Who is Surfrider?

The Surfrider Foundation is a non-profit grassroots organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our world’s ocean, waves and beaches.

We maintain a large network of volunteer chapters supported at the national level with policy, legal & science experts.
Blue Water Task Force

The Surfrider Foundation’s volunteer-run, water quality monitoring, education and advocacy program.
Blue Water Task Force

• Test ocean & bay beaches and freshwater sources
  — Creek & river mouths
  — Stormwater discharge
  — Upper watershed sites

• Sites tested fill in data gaps, cover popular surf spots, or sources of pollution

• Enterococcus Bacteria – IDEXX Enterolert Quanti-Tray Methodology

• Site maps & data posted online.
BWTF Labs

• Chapter maintained labs often using borrowed space from local partners
  – Other local env groups, aquariums, universities

• Collect samples for partner organizations & help communicate data
  – State & local beach programs, & other watershed groups

• School & youth programs
Easy to Share Data from BWTF website

http://www.surfrider.org/blue-water-task-force
Surfrider Foundation’s Blue Water Task Force

Bringing together coastal communities to protect clean water
Northwest Straits Chapter

- Lab at Western Washington University
- WA BEACH Program
- High bacteria counts @ Larrabee State Park
- Whatcom County DOH found & fixed septics
Wild Cat Cove, Larrabee State Park

- Stream survey found raccoon latrine site
- Targeted camper education program
- Scoop the poop & stream fencing
Surfrider Oregon

- 7 BWTF labs
- Year-round testing
- OR DEQ Beach Program
- City & community partners
- Advocate for funding
- Midcoast TMDL
- Public outreach
  - BAVs & WQ stds
Newport, Oregon

- Lab at Oregon Coast Aquarium
- BWTF High Bacteria Counts at Nye Creek & Nye Beach
- City posted signs & State started testing
Newport, Oregon

- Smoke tests revealed sewer misconnects
- Wetland restoration projects
- Stormwater utility established & stormwater BMPs codified by City
- Bacteria levels improved at Nye Beach & Creek
2015 Bacteria Levels Increase

- DEQ & Surfrider data confirm problems
- City prompted study to sample upstream in creek and stormwater system
Blue Water Scholar

• Surfrider, Oregon Coast Aquarium, City of Newport & Oregon Community Foundation
Blue Water Task Force

• Build community awareness of water quality issues
• Educate students & groom future leaders
• Develop partnerships to identifying sources of pollution and implement solutions
• Clean Water at the Beach!
Thank you!

Mara Dias
mdias@surfrider.org