



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (USC) SEA GRANT



February 2018

USC Sea Grant is one of 33 Sea Grant college programs and is based at the University of Southern California.



A virtual reality installation offers a glimpse at the future risks of sea level rise. Credit: USC Sea Grant

USC Sea Grant Innovation Helps Gauge Public Concern about Sea Level Rise

Planning for the impacts of sea level rise is a priority for the City of Santa Monica, California. City officials struggled with how to engage residents on the issue, so they partnered with USC Sea Grant to develop and deploy a virtual reality installation on the Santa Monica Pier that provided viewers a glimpse of what coastal flooding around the Pier will look like due to the combination of sea level rise and storms. The installation has been viewed by more than 10,000 people and engaged the local community in the science, impacts and options for nature-based solutions to adapt to sea level rise.

dornsife.usc.edu/uscseagrant/sm-vr-owl

14,000

Workshop and conference participants



29,900

K-12 Students reached

30

Communities adopted sustainable development practices



Metrics reported to National Sea Grant Office in June 2017 for work completed Feb 2016 to Jan 2017



RESEARCH

EXTENSION

EDUCATION

USC Sea Grant Helps Communities Link Best Available Science with Resilience Planning Efforts



USC Sea Grant leads a workshop to share new hazard maps for Los Angeles with AdaptLA stakeholders. Credit: USC Sea Grant

USC Sea Grant leads Regional AdaptLA, a coalition of sea level rise and coastal impacts planning processes in the Los Angeles region. In 2016, the program engaged 633 stakeholders through workshops, webinars, and technical trainings, and published a technical report of a two-year scientific study of sea level rise and shoreline change in Los Angeles County. As a result, Los Angeles' 11 municipalities and the County are making significant progress in integrating climate change into planning efforts and evaluating strategies for adaptation.

dornsife.usc.edu/uscseagrant/adaptla

“USC Sea Grant has played an invaluable role providing technical and scientific expertise on complex coastal issues like sea level rise and adaptation strategies. This helped our city understand where we have vulnerabilities and how to weigh the consequences of our policy decisions with sound scientific information.”

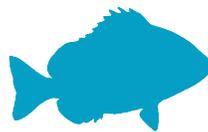
- Casey Zweig, City of Malibu, Environmental Programs Specialist

Expanding Citizen Science Engagement



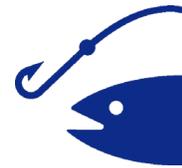
USC Sea Grant helps fund, organize and lead a number of community-based (citizen) science projects in Southern California. In 2016, USC Sea Grant provided eleven trainings for partner organizations, enabling them to train and engage additional citizen scientists in research projects. These projects benefit from increased data collection that is then being used by city planners.

Self-cleaning Tank Technology



Research funded by USC Sea Grant brought new, self-cleaning aquaculture tank technology to the United States to improve finfish larval production, and to increase public awareness of aquaculture through classroom and public education. In addition, Ocean Design has sold seven units of this self-cleaning tank, demonstrating a successful industry application of this research.

Increasing Awareness of Marine Protected Areas



USC Sea Grant helps lead the Los Angeles Regional Marine Protected Area Collaborative, guiding projects that aid in the awareness, enforcement and public education of marine protected areas (MPAs) in Southern California. In 2016, USC Sea Grant published and distributed several products in English and Spanish, including beach signage and over 17,000 fishing guides.