



## ISLA Project Dominican Republic- Semana Santa Cabarete 2012 Project Report

Over Easter weekend 2012, the International Surf Lifesaving Association (ISLA) sent a team of three professional lifeguards to help aquatic safety efforts in Cabarete, Dominican Republic. The Semana Santa holiday in Cabarete is known all over the country for its big crowds, sponsored beach parties, and drowning incidents. Alcohol, a large non-swimming population, and treacherous ocean conditions in Cabarete combine to form a deadly holiday weekend. In preparation for the holiday, the ISLA team offered basic lifeguard workshops to students from the DREAM Project in Cabarete, La Federación Dominicana de Surfing- Fedosurf, Staff from Viva Tangerine in Cabarete, and to instructors from LEK Kite School. The workshops were a huge success and included theoretical and practical education on oceanic hazards, basic rescue techniques, and C-Spine stabilization.

The second portion of the ISLA lifeguard mission was the organization of aquatic safety and lifeguard rescue operations in cooperation with La Defensa Civil



Dominicana and Staff from Viva Wyndham Tangerine. Large waves, powerful shore pound, and strong rip currents kept the lifeguard team busy on Thursday and Friday with rescues related to the hazardous conditions. A crowd of more than 10,000 people arrived for Saturday's festivities, and alcohol related events dominated the public safety scene well into the night and the following Easter Sunday. The lifeguard team rescued 62 people over their 4 days of work and preventative actions saved another 375



people. The ISLA team was comprised of lifeguards Dean Fernandez (San Diego State Beach), Taylor McGowan (Cabrillo Beach-Los Angeles City), William Koon (Huntington State Beach), and Joe Perez (ISLA Dominican Partner). This project was made possible with help from The Quiksilver Foundation, Laurel Eastman, John Holder, Viva Wyndham Tangerine, Kaoba Hotel, the



DREAM Project, Gordito's Fresh Mex, and the many dedicated ISLA donors. The ISLA Project Dominican Republic team is looking forward to the next Dominican project in November 2012 and is excited to continue efforts towards establishing permanent lifeguards in the country.

### Project Dominican Republic-Semana Santa Cabarete 2012 Statistics

	4-5-12	4-6-12	4-7-12	4-8-12	TOTALS
Rescues	19	15	26	2	62
Preventative Actions	103	99	148	25	375
Medical Aids	2	1	0	0	3