



Every day poses new challenges  
to our ocean, waves and beaches.

**3%**

Of U.S. waters are fully  
protected marine areas.

**880,000**

Gallons of oil are spilled from  
U.S. oil operations annually,  
that's roughly 21,000 barrels.

**1.5 Million**

People get sick annually from  
swimming at polluted beaches in  
Southern California alone.

#### THE GOOD NEWS

Through the Surfrider Foundation's efforts to create and expand our marine protected areas (MPAs), these areas have grown more than 3,984 square miles since 2006. On average, marine reserves have 20% more diversity in their marine life and have 2.5 times the number of individual animals compared to non-protected areas of our ocean.



# Ocean Protection



Join us and help our oceans protected.

**surfrider.org**





# Ocean Protection

Our ocean faces growing challenges from pollution, habitat loss, development and climate change. If that wasn't enough, expanding industries such as offshore oil drilling, renewable energy, shipping and aquaculture threaten to crowd our oceans and degrade the health of the ecosystem.

The Surfrider Foundation works to protect our ocean and address the dangers to it, today and in the future. Our Ocean Protection Initiative includes grassroots campaigns to establish and support Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), oppose new offshore oil drilling and seismic testing, participate in regional ocean planning, and ensure renewable ocean energy does not damage our ocean.

The Surfrider Foundation takes a proactive approach to conservation and addresses it through four core areas: Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), offshore oil drilling, renewable ocean energy and Marine Spatial Planning.



## MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) function as safe havens for marine life, where the ocean can rebuild and restore itself. Marine Protected Areas help marine ecosystems withstand the impacts of pollution, development, over fishing and climate change. Surfrider Foundation engages in both the planning and implementation of MPAs and fully protected marine reserves around the country. By providing outreach to ocean users and by engaging citizens in planning and stewardship efforts, our chapters play an important role in ensuring the longterm success of MPAs.

## REGIONAL OCEAN PLANNING

Ocean planning is a public process that brings together different ocean stakeholders – including recreation, conservation, fishing, energy and government – to make informed decisions about how to use the ocean sustainably. Ocean planning reduces conflict among different uses, protects the natural environment and provides clear guidelines for private industry and developers. The Surfrider Foundation is a key stakeholder in ocean planning efforts, making sure recreational ocean users are heard in the public process.

## OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING

Offshore oil drilling is a mechanical process where the ocean floor is drilled in efforts to search for and extract petroleum that lies beneath the seabed. Our ocean, waves and beaches are vital recreational, economic and ecological treasures that are put at risk by offshore oil drilling. The Surfrider Foundation is focused on protecting our coasts from the risky practice of offshore oil drilling through grassroots advocacy at the federal and state levels.

## RENEWABLE OCEAN ENERGY

In recent years, there has been great interest in the development of renewable, non-polluting ocean energy sources including wind, waves, tides and ocean currents. We recognize that there are many questions and concerns about ocean energy, including the potential impacts. Our dedicated chapter network and supporters remain focused on advocating best practices and supporting future development of projects that utilize these energy sources without harming the ocean environment or impacting other ocean uses.

