



OREGON 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Stories of impact, stewardship and success

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AT A GLANCE

Oregon's volunteer network spans four Chapters along the coast and in Portland.

Our powerful network of advocacy and programs relies on volunteer leaders across these chapters to monitor water quality, keep our beaches and waterways clean of plastic pollution, protect our beaches from harmful development, and advocate for progressive policy at the local, state, and federal levels.



94

Events Hosted in 2025



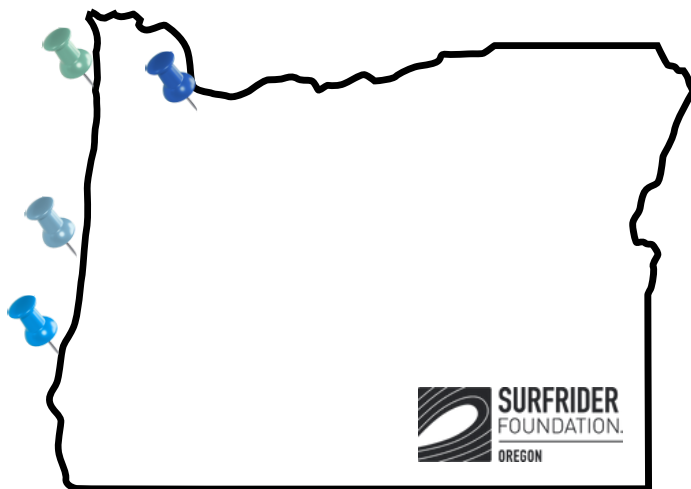
1,505

Volunteers Engaged



8

Campaign Victories



CHAPTERS



Portland



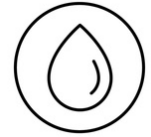
North Coast



Newport



Coos Bay



CLEAN WATER

Surfrider's Clean Water Initiative works to protect our coastal waterways, communities, and wildlife from water pollution.

CAMPAIGN VICTORY!



Oregon Seafood, Not Sewage ([Link](#)).

Surfrider advocates successfully protected recreational water quality standards, amending a bad bill aimed at eliminating public health criteria from seafood processing wastewater discharge.



The Blue Water Task Force program provides essential, volunteer-led water quality testing to protect public health at the beach.

448

Water Quality Tests

41

Testing Sites



BY LOCATION

1. Newport: 276 Tests at 14 Sites
2. Port Orford: 66 Tests at 9 Sites
3. North Coast: 48 Tests at 9 Sites
4. Charleston: 44 Tests at 5 Sites
5. Bandon: 12 Tests at 2 Sites

Newport Chapter was featured in the National Clean Water Annual Report!

Published in May 2025 ([Link](#)).





COAST & CLIMATE

Surfrider's Coast & Climate Initiative takes on issues that threaten our beaches & natural shorelines and promote strategies for climate resilience.

OREGON BEACHES FOREVER CAMPAIGNS



This year our volunteer network pushed back against multiple harmful shoreline-armoring projects that would have further degraded Oregon's beaches.

Learn more about our local campaign victories:

- No Rip Rap Tillicum Beach ([Link](#))
- Protect Clatsop County Beaches & Dunes ([Link](#))
- Defend Cannon Beach from Rip Rap ([Link](#))

NATURE FIRST FOR OREGON'S BEACHES!

Learn more about our legislative campaign victories:

Governor Kotek signs two bills ([HB2925](#) ; [SB504](#)) to better protect public beaches and advance nature-based solutions ([Link](#))



New OBF sticker!

3

Press Features

1859 Magazine ([Link](#))

Protecting Oregon's Beaches

'It's practically falling into the ocean'

Published 4:30 pm Thursday, October 30, 2023
By NATHAN LINDMAN-WINTERS



Two employees from the engineering design firm Integral examine the erosion site. (Photo courtesy of Jay Winters)

Daily Astorian ([Link](#))

Editorial: Smart strategies can delay coastal erosion losses

By the Daily Astorian



Daily Astorian ([Link](#))

7

Webinars Hosted





PLASTIC POLLUTION

Surfrider's Plastic Pollution Initiative works to eliminate the impacts of plastics in the marine environment.

LEGISLATIVE CAMPAIGNS

Volunteers advocated for 3 bills in the 2025 session, with 2 of them resulting in victories. Most notably, we successfully passed the **Beyond the Bag Ban** which removes all plastic bags from retailers statewide ([Link](#)).

Learn about other legislative efforts:

Victory! Oregon Wrecked & Washed Ashore ([Link](#))

Oregon Stop Microfiber Pollution ([Link](#))



PROGRAMS

BEACH CLEANUPS



33
Cleanups



11.4
Tons of Trash Collected



881
Volunteers Engaged

OCEAN FRIENDLY BUSINESSES

The Surfrider Foundation's Ocean Friendly Businesses program recognizes restaurants (OFR) & hotels (OFH) committed to cutting out wasteful single-use plastic and offers a simple, straightforward framework to help them make sustainable choices for our ocean.

As we grow our Ocean Friendly Businesses Program across our Oregon chapters, we are proud to say we had 250% growth in the number of OFHs added this year. If you are interested in recruiting more businesses for this program, khazard@surfrider.org



7
Ocean Friendly Hotels



10
Ocean Friendly Restaurants

Portland OFR Featured in National Case Study!

CASE STUDY
Flying Fish Co.

Restaurant Details
Location: 2004 E Burnside St. Portland, OR
Industry: Fast Casual
Average Daily Guests: 200

Flying Fish Co. is a small family owned business, started by a 2nd generation fish monger, specializing in sustainable seafood and good vibes.

Ocean Friendly Practices

- Only reusable foodware is used for onsite dining.
- Paper or naturally occurring straws are provided upon request.
- No expanded polystyrene is used (aka Styrofoam).
- No plastic bags are used for takeout or to-go orders.
- Single-use utensils, straws, condiments, and other accessory items are provided only upon request.
- Beverages are not sold in plastic bottles.
- Proper recycling practices are followed.
- Vegetarian and vegan food options are offered regularly.
- Sustainable seafood is served.
- Concessions are not sold in plastic.
- Composting efforts are in place for food waste.
- No single-use plastic or bioplastic containers are used for takeout.

From Disposables to Reusables
Flying Fish Co. previously used single-use bioplastic cups which are costly, so they decided to switch to personalized washable and reusable stainless steel cups instead. "The stainless steel cups keep beer colder for longer versus bioplastic, plus they can be washed and reused!" - owner

Disposable Cup → Reusable Cup

Flying Fish saves about \$10,000 and 50,000 disposable cups from entering the waste stream every year by switching to reusable cups!

[Link](#)

Surfrider.org/OFR



BEACH ACCESS

Surfrider's Beach Access Initiative is determined to keep our beaches accessible for all to enjoy.

CAMPAIGNS

Protect Oregon Recreational Immunity ([Link](#))

Victory! Senate Bill 179 updates and clarifies Oregon's recreational immunity law, protecting and restoring access to many public trails and beach accesses.



Protect Lighthouse Beach Access ([Link](#))

Our Coos Bay Chapter is currently engaged in a campaign to preserve the long-standing Lighthouse Beach access trail off of Lighthouse Way in Coos Bay, Oregon.



OCEAN PROTECTION

Surfrider's Ocean Protection Initiative works to protect our ocean and address dangers to it, today and in the future.

LEGISLATION

Working with the Oregon Ocean Alliance (OOA) during the 2025 legislative session, we led two legislative campaigns. While neither bill passed, we continue to collaborate with the OOA on strategies to protect our coastlines, including eelgrass and rocky habitats.

Learn more:

- Oregon Eelgrass Action Now ([Link](#))
- Protect & Steward Oregon's Rocky Shores ([Link](#))
- Watch Behind the Scenes video of our OOA Lunch & Learn at the Oregon State Capitol ([Link](#))



1st Annual OOA Lunch & Learn in Salem.

Served local seafood to legislators and highlighted the importance of coastal habitats.

EVENT & PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS

Our project and event spotlights are examples of how our chapters make a real impact across the state.

Volunteers shared their stories with federal policymakers at our 9th Annual Coastal Recreational Hill Day, helping to shape nationwide ocean policy.

We partnered with Oregon Sea Grant to address longstanding aquaculture marine debris issues in Yaquina Bay and connected with Pacific Northwest chapter leaders at the Cascadia Conference to exchange ideas and strategies.

These efforts reflect the dedication and passion of our volunteers protecting and celebrating Oregon's coastline.



9TH ANNUAL COASTAL RECREATION HILL DAY

Oregon volunteers joined 170 members & staff from across the network to meet with congressional representatives and advocate for clean, protected beaches.

What we advocated for:

PROTECT CLEAN WATER & PUBLIC HEALTH



Fund and reauthorize the EPA BEACH Act to protect public health and inform safe recreation at the beach.

DEFEND COASTAL MANAGEMENT



Defend funding and staffing for NOAA research and coastal management programs, and support coastal management policies.

PROHIBIT NEW OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING



Oppose new offshore oil and gas development in the Atlantic, Pacific, Gulf of Mexico, and Alaska.



2025 OREGON DELEGATION

1. Kyle Motley (Coos Bay)
2. Vince Pappalardo (Newport)
3. Amanda Weaver (Portland)
4. Lacey Buck (Portland)
5. Sarah Wolf (Staff Captain)

Read the recap ([Link](#))

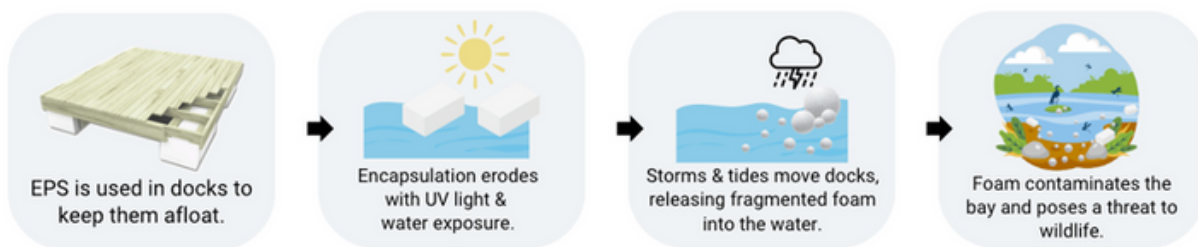


Save the Date! 10th Annual Coastal Recreation Hill Day April 29-30, 2026

If you are interested in volunteering to share your story with policymakers at our next virtual Hill Day, reach out to cplybon@surfrider.org for how to get involved.

YAQUINA BAY AQUACULTURE MARINE DEBRIS

A collaborative project with Oregon Sea Grant
Natural Resource Policy Fellow, Dr. Sarah Wolf.



Newport Chapter partnered with Oregon Oyster Farms to remove debris & push for innovation to reduce plastic pollution.



2

Cleanups



9.3

Tons of Trash Collected



75

Volunteers Engaged

Years of cleanups around Oregon Oyster Farms led Oregon Sea Grant and Surfrider to bring on Dr. Sarah Wolf to build partnerships and address the pollution at the source. Cleanups targeted aquaculture materials such as polystyrene dock foam, tires, yellow rope, and mesh bags.

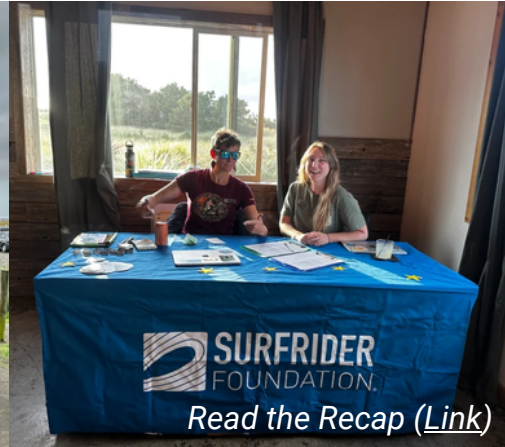
Partnering with the Lincoln County Solid Waste District, MidCoast Watersheds Council, Dahl Disposal, and Thompson's Sanitary Service, we removed 9.3 tons of debris and our work continues with the farm to find sustainable, affordable gear alternatives.

[Learn more and watch our short documentary here.](#)



CASCADIA REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Bringing together volunteers from across the Pacific Northwest in Long Beach, WA. Co-organized by Oregon Regional Manager, Kaia Hazard.



Time well spent connecting across the region, exchanging ideas, and recharging the collective energy behind our coastal campaigns.

Topics discussed:

- Campaign planning
- Volunteer recruitment & retention
- Indigenous Working Group
- Expanding local OFR / OFH programs
- Communicating water quality results
- Using cleanup data to influence policy



Hosted at the nation's first Ocean Friendly Hotel, Adrift. Read their OFH spotlight ([Link](#)).



Mark your Calendar! Next Cascadia Conference in October 2026

If you are interested in representing your chapter and meeting other Surfrider volunteers from the region, reach out to khazard@surfrider.org.

CHAPTER NETWORK

Oregon operates on a volunteer network of four Chapters up and down the coast and in Portland. Our powerful network of advocacy and programs relies on volunteer leaders across these chapters to monitor water quality, keep our beaches and waterways clean of plastic pollution, protect our beaches from harmful development, and advocate for progressive policy at the local, state, and federal levels.

Our local activists are the backbone of our work and serve as the first line of defense for our ocean, waves, and beaches. Each chapter is uniquely positioned to advocate for solutions that work for their community and protect their slice of our coastline, but the thing they all have in common are teams of highly dedicated, incredible, caring volunteers!



SPOTLIGHT

NEWPORT CHAPTER

Established in 2006, the Newport Chapter is a trusted environmental stronghold on Oregon's central coast with deep connections in the science, recreation, and fishing communities.

SIGNATURE PROGRAMS



SIGNATURE EVENT: Otter Rock n Roll



Oregon's only surf contest designed exclusively for kids, the Otter Rock n Roll aims to instill an ethic of stewardship in the next generation of surfers.

Learn more about our local campaigns:

- No Rip Rap Tillicum Beach ([Link](#))
- Save Beverly Beach ([Link](#))

2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Treasurer: Pat Anderson

Secretary: Kevin Peters

Volunteer Coordinator: Jill Marks

Beach Cleanup Coordinators:

Sequoia & Leo Newberg

Highway Cleanup Coordinator:

Megan Hoff

BWTF: Melanie Bukovec

Otter Rock n Roll: Mike Harrington

Social Media: Sarah Ogren

Newsletter: Vince Pappalardo



SPOTLIGHT

COOS BAY CHAPTER

Since 2012, the Coos Bay chapter has continued to defend their estuary against threats of harmful development, uplifting the value of recreation and healthy ecosystems on the south coast.

SIGNATURE PROGRAMS



SIGNATURE EVENT: Youth Surf Camps



Leaning into the “enjoyment” part of Surfrider’s mission, the Coos Bay chapter hosts free summer surf camps for local kids.

Learn more about our local campaign:

- Preserve Lighthouse Beach Access ([Link](#))

2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair: Kyle Motley

Vice Chair: Patrick Bringardner

Secretary: Maggie Graham

Treasurer: Eric Sugarman

Beach Cleanup Coordinator:

Jaime Belanger

Surf Camp Coordinator:

Altaira Wilhelm

Campaign Liaison:

Carmen Matthews

BWTF Lead: Cameron Hinman



SPOTLIGHT

PORTLAND CHAPTER

Based in Bridge City, the Portland Chapter has been keeping it clean upstream since 2006, and leads the way in progressive plastic policy while maintaining a connection to urban and wild waters.

SIGNATURE PROGRAMS



SIGNATURE EVENT: Martin Luther King Jr. Day Cleanup



Honoring the spirit and legacy of Dr King, the chapter partners with the City of Portland to host an annual cleanup on his namesake boulevard.

Learn more about our other signature events:

- Oswald West Action Days ([Link](#))
- July 5th Ross Island Paddle Cleanup ([Link](#))
- Wave Watch Wednesdays ([Link](#))

2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs:

Amanda Beaver & Lacey Buck

Vice Chair: Chelsea Brooks

Volunteer Coordinator: Nic Maxson

Secretary: Willis DeWitt

Treasurer:

Sierra Barlow & Casey Urban

Communications Guru:

Chanel Hason

Tides & Vibes: Sean Ramstead



SPOTLIGHT

NORTH COAST CHAPTER

Established in 2020, but with a water quality testing program that dates back to 2004, the North Coast Chapter is a hotspot in our statewide Oregon Beaches Forever campaign, and boasts the most Ocean Friendly Hotels in the state.

SIGNATURE PROGRAMS



PROJECT HIGHLIGHT: Ecola Creek Nature-Based Erosion Solution



Along with our partners from the City of Cannon Beach, CREST, Friends of the Dunes, and local homeowners, we are designing a natural solution to the chronic erosion on the north bank of Ecola Creek

Learn more about our local campaign victories:

- Protect Clatsop County Beaches & Dunes ([Link](#))
- Defend Cannon Beach from Rip Rap ([Link](#))

2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Treasurer:

Doug Mitchell

Volunteer Coordinator:

Dirk Onosaki

Social Media Coordinator:

Mylasia Miklas

Core Volunteer:

Michelle Schwegmann



GET TO KNOW YOUR OREGON STAFF



* Kaia comes from an outdoor education background and joined Surfrider in 2023 to support the chapter network in Oregon. She lives in the northern Coast Range and loves to tidepool, paddleboard, and hike.

KAIA HAZARD

Oregon Regional Manager

khazard@surfrider.org



* Charlie has been in nearly every role in Oregon from volunteer, chapter leader to field and now senior policy staff. He lives on the central coast and loves to surf, fish, boat and just about anything on or in the ocean.

CHARLIE PLYBON

Oregon Senior Policy Manager

cplybon@surfrider.org



* Sarah is a marine scientist who joined Surfrider in 2024 as an Oregon Sea Grant Policy Fellow. Since transitioning to her current role in fall 2025, she now supports Surfrider's nationwide network at the intersection of seafood and coastal stewardship.

SARAH WOLF

Seafood & Plastics Project Manager

swolf@surfrider.org



Thank you for standing with us this year!

In the midst of chaos, it's supporters like you who keep our team energized and committed to our mission.

Sincerely,
Your Surfrider Oregon Staff Team

