

Surfing the Wave of Sustainability Science



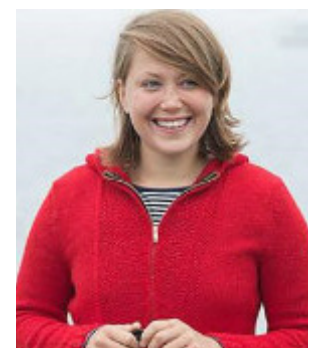
MARCH 22, 2017 | 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
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Explore the unique role of surfers in our coastal systems through the lens of sustainability science

Surfers represent a culturally and economically important group of beach-goers who are subject to higher risks associated with impaired water quality. Gulf of Maine surfers were the subject of a National Science Foundation funded sustainability science research project. The New England Sustainability Consortium (NEST) Safe Beaches and Shellfish Project was an interdisciplinary sustainability science project focused on water quality in the Gulf of Maine with respect to shellfish bed closures and recreational beach advisories. With this research the hope is to show that surfers' knowledge of their environment can prove useful to researchers and help drive policy changes related to water quality management. Sophia Scott and Dr. Shannon Rogers focused their research on the robust surfing population in southern Maine and New Hampshire surveying 291 surfers and conducting 20 interviews with key informants in the surfing community.

Guest Speaker: Sophia Scott

Sophia Scott received a Bachelor of Agricultural and Environmental Science from McGill University and a Masters of Science in Environmental Science and Policy from Plymouth State University. A Maine native, Sophia has a deep affinity for the social ecological systems that are our coasts and strives to keep their ecological integrity and important cultural heritage alive and well. Her passions center around bridging the gap between science and policy, science communication, and increasing science literacy.



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Portland's Sustainability Series is co-hosted by the Portland Public Library and the Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative