



A Note From Our Team

During this unprecedented time together, please be assured that USC Sea Grant is working harder than ever to help support and serve our coastal communities throughout the greater Los Angeles region and beyond. Our efforts are continuing largely as usual and our staff is following state guidelines to practice social distancing and to work from home. Therefore, it is recommended that initial contact with our team be made primarily through email, which can be found on our website [here](#). The USC Sea Grant team is here to provide resources and assistance during this difficult time and we encourage you to continue to connect with us on social media as well as to voice your individual concerns, needs, or questions. Our dedication to serve the urban ocean stands strong and we continue to work with partners and communities to help provide information and support as needs change and opportunities arise.

Sincerely,

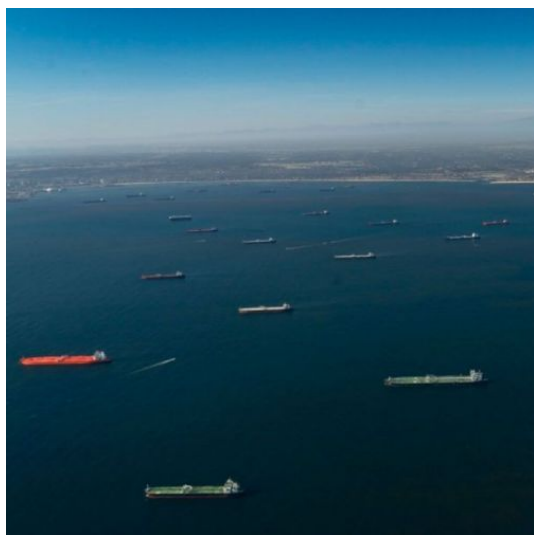


Linda Duguay
USC Sea Grant Director



Phyllis Grifman
USC Sea Grant Associate Director

Feature Story



How the Pandemic is Impacting Southern California's Ports

COVID-19 is affecting our seaports with reduced deliveries and the strange sight of anchored tankships in San Pedro and Long Beach. What's happening you ask? [Read our blog to learn more](#)

*Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Aidan Cooney,
U.S. Coast Guard*

News and Updates

New Harmful Algal Blooms Report

We are excited to share a new research report on Harmful Algal Blooms. Highlighting key results founded by USC Sea Grant-funded research between 2012-2018, it's the first in a new series to inform management & decision-making on ocean and watershed issues.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SEA GRANT
FUNDED RESEARCH RESULTS
2012–2018

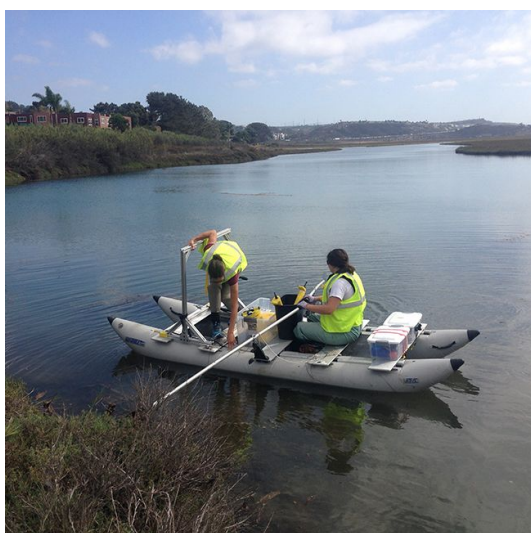
KEY FINDINGS

- **A Warmer Climate and More Acidic Ocean Can Increase Bloom Toxicity**
Warming waters and increased carbon dioxide (ocean acidification) can increase the toxicity of harmful algal blooms, especially under conditions of low nutrient availability.
- **Environmental Conditions Interact to Affect Toxicity**
The toxicity of harmful algal blooms depends upon interactions among environmental variables influenced by natural and human processes such as temperature, carbon dioxide, solar radiation and nutrients such as nitrogen and silicate.
- **Freshwater Toxins Can Spread to the Coast**
Toxins from harmful algal blooms in freshwater environments (cyanotoxins) can spread from the watershed into coastal waters at the land-sea interface.

Education at Home Resources

As part of a national Sea Grant effort to share local, regional, and national education resources while we are all at home, we've created a page highlighting free science resources including live streaming, webinars, activities, and lesson plans.

[Check out our list of educational resources here!](#)



El Niño's Effect on Estuary Closures

New findings from research funded by USC Sea Grant and California Sea Grant reveal that some Southern California estuaries, including Malibu Lagoon, may experience more frequent closures due to sea level rise and larger wave heights associated with El Niño events and climate change.

[Read more about the findings here](#)

USC Sea Grant will support 4 research projects during the 2020-2022 funding period. These projects address focal areas in our 2018-2021 Strategic Plan including Healthy Coastal Ecosystems, Sustainable Fisheries & Aquaculture, and Resilient Communities & Economies. Researchers will receive about \$500,000 of support collectively over the two-year period. [Read more](#)



Blog Post



Assessing the Importance of Fish Restoration: Finding Value in the Journey

USC Sea Grant's 2019 Knauss Fellow, Larissa Lee, shares her experience working with NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service Restoration Center over the last year. From Maine to Hawaii, learn about her journey assessing the importance of fish restoration. [Read her blog here](#)

Opportunities and Events

Upcoming Events

- **Upcoming AdaptLA Virtual Meeting:** AdaptLA, USC Sea Grant's program for coastal impacts planning and adaptation in the Los Angeles region, is currently planning a virtual meeting for early summer. Stay tuned for updates & more information when available. If you are interested in attending or learning of these updates, please make sure to keep in touch with us through our mailing list. If you would like to be on our AdaptLA email list and are not on it already, please sign up [here](#). For questions, please contact Melodie Grubbs at mgrubbs@usc.edu.

- **Coastlines and People Hubs for Research and Broadening Participation (CoPe) Funding Opportunity:** Offered by the National Science Foundation
 - Letter of Intent due August 10, Full Proposal due September 9, 2020
 - For more information, [view the funding opportunity](#).

USC Sea Grant contributes to solving the problems of the urban ocean, while recognizing the opportunities for coastal commerce, recreation, and improving the quality of life in coastal regions such as Southern California.



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