

SURFRIDER FOUNDATION NORTHEAST REGION

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

www.northeast.surfrider.org

Photo Credit: Isabella DeFrancesco

2025 NORTHEAST REGION

OVERVIEW & HIGHLIGHTS

The Northeast Region is home to seven volunteer-driven chapters—Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, the Cape & Islands chapter, and our newest addition, South Coast MA—along with ten active student clubs that are part of the global Surfrider Foundation network based in San Clemente, California. Across the region, chapters focus their programs and campaigns on five key initiatives: Plastic Pollution, Ocean Protection, Clean Water, Beach Access, and Coastal Preservation.

The Surfrider Foundation is committed to a bold 2035 vision: ensuring clean water for all people, ending ocean plastic pollution, protecting our coasts from the impacts of climate change, and building a national movement of one million people dedicated to ocean and coastal protection. In 2025, our Northeast chapters made significant strides toward this vision, advancing meaningful work across all five states.

Major highlights from this year include expanding our network with new chapters, clubs, Executive Committee members, and core volunteers; securing five campaign victories; launching Climate Action Program projects; strengthening grassroots partnerships; and hosting events that embody Surfrider's mission of connection, joy, and a shared love for our ocean, waves, and beaches.

Surfrider Foundation is a non-profit, grassroots organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's ocean, waves, and beaches, for all people, through a powerful activist network.



Isabella DeFrancesco
Northeast Regional Manager

PROGRAMS

The Surfrider Foundation achieves its mission through numerous programs that help focus our work not only in the Northeast but across the country. Local chapters incorporate programs in response to the immediate needs and opportunities in their communities. These include Blue Water Task Force (BWTF), Ocean Friendly Restaurants (OFR) and Ocean Friendly Hotels (OFH), the Better Beach Alliance, the Climate Action Program (CAP), and the new Beach Guardian Program.



Photo Credit: Surfrider NH



Photo Credit: Mariel Geiger



Learn more about Programs at www.surfrider.org/programs

2025 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Photo Credit: Surfrider MA

Beach Cleanups

In 2025, our Northeast chapters hosted a total of 90 cleanups, targeting over 40 different beaches along the coastline and engaging thousands of volunteers.

Ocean Friendly Restaurants and Hotels

Our Northeast chapters expanded their reach with Ocean Friendly Restaurants (OFRs), bringing the total to 27 OFRs and 2 Ocean Friendly Hotels in the region. The Cape & Islands Chapter also began working with the Town of Orleans to build a model for the town to become an Ocean Friendly Community in 2027.

Blue Water Task Force

Three out of seven of our Northeast chapters have successful BWTF networks that test the water quality of our beaches in the months that their state's testing departments are not. Together, they sample over 25 sites and share these results with their local communities through social media.

Climate Action Program

Our Northeast chapters led three restoration projects in 2025. Our Maine Chapter completed two dune restoration events, and our New Hampshire Chapter partnered with NH Sea Grant to harvest and plant native dune grass.

Beach Guardians

Since its inception in 2023, our Maine Chapter's Beach Guardian Program has grown. Now over 15 Beach Guardians in the state complete both monthly cleanups and habitat/infrastructure monitoring and input their data into a national database, used to shape single-use plastic policy reform and coastal resilience efforts.

BRINGING THE STOKE TO CHAPTER EVENTS

Our Northeast chapters made an effort to bring fun and Surfrider stoke into their events this year. They focused on building connections to our ocean spaces and collaborated with a wide variety of community organizations. They also hosted events that were centered around joy, relationship building, and bringing like-minded individuals together. Our Northeast chapters also tabled at local and state-level festivals, presented at conferences, and participated in the 2025 Coastal Recreation Hill Day, where they met with Congressional leaders to advocate for national Surfrider priorities regarding drilling, clean water, and funding for NOAA. See some examples of stand-out events below.

- Surfrider Connecticut SUP Sprint Series
- Surfrider Maine Grain Surf Re-evolution
- Surfrider Massachusetts STOKEE Event with Action Sports America
- Surfrider Rhode Island Hometown Hype Film Screening
- Surfrider Cape & Islands Winter Film Series
- Surfrider New Hampshire Halloween Hang 10
- Beach Guardian Summit
- Speaker Series at Chapter Meetings
- Blue Drinks Social Hour



Photo Credit: Kaila Whooley

NORTHEAST JEDI INTERNSHIP



Photo Credit: Jackie Sastry

We had the opportunity to hire a Northeast JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) Outreach Intern to work with our chapters in the summer of 2025. Jackie Sastry joined the team to build on new and existing partnerships with JEDI-focused organizations across the region and helped to develop a strategy around recruiting partners for environmental justice-related events.

Through this internship, the Northeast built relationships with numerous JEDI-focused organizations like Access Sports America, EASTIE Coalition, Des Nosotros, Rise Up, and more. Jackie executed a JEDI-focused cleanup event in East Boston, partnering with two JEDI organizations. 22 volunteers cleaned up 566 pounds of trash. The volunteers also created an amazing mandala pattern made out of the trash collected.

“The highlights of my internship were definitely the people and the projects. I loved getting to know the staff, learning from their experiences, and seeing the variety of policy and advocacy work they are advancing. It was incredibly inspiring to be working with such an intelligent group of like-minded individuals who all come from different walks of life.”

- Jackie Sastry

10 ACTIVE YOUTH CLUBS

The Surfrider Foundation launched the Student Club Network in 2008. Our Student Club Network creates a platform to meet the demand of young people for opportunities to influence environmental action through service, leadership development, civic engagement, and direct action organizing.

Spanning high school through college, there are ten active student clubs across the Northeast region, with six joining in 2025. These include the University of Rhode Island, the University of New Hampshire, Salve Regina University, Rocky Hill Country Day School, King Phillip Regional High School, Nauset Regional High School, St. Luke's School, Brunswick School, Marblehead High, and Hampton Academy.

This year, our student clubs organized beach cleanups and movie nights, led postcard writing and policy sessions, promoted Ocean Friendly Cafeterias, helped with BWTF testing, and some even attended the 2025 Coastal Recreation Hill Day.



Photo Credit: UNH Surfrider Club



Photo Credit: Mary Brantley

VICTORIES AND ACTIVE CAMPAIGNS

Campaigns are how the Surfrider Foundation measures and tracks our efforts. We define campaigns as a yes/no decision by a governing body or agency. In 2025, Northeast chapters maintained 21 active campaigns, launching 8 new campaigns this year alone. The region also celebrated **five** campaign victories!

VICTORIES

Stop the city of Norwalk from building turf fields!	Clean Water	CT
Hudson Plastic Reduction Bylaw	Plastic Pollution	MA
Let's Ban Neonicotinoid Pesticides in Falmouth!	Clean Water	ME
Improve Climate Resilience in Maine!	Coasts & Climate	ME
Ban Neonicotinoids in CT!	Clean Water	CT

NEW CAMPAIGNS AS OF 2025

Ban the use of acelepryn use in Connecticut	Clean Water	CT
Reusable Seacoast	Plastic Pollution	NH
Protect Beach Access in Maine	Beach Access	ME
Protect Maine's EPR Bill	Plastic Pollution	ME
Let's Ban Single-Use Plastic Products in Stamford, CT!	Plastic Pollution	CT
Ban Polystyrene and Single-use Plastic in CT!	Plastic Pollution	CT
Eliminate single-use toiletries from hotels in Maine!	Plastic Pollution	ME
Eliminate Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF) in Maine!	Plastic Pollution	ME

Learn more about Northeast Campaigns at www.surfrider.org/campaigns

NORTHEAST & GREAT LAKES REGIONAL CONFERENCE



Photo Credit: Brian Burke

In 2025, we hosted our Northeast and Great Lakes chapter conference in Portland, Maine. Joined by chapters across both regions, as well as Surfrider staff, the conference highlighted stories, collaboration, and innovation. Workshops included building volunteer capacity, fundraising best practices, a kickstart to climate action, plastic pollution prevention, and more! Presenters included both staff and volunteers, highlighting the amazing leadership of our chapter's Executive Committees.

The conference featured a tour of the iconic Portland Headlight, with an on-the-ground Beach Guardian habitat monitoring session. Then, it included a mingling hour at Allagash Brewery, where volunteers could build new friendships across the country.

Overall, our chapter leaders left this event inspired and brainstormed amazing ideas on how to grow and expand their impact in 2026 and beyond.

Learn more about the event at www.northeast.surfrider.org/news

LOOKING TO 2026

As we move into 2026, many big things are on the horizon for our Northeast chapters. They will continue to position themselves as leaders in the coastal sector, build campaigns that result in local, statewide, and regional impact, spread community and joy for those who are passionate about our oceans, foster inclusivity, and grow Surfrider's presence in the Northeast and beyond. The potential for what our Northeast Chapters can achieve, only continues to deepen and grow.



To every chapter leader, volunteer, student, partner organization, supporter, and community member who showed up, spoke up, cleaned up, organized, advocated, and inspired—thank you.

Learn more about how to get involved at www.northeast.surfrider.org.