

Sea Grant Postcard from the Field



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Fish in the Classroom

A new aquaculture class developed by USC Sea Grant gives high school students skills needed to enter a growing industry



"It was amazing to watch the light bulb flip on in the minds of students as they learned more about how their food is produced, where it comes from, and how their local choices have a ripple effect around our planet."

- Tim Diktan, Port of Los Angeles High School science teacher



Fish in the Classroom

October 15 - 21, 2018 is [National Aquaculture Week](#).

On a Tuesday morning in February, teams of high school students gathered around aquarium systems throughout their classroom in San Pedro, California. As small white seabass swam back and forth waiting for their breakfast, the students grabbed supplies to test the tank's water quality.

Testing water quality is only one of a suite of new skills these students are gaining throughout the year-long class, now in its second year. The class is the first of its kind in Los Angeles, and was designed and implemented through a partnership between Port of Los Angeles High School and [USC Sea Grant](#) with the goal of providing students with the skills and knowledge they need to begin working in the aquaculture industry.

Currently, there are limited numbers of individuals trained and ready to enter the growing aquaculture industry in Southern California. Local community colleges and high schools do not offer programs to build aquaculture workforce skills.

"Domestic aquaculture will be necessary to meet food supply needs and avoid unsustainable harvesting of decreased wild fish stocks," said [Linda Chilton](#), Education Programs Manager at USC Sea Grant. "Students will shape this future by making informed decisions as consumers and entering the aquaculture workforce."

"Taking part in the aquaculture class was one of the highlights of my sophomore year," said student Meghan Vidovich. "I learned fascinating details about and got a great

overall understanding of the aquaculture process.”

[Full story](#)

[Learn more about Sea Grant's aquaculture work](#)

Image description: Four photographs, all courtesy of Linda Chilton/USC Sea Grant. Top left: In teams, students apply engineering and construction techniques to build aquaculture systems. Bottom left: Students plant seedlings in an aquaponics desktop system they built. Middle: A student siphons out excess food to help maintain white seabass in a classroom aquaculture tank. Right: Students design their own underwater system to grow basil.

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