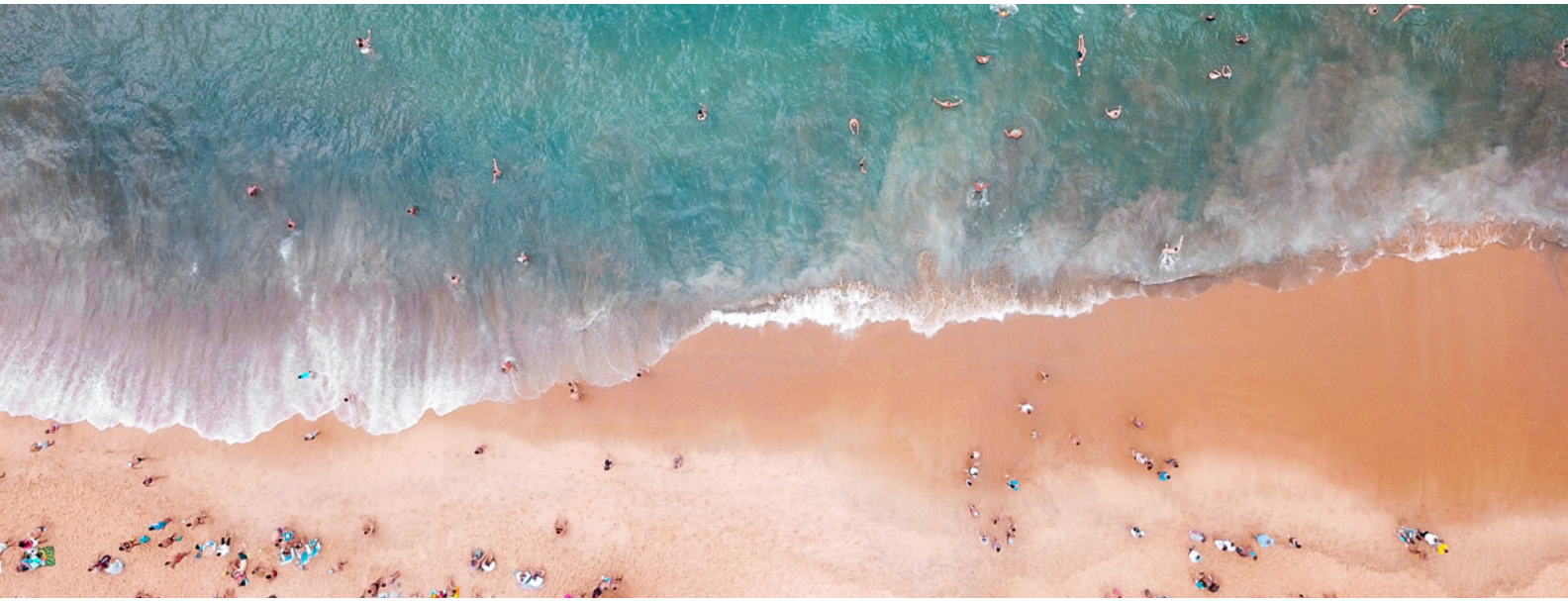




# WATERKEEPER ALLIANCE 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



**WATERKEEPER GROUPS  
PATROL AND PROTECT  
2.77 MILLION SQUARE  
MILES OF WATERSHEDS**



**WHICH PROVIDE WATER  
FOR DRINKING, FISHING,  
AND SWIMMING TO MORE  
THAN 710 MILLION PEOPLE.**



# THERE ARE 346 WATERKEEPER GROUPS IN 46 COUNTRIES



**MOVEMENT-WIDE, WE HAVE 1,043 STAFF,  
1,147,665 VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS,  
AND A COLLECTIVE BUDGET OF MORE THAN US\$78 MILLION.**

**THROUGH OUR WEBSITE, EMAIL, SOCIAL MEDIA, AND NEWS MEDIA OUTREACH,  
WE REACH MORE THAN 550 MILLION PEOPLE EACH MONTH.**

**WATERKEEPER ALLIANCE IS A TOP-RANKED 501(C)3 CHARITY, WITH TOP-RATED STATUS FROM CHARITYWATCH,  
A FOUR-STAR RATING FROM CHARITY NAVIGATOR, AND PLATINUM STATUS FROM GUIDESTAR.**

**\*AS OF JUNE 30, 2019**






## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**W**e are thrilled to present this Annual Report for fiscal year 2019, as the year marks our 20th anniversary of connecting the world through water! Hitting an important milestone like a 20th anniversary presents an excellent opportunity to look back at how far we have come and to look forward to our future.

In 1999, when Waterkeeper Alliance was born and I was working for Hudson Riverkeeper, there were 35 Waterkeepers in two countries on one continent. At the close of this fiscal year, there were 346 Waterkeeper groups in 46 countries on six continents! In 1999, those Waterkeeper advocates were patrolling and protecting 176,000 square miles of watersheds. Today, the Waterkeeper movement patrols and protects more than 2.77 million square miles!

Collectively, in 1999, Waterkeepers employed 50 people; today, we are proud to have a team of more than 1,000 clean water warriors. The movement can't grow without the help of volunteers and supporters. In 1999, there were 5,000 volunteers and supporters; today, movement-wide, we count on more than 1.1 million volunteers and supporters. And all of this support is what gives us the ability to safeguard water for nearly one billion people.





We are amazed by how this movement has grown in 20 years; it reflects the importance of our shared water resources and the magnitude of the global water crisis. In the face of unprecedented challenges to water quality, water quantity, and our climate, we are proud of all of our Waterkeepers' successes. I hope you all will read the anniversary issues of Waterkeeper Magazine this year, where we highlight the inspiring stories of our 20 Waterkeeper Warriors. A photo gallery and stories also are available at [waterkeeper.org/warriors](http://waterkeeper.org/warriors).

From the beginnings of the Waterkeeper movement, a fundamental principle of Waterkeepers' philosophy has been that change starts at the local level. Based on the success of our Waterkeepers and our belief in local leadership, over the next 20 years, we commit to significantly strengthening and growing our network. We will expand and deepen the support we provide for Waterkeepers. And we will ensure that there is a trained, effective local Waterkeeper in every habitable watershed on the planet—protecting more than 20 million square miles.

This annual report documents stories, challenges, and successes of our growing movement all over the world, from expanding our network into new African countries and the Middle East, to successful training summits, to the decisive victory in our legal challenge of the 2015 federal coal ash

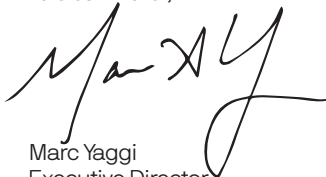
disposal rules, a victory that was dubbed one of the six most significant environmental law rulings in the first half of 2019. And we are proud to continue to maintain top rankings on all charity rating sites.

I continue to be inspired by our talented team and by our Waterkeepers around the world who fight daily to stand up for their beloved bay, river, lake, or stretch of coastline.

They understand that apathy is the ultimate enemy of positive change and meaningful progress. If you care about the future, being a bystander is not an option. A Waterkeeper is out there day after day fighting for your right to clean water.

We are very grateful for your support as we transform the local fight for clean water into a powerful, coordinated global movement to solve the biggest challenge of our time.

To clean water,



Marc Yaggi  
Executive Director

# REPORT

At the end of fiscal year 2019, Waterkeeper Alliance had 346 Waterkeeper groups protecting 2.77 million square miles in 46 countries and the State of Palestine.



COACHELLA VALLEY WATERKEEPER  
(CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES)



EDISTO RIVERKEEPER  
(SOUTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES)



COPPER RIVER DELTA SOUND  
WATERKEEPER  
(ALASKA, UNITED STATES)



DAN RIVERKEEPER  
LUMBER RIVERKEEPER  
(NORTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES)



WATERKEEPERS HAWAIIAN ISLANDS  
HILO BAY WATERKEEPER  
(HAWAII, UNITED STATES)



WATERKEEPERS FLORIDA  
(FLORIDA, UNITED STATES)



TWIN HARBORS WATERKEEPER  
(WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES)

THIS YEAR, WE  
ADDED 18 NEW  
WATERKEEPER  
GROUPS AND  
TWO NEW  
COUNTRIES TO  
THE WATERKEEPER  
MOVEMENT.



JORDAN RIVER WATERKEEPER  
(ISRAEL)



JORDAN RIVER WATERKEEPER  
(JORDAN)



JORDAN RIVER WATERKEEPER  
(STATE OF PALESTINE)



KRATIE MEKONG RIVER WATERKEEPER  
LOWER SESAN RIVER WATERKEEPER  
TONLE SAP RIVER WATERKEEPER  
(CAMBODIA)



LAC KIVU DRC WATERKEEPER  
(DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO)



UGANDA LAKE VICTORIA  
WATERKEEPER (UGANDA)



UPPER YAMUNA WATERKEEPER  
(INDIA)

# TRAIN

Waterkeeper Alliance launched a new training initiative—Regional Summits—to foster collaboration, information sharing, networking, and strategic planning among Waterkeeper groups. This approach to training streamlines collaboration between Waterkeepers that have geographic and cultural similarities and face similar threats in their watersheds.



## NORTH ATLANTIC REGIONAL SUMMIT

The North Atlantic Regional Summit, from April 23-26, 2019 in Groton, Connecticut, United States, had 15 participants representing Waterkeeper groups from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island. Participants compiled resources on stormwater sewer overflow and began to develop a regional strategy for climate resilience.



## EAST ASIA REGIONAL SUMMIT

The East Asia Regional Summit, from December 13-17, 2018 in Siem Reap City, Cambodia, had 28 participants representing Waterkeeper groups from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Mongolia, Thailand, and Vietnam. They created an International Education group and a Cross-boundary Communication group. The International Education group will focus on engaging students and communities in environmental education and will introduce children to environmentalism while providing a steady source of income for local groups. The Cross-boundary Communication group will share information between China and countries in Southeast Asia about how potential developments under China's One Belt, One Road initiative may impact other countries' water quality.





## CHESAPEAKE REGIONAL SUMMIT

The Chesapeake Regional Summit, from June 9-11, 2019 in Tilghman Island, Maryland, United States, had 17 participants representing Waterkeeper groups from Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington D.C. As a result of the diversity, equity, and inclusion training held at the summit, Waterkeepers in the region are working to make their organizations more inclusive and reflective of the communities they serve. The group also launched the “Clear Choices, Clean Water” campaign to increase awareness on how individual decisions—like disposing of pet waste or choosing lawn fertilizer—affect rivers and streams.



## PACIFIC REGIONAL SUMMIT

The Pacific Regional Summit, from March 26-29, 2019 in Sausalito, California, United States, had 37 participants representing Waterkeeper groups from California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. Pacific Waterkeepers agreed to create a united strategy on issues that impact the American West including river cleanups and forest fire preparation, mitigation, and watershed recovery.



## LATIN AMERICA REGIONAL SUMMIT

The Latin American Regional Summit, from April 24-28, 2019 in Cartagena, Colombia, had 37 participants representing Waterkeeper groups from Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, and Peru. Waterkeepers ratified their commitment to defend the right to clean water for the benefit of present and future generations, and agreed to:

- Promote protecting water bodies and their basins in the region, with emphasis on the Amazon
- Establish joint legal strategies to defend waterways from polluters
- Promote new technologies for continuous monitoring of water quality
- Use open geographic information systems to create public water-quality data for all watersheds in which Waterkeeper Alliance is present
- Design a strategic plan for Waterkeeper groups in Latin America



# ORGANIZE

This year, Waterkeeper Alliance celebrated 20 years of connecting locally-based Waterkeeper groups worldwide to preserve and protect clean water. We have used legal action, community advocacy, and education to fight major water threats—from challenging the coal industry's toxic mercury emissions and coal ash waste, to taking on big agriculture's use of spray fields and cesspools for managing animal waste.

The Waterkeeper Warriors 20th Anniversary campaign, presented in partnership with Culture Trip, showcases 20 Waterkeepers who have fought and won some of the most significant clean water battles of the past 20 years—and face the biggest challenges of the future.

To view the full photo gallery and stories of these incredible clean water advocates, visit [waterkeeper.org/warriors](http://waterkeeper.org/warriors).



## KEMP BURDETTE CAPE FEAR RIVERKEEPER

PHOTOGRAPHED BY ©COLBY KATZ, COURTESY OF CULTURE TRIP

Kemp Burdette, the Cape Fear Riverkeeper in Wilmington, North Carolina, since 2010, is leading the fight for clean water in the Cape Fear Basin, which has the highest density of industrial livestock feeding operations of any place on earth, with over 5 million hogs and 300 million chickens whose untreated waste is seriously degrading the Cape Fear River's health. Unlined, leaking pits of coal ash from power plants, containing millions of tons of toxin-laden waste, plague the basin and have leaked contaminants into the river for decades. Born and raised on the Cape Fear River, Kemp lived around the world as a U.S. Navy search and rescue swimmer, a Fulbright Scholar, and a Peace Corps volunteer before returning home. His work monitoring and documenting livestock pollution and raising public awareness has proved crucial to strengthening demands for increased government safeguards. The same goes for coal ash—the Riverkeeper's legal actions have resulted in more stringent laws and costly cleanup operations by Duke Energy.



## CASI CALLAWAY MOBILE BAYKEEPER

PHOTOGRAPHED BY ©ANDY LEVIN,  
COURTESY OF CULTURE TRIP

For more than 20 years, Casi Callaway, the Mobile Baykeeper, has been Mobile Bay's most tireless advocate and protector. Under her leadership, Baykeeper, now the most prominent environmental organization in the region, was a critical community force during the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon disaster and continues to be a full partner in the City of Mobile's efforts to address stormwater pollution, inadequate sewage treatment infrastructure, and increasing threats from sea-level rise.





## LILIANA GUERRERO BOCAS DE CENIZA WATERKEEPER

PHOTOGRAPHED BY ©STEPHEN FERRY,  
COURTESY OF CULTURE TRIP

Liliana Guerrero, the Bocas de Ceniza Waterkeeper in Barranquilla, Colombia, is leading the campaign to stop the destruction that multinational coal companies are wreaking on her country. As a lawyer and skilled litigator, she has a particular focus on advocating for marginalized communities and environmental and wildlife conservation.

## SENGLONG YOUK TONLE SAP LAKE WATERKEEPER

PHOTOGRAPHED BY ©ERIKA PINEROS,  
COURTESY OF CULTURE TRIP

Senglong Youk, the Tonle Sap Lake Waterkeeper in Cambodia, is one of his country's leading environmental activists. Senglong is leading the fight against a spate of proposed mega-hydropower dams that threaten the ecological health of the Mekong River, as well as the economic vitality and food security of 60 million people in the Mekong region, the world's largest inland freshwater fishery.



## MEGH BAHADUR ALE KARNALI RIVER WATERKEEPER

PHOTOGRAPHED BY ©SAILENDRA KHAREL,  
COURTESY OF CULTURE TRIP

Megh Bahadur Ale, river guide, explorer, conservationist, social entrepreneur, Ashoka Fellow, and, most recently, environmental campaigner and founder of Karnali River Waterkeeper. Megh is one of Nepal's leading voices for the protection of its rivers, in particular, the Karnali, one of the country's last wild rivers currently being threatened by a scheme for major hydroelectric dam development.



## DEAN WILSON ATCHAFALAYA BASINKEEPER

PHOTOGRAPHED BY ©ANDY LEVIN, COURTESY OF CULTURE TRIP

Dean Wilson made his living as a commercial fisherman and hunter in the Atchafalaya Basin for more than 16 years. He founded Atchafalaya Basinkeeper when landowners and timber companies developed plans to clear-cut Atchafalaya's cypress forest—the largest contiguous bottomland hardwood forest in North America and a refuge for half of North America's migratory waterfowl—for garden mulch. Dean spearheaded the Save Our Cypress Coalition and managed to stop the clear-cutting. With help from volunteer pilots from SouthWings, he continues to monitor all the major forest basins in coastal Louisiana for illegal cypress logging and other destructive activities. Dean was named a 2011 Tom's of Maine River Heroes Award winner.







## RASHEMA INGRAHAM BIMINI COASTAL WATERKEEPER AND WATERKEEPERS BAHAMAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY ©PEYTON FULFORD, COURTESY OF CULTURE TRIP

As the Bimini Coastal Waterkeeper and the head of Waterkeepers Bahamas, Rashema Ingraham is leading the campaign to protect the world-renowned waters of The Bahamas, a nation of some 700 islands and about 2,000 cays of low islands and reefs of sand or coral, which is threatened by mega-resort developments, sorely inadequate sewage-treatment infrastructure, polluted stormwater runoff, and plastic pollution. There are few environmental regulations and little enforcement of existing laws in The Bahamas due to the small size of the nation and the limited resources of law enforcement. But with Rashema's legal training, dedication, and passion for her island home, she is making Bahamians aware of their water crisis and the need for smarter water management policies.



## JILL JEDLICKA BUFFALO NIAGARA WATERKEEPER

PHOTOGRAPHED BY ©MARK SCHÄFER, COURTESY OF CULTURE TRIP

Under the leadership of Jill Jedlicka, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper's advocacy and restoration work in Western New York is helping reconnect the region to its Great Lakes heritage, and fostering its new water-based economy. A native of Western New York, Jill holds a BS in Environmental Studies and a Masters in Business Administration from the State University at Buffalo and was formerly the federally designated coordinator of the Buffalo River Remedial Action Plan. In partnership with state and federal environmental agencies, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper has spearheaded a \$100 million effort, now nearly complete, to clean up the heavily polluted Buffalo River. It also secured a \$92 million commitment by the Buffalo Sewer Authority that will markedly increase green infrastructure, and build local partnerships for workforce training. Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper provides opportunity for public engagement by hosting watershed courses, public forums, kayak tours, youth environmental leadership training, and volunteer opportunities. Its work has earned an audience beyond Western New York. In 2015 the organization received global recognition as the recipient of the International River Foundation's inaugural North American RiverPrize for excellence in river restoration and protection.



## SHARIF JAMIL BURIGANGA RIVERKEEPER AND WATERKEEPERS BANGLADESH

PHOTOGRAPHED BY ©FARHAD RAHMAN,  
COURTESY OF CULTURE TRIP

Sharif Jamil, the Buriganga Riverkeeper and head of Waterkeepers Bangladesh, is one of Bangladesh's most outspoken and passionate clean water advocates. Sharif is leading a country-wide campaign to avert an environmental catastrophe for Bangladesh, whose 165 million people are already suffering the effects of climate change and sea-level rise.





## BRUNO MONTEFERRI MARAÑÓN RIVER WATERKEEPER

PHOTOGRAPHED BY ©TUI ANANDI,  
COURTESY OF CULTURE TRIP

Marañón River Waterkeeper Bruno Monteferrri, in Lima, Peru, is an environmental lawyer and activist who holds an MPhil in conservation leadership from Cambridge University in the UK. He has been on the front lines of the resistance against a proposal to build 20 dams on the Marañón River, the main tributary of the Amazon River. To date, construction of the dams has not happened, and Bruno's efforts—as part of a broad-based opposition—led to a moratorium on all dams until 2021. In 2013 Bruno received the prestigious Green Talents award from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. In collaboration with the National Surfing Federation, he was able to pass the first law in the world focused on the protection of waves.



## RODRIGO DE LA O MAULE ITATA COASTKEEPER

PHOTOGRAPHED BY ©TAMARA MERINO, COURTESY  
OF CULTURE TRIP

Rodrigo de la O, the Maule Itata Coastkeeper and Chile's first Waterkeeper, fought a successful, seven-year campaign against the construction of a massive coal-fired power plant on the Maule and Itata rivers. A publicist and designer by training, Rodrigo most recently led a successful campaign against a proposed industrial salmon farm that would have devastated the pristine environment and abundant marine life of the Maule coast.



## REBECCA JIM TAR CREEKKEEPER

PHOTOGRAPHED BY ©IAN MAULE,  
COURTESY OF CULTURE TRIP

Rebecca Jim, the Tar Creekkeeper and founder of Local Environmental Action Demanded (LEAD) in northeast Oklahoma and a member of the Cherokee Nation, has, since 1997, led her Native American community's fight for environmental justice and remediation of the Tar Creek area, one of the largest and most polluted Superfund sites in the United States.



## MBACKE SECK HANN BAYKEEPER

PHOTOGRAPHED BY ©JANE HAHN,  
COURTESY OF CULTURE TRIP

Mbacke Seck, the Hann Baykeeper and Africa's first Waterkeeper, has, for more than two decades, led the fight against the pollution destroying Hann Bay. Hann Bay was once one of the world's most pristine and productive bays, but industrial and municipal waste impoverished its fishing communities and sickened its residents. In 2016, Mbacke won Senegal's top environmental prize, the Green Trophy, for his leadership nationally in advocating for a sustainable future for Senegal.

## CAPTAIN BILL SHEEHAN HACKENSACK RIVERKEEPER

PHOTOGRAPHED BY ©JOHN FRANCIS PETERS,  
COURTESY OF CULTURE TRIP

Born and raised along New Jersey's Hackensack River, and the son of a barge captain, Captain Bill Sheehan founded Hackensack Riverkeeper in 1997. He is widely credited for the resurrection of the Hackensack River and the Meadowlands Estuary. As a result of Bill's hard-nosed advocacy, the Meadowlands, once an infamous dumping ground for garbage, toxic chemicals, and more than a few dead bodies, is today an environmental gem and home to abundant wildlife amidst one of the most populous areas on earth.



## THEO THOMAS LONDON WATERKEEPER

PHOTOGRAPHED BY ©FINN BEALES, COURTESY OF CULTURE TRIP

Theo Thomas, a former BBC news journalist, has been one of the most outspoken and independent voices for London's rivers for nearly two decades, first as the London Canalkeeper and, since 2014, as the London Waterkeeper. He is leading the campaign for more effective water management and advocating for green infrastructure to reduce the polluted stormwater runoff that flows into London's rivers. As a result of his efforts, Thames Water, the private utility responsible for the public water supply and waste-water treatment in London, has committed to putting real-time sewer overflow data online and piloting a water-quality-information system for swimmers and other users of the Thames River and the city's other waterways.



## FRED TUTMAN PATUXENT RIVERKEEPER

PHOTOGRAPHED BY ©NIGEL PARRY,  
COURTESY OF CULTURE TRIP

Fred Tutman, the founding Patuxent Riverkeeper, was born and raised along the Patuxent River in Maryland, as were seven generations of his ancestors. Previously a broadcast journalist and producer, he has provided a bullhorn to communities opposing development, particularly minority communities. Fred joined a civil rights complaint accusing the state of Maryland of approving a disproportionate number of power plants near a community where nearly three-quarters of the population is African-American. And, in a precedent-setting win, Fred led a legal challenge that earned citizens and organizations with aesthetic or recreational interest the legal standing to contest proposed development in Maryland.





## YONGCHEN WANG BEIYUN WATERKEEPER

PHOTOGRAPHED BY \*GIULIA MARCHI,  
COURTESY OF CULTURE TRIP

Yongchen Wang, the Beiyun Waterkeeper, waged a successful 10-year campaign to save the Nu River, one of China's last free-flowing rivers, from plans to build 13 large hydropower dams. Wang, a pioneering environmental journalist in her country, created China's Journalists' Salon in 2000 and was selected as the Time/CNN Environmental Hero for 2008.



## SEJAL CHOKSI-CHUGH SAN FRANCISCO BAYKEEPER

PHOTOGRAPHED BY \*CHLOE AFTEL,  
COURTESY OF CULTURE TRIP

Sejal Choksi-Chugh, the San Francisco Baykeeper, is the driving force behind her organization's high-impact policy, science, and legal programs. Sejal is spearheading the charge to reduce agricultural pollution, industrial runoff, sewage overflows, and oil spills in the San Francisco Bay estuary, which drains water from nearly 40 percent of California. A graduate of the University of California at Berkeley Law School, in 2015 she was honored with the school's prestigious Environmental Leadership Award.



## RACHEL SILVERSTEIN MIAMI WATERKEEPER

PHOTOGRAPHED BY \*ROSE MARIE CROMWELL,  
COURTESY OF CULTURE TRIP

Miami Waterkeeper Rachel Silverstein's passion for protecting the environment began while growing up along the Southern California coast. She was SCUBA certified at 14, has been an avid diver ever since, and received a Ph.D. in Marine Biology from the University of Miami in 2012, focusing on the effects of climate change on reef corals. She won significant victories in litigation over illegal coral reef damage during the Port of Miami expansion and is leading efforts to prevent similar harm from occurring again. She was recognized with the Diatom Award by the Mayor of Miami Beach for excellence in environmental advocacy and won the Miami Herald's Visionary Award.



## HAO XIN QIANTANG RIVER WATERKEEPER

PHOTOGRAPHED BY \*MARC RESSANG, COURTESY OF CULTURE TRIP

Hao Xin, the Qiantang River Waterkeeper in southeastern China's coastal Zhejiang province, is battling wide-scale development that has led to rampant pollution and water shortages in a region with 20 million people. Hao, who is committed to educating the public and encouraging local participation, created a pollution app for local citizens to report on the river's health and frequently holds televised roundtable discussions about the river. Recognized across China for his efforts to protect water and the environment, Hao organized an international forum with representatives from three of the world's major tidal rivers—the Ganges, the Amazon, and the Qiantang—and recently hosted the H2O Summit, a forum for 20 major river cities across the world.

Our advocacy team fights for clean water by boat, by plane, and in court. When regulators put our waters in peril, we mobilize opposition. When polluters endanger their neighbors, we do hard-hitting research. We testify before lawmakers, draft movement-wide comments on proposed regulations, and file strategic lawsuits. These are just a few snapshots of what our team has done this year. Our plan: Support Waterkeepers in their work as the voice for the waters they defend.

## CLEANING UP COAL ASH IN THE UNITED STATES

Waterkeeper Alliance won a decisive victory on August 21, 2018, in our legal challenge to the 2015 U.S. federal coal ash disposal rules. The Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit held that the safeguards set by the Obama administration for coal ash storage and disposal do not sufficiently protect communities and the environment, and must be strengthened to comply with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The court agreed with Waterkeeper Alliance's claims that:

- EPA was wrong to allow unlined coal ash ponds to operate until they violated the rule's standards. Many unlined ponds already leak dangerous pollution, and it is sometimes impossible to remediate groundwater and surface water once they are contaminated
- EPA should not have treated clay-lined coal ash ponds as equivalent to ponds with impermeable liners because clay-lined ponds often leak and lead to similar public health and environmental impacts as unlined ponds
- EPA must regulate all coal ash ponds, even those at inactive sites that no longer receive waste, as overwhelming evidence shows that these are just as risky as active ash ponds

This legal victory is significant because it forces EPA to go back and fix these significant inadequacies in the federal coal ash regulations. Furthermore, the court's decision followed the Trump EPA's finalization of revisions that weaken the rule promulgated by the Obama administration. EPA recognized that the changes would not hold up in court after our victory, and the D.C. Circuit granted the agency's request to have the revised rule sent back to the agency for a rewrite.

## FIGHTING TOXIC ALGAE FROM LAKE OKEECHOBEE

Waterkeeper Alliance, Calusa Waterkeeper, and the Center for Biological Diversity sued three federal agencies—the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Marine Fisheries Service—for failing to address harm to Florida's endangered species from Lake Okeechobee releases containing toxic algae and nitrogen and phosphorus pollution.

The suit, filed in the Southern District of Florida, challenges the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' refusal to address the harms to human health and wildlife like sea turtles and Florida manatees from the lake's toxic nitrogen and phosphorus-rich discharges into the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers and their estuaries. Past analyses of the Corps' schedule for discharges from the lake failed to consider the long-term impacts of high-volume discharges beyond three years, discounted the effects of harmful algal blooms, and did not consider habitat impacts triggered by climate change.

These discharges are known to cause enormous cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) blooms coating Florida rivers with thick, toxic, green slime, and are also thought by many scientists to help drive the catastrophic red tide algal blooms that choked Florida's coasts in recent years, with 2018 being the worst year on record. It is well documented that the current schedule for discharges from the lake harms the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers, and other Florida rivers and coastal waters.





## A TOXIC DISCOVERY IN CHILE

A Waterkeeper Alliance and Maule Itata Coastkeeper study, released December 18, 2018, of the area near the AES Ventanas coal-fired power plant in Puchuncaví, Chile found toxic contamination in two drinking water wells.

Water samples and a soil sample from the beach were collected at seven locations and analyzed by Pace Analytical Laboratories in the United States. The samples showed exceedances of U.S. EPA drinking water quality criteria for aluminum, arsenic, and lead in two drinking water wells located at private homes. The study also found hexavalent chromium in the wells, though findings did not exceed U.S. water-quality standards. Regardless, its presence is concerning, even at low levels, because of its carcinogenic properties.

The groups also trained community members to gather soil and water samples to determine if coal pollution is contributing toxins to surface water, wells, and public beaches. To eliminate ongoing impacts, the Chilean government should accelerate its policy goal of shutting down coal plants in Chile as quickly as possible.

## MONITORING THE WATERS OF THE ROOF OF THE WORLD

The Kingdom of Bhutan, with nearly 70 percent of its land still under forest cover, is hailed as being carbon neutral. The people of Bhutan carried their deep respect for nature and traditional lifestyles well into the 20th century, but in recent years, rapid development has threatened Bhutan's environment—particularly its waterways. Mass marketed goods, many of them packaged in plastic, have entered the country and are left as litter along roads, trails, and waterways. Goods such as chemical fertilizers and pesticides have also made their way into a largely agrarian country that is striving to be 100 percent organic. The impact of this pollution in Bhutan's waterways has yet to be measured.

In 2011, Bhutan introduced a clean water law and, in 2014, set water regulations. Multiple government agencies, including the National Environment Commission and the Ministry of Health, are responsible for enforcing various water-quality regulations. However, challenges remain, as Bhutan lacks a coordinated nationwide water-quality monitoring program, which is vital to support informed decisions on water infrastructure investment and river management policies.

Sponsored by Clean Bhutan, a network of Waterkeeper groups on Bhutan's four major river systems is rising to address this challenge by developing a citizen science water-quality monitoring program. In July 2017, Waterkeeper Alliance secured equipment and provided training for the Wang Chu Waterkeeper team based in the capital city of Thimphu. This year, Punatsang Chu Waterkeeper and Wang Chu Waterkeeper, along with their four local Waterkeeper Affiliates, launched a water-quality monitoring program and are working on a central database to use in their national and regional advocacy for watershed protection.

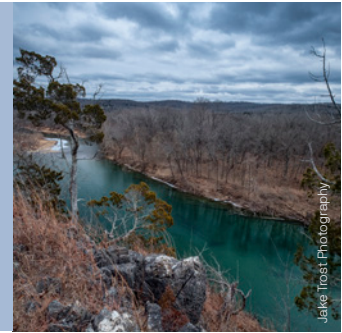
# PROTECTING THE WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

On April 15, 2019, Waterkeeper Alliance and 121 U.S. Waterkeeper groups submitted a 120-page comment letter opposing the Trump administration's proposal to strip waterways around the country of Clean Water Act protections.

The administration's proposed definition of "waters of the United States" would remove protections from many historically guarded water bodies and would virtually eliminate protections across the arid West, from West Texas to Southern California, including most of New Mexico, Arizona, and Nevada.

Waterkeeper Alliance worked with local Waterkeepers across the United States to develop legal comments, case studies, and videos highlighting important waterways that would be at risk of losing Clean Water Act protections, including:

Missouri's Meramec River, protected by **Missouri Confluence Waterkeeper**, which is the primary source of drinking water for more than 200,000 people.



Jake Frost Photography



Mr. Tindal/Flickr

North Carolina's Cape Fear River basin, protected by **Cape Fear Riverkeeper**, which supplies drinking water to some of the fastest-growing counties in the United States.

The wetlands of Lower Galveston Bay in Texas, protected by **Bayou City Waterkeeper**, which safeguard coastal areas and shorelines by weakening the force of storms, reducing erosion, and decreasing flooding.



Dan Thibodeaux

Colorado's Boulder Creek, protected by **Boulder Waterkeeper**, which is the primary source of drinking water for more than 163,000 people.



Montana's Upper Missouri River, protected by **Upper Missouri Waterkeeper**, home to world-renowned trout streams which contribute to a recreational angling industry that added \$907.8 million to the state's economy in 2015.







New York's Buffalo River, protected by **Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper**, which was declared dead in 1967 but, thanks to revitalization efforts, is now the central hub of a booming local economy.

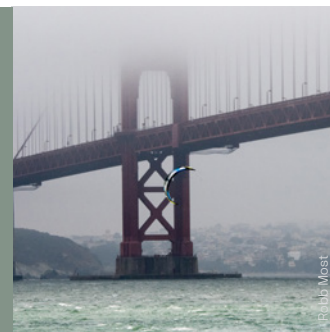


Oregon's Rogue River, protected by **Rogue Riverkeeper**, which provides habitat for at-risk salmon and steelhead trout, and drinking water for nearly 300,000 people.

Washington's Puget Sound, protected by **Puget Soundkeeper**, which is home to a thriving shellfish industry which generates more than \$100 million each year.



California's San Francisco Bay, protected by **San Francisco Baykeeper**, which is one of the most ecologically productive water bodies in the world and home to more than seven million people.

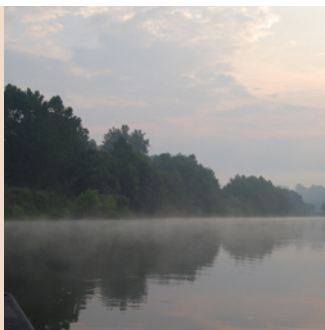


The iconic Rio Grande, protected by **Rio Grande Waterkeeper**, whose valley runs through New Mexico, Texas, and Mexico and is home to six million people.



Idaho's Snake River, protected by **SNAKE River Waterkeeper**, which provides Idaho with a \$3.4 billion tourism industry that employs more than 26,000 Idahoans and generates almost \$500 million in local, state, and federal tax revenues.

The Upper Potomac River, protected by **Upper Potomac Riverkeeper**, which runs through Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia and provides six million people with drinking water.



IN A FINAL PUSH TO DRIVE CITIZEN COMMENTS, THESE WATERKEEPER GROUPS PLACED LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AND OP-EDS IN PAPERS AROUND THE COUNTRY CALLING FOR CITIZENS TO DEMAND A STRONG CLEAN WATER ACT. MORE THAN 600,000 INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS FILED COMMENTS TO THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, WHICH IS CURRENTLY REVIEWING THEM TO FINALIZE ITS RULE.

# RESPONDING TO HURRICANE FLORENCE

On September 10, 2018, Hurricane Florence intensified and became a Category 4 storm as it barreled toward the coast of North Carolina. Waterkeeper Alliance personnel were carefully monitoring the storm's trajectory; those who had witnessed the devastation wrought by Hurricane Floyd in 1999 feared the worst. Making matters worse, Hurricane Florence threatened to strike communities still reeling from Hurricane Matthew, which hit the Carolinas in October 2016 with devastating impact.

Hurricane Florence ultimately dumped more than eight trillion gallons of water onto the coastal plain of the Carolinas, causing widespread and historic flooding many days after the initial wind damage, flash flooding, and storm surge associated with landfall. The volume of water and discharge of pollutants from inland facilities caused some of the storm's worst impacts.

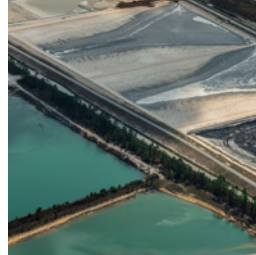
Waterkeeper Alliance, working with local Waterkeepers, prioritized response efforts to areas facing the most significant impacts, including the Neuse, Cape Fear, Lumber, and Pee Dee basins. Due to the high concentration of animal agriculture in eastern North Carolina (and to a lesser extent in the Pee Dee basin in South Carolina), the flooding caused by Hurricane Florence affected many agricultural facilities. Aerial imagery captured during Waterkeeper Alliance and local Waterkeepers' flights showed poultry and swine barns flooded almost to the rafters, undoubtedly containing high numbers of animal mortalities. Waterkeeper Alliance and local Waterkeepers also observed farms where, despite explicit prohibitions in environmental permits, waste was being directly discharged into floodwaters, sprayed onto saturated fields, or land-applied long after flash flood warnings prohibited that practice.

Most notably, Waterkeeper Alliance and local Waterkeepers documented swine facilities where cesspools of untreated waste

were breached or overtopped by floodwaters, spilling bacteria, pathogens, and nitrogen and phosphorus-laden contents into nearby water bodies. Many of these cesspools were also at risk of further structural damage after floodwaters receded. Waterkeeper Alliance and local Waterkeepers also monitored the disposal of dead animals to ensure compliance with laws designed to protect public health and the environment.

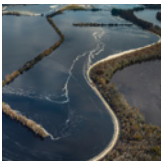
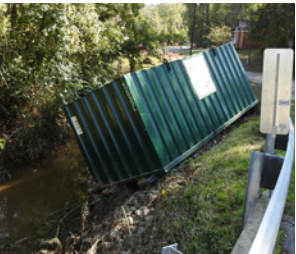
In addition to pollution from industrial animal facilities, Waterkeeper Alliance and local Waterkeepers monitored and documented breaches at Duke Energy's H.F. Lee and Sutton coal ash ponds, and worked with other utilities to prepare for possible flooding at other impoundments. Waterkeepers also observed and monitored sewage spills from failing municipal sewage infrastructure.

The Alliance, along with Waterkeepers from North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, worked with many journalists at media outlets around the world to document the storm's impacts. As the storm approached, outlets covered our documentation of the illegal land application of waste during flash flood warnings. Multiple articles featured Waterkeeper expertise on the likely discharges of coal ash and animal waste as a result of the storm. Live broadcasts on national programs such as The Rachel Maddow Show and PBS NewsHour, as well as local news outlets, featured content collected on patrols and media ride-alongs. Waterkeeper Alliance's response to the storm made international news, including news hits in Reuters, The Washington Post, L.A. Times, The New Yorker, and The New York Times, as well as local newspapers including The News & Observer, The Charlotte Observer, and The New Bern Sun Journal. In sum, Waterkeeper Alliance and local Waterkeepers' Hurricane Florence coverage earned more than 2,700 media hits and reached a potential audience of 3.6 billion readers, viewers, and listeners.





HURRICANE  
FLORENCE  
ULTIMATELY DUMPED  
MORE THAN **EIGHT  
TRILLION GALLONS  
OF WATER** ONTO THE  
COASTAL PLAIN OF  
THE CAROLINAS



# STAFF & LEADERSHIP

The Waterkeeper Alliance Board of Directors is a 13-person board comprising 6 elected members from the Waterkeeper Council, 6 elected members from the Trustee Council, and a President elected by Waterkeeper Alliance membership.

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Alexandra Weed

# FINANCIALS

## INDIVIDUALS & EVENTS

\$1,636,310

10% 

## CORPORATIONS

\$2,809,325

18% 

## DIRECT MAIL

\$710,329

4% 

## FOUNDATIONS

\$10,521,169

67% 

## OTHER

\$116,664

1% 

**REVENUE:**  
**\$15,793,797**

**NET ASSETS:**  
**\$2,640,353**

INCOME: \$15,793,797

PROGRAM EXPENSES: \$16,307,062

FUNDRAISING EXPENSES: \$875,273

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES: \$403,634

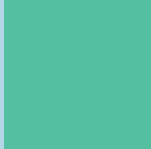
END OF THE YEAR NET ASSETS: \$2,640,353



**FUNDRAISING**

\$875,273

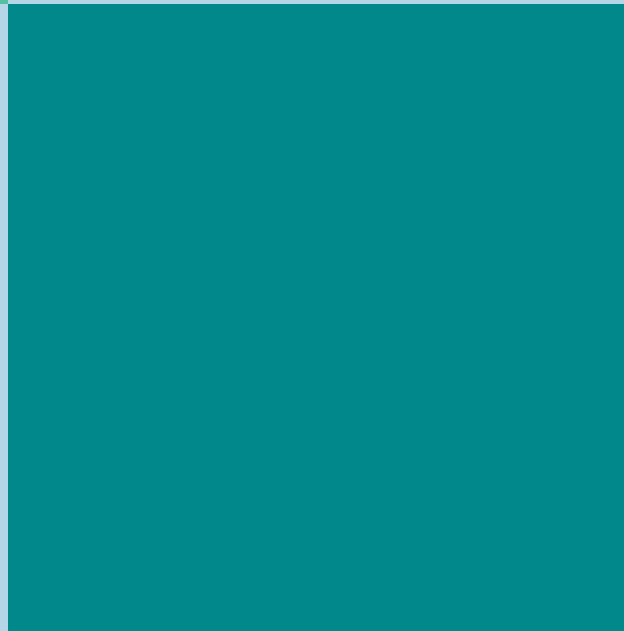
5%



**PROGRAM**

\$16,307,062

93%



**EXPENSES:**

**\$17,585,969**



**ADMIN.**

\$403,634

2%

*\*THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN REVENUE AND EXPENSE TIES TO THE ITEMIZED FISCAL SPONSOR LIABILITY AT THE END OF FY18 OF \$1.8M. THIS LIABILITY WAS PAID IN JULY 2019, THEREFORE INCREASING THE FY19 EXPENSE TOTAL.*

*THE NUMBERS ABOVE ARE PRELIMINARY AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE UPON AUDIT COMPLETION. THE FINAL AUDITED NUMBERS WILL BE AVAILABLE LATER IN 2019 AT WATERKEEPER.ORG.*

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## \$1,000,000+

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Anonymous  
Foundation for the Carolinas

## \$250,000-\$999,999

HSBC  
Pauline and Edgar Stern Foundation

## \$100,000-\$249,999

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GANT  
Marisla Foundation  
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## \$25,000-\$49,999

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LUSH Fresh Handmade Cosmetics  
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## \$5,000-\$9,999

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Waterkeeper Alliance is a nonprofit, 501(c)3, member supported organization based in New York, N.Y. We are governed by a 13-member Board of Directors and are supported by member contributions, foundation grants, corporate sponsorship, events, and other income. Our most recent audited financial statements and IRS 990 forms can be found on our website. For additional tax and financial information, please contact our Finance & Operations Director Rachel Cook at [rcook@waterkeeper.org](mailto:rcook@waterkeeper.org)









**180 MAIDEN LANE, STE. 603, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10038**  
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ON THE COVER: TO CELEBRATE THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF WATERKEEPER ALLIANCE, OUR PARTNERS AT CULTURE TRIP DISPATCHED PHOTOGRAPHERS TO LOCATIONS AROUND THE GLOBE TO CAPTURE THE SPIRIT OF 20 WATERKEEPER WARRIORS, WHO ARE AT THE HEART OF OUR GLOBAL MOVEMENT.