

*Punta Borinquen World Surfing Reserve  
Local Stewardship Council*



## **Puerto Rico is chosen as the 2019 World Surfing Reserve**

**December 17, 2018**

The coast from Crashboat beach to Surfers beach of the municipality of Aguadilla, Puerto Rico has been selected as the **2019 World Surfing Reserve** by Save the Waves Coalition, being the **the 1st World Surfing Reserve of Puerto Rico and the Caribbean**. [World Surfing Reserves](#) (WSR) is a program of [Save the Waves Coalition](#), which is a nonprofit focused exclusively on conservation of surfing coastlines on an international scale. The WSR program opens an annual competition where teams from all over the globe submit a *Letter of Inquiry* explaining how their proposed coastline fulfills World Surfing Reserve's four (4) selection criterions:

- Quality and consistency of the wave
- Ecological significance
- Surfing history and culture
- Local support

The program serves as a global model for preserving wave breaks and their surrounding areas by recognizing and protecting the key environmental, cultural, economic and community attributes of surfing areas.

[Olita](#), a puertorican brand that works to deviate families from the poverty cycle, recruited and organized a team of experts in the fields of each selection criterion. This interdisciplinary team formed as the *Local Stewardship Council* (Comité Timón), and consists of professors, students, local entities, NGO's and local veterans of the surf and outdoor industries. The LSC's job was to create the most complete and profound application for the WSR, one which they submitted in September 30th, 2018. By mid

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november the team was notified that it was selected as the 2019 World Surfing Reserve. The LSC was congratulated for submitting one of the most impressive applications Save the Waves have received so far.



*Photo by F Javier Gil*

The LSC members are:

**Miguel Canals Silander, PhD**

- Director of the *Center for Applied Ocean Science and Engineering* of the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus Mayagüez.

**André Amador, PhD (cand.)**

- Doctoral student of mechanical engineering - *applied ocean science* of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego.

**Miguel Figuerola, MD, PhD (cand.)**

- Masters student of Marine Sciences of the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus.

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**Luis Villanueva, MP**

- Member of Sierra Club, Puerto Rico
- Director of the Northwestern Ecological Corridor Project

**Kathy Hall, MD**

- Co-founder of the *Liga Ecológica Puertorriqueña del Noroeste* (1990)
- Marine turtle specialist with the IUCN (1983)

**Ruperto Chaparro, MD**

- Director of the [Sea Grant College Program](#) of the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus

**Víctor Torres**

- 2007 Eastern Surfing Federation Puerto Rico\Caribe District Gran Master Champion
- Member of the Puerto Rico Team at the ISA Punta Roca Peru World Master Surfing Championship.
- 2008 Level 1 Certified judge by the International Surfing Association.
- 2008-2015 Director of the Campeonato Municipal de Surfing, Hatillo.
- 2008 President of Surfers de Borinken Inc.

**Jim Crotty and Steve Tamar, *Surfrider Foundation, PR Chapter***

- 501 (c)(3) grassroots non-profit environmental organization that works to protect and preserve the world's oceans, waves and beaches.

**Ing. Roberto Lebrón and Gerardo Lebrón Laboy, *Olita***

- Puertorican brand working in the [Cerro Calero](#) neighborhood of Aguadilla

**Otto Flores**

- [Patagonia](#) Global Ambassador
- Waves for Water Ambassador
- Punta Borinquen World Surfing Reserve Ambassador

The name of the Surfing Reserve is *Punta Borinquen*, and it's ambassador is local pro surfer and environmental activist *Otto Flores*.

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The Punta Borinquen Surfing Reserve received the endorsements and support of:

[Para La Naturaleza](#)

[Surfrider Foundation, Rincón Chapter](#)

[Sierra Club Puerto Rico](#)

[Oficina Programa de Manejo de la Zona Costanera](#)

[Sociedad Puertorriqueña de Planificación](#)

[The Marine Sciences Student Association of the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus](#)

The Center for Applied Science and Ocean Engineering of the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus

[Puerto Rico Sea Grant College Program](#)

[Surf and Nature Alliance](#)

On September 27th, 2018 the Puerto Rican *House of Representatives* (Cámara de Representantes de Puerto Rico) **recognized, celebrated, and endorsed** the Punta Borinquen World Surfing Reserve project.

Contact information

Otto Flores, *Punta Borinquen Surfing Reserva Ambassador*

[ottoint@gmail.com](mailto:ottoint@gmail.com)

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Supporters



Center for Applied Ocean Science and Engineering  
Department of Engineering Science and Materials