

# THE DROP

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SPRING 2019



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## OUR MISSION

The Surfrider Foundation is dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's ocean, waves and beaches through a powerful activist network.

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LETTER FROM OUR CEO

# FIGHTING FOR OUR OCEAN, WAVES AND BEACHES

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Fifty years ago, two dramatic events in opposite parts of the country were catalysts for the modern environmental movement. First, a catastrophic oil spill in Santa Barbara spoiled beaches and harmed wildlife along miles of the Southern California coast. A few months later, the Cuyahoga River in Ohio caught fire from excessive pollution. The media attention and public outrage ushered in important environmental laws and agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency and the Clean Water Act. Five decades later, progress has been made but many challenges persist.

Today, clean water is still threatened by sewage spills, destructive offshore oil drilling, plastic and dirty water, which are polluting our waterways. The good news is that Surfrider is responding to these threats across the nation. In San Diego, our chapter is working on a complex cross-border pollution issue that has severely impacted Tijuana and San Diego's beaches. We are fighting at local, state and federal levels against renewed efforts to open our coasts to new offshore drilling. In Long Island, New York, our Blue Water Task Force volunteer water testing program continues to grow and inform families of where it's

safe to surf and swim. In Goleta, California, the footwear brand Sanuk is supporting the protection of special coastal places like their "two miles of smiles." Similar efforts are taking place along all our coasts.

In 2018, we had a record-smashing year of 82 victories, showing that our grassroots efforts are making a positive difference. As members, volunteers, activists, collaborators and supporters, we each play a pivotal role in the work to protect public health and clean water.

Thank you for helping to fuel these significant wins nationwide and for your continued support to protect the ocean and coasts for the future.

For Clean Water and Healthy Beaches,

Dr. Chad Nelsen  
Chief Executive Officer



## MAKING PROGRESS

# TOGETHER, WE WILL PROTECT OUR COASTS

BY PETE STAUFFER, ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTOR

The Surfrider Foundation was founded 35 years ago on the premise that people who love the coasts should protect them. As a grassroots organization, we're more than just a coastal advocacy group. Surfrider is about empowering people to make a difference. Our volunteer network of more than 170 chapters and clubs protects thousands of miles of U.S. coastlines through local education, campaigns and stewardship. Surfrider's record-shattering 82 victories last year demonstrate our network's successful impact.



Above: Surfrider activists celebrating the protection of beach access to the long embattled Martin's Beach.

Surfrider's efforts are more important than ever. Our coasts are increasingly threatened by plastic pollution, degraded water quality,

harmful coastal development, rising seas and climate change. At the same time, the Trump administration is working to roll back federal protections and expand offshore oil drilling. Despite the many threats to our coasts, Surfrider continues to tackle these challenges with optimism and stoke.

This year, the Surfrider Foundation is focusing on five goals to protect our ocean, waves and beaches:

### 1) Protect clean water so it's safe to surf and play in the ocean

Surfrider is protecting coastal water quality by building awareness of local pollution problems and advancing solutions. Our Blue Water Task Force is monitoring more than 400 beaches and will conduct over 5,000 water quality tests this year. Surfrider is also leading campaigns across the nation to address pollution problems and defend the Clean Water Act.

### 2) Keep plastic pollution out of the marine environment

Surfrider is advocating for local, state and federal policies to keep plastic bags, cigarette butts, foam and other forms of plastic trash out of our ocean, waves and beaches. Through



Above: Families in San Diego joining together to stand up and speak out against the many threats to our coasts.

our Ocean Friendly Restaurants program, we are registering hundreds of restaurants to serve plastic-free meals. Our grassroots network will also remove 200,000 pounds of plastic from beaches and parks by engaging more than 30,000 volunteers in the national beach cleanup program, the Better Beach Alliance.

### 3) Stop offshore oil drilling and protect ocean habitat

The Surfrider Foundation is fighting the Trump administration's plans to expand offshore drilling in the Atlantic, Pacific, Gulf of Mexico and Arctic oceans. We're supporting more than 50 marine protected areas through strong community and stakeholder support. In addition, Surfrider is protecting critical ocean management programs by defending NOAA's budget for the upcoming year.

### 4) Protect our coasts from development and climate change

Surfrider is waging more than 30 campaigns to protect our coasts from harmful shoreline

development and armoring projects. We're working with 25 communities to plan for coastal erosion and sea level rise. Our network is also advocating for climate change policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote coastal resilience.

### 5) Defend and enhance beach access for all people

The Surfrider Foundation views beach access as a universal right. That's why we work nationwide to secure public access so that people of all communities can enjoy valuable coastal resources. This year, Surfrider will open or protect threatened access in five to ten states. We are also supporting inclusive coastal opportunities by bringing about 5,000 inland or underserved community members to visit the beach every year.

To get involved, find a nearby Surfrider chapter at [surfrider.org/chapters](https://surfrider.org/chapters) or support Surfrider's volunteer coastal defenders at [surfrider.org/support-surfrider](https://surfrider.org/support-surfrider).





## GUEST FEATURE

# IS IT SAFE TO SWIM?

BY GABRIELLE PARENT-DOLINER, SWIM GUIDE PROGRAM MANAGER

I grew up on the banks of the Welland Canal, a historically untouchable body of water that was reserved for cargo ships and effluent from the city's steel factories and combined sewers. No one with any sense regarded Welland's canals or its river for recreational purposes. Even though my childhood home sits between Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, I never once swam in them as a kid. My mom ended up in the hospital with severe infections after a trip with her family to Toronto's Woodbine Beach in the 1960s, which made Lake Ontario off limits to me and my sisters. I was 15 the first time I dunked my head underwater at the beach in Southern Ontario, and my memory of that moment is of regret and panicked visions of disfiguring rashes and imminent mutation.

The palpable and unabating urge to want to swim and to be told "not here" led me to my current job as the program manager for the Swim Guide, an initiative of the organization, Swim Drink Fish Canada. Swim Guide was created in 2011 to keep up with the never-ending phone calls and public inquiries that all revolved around the same question, "Is it safe to swim in Lake Ontario?" At the onset, my colleagues assumed that it would be easy to find the answer. Little did they know, reliable and current facts and figures about beach water quality are hard to come by.

Beachgoers continue to run into a number of obstacles when they try to answer the questions of when and where they can get in the water.

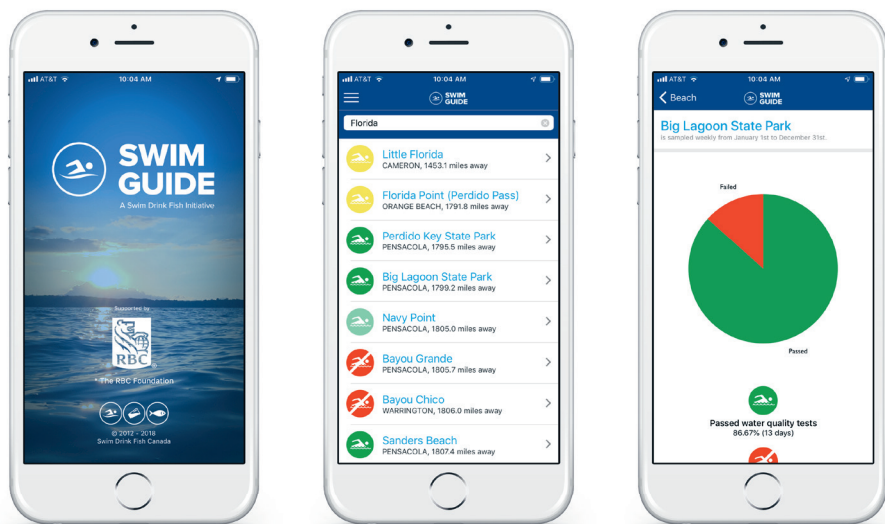
Access to data, clarity of information and time delays are just a few of the barriers the public faces when working to find out more about their beaches. Lack of water quality information means that people, often unknowingly, swim in contaminated waters. This can result in illness and infection.

Swim Guide was launched with the purpose of providing current, clear, recreational water quality data for the public so people can avoid contamination and getting sick. Today, we share up-to-date recreational water quality information for more than 7,000 beaches in 10 countries. We have 3 million users. Swim Guide data is available on our website or smartphone app in three languages. It's free to use for those sharing their water quality data, and for those looking for recreational water quality information.

Swim Guide is a simple concept. We find test results from monitoring bodies, such as health units and state programs, and publish them to our website and app as they become available. If people see pollution, they can report it using our pollution reporting tool. Swim Guide is not just about getting good recreational water quality data into the hands of the public. We also want to help people to get outside and connect with water.

Our Swim Guide affiliate network, comprised of government bodies, academic institutions, private citizens and more than 80 nonprofit





Above: The Swim Guide mobile app gives users a vital resource to know the water quality of beaches around the world.

organizations, including the Surfrider Foundation, share test results from their monitoring programs through our database as well.

In fact, citizen science makes up nearly half of the data that we have for U.S. beaches. Our affiliates are the heart and soul of Swim Guide. In addition to sharing their own data, they spend hundreds of hours each year manually compiling water quality information from websites, spreadsheets, and over the phone with health units so that beachgoers can access beach water information and find a clean and close place to swim.

Swim Guide champions strong data management and open data. We are leaders in recreational water quality data sharing. In 2017, we created the first standard for the automated exchange of recreational water quality information. This open data standard helps to promote better data management practices and encourages the interoperability of recreational water quality data to ensure that it is useful, useable and used.

With financial support from the Canadian Internet Registration Authority, we authored

the initial open data standard with expert advisors and stakeholders, including the Surfrider Foundation, the U.S. EPA's Research and Development team and Alberta Health. The Surfrider Foundation was also the first organization to adopt our open standard. As of 2018, we've automated the data exchange for the Blue Water Task Force results collected by five Surfrider chapters.

As people can face any number of obstacles when trying to access water quality information before heading to the water, Swim Guide is a solution for the public. We are also a solution for nonprofits, governments, educational institutions and citizen science groups that are looking for platforms to share their data. However, Swim Guide is primarily a tool for people who, by nature, are connected to the water and who should never have to face a 'no swimming' sign when they head to the beach.

Find out more at [theswimguide.org](https://theswimguide.org) or learn about the open data standard at the site below at [github.com/swimdrinkfish/opendata](https://github.com/swimdrinkfish/opendata).



Above: Gabrielle and local clean water activists collecting water quality data from a dock.



Above: When we fight to keep our local beaches clean and water quality in check, we all get to reap the rewards. Even our furry friends.





## CAMPAIGN SPOTLIGHT

# OUR OCEAN KNOWS NO BORDERS

BY GABRIELA M. TORRES, POLICY COORDINATOR FOR  
THE CLEAN BORDER WATER NOW CAMPAIGN

The Surfrider Foundation's San Diego Chapter is currently leading the way in response to a serious environmental disaster that is poisoning the Pacific Ocean and threatening the health, economies and safety of the border cities between Mexico and the U.S.

Nestled at the southernmost part of California's 1,100 miles of coastline are two beaches, the Tijuana Slough shoreline and Imperial Beach. Together, they boast iconic stretches of sand, big surf, rich wetlands and unique wildlife. Unfortunately, these beaches are often closed to swimming and other recreation due to untreated human sewage and pollution. From 2015-2017, the Tijuana Slough shoreline was closed for about half of every year and health agencies continue to issue closures to protect public health at both locations.

Our neighbors in Mexico are equally affected. However, less information is generally available in Mexico regarding beach water quality. When U.S. beaches are empty due to contamination, nearby Mexican beaches often have dozens of children bathing in the same waves. A walk on the northernmost Mexican beach, Playas de Tijuana, reveals constant flows of wastewater that run from the streets to the sand and into the ocean.

The situation is even more dire than what it may seem at the surface. A 2018 Customs and Border Protection water quality study in the canyons of the Tijuana River Valley revealed that not only are there consistently elevated levels of *E. coli*, *Enterococcus* and coliform bacteria typically found in sewage, but there are also high concentrations of chemical contaminants that exceed safety standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency. These substances include hexavalent chromium, uranium, cyanide, lead and volatile organic compounds. In addition, millions of plastic products flow through the Tijuana River Valley. If these pollutants are not captured and disposed of by the agencies tasked with overseeing waste removal, then the sewage, plastics and chemicals flush into the Pacific Ocean.

All of this pollution is the result of the rapid growth of Tijuana, a Mexican border city. Despite Mexican efforts, U.S. investment and the creation of a binational body called the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC), Tijuana has grown faster than Mexican infrastructure, resulting in significant water quality issues. As the ocean knows no borders, these problems continue to plague the Pacific Ocean and pollute U.S. and Mexican communities.



Surfrider is tackling cross-border pollution with a multi-faceted approach. In 2017, the Surfrider San Diego Chapter launched the Blue Water Task Force program after an estimated 240 million gallons of raw sewage ended up in the Pacific Ocean. The chapter is now testing beach water quality on a weekly basis and posting results online to make information accessible. Surfrider has also worked together with local high schools and volunteer activists to provide data to beachgoers.

Recently, our Surfrider coalition visited Washington, D.C. and presented our all-encompassing Clean Border Water Now campaign. We advocated for higher investment in U.S. infrastructure, in addition to increased funding for Mexican infrastructure through a matched funding program called the Border Wastewater Infrastructure Program. Our Surfrider activists also called for the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) to be used as a mechanism to assist Mexico in updating its sewer system and to ensure that the U.S. Clean Water Act standards are upheld.

At the national level, Surfrider has taken further action by filing a Clean Water Act lawsuit against the International Boundary and Water Commission for its failure to uphold the Clean Water Act. This litigation is one of three concurrent lawsuits by multiple organizations to protect public health and clean water.

The Surfrider San Diego Chapter is also working in partnership with Mexican nonprofits and collaborators, such as Tijuana Calidad de Vida, KM1 and Desembolsate BC, to help create a similar cross-border campaign in Mexico. The aim is to build awareness of beach pollution problems through binational cleanups and education on plastic pollution issues. In September 2018, Tijuana was the first border city to place a complete ban on single-use plastic bags. This effort will have a direct impact on the plastic waste that reaches the Pacific Ocean.

In addition, we have created the Tijuana River Valley (TRV) Stakeholder Solution, which is a conceptual infrastructure plan that has been



Above: Special nets have been crafted to catch the debris that flow through the Tijuana River channels.



Above: San Diego BWTF volunteer, Ally Senturk, collects a sample from murky water pooling up at the beach.

vetted by stakeholders. The plan addresses managing sewage events, plastic pollution and chemicals with possible solutions, such as green infrastructure and technology upgrades. The TRV Stakeholder Solution will be effective in reacting to immediate events. However, to fully address the long-term problem as the Mexican border towns grow, we need active, diplomatic participation and the commitment of both the U.S. and Mexican governments to develop a 10, 20 and 30 year plan to finally eliminate the contamination.

Surfrider's efforts at local, state, national and binational levels are helping to combat contamination and protect clean water. U.S. and Mexican nonprofits are working toward solutions to this non-partisan issue and we hope that governments on both sides of the border will follow our lead.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- 1) Contact your federal representatives in the House and Senate and ask them to increase funding for the Border Wastewater Infrastructure Program (BWIP) and to require the USMCA to address the issue of transboundary pollution.
- 2) Find your nearest Surfrider chapter and get involved. Surfrider has more than 170 chapters and student clubs nationwide. Join our extensive grassroots network and support the protection of our ocean, waves and beaches for the future.



## INITIATIVE SPOTLIGHT

# CULTIVATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF COASTAL DEFENDERS

BY RYAN CRUSE, STUDENT CLUB NETWORK MANAGER  
AND MARA DIAS, WATER QUALITY MANAGER

Across the country, Surfrider chapters are using the Blue Water Task Force (BWTF) program to inform their local communities of where it is safe to surf, swim and play in the ocean. Initially launched 25 years ago to test water quality before local agency-run programs existed, Surfrider's Blue Water Task Force has expanded into a powerful, nationwide, citizen science program that is protecting public health and clean water.

There are currently 50 volunteer-run BWTF labs in North America. The Surfrider network processes nearly 7,000 water samples annually, which are collected from 475 beaches and freshwater sites. The resulting water quality data is shared with beachgoers and local authorities to inform safe coastal recreation, identify pollution problems and develop solutions. Surfrider volunteers often test beaches and sources of pollution that are not typically covered by agency-run programs. The BWTF is frequently the only source of year-round recreational water quality information in many coastal communities.

By working together with local schools and student groups, Surfrider chapters are also helping to cultivate the next generation of coastal stewards through their Blue Water Task Force programs. More than 30 water quality testing labs operate with the help of students and their teacher advisors. While Surfrider chapters offer the training and equipment, schools provide the student power and lab space. Middle school, high school and college students, in addition to kids participating in after-school youth programs, are all working to inform community solutions for clean water and healthy beaches through Surfrider's Blue Water Task Force program.

A great example is in Newport, Oregon, where the local Surfrider chapter is collaborating with the Kid Zone (K-12) after-school program. Together, the students process water quality results from five locations on a monthly basis. Surfrider volunteers drop off samples at the school and the kids do the prep, processing and data uploading. This hands-on citizen science project is part of a larger



Left: Students of The Pegasus School BWTF program are learning to test local water samples for signs of water pollution.



Above: Surfrider and the Warm Current surf camp with youth from the Kid Zone after-school program.

ocean-centric curriculum that includes learning about watersheds, ocean safety and even surf camps for the adventurous. For younger students, the BWTF program serves as an exciting introduction to the scientific method and raises awareness about water quality issues affecting local beaches.

Down in California, Surfrider's Cal Poly Student Club has teamed up with the San Luis Obispo Chapter to extend the geographic reach of their local BWTF program. They're testing three sites on a weekly basis and processing samples at a lab on campus. In addition to building a more expansive data set, partnering on the water quality testing program has been a positive way for the club to engage new volunteers, provide

exposure to field work and also serve as a resume builder for students who are interested in the environmental science field.

The Blue Water Task Force program engages students and provides volunteers of all ages with a significant opportunity to participate in a scientific study with real-world applications, develop an in-depth understanding of local water quality issues and cultivate the next generation of coastal defenders.

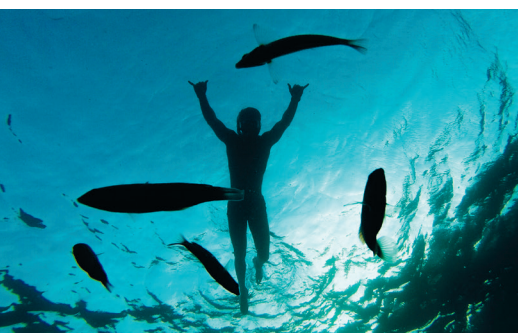
To find a nearby student club, visit [surfrider.org/programs/student-clubs](https://surfrider.org/programs/student-clubs).

## SURFRIDER IMPACT

# THE MAKING OF A VICTORY

BY SPENCER CAMPBELL, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

At Surfrider, we measure success through victories. A victory is a decision made by a governing body that protects the ocean and coastal environment. In 2018, we had a record-breaking year with 82 victories to support clean water and healthy beaches. This year, we are seeing a significant movement of community voices that are working to provide strong protection for our ocean, waves and beaches.



The making of a victory is attainable through a key ingredient, *you*. Since Surfrider has chapters that are rooted in communities nationwide, you are the first to provide a voice for our ocean and to stand up for our coasts in your neighborhood. From volunteering at a beach cleanup to standing in front of your City

Council, there are many ways to get involved and express your voice. When we start on the path to a victory, we first hear from you and your community through a local chapter. Then, through grassroots organizing by Surfrider's regional managers, careful research on the issue by our staff scientists, chapter toolkits created by our marketing team and skilled, specialized support provided to local volunteers by Surfrider's experts, we set forth on advocating for solutions. And, it is your investment in Surfrider that fuels the entire process. This formula for success can take years, but the results are real. Since we started counting in 2006, we have achieved more than 500 coastal protection victories!

Throughout the Surfrider network, we are consistently working on hundreds of campaigns. While they can sometimes feel like a marathon rather than a sprint, our solid track record of cumulative victories has made a substantial impact for the protection of clean water and healthy beaches.

Surfrider's blueprint for scalable change starts with you and our on-the-ground network of coastal defenders.



Above: Surfrider and local activists came together to speak out against single-use plastic at City Hall in San Francisco and sparked lasting policy change to fight plastic pollution.

In San Francisco, Surfrider has worked for years to build a movement to reduce single-use plastic through beach cleanups and public outreach. Three years ago, chapter activist Eva Holman went door-to-door to local businesses, asking them to consider adopting a policy to provide customers with 'paper straws upon request.' The Surfrider chapter motivated 100 restaurants and bars to move away from plastic straws. Supported by national staff with plastic pollution resources and subject experts, the chapter created a lasting impact in their community through volunteer-led action and set the stage for a strong plastic reduction policy.

In 2018, Supervisor Katy Tang, a long-time advocate for the beach, drafted and introduced legislation to reduce single-use plastics. The city of San Francisco has now adopted an ordinance that will ban the sale and distribution

of single-use plastic and bio-plastic straws, utensils, stirrers and similar items, in addition to food containers that contain fluorinated chemicals. The impact of this plastic pollution victory, one of 52 achieved by Surfrider in 2018, is that hundreds of millions of plastic items will be kept out of circulation and the waste stream.

Thank you for being a driving force behind coastal protection victories, such as San Francisco's single-use plastic ordinance, across the nation.

Get involved at [surfrider.org/support-surfrider](https://surfrider.org/support-surfrider).



WE ARE THE  
**UNITED STATES  
AND OCEANS  
OF AMERICA**

THE LAND AND OCEANS OF THE FREE.  
THE HOME AND WAVES OF THE BRAVE.



**SURFRIDER.ORG/USOA**





## REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT

# PROTECTING CLEAN WATER IN EASTERN LONG ISLAND

BY COLLEEN HENN, CLEAN WATER COORDINATOR AND  
EASTERN LONG ISLAND CHAPTER COORDINATOR

The success of the Eastern Long Island Chapter's Blue Water Task Force (BWTF) begins with the volunteers who are uniquely invested in clean water.

Cole, a local high school student, started volunteering his time to collect water samples after doing a research project on water pollution in Mecox Bay. This estuary drains to the ocean beach where he lifeguards during the summer. Since Cole does not yet have his driver's license, he and his mother, Tricia, collect water samples together to help protect clean water.

Another volunteer, Larissa, lives on a waterfront property on the highly-polluted Little Fresh Pond. As the threat of a new development on the pond arose, Larissa began sampling two locations to build awareness of the pond's poor water quality. This data then helped Larissa's homeowners association and the town planning department to assess the environmental impacts of a proposal to expand a summer camp in the pond's watershed.

For Leslie, one of the local BWTF program's original volunteers, it was her appreciation and respect of wetlands, wildlife and habitat restoration that motivated her to volunteer for the Blue Water Task Force. Leslie believes that water quality and soil conservation are profoundly important. She now samples between five and ten locations on a regular basis.

There's also the dynamic duo, Heidi and Tom, who grew attached to their local beaches when they first moved to the East End of Long Island. The protests for the Dakota Access Pipeline at Standing Rock initially motivated Heidi and Tom to get involved with Surfrider's local BWTF. They now sample at six locations, including their favorite beaches to enjoy together with their grandsons.

At any given time of the year, during the height of the crowded summer or during the frozen winter, Surfrider's Blue Water Task Force volunteers are out collecting water samples at their favorite beaches to protect public health and clean water.



Above: Surfrider chapters and clubs worked to have signage installed that warns the public if their local water sources are contaminated and unsafe.



The Eastern Long Island BWTF program was launched in 2013. Surfrider volunteers test popular beaches, ponds and streams to fill in the gaps of the Suffolk County's beach water testing program. The Surfrider chapter's program has since grown into a massive and collaborative citizen science effort that provides year-round water quality information for more than 50 locations. The outcomes of this BWTF program have been highly impactful, thanks to our dedicated volunteers:

- As the result of a new collaboration with the Suffolk County Department of Health Services, sampling efforts by Surfrider volunteers effectively doubled the amount of water quality data generated by the county's Beach Monitoring Program on Eastern Long Island.

- Surfrider volunteers began collecting weekly samples to be tested for harmful algal blooms by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. This allowed more areas to be tested, which improved the state's ability to assess and warn the public of current health threats.
- Blue Water Task Force volunteers also noticed inconsistencies in signage used to warn the public of active algal blooms at the beach. After the chapter worked with all levels of government to improve public notices, the state and county now use new signs that clearly communicate health threats associated with exposure to harmful algal blooms.

Find out more about Surfrider's Blue Water Task Force program at [go.surfrider.org/BWTF](https://go.surfrider.org/BWTF).



## PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

# SANUK: SMILE... PASS IT ON!

BY ADAM WALKER, SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT MANAGER, SANUK

Sanuk was founded with one goal: make people smile... and pass it on! Our mission is to be the outfitter for the journey to your happy place. If there's one thing we've learned along the way, it's that with great enjoyment, comes great responsibility. If a place makes you smile... pass it on to others, and leave it better for the next person. Wherever a happy place may be, we all have a duty to make sure it stays healthy, clean and pristine.



These days, Sanuk's happy place is its own backyard: a curved, coastal slice of Santa Barbara, California, that we call the "2 Miles of Smiles." These stomping grounds bring endless inspiration to our lives and to the products we make.

We are committed to getting out and giving back as much as we can. Alongside Surfrider's Santa Barbara and Isla Vista chapters, we're

providing local educational sessions and spearheading beach cleanups to protect clean water, reduce plastic pollution and defend this beautiful coastline from offshore drilling. Around the globe, Sanuk is also home to a unique and diverse ambassador squad. These surfers, artists, yogis and musicians — many of whom are activists in their own right — all help create positive influences on environmental issues that impact their respective happy places.

Since our inception in 1997, we've been on a quest to make feet smile and keep good vibes running high. From our Furreal flip flops to the Yoga Sling, Sidewalk Surfer or anything we dream in between, it has to be fun. So when it comes to doing good, that has to be fun too.

For Sanuk, partnering with Surfrider means bringing to life a core part of our DNA. We're honored to support, help make forward progress and infuse every bit of effort with our signature brand of stoke.

Together, we pledge to use our ever-growing voice, passion and community to champion awareness, amplify activism and magnify environmental stewardship amongst all walks.

Protect your Happy Place! [sanuk.com/surfrider](https://sanuk.com/surfrider)







## ACTIVIST PROFILE

# DELIA BENSE-KANG

BY PETE STAUFFER, ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTOR

### Why and when did you get involved with the Surfrider Foundation?

I've been involved with Surfrider for as long as I can remember. As a Northern California beach bum, I spent entire days in a wetsuit and explored empty coastlines with my family and friends. Growing up surrounded by natural beauty and addicted to surfing motivated me to create a life centered around protecting the ocean and coasts.

After volunteering as Chair of Surfrider's Humboldt Chapter, I'm now tackling coastal protection as the Northern California Campaign Coordinator.

### What inspired you to take action?

I was inspired the moment I learned that the water at my favorite home break is clean and safe because of the Surfrider Foundation. In 1991, Surfrider won a landmark lawsuit against the Samoa Pulp Mill, which was discharging toxic wastewater offshore and making people sick. Although the case happened before my time, its legacy inspired me to become a coastal steward from a young age.

### What has been the highlight of your experiences related to the protection of the ocean and coasts?

A few years ago, I testified at a California Coastal Commission hearing and stated my support for women to have a heat in the Mavericks surf contest. Not only was a heat granted, but the contest also sparked a larger movement. Today, the World Surf League is the first American-based global sports league to offer gender pay equality.

### What is the most important thing you tell others about protecting the ocean, waves and beaches?

It's more fun and less time-consuming than you might think! Pick up trash, push someone into a wave or simply share information over social media. Every contribution feels good and makes a difference for the places we treasure.

### Anything else you'd like to add?

Go get in the ocean! Whether it's charging 20 foot waves, or sharing 2 foot party waves with a bunch of friends, you'll always leave the water feeling better than when you went in. And always, spread the stoke!





## AMBASSADOR PROFILE

# CARISSA MOORE

BY EDDIE ANAYA, MARKETING DIRECTOR

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### **Why and when did you get involved with the Surfrider Foundation?**

I got involved with the Surfrider Foundation in 2018. I have always been inspired by what the organization stands for, how the network makes a difference and Surfrider's passion to protect the world's ocean, waves and beaches.

### **What inspires you to be active in ocean conservation?**

I am driven by my love for the ocean. Surfing and the water have brought me a tremendous amount of joy from a very young age. I go to the beach almost every day and over the years, I have seen the effects of plastic pollution and sea level rise at my local breaks. Reefs are dying and ecosystems are suffering because of what we are unconsciously doing. It makes my heart heavy to think that if we continue at this rate, the breaks I surf now may no longer exist. I want my children and the generations after to be able to walk the same beaches, surf the same reefs and enjoy the same wildlife and ocean ecosystems that have made a difference in my life.

### **What has been the highlight of your experiences related to the protection of the ocean and coasts?**

The highlight of my experiences has been witnessing the next generation embrace their role in protecting the ocean and coasts. Through beach cleanups and the reduction of single-use plastics, I'm seeing more and more kids becoming conscious of the world around them and doing their part.

### **What is the most important thing you tell others about protecting the ocean, waves and beaches?**

Water is life. Every little bit makes a difference. If we all do something, even if it's small, it contributes to the bigger picture. I believe we all need to become aware, take responsibility and play our part in taking care of and protecting our ocean for future generations.



SURFRIDER ONLINE STORE

# GEAR THAT GIVES BACK



100% OF THE PROCEEDS FROM OUR STORE DIRECTLY FUND OUR  
MISSION TO PROTECT OUR OCEAN, WAVES AND BEACHES

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## DONOR PROFILE

# JAYMA CARDOSO

BY TARA D'ANDREA, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

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### **Why and when did you get involved with the Surfrider Foundation?**

I got involved about five years ago, when I met Mara Dias, Surfrider's Water Quality Manager, at the first One Ocean benefit in Montauk, New York. Before then, I had no idea how bad the water quality was in some of the ponds and lakes in our community. I did some research and decided to help clean up Fort Pond, where my coastal business, the Surf Lodge, is located. I was also moved by Surfrider's impact. Everything the organization stands for, everything you say you're going to do, you do it. There is a lot of integrity behind Surfrider.

### **What inspired you to take action?**

I believe it's important to take whatever responsibility you can for your community. I have a business on the water, a home on the beach and a son who's in the water all the time. Our entire community, economy and lifestyles are driven by clean water and healthy beaches. I don't want it to get to the point where my family and others can't enjoy our local waterways and the ocean.

### **What has been the highlight of your experiences related to the protection of the ocean and coasts?**

At the Surf Lodge, we are making progress to replace the septic system and improve Fort Pond's water quality. It's part of a solution that's needed, it's the right thing to do, and it's a hopeful step. I also like that Surf Lodge can be a pioneer and inspire people to do their part. People here in Montauk care about clean water and want to solve the problem.

### **What is the most important thing you tell others about protecting the ocean, waves and beaches?**

Any action you take will be worth it, even if it seems like a baby step. If you're a business owner, eliminating plastic straws, recycling, or replacing plastic cups with compostable cups will make an impact. You don't have to take on the whole problem yourself, but do what you can to eliminate pollution. Then spread that message to others who can do the same.





FEATURED ARTIST

# SCOTT RICHARDS

BY EDDIE ANAYA, MARKETING DIRECTOR

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## **Why and when did you get involved with the Surfrider Foundation?**

Where I grew up outside of Detroit, the Great Lakes were the largest bodies of water nearby. I thought the Pacific and Atlantic oceans were the most amazing, salty, mightiest forces in the world. After moving to Newport Beach in California and surfing at the River Jetties for over a decade, I realized that not only are the coastlines and marine life deteriorating, but the waters are also not as clean as I'd thought.

## **What inspires you to be active in ocean conservation?**

At first, I got involved for selfish reasons since I was getting sinus infections from surfing in contaminated waters. But now that I have kids whose lives also revolve around the ocean, I want it to be as healthy as it once was. My life and career have been spent around the water and when something is sick in your life, you want to help out and take care of it.

## **What has been the highlight of your experience related to the protection of the ocean and coasts?**

My early efforts as a teenager in the 90's included water testing and a few beach cleanups with the Surfrider Foundation. Later on, while working at Quiksilver, I was fortunate enough to design and develop the first organic cotton boardshort that had very little impact on the environment during its production.

Proceeds from the sales of the boardshort helped the Surfrider Foundation in its vital work to protect our ocean and beaches.

## **What is the most important thing you tell others about protecting the ocean, waves and beaches?**

I really believe that every little bit counts. We cannot singularly solve all the issues, but we can each do our part. Whether it's helping with a beach cleanup or reducing single-use plastics in our everyday lives, a few minutes and simple gestures can add up.

## **Anything else you'd like to add?**

Awareness, education and action are key. I see thousands of Junior Guards in the summertime learning about ocean conservation. It's becoming second nature, which is very promising.

To learn more about Scott and his artwork, visit [slightlychoppy.com](http://slightlychoppy.com).







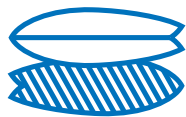
# 2019 COASTAL VICTORIES UPDATE



**30** COASTAL VICTORIES



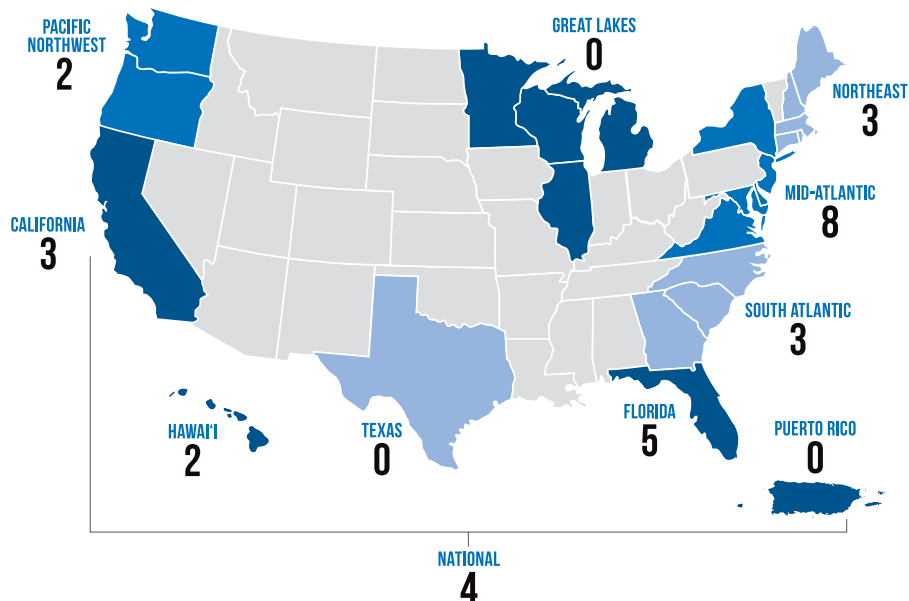
**23** POLICY VICTORIES



**6** SURF RELATED VICTORIES

A coastal victory is a decision made in favor of the coastal and ocean environment that results in a positive conservation outcome, improves coastal access, or both. Policy advancement establishes a policy that will support future protection of our ocean, waves and beaches.

## WHERE THE VICTORIES TOOK PLACE



Plastic Pollution: 20  
Beach Access: 1  
Ocean Protection: 2  
Clean Water: 6  
Coastal Preservation: 1



Local: 25  
State: 1  
National: 4

(VICTORIES AS OF APRIL 2019)

For more information on our victories visit [surfrider.org/campaigns](https://surfrider.org/campaigns).



# IMPACT OUR FUTURE THROUGH PLANNED GIVING

Touch the lives of others while creating a lasting legacy. Help the Surfrider Foundation advance the protection of our ocean, waves and beaches for future generations.

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