



**SURFRIDER**  
FOUNDATION

Blue Water Task Force



# 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.



# Surfrider Foundation – North American Network

**10**

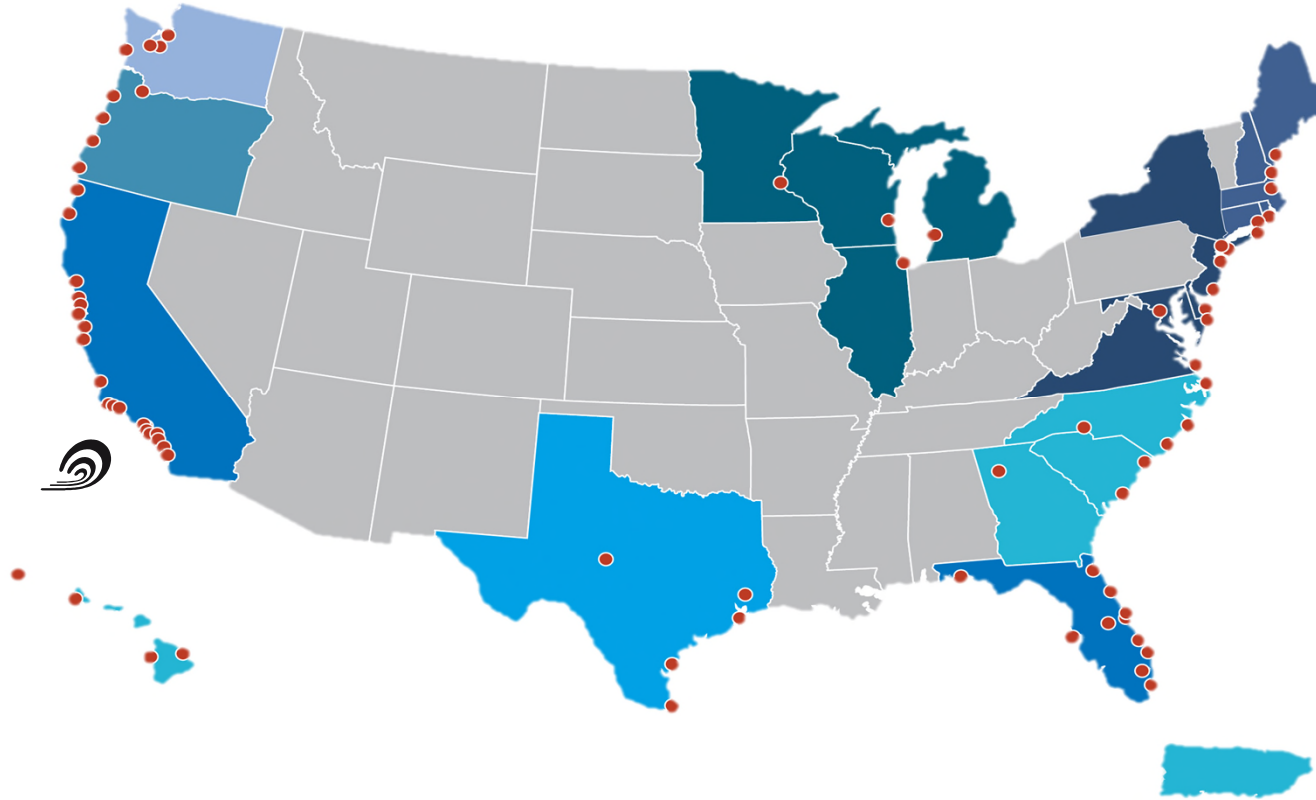
REGIONS

**81**

CHAPTERS

**84**

YOUTH CLUBS



10,000+  
ACTIVISTS



50,000+  
MEMBERS



1,000,000+  
SUPPORTERS

**1984**

ESTABLISHED

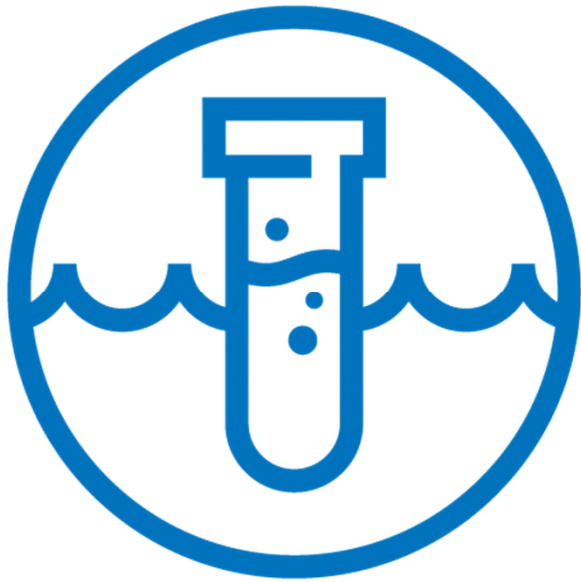


# Clean Water Initiative

To protect water quality in local waterways and reduce ocean pollution so it is safe to surf, swim and play in the ocean.







# **BLUE WATER TASK FORCE**

## **Surfrider's volunteer water testing program.**

Operating through a national network of 45+ labs, BWTF citizen scientists are providing critical water quality information to protect public health at the beach, raise awareness of local pollution problems and to bring together communities to implement solutions.



# Blue Water Task Force

- Test ocean & bay beaches and freshwater sources
  - Creek & river mouths
  - Stormwater discharge
  - Upper watershed sites
- Measure Enterococcus Bacteria – indicator of fecal pollution and public health risk
  - IDEXX Enterolert Quanti-Tray methodology
- Sites tested fill in data gaps of agency-run programs, cover popular surf spots, off-season months, & sources of pollution









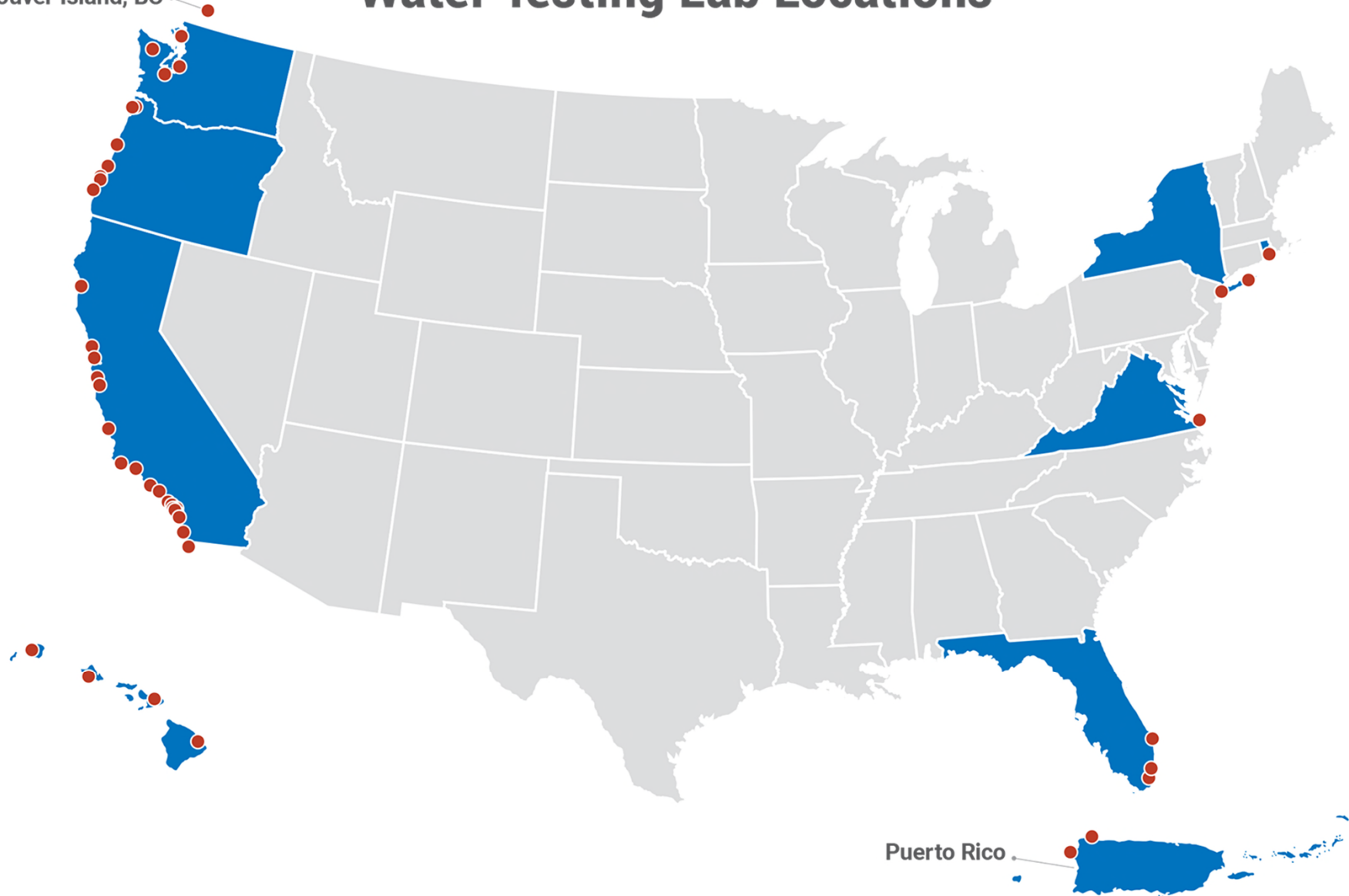
# Cannon Beach, Oregon





# Blue Water Task Force Water Testing Lab Locations

Vancouver Island, BC



Puerto Rico

# Developing Relationships & Local Partners for Program Implementation

- Chapter maintained labs often using borrowed space from local partners - other local env groups, aquariums, universities
- Pool volunteer resources & share costs

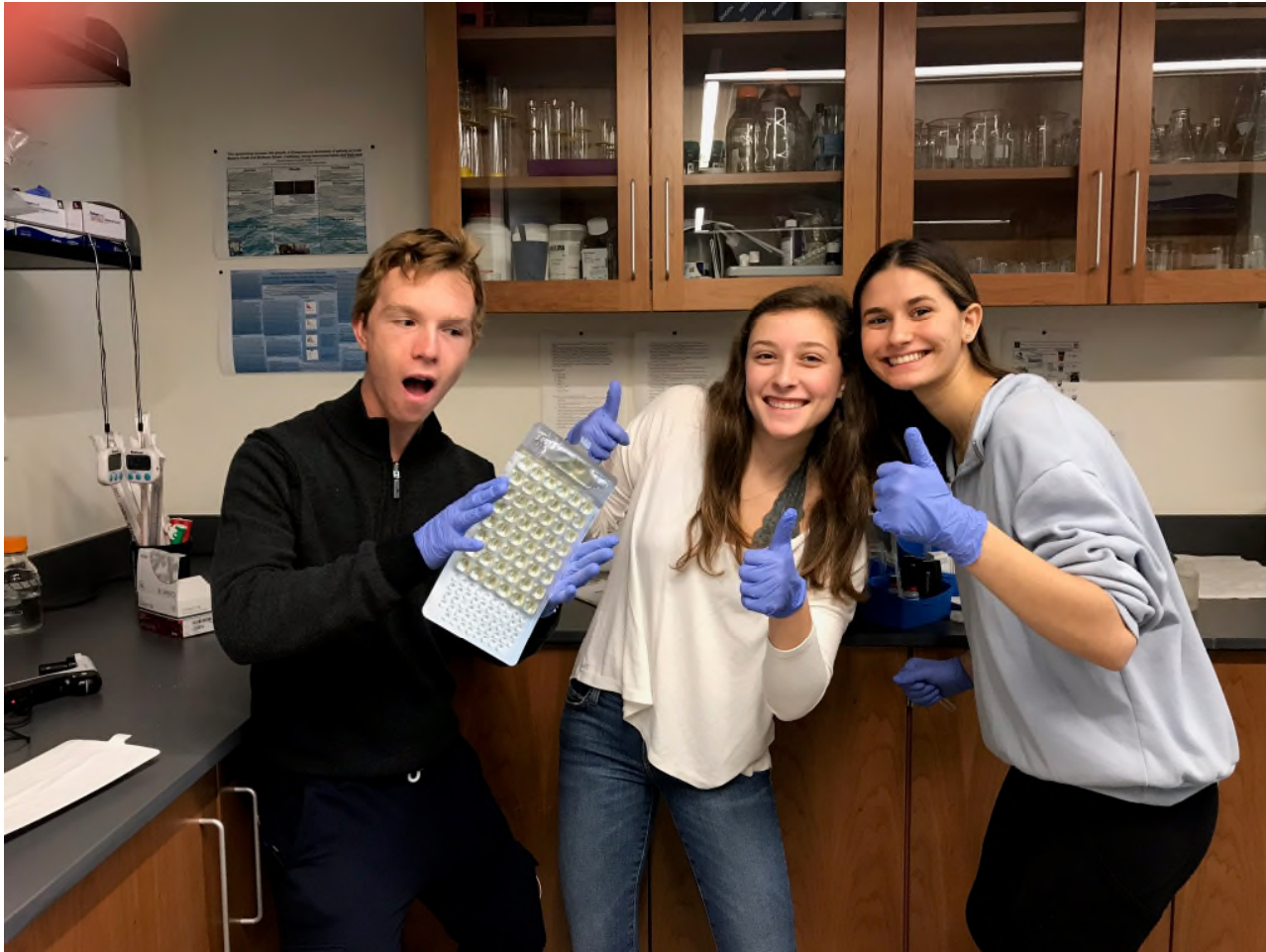




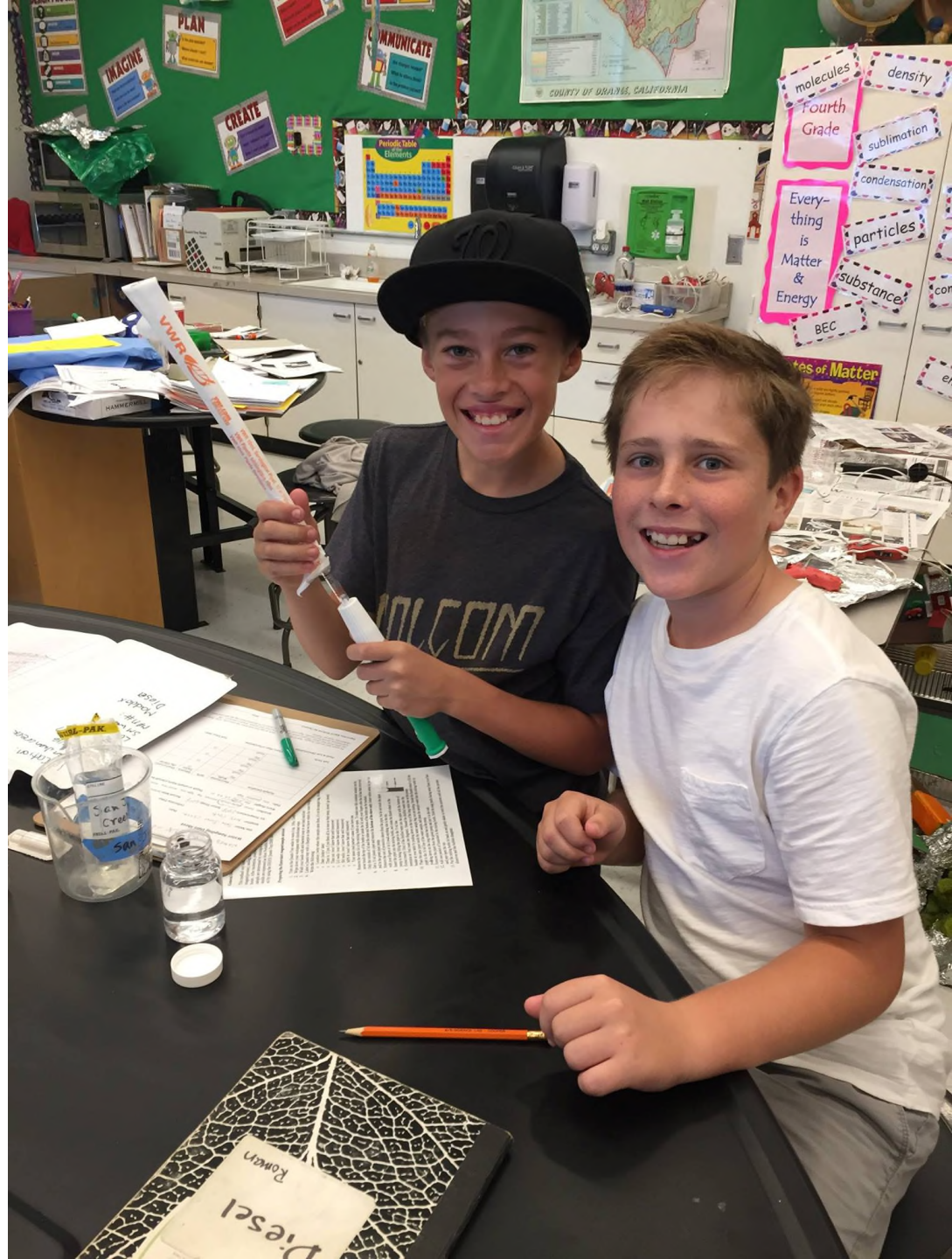




# School & Youth Programs









# Partnering with Agency Beach Programs

- Collect samples & help communicate data
  - State & local beach programs, other watershed groups



Surfrider Foundation - Virginia Beach Chapter shared a link.  
Yesterday

A no-swim advisory was just posted from 8th Street down to Dam Neck as well as from Fort Story to the 5000 block of Oceanview Ave! The city discovered higher than normal bacteria levels. You've been warned!



**New swimming advisories posted for Virginia Beach**  
[www.wvec.com](http://www.wvec.com)

No swimming is allowed from the 5000 block of Oceanview Ave to Fort Story and from 8th street to the Dam Neck...

Like · Comment · Share

3 Shares







# Water Test Results Posted Online & Shared

SHARE

LOCAL INFORMATION



## Key

Enterococcus (MPN/100 ml):

- (0-35) Low Bacteria\*
- (36-104) Medium Bacteria
- (> 104) High Bacteria
- Other bacteria measured†

\* 0 means a value of <10

SAMPLE SITE ▼	TEST DATE ▼	ENTERO ▼	INDICATION OF ▼
Campus Point	2-14-19	20	<span style="color: green;">●</span> Low Bacteria
Depressions	2-14-19	51	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span> Medium Bacteria
Devereux	2-14-19	0	<span style="color: green;">●</span> Low Bacteria
Pescadero	2-14-19	110	<span style="color: red;">●</span> High Bacteria

[GO.SURFRIDER.ORG/BWTF](http://GO.SURFRIDER.ORG/BWTF)

# Swim Guide Affiliation

- Mobile app for beach goers to access current water quality information for beaches and recreational waters
- Surfrider BWTF labs
  - Long Island, NY
  - Miami, FL
  - Rincon, PR
  - Kauai, HI
  - Vancouver, BC



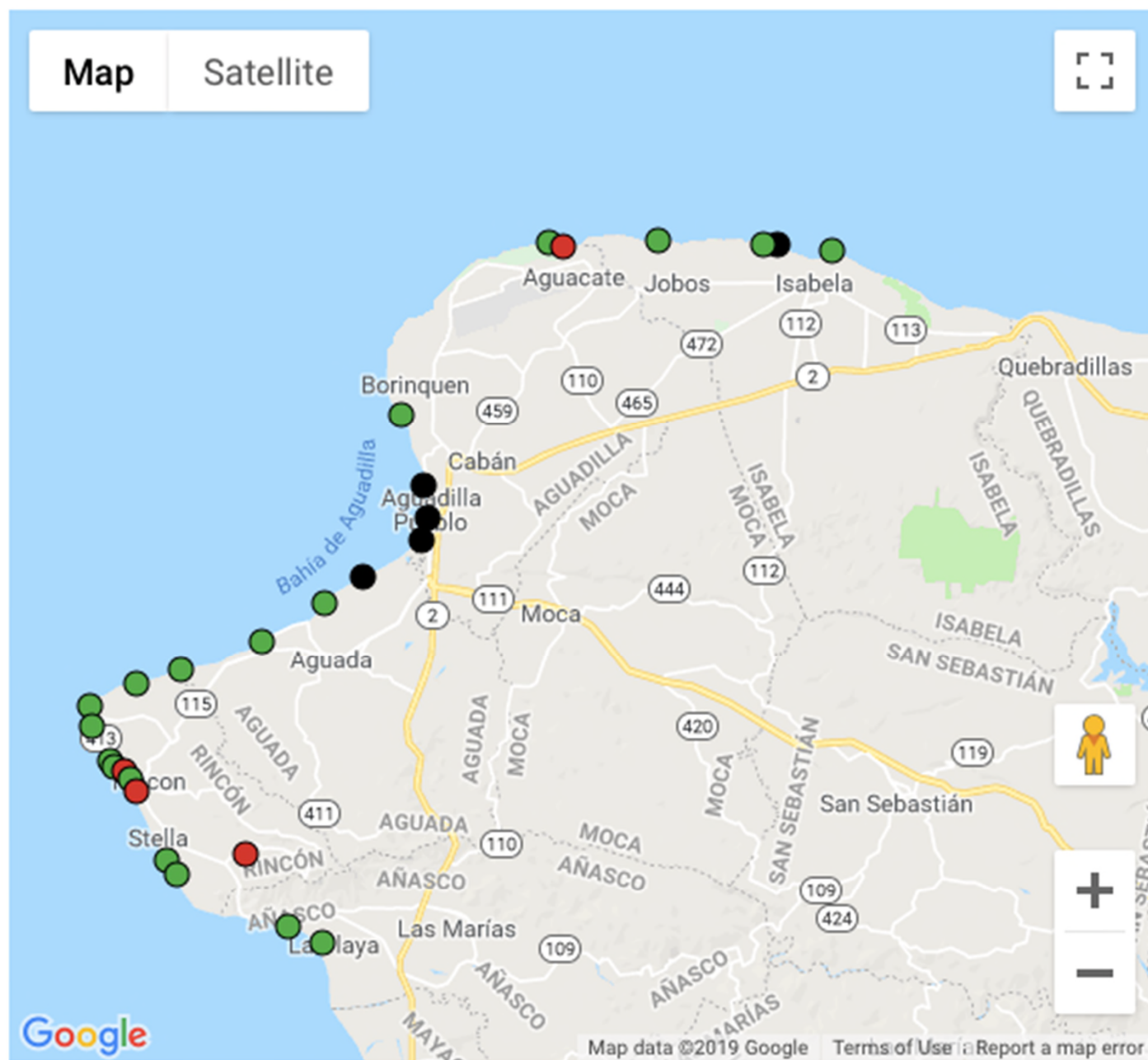


An aerial photograph of a tropical beach. The turquoise ocean is on the left, with gentle waves washing onto a wide, light-colored sandy beach on the right. The water is clear, revealing the sandy bottom near the shore.

# Case Study: Surfrider Rincón's Blue Water Task Force

Leaning on local partners to meet community needs in  
post-storm conditions in Puerto Rico following  
Hurricane Maria





## RINCON BWTF BEACHES

- [Balneario/Rincon Town Beach](#)  
Tested on: 3-20-2019
- [Crashboat](#)  
Tested on: 3-20-2019
- [Domes Beach](#)  
Tested on: 3-20-2019
- [Marias](#)  
Tested on: 3-20-2019
- [Middles](#)  
Tested on: 3-20-2019
- [Parking Lots](#)  
Tested on: 3-20-2019
- [Pico Piedras](#)  
Tested on: 3-20-2019
- [Playa Almendros](#)  
Tested on: 3-20-2019
- [Playa Lala](#)  
Tested on: 3-20-2019
- [Quebrada sin Nombre \(fw\)](#)  
Tested on: 3-20-2019
- [Rio Grande](#)  
Tested on: 3-20-2019











# Surfrider Rincon, Puerto Rico

## Post-Maria Water Sampling Program

- Days, weeks & months after Hurricane Maria: electricity, potable water, communications and travel were challenging.
- Rincon BWTF has established a strong reputation & many community partners over last decade.
- 1 month post-storm, BWTF lab re-located to Costa Salud Health Center with generator powered electricity & testing resumed.





# RBC Relief Center

- Shipment center to receive water testing supplies
- Community bulletin board for communication
- Source of volunteers & transportation into hard-to-reach inland areas





Weekly sampling of beaches resumed, conditions mostly good.  
Sewage infrastructure problems reported.









# Rincon BWTF starts freshwater sampling program





# E. coli testing using Aquagenx Compartment Bag Tests





# Outreach & Education





# Power of Partnering

- Accomplish more together
- Pool resources, volunteers, expertise
- Reach & engage new audiences
- Allies for problem solving
- Watch the Video!
- [GO.SURFRIDER.ORG/BWTF](http://GO.SURFRIDER.ORG/BWTF)







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