower half of her body wet and covered in pieces of watermelon.

EXT. DECK, TERATEO, CONTINUOUS

Kai rushes down towards the left aft, she grabs a big machete from a sheath on the internal gunwale (knee high barrier surrounding the ship edge), she slams it down on the rope held to the drum, the net is cut free.

She puts the machete back, pushes the button to bring in the crane arm, this time waiting until she sees it working, before going back to the bridge.

EXT. UNDERWATER, OFF PORT AFT OF TERATEO, CONTINUOUS

The net is floating in the water, fish swimming out and back to the depths, more parts of the netting getting caught. We watch as the hull of Terateo moves away. Brushing the rocks against the side of her hull as she does so.

INT. BRIDGE, TERATOE, CONTINUOUS

Kai winces at the sound of the boat scraping on the rocks, but continues heading home.

EXT. DECK TERATOE, CONTINUOUS

Teratoe bathed in the glowing dawn light, heads into port.