

Foreign Language Film Festival 2007-2008

The Perfect Storm

About the movie

DIRECTOR	WOLFGANG PETERSEN
YEAR / COUNTRY	2000 / USA
GENRE	ADVENTURE
ACTORS	GEORGE CLOONEY, MARK WAHLBERG, DIANE LANE, WILLIAM FICHTNER, KAREN ALLEN, ALLEN PAYNE



PLOT

Halloween 1991: three tremendous weather fronts - among which Hurricane Grace - converged to create the greatest storm of all time with Force 12 winds and massive waves over 30 meters high. Captain Billy Tyne (George Clooney) and his crew take out a swordfishing boat for a last try in October after a disappointing season when the fish were not biting for them and they were earning less. They find the fish, but run into a storm to end all storms. The heroic rescue helicopters of the Coast Guard brave the furious storm to try and rescue them, but run out of fuel. The amazing scenes of the turbulent, raging, phenomenal Atlantic Ocean make us realize that contrary to what we have been led to believe, maybe hell is watery. The next time you eat swordfish steak, think of what these Gloucester fishermen have to go through to put that steak on your plate! I won't spoil this riveting, exciting movie by telling you the ending.... What makes it more exciting is that it is a true story with the weather, wind and ocean among the principal actors. Man has not yet been able to control these capricious forces.

LANGUAGE

The cast uses fishermen's technical terms and slang, lots of sexual innuendo, double meanings and plays on words. They often shorten sentences by leaving out subjects or verbs but they are understandable anyway. The accents are typical of the Massachusetts seacoast area and fairly clear.

VOCABULARY

He passed away on board: he died on the boat	Wheelbarrow: 3-wheeled carrying contraption
I'll bury him: I'll put him in his grave	Lay off: fire
Ledger: record book	Watch your step: be careful
Skipper/Skip: captain	Make a pass: flirt
Bait: small fish used to trap large fish	Shiner/mouse: black eye
Rookie: neophyte	I'll moonlight: I'll do a second job after hours
Your cut: your share	Crap out: chicken out
Cold streak: no fish	Knucklehead: stupid
Tackle: fishing equipment	Screw around: lay lots of people
You struck out: you failed (baseball slang)	Screw up: ruin
Yank my site: leave my employ	Landlubber: someone who doesn't go to sea
A slammer: a great success	Rogue wave: anomalous wave
Guts: courage	Gale: strong wind
He's fishing with a longer pole: he's got better equipment (sexual innuendo)	Squalls: sudden, short, windy storms
Fuel: petrol	Ditching: going into the water
Shoot pool: play billiards	Bail out: either jump out of a boat/ plane / take the water out of boat
Hook: curved scythe shaped piece of steel which impales fish	Helm: the apparatus by which a ship is steered
Get laid: have sex	Hover: hang in the air above something
Pack cod: put cod in boxes	Boatswain: officer in charge of rigging, cables, etc.
Snockered: failed	Overboard: in the water
Bow /stern: front/ rear	Knot: measure of speed