



Courtesy

YoungOldSea.com Locals in their environment, this is Stefan of Kun_tiqi Surfboards, based in Cantabria, Spain. He's one of dozens of people the film "The Young, The Old & The Sea" has caught up with.

As the European economy languishes in low tide, life goes on at the Atlantic's edge. It always does. Purists will argue that surfing is at its best when big business falls away and mad scientists, fringe dwellers, workingmen and garage creatives emerge to take surfing down yet another alternate route.

On a recent trip to Italy, esteemed heretic [Derek Hynd](#) noted, "What we found left us in the full realization that classic surf was far from the 'be all, end all' of the surfing experience. We found subculture thriving, if not blazing away, in some sort of lost core against any ugly, top-heavy floating mainstream of kooks and crowds and nowhere much to surf."

There's much to be envied about the European surf scene. It's not jockeyed-out like Australia. It's hardly been infiltrated by corporations like America. And it's not confused like Japan or Brazil. It's just surfing, moving at the pace of the tides. The work-in-progress that is "The Old, The Young and the Sea," seeks to capture this. The film, which is due out sometime in 2013, has set out to detail the people and places along the classic European surf route that runs through Portugal, Galicia, into Bay of Biscay and Euskadi, France and beyond.

"Traveling the coast of Europe means diving into microcosms of communities, cultures and nature, each region different than the other. It's as diverse as diversity gets," reads an excerpt on [YoungOldSea.com](#).

Unlike most surf movies, it would appear that "The Young, The Old & The Sea" is actually going to accomplish this. They're not jumping from one sponsored athlete's house to another. It's not Jeremy Flores in France or Tiago Pires in Portugal. In Cantabria, Spain, the small film crew meet up with a man named Stefan. He makes Kun_tiqi Surfboards and specializes in shaping balsa, saying, "I repair lots of conventional surf boards so I have the usual repertoire of chemicals. My workshop does stink sometimes too, but I hope it gets less as more and more people surf wood instead."



Courtesy

YoungOldSea.com A fisherman and a soap star, it takes all different sorts to make the surfing world go round in Europe.

Then there's big-wave hunter Tony Butt, who the crew run into in Navia, Asturias. Holding a Ph.D. in Physical Oceanography he's an author, forecaster, teacher and environmental activist, but "first and foremost he is a big wave surfer."

Or the fisherman from Malpica, Galicia, who says, "Some from my village went to the big cities and studied at university. They believed they could flee from these lives. Now they are coming back, those who never found a job in the cities. We are a lot of fishermen here now. Some by choice, most by destiny. I'm a captain by choice -- I saw the signs."

And a chance night out in San Sebastian follows a soap opera actress named Sara Casanovas. "I love my home, Carnota and the Galician coast -- but I like travelling the world. I haven't done a movie shooting outside of Spain yet -- but that will come too."

And there's dozens more, all very much real-life surfers. Even the title, "The Young, The Old & The Sea," was a community effort. Applying "crowd sourcing" to come up with their title. "We were convinced that a project like this could be more successful if we included the community from the beginning on. Our concept was read by dozens of people before it came public and many improvements found its way into the conception by friends and colleagues who put their head and heart into it."

A release date hasn't been announced, but the film is due out sometime next year. It could be the most comprehensive survey of European surf culture we've seen to date, or at the very least the most honest, and the best part is, they're not going to try and sell you a pair of boardshorts when it's done.

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