



Navigating the way toward ocean health

May 1, 2018

To all sailors,

I am so proud to announce that the [Texas Sailing Association](#) has joined the race to restore ocean health with [Sailors for the Sea's](#) Clean Regattas program. The ocean is in crisis, and every year 8 million metric tons of plastic enters the ocean from the land. 40% of the oceans are heavily affected by human activity, including pollution, overfishing and destructive fishing practices, and the loss of coastal habitats.

[Clean Regattas](#) is the world's only sustainability certification for water-based events. Made up of 25 best practices, the program enables sailors to protect their local waters – fresh or salt – by empowering the boating community with tips and resources to implement sustainability initiatives. Since 2006, more than 1,400 Clean Regattas have been run in 41 countries and in over half of all the United States.

The TSA is following in the footsteps of the Platinum certified [2018 Youth Sailing World Championships](#), held in Corpus Christi, and their youth circuit is extraordinary in so many ways. With more than 80 sailors from across Texas competing in events throughout the year, TSA has launched national and international champions, as well as fostered club and community sailing for hundreds of young sailors. As a Regional Sailing Association within US Sailing, TSA connects sailors, clubs, and events throughout the state. By working with Sailors for the Sea, TSA's impact on the future of the sport will be more profound and positive than ever before.

Throughout the 2018 TSA season and continuing into future years, organizers will be working with Sailors for the Sea to minimize the impact events will have on our shores and the seas. We are off to a great start, but we need your help! As a TSA sailor, parent, coach, and organizer, your actions will be important as we work to reduce our environmental impact. Your choices will make a difference. Here are a few ways you can help:

- Bring your reusable water bottles to fill at water stations.
- Say no to single-use plastic items such as straws, bags, cutlery, and bottles.
- Keep your trash securely stowed in your boat or a coach boat. Capsizes happen – don't let them litter our water.
- Please recycle. Pick up trash at venues and dispose of it in proper waste receptacles.

We at Sailors for the Sea are thrilled to support the Texas Sailing Association in their efforts to educate participants on environmental protection by serving as a model for responsible sailing. Working with the TSA, Sailors for the Sea will help formalize their conservation efforts and help to foster ocean-friendly behavior.

To learn more about the Clean Regattas program, contact Robyn Albritton ([robyn@sailorsforthesea.org](mailto:robyn@sailorsforthesea.org)) or visit [www.sailorsforthesea.org](http://www.sailorsforthesea.org). To learn more about the Texas Sailing Association, contact Commodore Marie Wise ([sailmom@gmail.com](mailto:sailmom@gmail.com)) or visit [www.txsail.org](http://www.txsail.org).

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robyn Albritton".

Robyn Albritton

Sustainability Director  
Sailors for the Sea