

THE DROP

SPRING 2018



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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.

SURFRIDER.ORG

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LETTER FROM OUR CEO

STANDING UP FOR CLEAN WATER

Clean water should be a given. Sadly, it is not. On many coastlines, it is not safe to surf or swim after it rains. In fact, we see over 20,000 health advisories at our beaches every year. The good news is that we can solve our clean water challenges, whether by designing our landscapes to absorb runoff or by supporting programs, like the BEACH Act, that monitor beach water quality at a national scale. Advocating for solutions is central to Surfrider's clean water strategy.

Surfrider's clean water efforts strive to protect water quality in local waterways and reduce ocean pollution so it is safe to surf, swim and play in the ocean. To meet this goal, Surfrider chapters and activists are building awareness of local water pollution problems and advocating for solutions that can protect waterways and prevent pollution from reaching the ocean.

At the national level, we are defending important laws like the Clean Water Act and federal programs led by the EPA and NOAA that protect and improve water quality. A key priority is supporting the BEACH Act, a program that is fundamental to alerting the public about health threats and driving clean water solutions.

At the local level, we are advancing volunteer water testing through our Blue Water Task Force program and by planting Ocean Friendly Gardens that absorb instead of create polluted runoff.

We strive for a day when strong laws and ocean-friendly landscapes make surfing after it rains a safe activity.

Thank you for being part of our powerful network and for your continued support.

For Clean Water and Healthy Beaches,

Dr. Chad Nelsen
Chief Executive Officer

MAKING PROGRESS

CLEAN WATER & HEALTHY BEACHES

BY PETE STAUFFER, ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTOR

This year, Surfrider's network of more than 160 volunteer-led chapters and student clubs, supported at the regional and national levels, are invigorated to continue our work to protect what we love. While the threats facing our coastlines are enormous, the Surfrider Foundation is taking them on with our powerful grassroots network dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the ocean, waves and beaches for the future.

In 2018, we are focusing our extensive efforts on these top four priorities:

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

Water quality at our beaches is threatened by pollution, which results in 20,000 health advisories each year. The Surfrider Foundation works to ensure clean water and healthy beaches by building awareness of local pollution problems and advocating for solutions. With over 40 volunteer-run water testing labs across the U.S., our Blue Water Task Force monitors more than 400 beaches and will perform over 5,000 water quality tests this year. Surfrider is also waging campaigns at local, state, and federal levels to advocate for clean water. This includes

fighting for the BEACH Act, a law Surfrider helped to pass in 2000, to protect the public health of beachgoers.

2) Keep plastic out of the marine environment

Plastic pollution is one of the greatest threats to the health of our ocean ecosystems. In 2018, we are working to pass and defend local and state policies that keep plastic bags, cigarette butts, expanded polystyrene (EPS) foam containers, and other forms of plastic trash out of the environment. Through our Ocean Friendly Restaurants program, we aim to register at least 500 restaurants to provide millions of plastics-free meals this year. Our grassroots network is also working to remove 150,000 pounds of plastic and other trash from beaches and parks by engaging more than 30,000 volunteers in cleanup events.

3) Stop new offshore oil drilling off U.S. coastlines

The Trump administration has proposed new offshore oil drilling off 90% of our nation's coasts, putting the Atlantic, Pacific, Gulf of Mexico, and Arctic at risk. To stop new oil rigs and the inevitable devastating spills,



Below: Surfrider CEO Chad Nelsen standing up and speaking out against newly proposed offshore oil drilling plans at a rally in Laguna Beach, CA.



© MICHELLE KREMER

Surfrider's network is educating communities about the threat and building grassroots opposition through organizing rallies and passing local resolutions. In February, Surfrider brought together leaders of the coastal recreation and tourism industry to meet with the Department of Interior and more than 100 congressional offices during Ocean Recreation Hill Day to make our voices heard in Washington, D.C.

4) Grow the coastal advocacy movement

Surfrider is the leading grassroots coastal protection group in the U.S., and we are continuing to grow and diversify our movement. Protecting our ocean, waves and beaches is a bipartisan issue that impacts coastal

economies, recreation, tourism, and our communities. In a time of political division, a grassroots approach is exactly what's needed to defend our coasts for the future.

We invite you to join us in our efforts to protect our ocean, waves and beaches by volunteering with your local chapter or club and renewing your membership.



GUEST FEATURE

ONE OCEAN ONE PLANET

BY CLIFF KAPONO, SURFRIDER SUPPORTER, SURFER AND SCIENTIST

I was fortunate to grow up surrounded by land and sea in Hawai'i, where it's impossible to differentiate our lives from our environment. Through traditional stories from Hawaiian people, I learned respect for the integrated relationship we have with the ocean, waves and beaches that support us. We are all interconnected and I think when we realize that the ocean impacts us as much as we impact it, that helps us to be better stewards of our environment.

If you're a surfer, recreationist, swimmer, fisherman or walking your dog on the beach, you're interacting with the ocean and coasts. I've found that we can put a modern perspective of traditional Hawaiian knowledge into contemporary narrative through science and chemistry. By demonstrating the similarities we all have at a microbiome level, we can remember what that story sounds like and the importance of protecting clean water, healthy beaches and the world around us.

Now in my final year at the University of California San Diego (UCSD) Scripps Institution of Oceanography, I'm finishing up my PhD in chemistry. When I first ventured into academia, I found resistance to the idea of having a strong commitment to anything else at the

same time, which I'm hoping to change. So I separated my academic career from surfing and rather than choosing between the two, I continued to follow both my passions. Then one day, a professor called me into his office, flipped his computer around and in the midst of iconic surfers, he spotted photos of me. He said he realized the value of communicating outside of the scientific community and asked, "Do you think we can get science into the sport of surfing?" I said, "Let's try." That was the beginning of our Surfer Biome project.

We started working on a pilot study with UCSD's Global Health Institute to research the chemistry and biology at a molecular level of surfers in the Tijuana Slew, La Jolla and North County in Carlsbad. Interest picked up and we expanded the project to a global level to see what the microbiome differences were of surfers across the world, including locations such as London, Morocco and Ireland, in addition to San Francisco and San Diego.

For the project, we're basically asking hundreds of surfers to participate as citizen scientists to see how microbes are different on people who spend a significant amount of time in the water. We sample multiple sites

**NOT ONLY DO OUR ACTIONS IMPACT
THE OCEAN AND ENVIRONMENT, BUT
OUR BIOLOGICAL MAKEUP
IS PHYSICALLY IMPACTED
BY WHAT IS IN THE
ENVIRONMENT AS WELL.**



Above: Cliff hard at work in the chemistry lab at the UCSD Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

on the skin and swab areas around the eyes, nose, mouth, chest, hands, feet, navel area and surfboard. A fecal sample is also taken to serve as a proxy for the gut biome. After the results are collected, they are run through two main mass spectrometry machines to inventory different types of bacteria. This helps with analysis of trends and if we can see any similarities.

By studying bacteria in shared environments through our Surfer Biome project, we're actually seeing the relationship between humans and the environment illustrated. The majority of molecules on our skin are the result of diet and behavior, so we become chemical reservoirs and then can also pick up bacteria from the ocean. What we've found is that not only do our actions impact the ocean and environment, but our biological makeup is physically impacted by what is in the environment as well. We cannot escape that interaction.

We're currently wrapping up analysis and our project results are in the process of being peer-reviewed. The hope is that with empirical evidence to support our connection with nature, the project will help us as surfers, recreationists and coastal communities to be better stewards, facilitate improved environmental decisions in the political realm and increase participation in nonprofits like Surfrider that empower communities to protect our ocean, waves and beaches.

For more information, visit cliffkapono.com or find out about Surfrider's clean water efforts at surfrider.org.



CAMPAIGN SPOTLIGHT

RISE AGAINST OFFSHORE DRILLING

BY PETE STAUFFER, ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTOR

For decades, Surfrider Foundation chapters have defended U.S. coastlines from offshore oil drilling. Now, our network faces its greatest challenge yet as the Trump administration plans to open over 90% of our nation's coasts to new oil and gas development.

In January, the Interior Department released its proposal to dramatically expand offshore oil drilling in U.S. waters, threatening ocean recreation, tourism and fishing industries. The Draft Proposed Five-Year Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program includes planned drilling in the Atlantic, Pacific, Gulf of Mexico, and Arctic Ocean. This extreme proposal puts our communities, beaches, surf breaks, and marine ecosystems at risk of a catastrophic oil spill.

New offshore drilling would threaten thousands of miles of coastline and billions in GDP, for a relatively small amount of oil. Ocean tourism and recreation provide 12 times the amount of jobs to the U.S. economy when compared to offshore oil production. Even under the best-case scenario, America's offshore oil reserves in the Atlantic and Pacific would provide only 758 days, or about two years of oil at our current rate of consumption, according to federal agency

estimates of Undiscovered Technically Recoverable Offshore Oil Resources.



Even when there is not a disastrous spill and everything goes 'right,' the process of oil drilling releases thousands of gallons of polluted water into the ocean, called drilling muds. These muds are generally unregulated and contain toxic substances such as benzene, zinc, arsenic, radioactive materials and other contaminants. High concentrations of metals have been found around drilling platforms in the Gulf of Mexico, and a study by the Pew Charitable Trust concluded that a single oil well discharges up to 1,500-2,000 tons of waste material.

Fortunately, attempts to revise the 2017-2022 Offshore Drilling Plan require an extensive

review process with multiple opportunities for public input. Surfrider's grassroots network is both ready and motivated to stand up for the protection of our nation's coastlines.

Across the country, Surfrider is educating communities about the threat of new offshore drilling and building diverse coalitions of opposition. We are also organizing turnout for public meetings and mobilizing citizens to submit official comments against the proposal.

In Oregon, Surfrider and other organizations rallied nearly 300 concerned residents, business owners, fishers, environmental and social justice advocates to demonstrate against the federal government's plans to open Oregon's coast to oil drilling for the first time in 50 years. Attendees from across the region, including state and tribal representatives, gathered to voice concerns about the risk of offshore drilling to Oregon's economy and environment.

Thousands of Californians attended coastal protests organized by Surfrider chapters and

dozens of other groups, joining together in opposition to the federal government's plans for new offshore drilling. In Laguna Beach, over 500 people turned out to hear Surfrider CEO Dr. Chad Nelsen, actor Ted Danson, U.S. Congressman Alan Lowenthal and others speak out against new oil drilling off California.

In Washington state, the Surfrider Foundation and local collaborators organized a press conference, held in the office of Washington State Governor Jay Inslee, to send the message that coastal communities, jobs, livelihoods, and clean water are put unnecessarily at risk by new offshore oil drilling. Commercial, tribal, sport fishing, tourism and recreation businesses have expressed opposition to the prospect of increased risks of an oil spill in the Pacific Northwest.

On the Atlantic coast, Surfrider organized rallies and citizen attendance for public meetings from Maine to Florida. We also helped to pass over 130 local resolutions against offshore drilling — a number that continues to grow every month! These efforts have contributed to growing bipartisan

THE ACTIONS WE TAKE TODAY WILL DETERMINE THE FATE OF OUR OCEAN AND COASTS



WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1) Contact your federal representatives

Members of Congress need to hear from constituents opposed to offshore drilling. Make your voice heard by completing Surfrider's action alert and calling your representatives in the House and Senate.

2) During the next public comment period, submit input

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) will open another public comment period later this year after the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) draft is released. It is important to stand up and submit comments during this limited timeframe.

3) Join your nearest Surfrider chapter and get involved!

Surfrider has more than 160 chapters and clubs nationwide. Join our extensive grassroots network and support the protection of our ocean, waves and beaches for the future.

opposition from federal and state leaders, putting significant pressure on the administration to remove the Atlantic from the draft offshore drilling plan.

At the national level, nearly 100 Surfrider members, recreation industry leaders and environmental partners traveled to Washington, D.C. on Ocean Recreation Hill Day to meet with federal leaders about ways to protect our ocean, waves and beaches. Participants visited 111 Senate and House offices to discuss opposition to new offshore oil drilling, in addition to support for funding beach water testing programs, reducing plastic pollution and strengthening ocean and coastal management.

Now more than ever, we must speak out for the places we love and defend our coasts. The actions we take today will determine the fate of our ocean and coasts for not only the rest of our lifetimes, but also for future generations. Protecting our ocean, waves and beaches is a bipartisan issue that impacts our communities, coastal economies, and way of life!



Above: Actor Ted Danson standing up against the proposed offshore drilling plan.

INITIATIVE SPOTLIGHT

IF WE DON'T TAKE ACTION, WHO WILL?

BY STALEY PROM, LEGAL ASSOCIATE

Midwestern surfers have long had a special connection to the “Southend” of Lake Michigan. Local surfers are drawn to the unique breaks created by the shoreline and are proud of their region’s traditional role as a manufacturing powerhouse. At the same time, they have also wondered about how the ongoing industrial presence affects the waters where they paddle out.

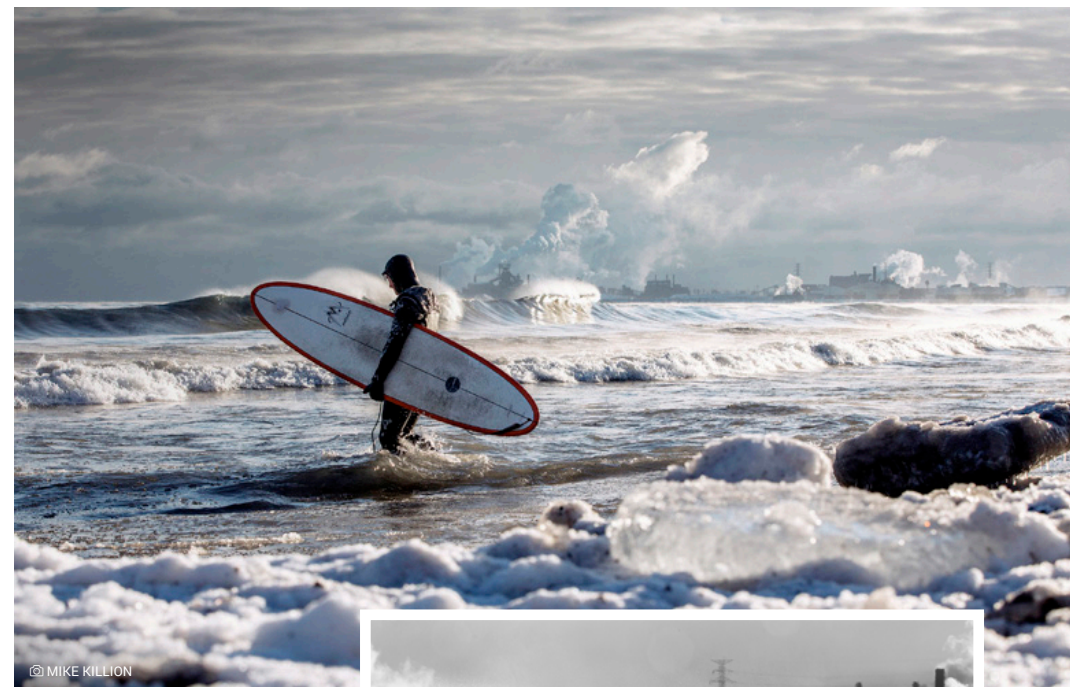
In the past couple of years, local Surfrider members and surfers began raising concerns about the unseasonably bathwater-like temperatures near the neighboring U.S. Steel Corporation plant. Interested in finding out more about the water they spent so much time in, Surfrider activists, led by Chicago Chapter Chair Mitch McNeil, started working with lawyers and students from the Abrams Environmental Law Clinic at the University of Chicago Law School. Together, they researched Clean Water Act compliance, including the source and substance of discharges, the frequency with which applicable laws were being violated and the resulting consequences that were faced.

Last April, Surfrider’s campaign took on a heightened level of urgency when U.S. Steel illegally spilled nearly 300 pounds of highly

toxic and carcinogenic hexavalent chromium into a waterway that feeds directly into Lake Michigan. This massive discharge of the same dangerous chemical made famous in the movie *Erin Brockovich* closed public drinking water intakes and shut down beaches from Gary to Michigan City for six days. The April spill was just one of numerous violations by the U.S. Steel facility. Additional chromium and hexavalent chromium spills, including one as recent as last October, have continued to pollute the recreational waters of Lake Michigan.

Despite these significant violations, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Indiana Department of Environmental Management had yet to take any legal action against the facility to protect public health and clean water. So the Surfrider Foundation, represented by the Abrams Clinic, took action last November and sent a ‘Notice of Intent to Sue’ to the U.S. Steel Corporation for repeated and ongoing Clean Water Act violations at U.S. Steel’s Portage, Indiana facility.

The Clean Water Act allows citizens to sue violators, and requires a 60-day notice period as the first step. If the government agencies responsible for protecting clean water decline



© MIKE KILLION

Above & Right: Surfers tackling the waves of Lake Michigan near Portage, IN.



© BRYAN McDONALD

to take enforcement action within that notice period, a “citizen suit” may proceed. Because the agencies failed to take action, the Surfrider Foundation moved forward in January and led a lawsuit against U.S. Steel to protect public health and clean water. In fact, Surfrider’s lawsuit led the City of Chicago to follow and file its own complaint against U.S. Steel, largely based on our suit, one week later.

Surfrider activists are hopeful that through these extensive efforts, U.S. Steel will stop polluting Lake Michigan. During this critical time when government agencies appear to be undoing protections or stepping away from

their responsibilities to the public, Surfrider and our network are stepping in to take action and protect our waterways for the future.

For updates to Surfrider’s lawsuit against U.S. Steel, visit go.surfrider.org/us-steel and chicago.surfrider.org.

SURFRIDER IMPACT

THE NEXT GENERATION OF COASTAL PROTECTORS

BY NANCY EIRING, DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT

As a member of the Surfrider Foundation, not only are you investing in protecting our ocean, waves and beaches, but you are also helping to build the next generation of coastal stewards. Here's an example of a Surfrider leader sharing her passion for our coasts and educating students in a hands-on, demonstrable way.



Pam Conti leads the Surfrider Huntington Beach/Seal Beach Chapter's Blue Water Task Force, testing Southern California beaches to ensure it is safe to surf, swim and play at the beach. For the past five years, Pam has also

been teaching fifth graders how to conduct water quality tests at the Pegasus School. This learning opportunity has given the students an in-depth understanding of how urban runoff impacts the beach and the threats of water pollution to public health and safety.

In early January, Pam and her students captured samples from the first flush of runoff after heavy rains soaked Southern California. She used the opportunity to explain how one inch of rain in an urban area can produce a million gallons of runoff. The rain water can wash everything in its path, including trash, oil, cigarette butts, polystyrene foam containers, and animal waste, off the landscape and into the ocean.

Back in the lab at school, Pam's students then carefully tested the water samples. All but one exceeded the health standard of 104 enterococcus bacteria. In fact, one exceeded the method maximum of 24,196! This exemplified to the class the importance of health agencies' recommendations to stay out of the water for 72 hours after it rains in California due to potentially high bacteria levels.



© KYLE LISHOK

Pam Conti teaches her students how to test local water samples and explains the importance of water quality.



© KYLE LISHOK

While these numbers can be scary, the students gain a strong sense of accomplishment from making a difference in their communities by providing information that helps to protect people from getting sick at the beach. This theme is echoed throughout our network as many chapters engage youth and students in their conservation work.

In fact, when the Surfrider Foundation launched its student club network in 2008, interest quickly grew across the country. Currently, there are more than 80 Surfrider Foundation student clubs in the U.S. From elementary and high schools to colleges and universities, actions are taken on campuses and in local communities to protect the ocean and coasts for the future. There are a wide range of activities to get involved in, including

beach cleanups, organizing special events and running campaigns to eliminate single-use plastics on campus.

Surfrider has been successful in protecting our ocean, waves and beaches as a result of the network of volunteers who care so passionately about our coastal playgrounds. Our ocean and coasts are always under attack from urban runoff, plastic pollution and threats such as offshore oil drilling. And we must always continue to build our network to defend against these threats.

Our goal is to have chapters, made up of powerful, dedicated and unwavering volunteers, on every coast in the entire country. With your continued support, you can invest in building this army of future coastal protectors.



CLEAN WATER HEALTHY BEACHES

Our ocean and coasts face unprecedented challenges with an unimaginable number of environmental protections being rolled back. Now more than ever, we need to come together to protect our ocean, waves and beaches.

Renew your membership today. Your donation will be used to support our activists around the country protecting our coasts and fighting for clean water and healthy beaches. There is strength in numbers.

[GO.SURFRIDER.ORG/CWHB](https://go.surfrider.org/cwhb) | [@SURFRIDER](https://twitter.com/SURFRIDER)



REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT

WATER TESTING AFTER HURRICANE MARIA

BY MARA DIAS, WATER QUALITY MANAGER

After Hurricane Maria pummeled Puerto Rico last September, the almost complete absence of government-run water quality monitoring was a rallying call-to-action for the Surfrider Foundation Rincón Chapter's Blue Water Task Force (BWTF). Although chapter volunteers were experiencing the same difficult post-storm conditions as the rest of the island, they were able to restart their water testing program by partnering with other groups to help empower the local community to generate water quality information to protect their health.



Because of electrical shortages and interruptions in water treatment, Puerto Rico and other island nations in the Caribbean have seen an increase in water-borne diseases and infections like *Leptospira* bacteria found in water contaminated by rat or rodent urine. Compounding the increased health risk is the fact that it took government agencies up to three months after Hurricane Maria hit to restart their water testing programs, which are still not back up to capacity.

Even today, there are far too many households, and even entire communities, that remain isolated and without access to basic necessities such as clean drinking water and electricity.

To meet this critical need, the Rincón Chapter banded together with the Costa Salud Community Health Center and the RBC Maria Relief Center to help get their lab equipment, which requires electricity, back up and running. The chapter pulled its first water quality samples at the beach in mid-October. Bacteria levels at the beach have predominantly been safe since then, although there have been some localized pollution problems caused by failing and damaged sewage infrastructure and stormwater runoff.



The chapter also started testing streams, springs and other community sources of freshwater that were being used as drinking and household water. The volunteers are using EPA-approved technology in sites located close to town to test for fecal indicator bacteria. In rural communities inland, more basic tests are being used that don't require a lab facility with electricity.

Through this work, the chapter has not only identified a number of sources of water that are not suitable for drinking or bathing, but they have also trained others to do the testing. This has contributed to building community awareness of health issues from exposure to polluted water. In addition, the Surfrider chapter's efforts have helped to direct the installation of water filtering systems in areas that do not have secure access to clean potable water during emergencies and power failures.

For instance, BWTF test results from a freshwater spring located close to a school in the relatively impoverished neighborhood of

Maricao revealed extremely high bacteria levels that were literally off the charts as they exceeded the maximum bacteria level our tests can measure. The Rincón Chapter has since gone back to this school with aid workers to talk to the teachers and students about health risks from contaminated water and to give a demonstration on proper use of water filters. The chapter is also working with a local teacher to build the capacity at the school to monitor important community sources of water.

Over the last decade, the Rincón BWTF has built an incredible reputation for providing credible and consistent water quality information. The chapter's efforts since Hurricane Maria have raised the bar for a small group of volunteers taking charge to protect public health and clean water.



© DON Q

PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

ADVANCING CLEAN WATER WITH DON Q

BY MARY HERBRANSON, PARTNERSHIPS MANAGER

Roberto Serralles' path to helping develop green practices at his family's distillery isn't as obvious as his name would suggest. The Serralles family has been making rum since the 1800s in Ponce, Puerto Rico and is best known for its rum brand, Don Q. Instead of following his obvious lineage, Roberto attended Brown University where he studied history, taught environmental education in Vermont, and earned a PhD at the University of Oregon in Environmental Studies. It wasn't until his father called him with some wastewater challenges that Roberto decided to return to Puerto Rico. "I never thought I'd work in the family business, even though I'm a sixth generation rum maker. I came in through the back door," says Roberto.

When Roberto returned, he embarked on an effort to green his family's distillery, first by preventing any wastewater from entering the ocean. All of the water used in the distilling process is treated, reused, and reclaimed. They can also use the bio-gas from the wastewater treatment process to produce steam, potentially reducing their imported fuel consumption by up to 50%.

Like other truly green entrepreneurs, Roberto and his team are humble about their efforts.

He shies away from the word sustainable and prefers responsible, which he feels is more honest. His long-term goal is to completely close the loop on their system so there is zero waste of any kind. Roberto is the first to tell you they are not there yet but are striving each day to make incremental improvements to reduce the impact of their production processes.

Beyond their own efforts, Distillería Serralles and Don Q are also supporting Surfrider's efforts to protect and clean our waters in Puerto Rico and around the country through our clean water program work. Surfrider's Rincón Chapter leads the largest water quality monitoring program on the island and has partnered with leading agencies to monitor, report and also address water quality issues on the west side of Puerto Rico.

Find out more about Surfrider's partners at surfrider.org/partners.



ACTIVIST PROFILE

MILES ABERNATHY

BY MARA DIAS, WATER QUALITY MANAGER

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

I became involved with the Surfrider Foundation through my local community college in 2014. Like any college student, I was unsure on where life was going at that point in time and I wanted to get involved with like-minded people. I'm now a senior at the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW), majoring in Environmental Science and pursuing my interest in sustainable building practices. My involvement has assured me that while surfing is a passion, so is keeping our water and surroundings free of harmful pollutants.

What Surfrider projects have you worked on?

This past spring, the UNCW Surfrider Club worked with faculty and the university's Eco and Sustainability Club to construct an Ocean Friendly Garden on campus. This project brought a group of people together to experience first-hand the positive effects a rain garden can have on controlling runoff onsite. As a club, we continue to do weekly beach cleanups, as well as work to raise awareness on campus at UNCW about the importance of opposing offshore drilling.

What has been the highlight of your Surfrider experience?

My favorite event as a Surfrider member was hosting a fundraiser for my community college that included live music, food, and a silent auction. We worked together to organize and set up a school fund, which helped pay for canteens and tabling goods for future events. Today, I am working more closely on water quality issues here on the North Carolina coast. Since we're located at the mouth of the Cape Fear River, runoff is our largest problem in regards to water contamination.

What is the most important thing you tell others about Surfrider?

The most important thing I tell others about Surfrider is to leave the beach cleaner than you found it.

Anything else you'd like to add?

The constant reminders of environmental problems, great surf sessions, and the friends you meet along the way are why I'm a Surfrider coastal defender.



AMBASSADOR PROFILE

KASSIA MEADOR

BY KYLE LISHOK, BRAND MANAGER

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

I've been involved with the Surfrider Foundation for a long time! As a surfer and ocean, earth, nature, and all-around life lover, I have always and will always do everything I can for our environment. Since Surfrider is dedicated to protecting our ocean and coasts, spreading awareness, and giving people an opportunity to be part of the good fight, I want to do all I can with Surfrider to help keep our ocean and waterways clean.

What inspired you to take action?

Growing up surfing the LA and Ventura County beaches of California, getting sick so many times after it rained and seeing all the garbage washing up on the shores constantly made me want to get involved in a big way.

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

For me, it's personally gratifying to just be at the beach with other like-minded, earth-conscious humans picking up trash. While it's only a small step in the right direction, it's super gratifying to be around other people who want to make a difference, get your hands dirty and see the change one cleanup makes. It also inspires you to keep doing your part day in and day out.

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

Stop using any and all plastic you can, especially single-use plastics. Every time you go to the beach or for a surf, leave it better than how you found it by picking up as much litter as possible. It feels good, and most likely just by doing it you will inspire others to do the same.

Anything else you'd like to add?

Be a part of the revolution for environmental evolution! Join us in the fight for our planet and the creatures who call it home.

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

SHOP.SURFRIDER.ORG





DONOR PROFILE

DA BOMB TEEN TEAM

BY TARA D'ANDREA, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Teen sisters, Caroline and Isabel Bercaw, are the successful founders of Da Bomb LLC. They donated a portion of last year's proceeds to support Surfrider's clean water work in Puerto Rico.

Why and when did you start your Da Bomb business?

When we were 10 and 11 years old, we decided to check into recipes online and make our own bath bomb fizzers as a summer project. Most of the recipes we found had up to 20 ingredients and the ones we'd used also left a residue. So we decided to make our own version that was fresh and clean. We started at a local fair and interest picked up, then eventually we were approached by Target to offer our products in all their locations. Now, five years later, we're selling more than 650,000 bath bombs nationwide every month.

What is the inspiration for giving back to support ocean and coastal conservation?

Since we live near a lot of lakes in Minneapolis, Minnesota, we're constantly aware of all of the garbage that gets dumped into waterways. When we looked at the issue more broadly, we decided that the ocean is so important to protect. It's a source of oxygen and food, and we know that it impacts everyone financially as well.

Why did you choose to support the Surfrider Foundation and the mission to protect our ocean, waves and beaches?

We wanted to help people who needed it, and we were really inspired when we found out that it's Surfrider volunteers who are doing so much of the water quality work in Puerto Rico. We also appreciate that Surfrider makes it easy to know what your donation supports. Being able to go to the website and get those kinds of details helps us to know how we're making a difference.

What has been the highlight of your entrepreneurial experience?

We've learned that we both like the marketing side of the business, we thrive together, and that we share a passion for giving back.

What is the most important thing you tell others about the difference and impact they can make?

When we first started out, we got a lot of help from many people. It's important for us to pay that forward and help others just as we were helped. We believe that if you can have an influence, you should use it for good.



FEATURED PHOTOGRAPHER

MEG HAYWOOD SULLIVAN

BY KYLE LISHOK, BRAND MANAGER

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

It's hugely important to me to protect where I love to play. I want my children to be able to experience the ocean the way I did when I grew up. And our ocean needs protection now more than ever. I remember shooting in Hawai'i a few years ago and being blown away by the bleaching reefs, happening right before my eyes because of ocean acidification. The time to act is NOW, because don't we want to leave our planet better off for the next generation? I think so.

What inspired you to take action?

Plastic pollution and water quality are big on my list. I've had friends get sick from surfing our local beaches, and every morning on my walk to the beach I come home with handfuls of trash. It's hard to overlook when you love these places as much as we all do.

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

I'm a relatively new transplant to the LA area, so my first beach cleanup in Santa Monica, California, really opened my eyes to the tight-knit community of ocean dwellers and lovers dedicated to keeping our coastline

healthy. These cleanups are amazing places to get your hands dirty, stay up to date on local initiatives, and get politically active, while meeting rad new members of the surf family. It's a one, two, three punch call to action!

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

The ocean covers 71% of the Earth's surface, so when we're talking about protecting the seas and coastlines, that's a significant portion of our planet. We are all connected by the ocean, and it needs our help.

Anything else you'd like to add?

Try the best you can to practice what you preach! Small steps in the right direction make a BIG difference.



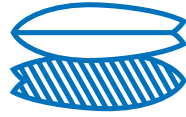
2018 COASTAL VICTORIES UPDATE



17 COASTAL VICTORIES



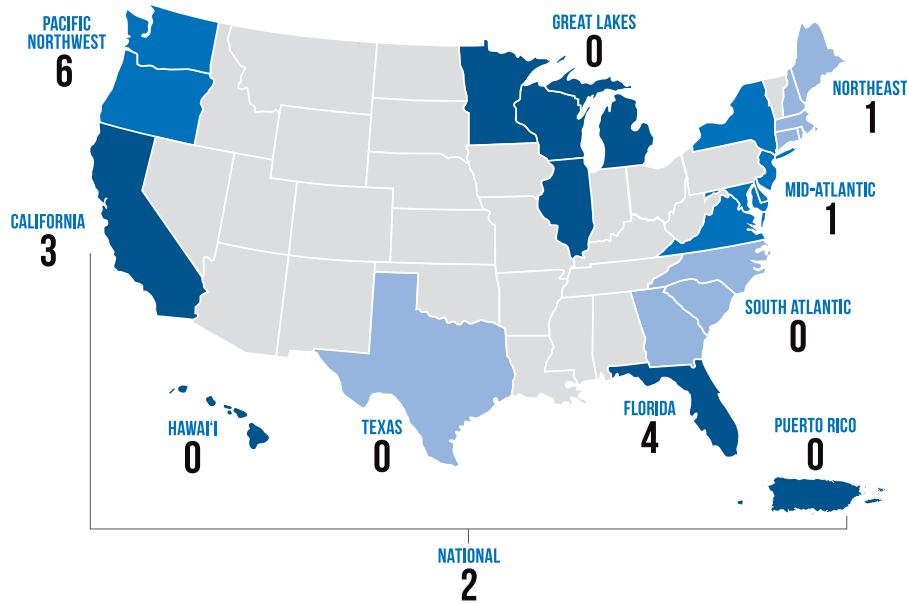
11 POLICY VICTORIES



7 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: 7
 Beach Access: 2
 Ocean Protection: 3
 Clean Water: 5
 Coastal Preservation: 0



Local: 14
 State: 1
 National: 2

(VICTORIES AS OF MARCH 2018)

For more information on our victories visit surfrider.org/campaigns.





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