

For immediate release- 09/23/26

The 2026 Ocean Safety Summit is coming together, and we're excited to welcome an outstanding group of ocean safety professionals from up and down the West Coast.

Each year, the Summit brings together experts from a wide range of agencies and organizations to share knowledge, training, and best practices in ocean safety. This year, we're honored to feature legendary big wave surfers Peter Mel and his son John Mel. The father-and-son duo will share how they prepare for the big wave season, manage risk, and operate safely in some of the most powerful and unforgiving surf conditions on the planet.

The goal of the Summit is to connect the public with the local agencies and safety professionals who work tirelessly to protect our coastline. Through education, outreach, and hands-on training—both on and off the water—we hope to strengthen community awareness and promote a safer ocean environment for everyone.

Founded six years ago by the Pillar Point Harbor Patrol and the Mavericks Rescue Team, the Ocean Safety Summit has grown through the dedicated support of CAL FIRE, the U.S. Coast Guard, the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, and California State Parks Lifeguards. Participating organizations have included Ocean Beach Lifeguards, Santa Cruz Harbor Patrol, and lifeguards and firefighters from coastal communities throughout California. The Summit also attracts surfers, water safety professionals, and rescue personnel from around the world, creating a unique opportunity to exchange ideas and best practices across the global ocean safety community.

The Summit also provides a unique opportunity for first responders, water safety professionals, surfers, boaters, and ocean enthusiasts to learn from one another, build relationships, and strengthen the partnerships that help keep our coastal communities safe.

*Peter Mel is a former Big Wave World Tour Champion, Mavericks Champion, recipient of multiple big wave surfing awards, and an Ocean Ambassador for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. His experience and insights offer a unique perspective on ocean safety, preparation, and performance in extreme conditions.