

Sea Grant Postcard from the Field



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Set Sail with Sea Grant

Oregon Sea Grant gets students on the water



"The goal is to get students involved in real-world research, with the idea that people learn best by doing."

- Tracy Crews, Oregon Sea Grant Marine Education Program Manager



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Students in Oregon are getting a taste of what it's like to do research at sea thanks to a series of daylong cruises funded by Oregon Sea Grant.

By the end of the season in September, 100 high school and community college students and nine of their teachers will have boarded Oregon State University's 84-foot *R/V Pacific Storm* to learn how scientists collect data in the field.

The cruise series is just one of the ways Oregon Sea Grant works to increase students' interest in science, technology, engineering and math and prepare them for jobs in these fields.

"Some of the concepts we teach are obscure and hard to wrap your brain around until you're out there doing it," said Tracy Crews, who manages Oregon Sea Grant's marine education program and is organizing the trips. "So going out to sea and collecting data and interacting with researchers helps solidify the concept. Plus, we're hoping to inspire the next generation of marine scientists."

During a cruise in April, a group of high school students tested sensors that measure the salinity and temperature of water at various depths. They had spent several months assembling and fine-tuning the devices in class.

"It was exciting to see how they're deployed," said student Dana Nyberg. "We know what they're used for but had only tested what they did in the bay. So to take

them out to sea was super exciting.”

Original story

*** *Check out the #BackToSchoolNOAA tag on social media for stories about how Sea Grant and other NOAA offices are helping educate the next generation of marine scientists.*

Image description: Three images (courtesy of Tracy Crews/Oregon Sea Grant unless otherwise noted). From left: Chuck Getter (right), a drone instructor at Career Tech High School in Lincoln City, watches one of his students fill out a data sheet for tracking gray whales; an aerial photo of Oregon State University's Pacific Storm research ship (credit: Chuck Getter); and Jennifer Fisher (left), a research assistant at Oregon State University, shows Jason Miranda, a student at Career Tech High School, how to collect water samples to monitor for harmful algal blooms.

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