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Our Experts

Chad Nelsen – Environmental Director

Work:

Chad is a leader in grassroots activism on ocean and coastal issues throughout the United States and abroad. He has extensive experience working on coastal planning, coastal erosion issues, water quality, marine protected areas and the economics of coastal recreation and surfing.

His technical background, in combination with his ability to communicate science to both policy makers and the public, provide him with the skills necessary to work at the intersection of coastal zone management, public advocacy and coastal recreation.

Areas of Expertise:

- Economics of Coastal Recreation and Surfing
- Coastal Erosion
- Marine Protected Areas
- Ocean Energy

Background:

- Ph.D. candidate, Environmental Science & Engineering, UCLA (2004 – Present)
- NOAA Coastal Zone Management Fellow (1996-1998)
- M.A., Environmental Management, Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University (1994-1996)
- B.S., Geological Sciences, Brown University (1992)
- Board Member, The Coastal society, (2002 – 2006)
- Conference Chair, 4th International Surfing Reef Symposium (2004)
- US Coral Reef Taskforce Award (2002)
- Advisory Board, Save the Waves Coalition
- Over 12 years of coastal environmental advocacy experience

Mark Rauscher – Coastal Preservation Manager

Work:

Mark's expertise lies in the areas of coastal erosion and beach processes as well as the methods used by communities to protect infrastructure on the coast, including seawalls, jetties and beach "nourishment." He has an intimate knowledge of the science and policy surrounding these issues coupled with an ability to effectively communicate with the public and decision-makers.

Areas of Expertise:

- Beach Erosion
- Shoreline Armoring
- Beach "Nourishment"
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Coastal Education

Credentials:

- B.S., Oceanography, Florida Institute of Technology (1996)
- Coastal Geology Researcher, University of North Carolina at Wilmington (1997-2000)
- Steering Committee, Corps Reform Network

Rick Wilson – Coastal Management Coordinator**Work:**

Rick has over 40 years of broad-based experience dealing with environmental and coastal issues as an engineer, environmental consultant and environmental activist. He is principal author of Surfrider Foundation's online State of the Beach report and a major contributor to the Foundation's coastal wiki *Beachapedia*. He assists Surfrider chapter activists with water quality and other coastal management issues.

Areas of Expertise:

- Water Quality (Microbiology, Monitoring, Stormwater)
- Wastewater Treatment
- Desalination
- Coastal Zone Management

Credentials:

- M.B.A., California State University, Long Beach (1976)
- B.S., Chemical Engineering, Stanford University (1969)
- Professional Chemical Engineer, California (inactive)
- Presentation – Surfrider's State of the Beach Report, TCS Conference (2004)
- Poster – Surfrider Foundation Blue Water Task Force, EPA Beaches Conference (2004)
- Presentation – Surfrider Foundation Blue Water Task Force, National Volunteer Monitoring Conference (2006)
- Presentation – Surfrider Perspectives on Bolsa Chica, Headwaters to Ocean Conference (2007)
- Presentation – Health Issues from Coastal Waters – Sick from Surfing? Western Occupational Health Conference (2010)
- Member, State Water Resources Control Board, Beach Water Quality Workgroup

Pete Stauffer – Coastal Ocean Ecosystem Project Manager**Work:**

Pete's primary focus is managing Surfrider's "Protecting Special Places" Initiative (MPAs, EBM, Surf Area Protection, Alternative Ocean Energy).

Areas of Expertise:

- Ecosystem-Based Management
- Marine Protected Areas
- Alternative Ocean Energy (Wave Energy, etc.)
- Community-based Management
- Regional/ National Ocean Policy Initiatives (JOCI, West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health, West Coast EBM Network etc.)
- State & Federal Ocean Policy

Credentials:

- M.S., Marine Affairs
- B.A., Environmental Policy



Angela Howe – Managing Attorney

Work:

Angela oversees Surfrider Foundation's Legal Department, focusing on Litigation Strategy and Management, State and Federal Legislation Strategy and Management, In-House Counsel Duties.

Areas of Expertise:

- Environmental Law, specifically Oceans and Coastal Law
- Coastal Zone Management Act
- Endangered Species Act
- NEPA/CEQA
- California Coastal Act
- Marine Debris Legislation
- Beach Access Litigation and Legislation

Credentials:

- J.D., University of California, Berkeley School of Law
- B.A., Political Science and Policy Studies, Rice University
- Contributor, American Bar Association Trends publication
- Lecturer, Scripps Institute of Oceanography Environmental Law Graduate Level Class
- Panel Leader, American Bar Association Conference 2008
- Surfrider Liaison, California Clean Seas Coalition

Ed Mazzarella – Director of Chapters

Work:

Edward Mazzarella is the Director of Chapters for the Surfrider Foundation and a staff member since 1992. His primary responsibilities include: developing statewide and regional grassroots campaigns that grow Surfrider Foundation's movement, coordinating new training and yearly planning conferences for regional managers and field staff, identifying areas for new chapter growth, researching and developing cutting-edge activist training tools and conference curriculum, and creating an overall vision for Surfrider Foundation's volunteer movement. With close to 20 years experience in non-profit leadership, management and grassroots outreach he has been the primary architect for the Surfrider Foundation's grassroots model of 80 US based chapters and 20 international chapters.

Areas of Expertise:

- Grassroots organizing
- Environmental activism

Background:

- 20 years experience in non-profit leadership, management and grassroots outreach