



Example Case Statement

Introduction

Life in ANYTOWN revolves around our local waterways. From subsistence fishermen and sailors to surfers and weekend beach-goers, we are a community of water-users. Despite our various connections to ANYTOWN's waterways, we all share one harbor, four rivers, an equal number of meandering tidal creeks, and the same expanse of salt marsh.

Our tidal creeks, rivers, marshland, and harbor are more than a beautiful backdrop to daily life or a playground for fishing, swimming, and paddling. They are part of the public trust and belong to all citizens of our state. The state is charged with the responsibility to manage them for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. Unfortunately, the state's management efforts are hindered by politics, special interests, scientific misunderstanding, and a lack of data.

As a result, the state affords ANYTOWN's local waterways only a minimal level of protection.

That is exactly why Coastal Defender exists. Part scientist, part lawyer, and part teacher Coastal Defender works to ensure our tidal creeks, rivers, marshland, and harbor are fully protected and appropriately managed for our benefit and the benefit of future generations. Coastal Defender works with stakeholders across the spectrum, from legislators and business interests to scientists and citizen activists to fill gaps in the protection of our local waterways.

The Coastal Defender serves as the eyes, ears, and voice of ANYTOWN's waterways and champions the organization's mission to protect and restore local waterways. The Defender's voice is strong and born from on-the-water knowledge of ANYTOWN's local waterways the environment. Coastal Defender works collaboratively with all members of the ANYTOWN Community to find solutions to the problems that impact our local waterways.

Mission and Vision

Coastal Defender's mission is to protect and restore ANYTOWN's waterways for our community and for future generations. We do this through our data-driven programs, advocacy campaigns, and promoting wise stewardship decisions through education and outreach activities. Our overarching goal is to protect the public's fundamental right clean, healthy water.

History

Incorporated in 1997, Coastal Defender was born from a deep love of ANYTOWN's local waterways and a belief in our shared responsibility to protect and restore those waterways for our community and for future generations. During its first few years of existence, we set about building community of supporters and a framework for the organization's programs and campaign activity. Following a period of organizational growth, we began to build out the clean water act compliance, water quality monitoring, and patrol programs as well as begin advocacy

campaign work. Today Coastal Defender has a committed supporter base, robust programmatic activity, several active campaigns, and an unsurpassed level of boots-on-the-water knowledge about ANYTOWN's waterways that is unique among local conservation organizations.

Programs

- **Water Quality Monitoring** - The Recreational Water Quality Monitoring Program samples bacteria levels at 25 recreational hotspots every week from May through October. The data is published weekly so the public can make informed choices about when and where it's safe to swim. All data is generated under a State Department of Health-approved Quality Assurance Project Plan and is submitted to the agency at the end of each sampling season. The data is used by DHEC to determine which waterways meet or exceed state water quality standards. Coastal Defender uses the data to educate and public and local municipalities and advocate for restoration plans for impaired waterways.
- **Clean Water Act Compliance** - The Clean Water Act Compliance Program monitors the issuance of water pollution permits and the compliance history of permit holders in the ANYTOWN Harbor Watershed. Every year, the program selects a group of permit holders and conducts an in-depth examination of their permit and compliance monitoring data. When issues are discovered we reach out to the permit holder and work to ensure the problem has been identified and fixed and that a plan exists to prevent reoccurrence. If the permit holder, state agency, and EPA fail to act to ensure compliance with permit limits, the Clean Water Act authorizes Coastal Defender to enforce the permit in court
- **On-the-water Patrol** - The Patrol Program is the on-the-water eyes and ears of our local waterways. We patrol an "area of interest" in our watershed and conduct a visual assessment of water quality and habitat conditions. Areas of interest are identified through local knowledge, research, satellite photography, and our Recreational Water Quality Monitoring, and Clean Water Act Compliance Programs. Members of the public can also alert the organization to a potential area of interest by sending an email to xxx. Any problems encountered during a patrol are documented and reported to the appropriate authority such as the United States Coast Guard or state agencies. The Patrol Program also assists in scientific research, supports litter clean up events, and serves as safety boat for local open water competitions.
- **Watershed Education** - The Watershed Education Program delivers educational content about the ANYTOWN Harbor Watershed to schools, summer camps, and community groups through speaking engagements and hands on activities. Educational topics include (1) Defender's role in community, (2) Coastal Defender's work and advocacy campaigns, (3) tidal creek health/research, (4) Water Quality Monitoring Program, and (5) waterway stewardship.

Outcomes and Proof of Impact

Coastal Defender's program, advocacy campaign, and education work are impacting the quality our local waterways for the better. We operate a robust water quality monitoring program that is

the only up-to-date source for recreational water quality information in the areas we sample. Our data is relied upon by the public and state regulators to gauge local water quality conditions.

The program fills a large gap in local water quality protection:

- 12 completed sampling seasons
- 6 Recreational Water Quality Scorecards published
- 2340 total water quality samples
- 37 sites sampled every week May through October
- Agency approved Quality Assurance Project Plan and generating regulatory quality data since 1999
- Agency certified laboratory in partnership with Coastal College since 2003

State enforcement activity is under staffed, funded, and supported. The Clean Water Act Compliance Program fills a need for greater oversight of local pollution control permits:

- 14 annual permit holder compliance history screenings completed
- 17 permit holder compliance conferences held
- 96 Freedom of Information Act requests filed
- 47 public comment letters submitted to state and federal agencies

Coastal Defender's advocacy campaigns tackle important issues affecting local waterways. Campaigns are designed to connect and better engage the public with the regulatory process that protects local waterways. Our campaigns are producing positive outcomes for local water quality:

- The *Anywhere River Headwaters* campaign defeated an ill-advised 2015 legislative effort to remove coastal zone protections for the river's headwaters.
- The *Save Muddy Creek* campaign is advocating for restoring a degraded urban tidal creek. To date the campaign has generated several mentions in local news media, mobilized over 170 individual requests for an agency public hearing, and turned out 156 people at the hearing.

Our watershed education, outreach, and volunteer work in the community is strong and growing. Since we started tracking data for these activities on January 1, 2005 Coastal Defender has impacted our community with:

- 96 outreach and education events
- 658 engaged volunteers
- 3250 volunteers hours

Coastal Defender's base of support is diverse and our reach in ANYTOWN community is wide and grows steadily everyday:

- 3871 Constituents
- 5531 Newsletter subscribers
- 7620 Twitter followers
- 9918 Facebook followers
- 3014 Instagram followers

Our outcomes and proof of impact in the ANYTOWN community are growing as our program, campaign, and education activity matures and expands.

Financial Needs

Coastal Defender needs \$450,000.00 annually to operate its existing programs and campaigns, maintain its two vessel fleet, and support a professional staff of xx. Increased funding levels allow our program, advocacy campaign, and education work to expand and create a stronger impact in our community. For example:

- An annual budget of **\$500,000** allows Coastal Defender to increase the number of sites sampled for recreational water quality, focus advocacy and restoration work in communities with impaired waterways, and create a reserve fund for research vessel maintenance and repair.
- An annual budget of **\$600,000** allows Coastal Defender to expand our Youth Education Program to underserved areas near the Yaz River, Morgan Island, and White Sand Beach. The additional funding also allows targeted educational activity in the boating community on environmentally responsible boating practices.
- An annual budget of **\$700,000** allows Coastal Defender to hire a new full time staff member with fundraising and development experience to focus on maintaining the organization's existing fundraising mechanisms and expanding its event based fundraising activity. The additional funding also frees up staff time to focus on advocacy, education, and organizational development work.

Means of Support

Coastal Defender is a community supported nonprofit organization and depends on supporters, members, and donors for the means to protect and restore ANYTOWN's local waterways. You can help support Coastal Defender through these mechanisms:

- **Support** - You can support Coastal Defender at any giving level you choose. As a supporter you will receive our email newsletter with important news and opportunities to get involved.
- **Join** - You can join Coastal Defender at one of several membership levels: \$50 Student, \$75 Individual, \$125 Household, \$250 Nonprofit, Club, Organization, and \$500 Corporate, Business. A yearly membership entitles an individual or organization to regular newsletters with news and analysis about important water quality issues, action alerts to get involved on issues, and a 25% discount on Annual Gala tickets.
- **Donate** - A donation is a gift of any dollar amount above the applicable basic membership level. Donors receive all the benefits of membership along with the knowledge that their gift is key to ensuring Coastal Defender is capable of carrying out its mission. Donations of equipment or in-kind services that fit key organizational needs are also accepted.
- **Ambassador Circle** - The Ambassador Circle is an individual giving society of committed donors that give \$1000 or more each calendar year for three consecutive

years. Ambassador Circle donors receive all the benefits of membership in addition to the knowledge that their generous gift helps ensure Coastal Defender is sustainable and able to deliver on its mission for years to come. In addition to all regular membership benefits, Ambassador Circle members receive two free tickets to Annual Gala.

- **Blue Water Coalition** - The Blue Water Coalition is a group businesses that recognize the importance of clean water to their success and the health of their community. Blue Water Coalition Members give \$500 or more each calendar year for three consecutive years. In addition to all regular membership benefits, Ambassador Circle members receive two free tickets to Annual Gala.

Point of Contact

Please reach out if you have questions about Coastal Defender or how you can help support our work to protect and restore ANYTOWN's local waterways:

Name
Address
Email
Phone