



2021 US Multihull Sailing Championship Clean Regatta **Sustainability Report**



Corpus Christi Yacht Club | November 1-5, 2021 | Corpus Christi, Texas

*Prepared for **Sailors for the Sea Clean Regatta Program***

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Introduction

The 2021 US Multihull Championship held November 1-5, 2021 in Corpus Christi, Texas, may be over, but the sustainability best practices and lessons learned will last a lifetime.

The goal of the Corpus Christi Yacht Club (CCYC), the host of this Championship, was to positively engage with the local and national sailing community. We had over 120 sailors, coaches and families attend this event. Over 25 volunteers worked on the event, running over 11 races.

We knew these activities would impact our local waters and beaches, but we saw an opportunity to continue our previous efforts to promote environmental stewardship as well as sailing.

To produce the green event, we engaged like-minded partners, participants and volunteers early on to ensure sustainability best practices throughout the process. Guided by the experts at the international organization Sailors for the Sea powered by Oceana, we pursued the sustainability goals outlined in their Clean Regattas program.

I am proud of our Green Team's many months of careful planning followed by their tireless efforts to involve our participants and guests during their stay. The Green Team touched every aspect of this event, from the hotel where the sailors stayed, food services, to the boat park, and out on the water. As a result of everyone's efforts, we minimized our environmental footprint to ensure a significant, positive impact on our environment.

Again, thanks to all of the sailors, partners and volunteers who made the 2021 US Multihull Championship a success.

Josh Richline

Vice Commodore, Corpus Christi Yacht Club

Host of the 2021 US Multihull Championship

Regatta Information

Report Submitted By

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Green Team Leader

Name of Regatta

2021 US Multihull Sailing Championship

Start Date of Regatta

11/01/2021

End Date of Regatta

11/05/2021

Names of Green Team volunteers or others involved in sustainability initiatives

- Neil McQueen
- Ben Wells
- Bill Liles
- Josh Richline
- Jane Scott
- Casey Gallagher
- Jonathan Atwood
- Sydney Boucher
- Jessica Palitza
- Sammie Ramon
- Mallori Johnson
- America Segura

Report Information

The following sections describe our efforts to achieve sustainability goals recommended by the Sailors for the Sea Clean Regattas program. The Clean Regattas program is the world's leading sustainability certification for all on-the-water events. Since the program's inception in 2006, it has provided a framework for over 2,600 events, communicating best sustainability practices to over 715,000 sailors and attendees in over 40 countries.

The Clean Regattas program goals listed in this report are based on five interconnected Sustainability Themes:

- Elimination of Single-Use Items
- Environmental Stewardship
- Green Boating
- Community Involvement
- Responsible Waste Management

Goal 1.

Eliminate Single-Use Water Bottles and Provide Water Refill Stations



Replacement for single-use water bottles and example of a water refill station

The Formula Wave Class donated reusable cups to be included in the swag bags for all sailors. For water refills, we set up two 10-gallon coolers located between the hotel and McGee Beach. Additional water coolers were placed in the CCYC boats on the racecourse. All participants were made aware of the importance of using refillable containers and given ready access to convenient refill stations. Participants' responses were not just positive but highly collaborative. By refilling containers rather than providing single-use water bottles, we avoided approximately 800 single-use plastic bottles.

Goal 2.

Eliminate Plastic Straws



Straws offered made of stainless steel

Bill Liles donated the 150 reusable straws for all participants. We determined that stainless steel straws would be most beneficial because they are durable and relatively inexpensive. A number of participants responded that they were pleased to have the more sustainable straws. Based on the number of straws distributed, we avoided an estimated 100 or more straws from the landfill.

Goal 3.

Serve Food with Plastic-Free Dinnerware



Plastic-free dinnerware



Dinnerware in use

The Texas Coastal Bend Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation donated 150 sets of bamboo utensils purchased from ecopromotionsonline.com. The Nueces Brewing Company, which hosted the Skippers' Meeting dinner, was accommodating in allowing the participants to bring their utensil kits into the establishment. Some attendees, having forgotten their utensils at their hotel, left the Skipper's Meeting dinner event temporarily to retrieve their utensil kits. Based on the quantity of utensils distributed to participants, we saved an estimated 150 sets of plastic utensils from the landfill.

Goal 4.

Use or Provide Reusable Bags



Reusable bags used in place of single-use bags

With help from our generous partners at Visit Corpus Christi, we obtained for the registrants 150 reusable bags, eliminating the need to produce the same number of event-branded bags. Registrants were seen using the bags while shopping nearby at the local farmer's market.

Goal 5.

Award Practical Items or Use a Perpetual or Upcycled Trophy



Awards ceremony giveaway - Sails

The Alter cup is a perpetual trophy. The top three sailors in the Gold Fleet were awarded medals and the top 10 in the Silver Fleet also received awards. Giveaways included practical items such as FWC memberships, sails, backpacks, sunglasses, and other gear.

Goal 6.

Publicize Your Sustainability Efforts



YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/CX6PXjqEuw8>

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact Information:

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October 25, 2021 **US Sailing Multihull Championship Seeks Gold Level Clean Regatta Sustainability Certification**

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS – When it is held on Corpus Christi Bay on November 1-5, 2021, the US Sailing Multihull Championship will be a Clean Regatta registered with the international organization, Sailors for the Sea Powered by Oceana. Recognizing that sailors have a role to play in protecting and restoring the world's oceans, Sailors for the Sea has established criteria to help race organizers make their events more sustainable. The Championship's aim is to reach Sailors for the Sea's Gold Level certification. Some of the goals for this event include eliminating single-use water bottles, straws, utensils and bags, recycling, composting and paperless event management, daily cleanups on McGee Beach, and promoting non-toxic sunscreen and boat washdowns.

Ben Wells with the Formula Wave class of catamarans that will race on Corpus Christi Bay explains, "As sailors, we rely on the environment to provide us with the resources to pursue our hobby, so it's only right that, in turn, we make an effort to take care of those resources. This regatta aims to be an example for sailors everywhere to show how a large event can be sustainable and environmentally friendly."

Bill Liles with the Corpus Christi Yacht Club is a Skipper with Sailors for the Sea. He says, "Corpus Christi Yacht Club has been helping to promote Clean Regattas for several years now including obtaining Platinum Level certification for the 2018 Youth World Championships and Silver Level Certification for many of our local regattas. We have been involved with this upcoming regatta for several months and are working as part of the Green Team to implement best practices for this event."

For more information visit sailorsforthesea.org/programs/clean-regattas or call 361-765-4445.

Example press release

Our team started publicizing the sustainability goals and efforts two months ahead of the event, reaching out via press releases, emails, direct calls, and social media to inform the news media and key contacts in the sailing, tourism, and environmental sustainability communities. We were particularly successful in building interest and involvement across the city departments including Visit Corpus Christi. While we reached out to numerous organizations to publicize our sustainability efforts, the amount of newspaper and television media coverage given to these efforts by the local media was minimal.

Goal 7.

Involve Local Organizations



Booths staffed by local organizations supporting sustainability efforts

Involving local organizations was key to the success of our sustainable event. Some of the organizations we invited to participate included the Islander Green Team and Student Volunteer Connection of Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi, Visit Corpus Christi, the City of Corpus Christi and the Surfrider Foundation. Actual participants included these organizations as well as sailing equipment vendors. It was challenging to staff booths due to COVID-19 concerns.

Goal 8.

Post Educational and Reusable Signage



Clean Regatta signage

A sign detailing the Green Team's goals for Gold Level certification was printed on a paper poster board, mounted on a corrugated cardboard backing and supported by cardboard easels. The sign was displayed in the race management room at the hotel and all materials were recyclable.

Goal 9.

Serve Local Food or Source Seafood Sustainably

12/4/21, 8:56 PM NOVEMBER 3rd Grow Local Farmers Market - 2021 U.S. Multihull Championship | Grow Local Farmers' Market, Taft, TX | Novem...

HAPPENINGNEXT 

NOVEMBER 3rd Grow Local Farmers' Market - 2021 U.S. Multihull Championship

Schedule
Wed Nov 03 2021 at 05:00 pm to 08:00 pm

Location
Grow Local Farmers' Market | Taft, TX



Advertisement

Join us, Wednesday, November 3, 2021, along with the 2021 U.S. Multihull Championship on our beautiful bay front at the Art Center of Corpus Christi from 5:00-8:00 PM (100 N. Shoreline) for Grow Local Farmers' Market!
We will be open rain or shine!
Shop local. Buy local. Support YOUR community!

Advertisement

<https://happeningnext.com/event/november-3rd-grow-local-farmers-market-2021-us-multihull-championship-eid3a08bf063v> 1/2

Advertisement of local farmer's market for the event

Locally owned restaurants provided all the event-related meals, and a local farmer's market provided additional local foods and shopping options, all within walking distance. The restaurant management staff we spoke to were aware of the need to source food sustainably, but not all businesses were able to provide documentation of their best practices.

Goal 10.

Organize a Green Team



Green Team Meeting - 2021 US Sailing Multihull Championship

August 17, 2021, 6:30-7:30 pm

Regatta to be held November 1-5, 2021 on Magee Beach in Corpus Christi with approximately 100 sailors and 50 friends/relatives attending.

Goal: Sailors for the Sea silver level certification

54 sailors registered as of 4/20/21

Green = Needs action

~~Strikethrough~~ = Not feasible or necessary

What will the daily hours of the regatta be?

Elimination of Single-Use Items

- Eliminate Single-Use Water Bottles and Provide Water Refill Stations
 - Formula Wave Class - Distribute water bottles to all participants and volunteers. – *Have picked bottles to order*
 - CCYC - Provide water refill stations: Will have some 5 gal. coolers in the committee boats / *Need to determine whether water can be procured on-site or at the club / If from CCYC, will transport be needed?*
 - Surfrider – Check with Parks & Rec to see if a faucet is available in McCaughan Park (ph # 826-PLAY)
- Eliminate Plastic Straws
 - CCYC – *Will order reusable straws*
- Serve Food with Plastic Free Dinnerware
 - Surfrider – Have received 150 reusable utensil kits
 - Formula Wave Class – CCYC's restaurant will have china and silverware for ice cream night and the awards dinner; *Talk with Nueces Brewing Co. about using paper or bamboo plates and encourage participants to use their utensil kits*
- Provide Reusable Bags
 - Formula Wave Class - *Buy reusable bags and hand out to participants at registration*

Community Involvement

- Publicize Sustainability Efforts
 - Who - _____ *Anyone up for this?*
 - *Post on social media*
 - *Contact the local media (Press release?)*

Example agenda from a Green Team planning meeting

Green Team members were recruited from the Formula Wave Class, the CCYC and non-profit organizations around the city. Monthly planning meetings, starting in November 2020, were attended by up to 12 people. Past experience gained by some who had served on the Green Team for the 2018 Youth World Sailing Championships proved to be invaluable. With representatives from a variety of groups, somebody on the team always knew how best to handle the electronic race management, on-the-water activities, City beach maintenance and solid waste management, recycling and composting. All of the planning sessions were held on Zoom to ensure progress during COVID-19 restrictions.

Goal 11.

Ensure Proper Waste Bin Placement and Signage



Waste bins with clear labels placed within easy reach of the event participants and guests

The City's Marina and Parks and Recreation Departments supplied and placed sets of trash and recycling bins in four locations throughout the race area on McGee Beach. The Islander Green Team provided the signage, which they taped on the containers. All participants placed their waste items in these bins so that no trash was left on the beach itself. An additional set of trash and recycling containers would have been useful in the rear parking lot of Emerald Beach Hotel where the sailors worked on their boats before and after the races.

Goal 12.

Divert Food Waste from the Landfill



Composting bins placed throughout dining hall

The Islander Green Team provided compost bins and volunteers to supervise them during the Skipper's Meeting dinner at Nueces Brewing Co. and one evening at the Farmer's Market where sailors dined on meals prepared by food trucks. All compostable items collected were hauled to the university campus for inclusion in the Islander Green Team's Compost Program.

Goal 13.

Use Paperless Event Management

regattanetwork.com/clubmgmt/applet_registration_form.php?regatta_id=20713



Register For

2021 US Sailing Multihull Championship

November 2 - 5, 2021

Paperless event registration and management

All race documents including the registration, notices and results were compiled and managed on the regattanetwork.com website. The participants' badges had a QR code printed on the back to allow them quick access to the website on their cell phones.

Goal 14.

Host a Beach or Marina Clean-up



Results from one of the beach clean-up crews held each morning

Each morning for five days during the event, sailors and their families joined us in a beach cleanup led by representatives from the local Surfrider Foundation chapter. We averaged twelve participants per day. Before spreading out across the beach, which is regularly raked by the City's Parks and Recreation staff to remove large trash items, participants listened to a short talk about the prevalence, causes and impacts of microplastics on coastal beaches. A demonstration of a microplastic filter (seen in the foreground in the photo) showed that microplastics can be present even when the sand looks clean from a distance. We received feedback from many participants that the cleanup was worthwhile, informative and rewarding. Participants also expressed that they had a personal awakening regarding the plastic pollution on the beach.

Following the regatta, the Surfrider Foundation's Skip the Plastic program featured the sailors as their Cleanup Heroes for the month of December 2021, in a press release going out to local media outlets.

Goal 15.

Promote Alternative Transportation









In choosing the venues for the event, we focused on venues within walking distance of the hotel to minimize driving. The hotel, boat prep area and launch point, restaurants, yacht club, and farmer's market were all in the same area.

Venues within walking distance

Goal 16.

Increase Awareness of Wildlife and Habitat Protection

What to Do if You Have a Wildlife Encounter
If you encounter an injured...

Mammal	Bird	Turtle
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Call the local stranding network at 1-800-9-MAMMAL• DO NOT return the animal to the sea.• Keep people and pets away from the animal.• Do not leave the animal, they need comfort and cannot keep themselves upright.• Relieve pressure on fins by digging holes under them. To relieve pressure on lungs you can dig a pit under the mammal and fill the pit with water.• Keep the animal cool and wet by splashing water on the skin. Avoid getting water in the blowhole.• Apply wet towels or T-shirts and provide shade if possible.• Keep the blowhole free of obstruction and take care not to cover the dorsal fin, flippers or tail.• Apply sun screens or zinc oxide, NOT suntan oil. The dolphin's skin is very sensitive and can burn severely.• Apply ice packs to the dorsal fin, pectoral flippers, or flukes to keep the animal from overheating, but do not let the ice contact the skin directly.• If the animal is in the surf, support it upright. Keep water out of the blowhole. If possible, carefully move the mammal into shallow water but keep it in the water.• Be careful to avoid the powerful tail and mouth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Call the Amos Rehabilitation Keep at 361-749-6793• If the bird must be captured before help arrives then use a large towel or sheet and throw it over the bird. Most birds will immediately calm down long enough to pick them up and put them in a pet crate or box.• Do not rescue birds with sharp beaks. Eye protection is needed when handling these birds. Their defense mechanism is to lunge at the face and eyes.• Keep the secured bird in a dark, quiet area until help arrives or it can be taken to an appropriate location.• Please do not try to feed any bird you rescue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Call the area coordinator Donna Shaver at 361-949-8173 ext. 226 or 1-866-TURTLES• Report the turtle's location, size, proximity to surf and condition (alive or dead).• A stranded turtle is one that is found washed ashore or floating, alive or dead. If it is alive, it is generally in a weakened condition.• If the turtle is alive, stay at the site until an official arrives if possible.
 Bottlenose Dolphin	 Brown Pelican	 Green Sea Turtle
 West Indian Manatee	 Least Tern	
Animal Care and Rescue Resources		
Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network 1-800-9-MAMMAL	Amos Rehabilitation Keep 361-749-6793	
Texas Sealife Center 361-589-4023	Sea Turtle Stranding & Salvage Network 1-866-TURTLES (1-866-887-8535)	

Poster informing event participants and guests about ways to protect local wildlife

A sign detailing the steps to be taken if the sailors encountered injured wildlife was printed on a paper poster board, mounted on a corrugated cardboard backing and supported by cardboard easels. It was displayed in the race management room at the hotel and all materials were recyclable.

Goal 17.

Offer Vegetarian or Vegan Alternatives

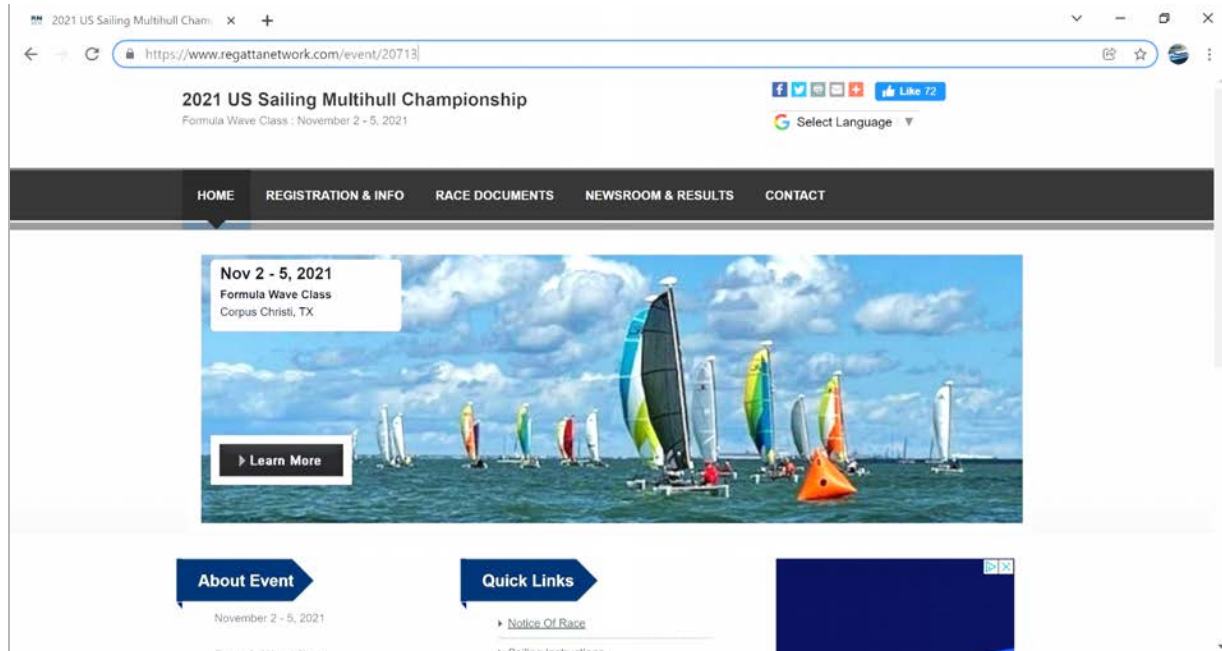


One of the veggie options

We brought in Hawaii Poke bowls for anyone wanting veggie options at the first dining event, and we confirmed all other listed food venues would be offering vegetarian and/or vegan options. Our Green Team successfully negotiated the meal options with each venue's management, encountering largely cooperative and supportive staff. A number of sailors mentioned that the food offerings were satisfactory to excellent, especially with a local farmer's market within walking distance.

Goal 18.

Use Eco-Smart Race Management Techniques



[Regattanetwork.com](https://www.regattanetwork.com) website used for race management

All race documents including the registration, notices and results were compiled and managed on the regattanetwork.com website. The participants' badges had a QR code printed on the back to allow them quick access to the website on their cell phones.

Goal 19.

Prevent Toxins from Entering the Water



Markers installed and maintained by the Green Team

The Green Team for the 2018 Youth World Sailing Championships had installed these markers at all the storm drain inlets in the hotel parking lot and on adjacent city streets. We are maintaining that dialog with the leaders at the City Storm Water Department, looking for other ways to work together.

Goal 20.

Encourage Green Boating Practices

Sustainable Practices

We are proud to be partnering with the Texas Coastal Bend chapter of the Surfrider Association to put on a sustainable regatta. As defined by [Sailors for the Sea](#), our goal is to achieve a silver level or better of sustainability. Some of the practices will be reducing/eliminating single use plastic, paperless event management, and hosting beach clean ups throughout the week. We are also asking participants to use ocean safe/reef safe sunscreen. We are pleased to have secured a deal with [Stream2Sea](#) for anyone wanting to use their products. Get 20% off your order by using the code *FormulaWave* at checkout. More to come on sustainability and this regatta soon!

FW FORMULA WAVE CLASS We Proudly Recommend **STREAM2SEA** Reef-Friendly • Biodegradable

Shop Coral-friendly Sunscreens and Skin Care
20% Off Coupon: FormulaWave

Did You Know... Chemical sunscreen contributes to the decline of coral life? www.Stream2Sea.com | (866) 950-9513

Pre-event notice encouraging green boating practices — ocean-safe sunscreen

The Green Team encouraged sailors to participate in the sustainability efforts, sending notices before the event such as the one above.

