

# The Southern California Marine Institute

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## Annual Report 2013-2014

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## Mission

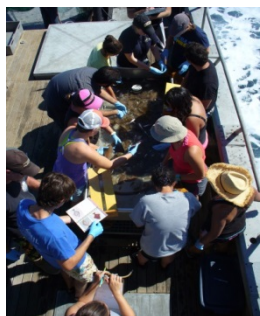
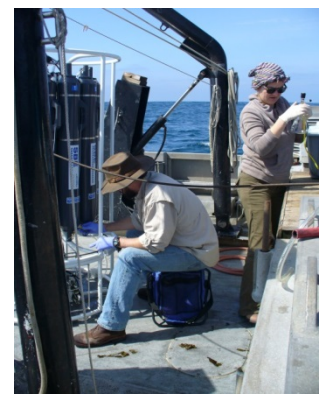
The Southern California Marine Institute consortium represents a strategic alliance of 12 major universities in southern California, nine universities from the California State University System representing the Ocean Studies Institute (Channel Islands, Dominguez Hills, Fullerton, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Northridge, Pomona, San Bernardino and San Marcos) and the combined marine resources of the University of Southern California, Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies, University California Los Angeles, and Occidental College. The Southern California Marine Institute is committed to providing marine expertise and hands-on experience to students at all levels, to achieve the highest and most efficacious level of research, to monitor the marine environment and to increase public awareness.

## Director's Message

I cannot believe another year has gone by and now I am onto my third year as director. As you will see from our report, SCMI continues to improve its operations, facilities and services. In the last year we implemented a new and fully operating seawater system, a new dive locker, a new dive dock and a brand new website. We all need to thank Adriana Bell for getting the new website going. As you will see, we have increased our AAUS dive class offerings from one to three classes per year. Dedicating these resources to the research diving program is partly responsible for the dramatic increase in number of divers and dives for the Ocean Studies Institute. Jim Cvitanovich, our DSO (as well as the DSO for Oxy) has played a big role in this success. Similarly, use of the R/V Yellowfin is highest it has been in the last decade, led by my own home campus, Occidental College. We have had another successful CSU Marine Biology semester at Catalina Island, thanks to Drs. Lowe, Allen, Kubler and Smith. Looking out the window of my office, I am struck by the literally hundreds of students I see moving through our facility every week. In addition, to the group going out on the Yellowfin and the Miss Christie, the Mountain Sea Adventures has developed a very successful K-12 program. On the AltaSea front, Rachel Etherington is the new CEO and she is in full fundraising mode. She recently made a presentation to Port of Los Angeles's Harbor Commissioners and her progress was extremely impressive. AltaSea, in addition to the \$25 million grant from the Annenberg Foundation, already has over a million dollars in commitments to the project. Considering that she just started in April, this is just a testament to her energy and dynamism. I am looking forward to another year of growth and improvements.

## Introduction

The Southern California Marine Institute (SCMI) has seen many improvements this year. SCMI consortium grew to 12 members with the addition of California State University, Channel Islands into the Ocean Studies Institute. More institutions have expressed interest in joining SCMI and we are excited about the opportunity to collaborate and service more institutions in southern California. SCMI has expanded our outreach efforts this year focusing on K-12 education and community awareness. SCMI has collaborated with Mountain and Sea Educational Adventures who hold science camps on Catalina Island, offering marine science demonstrations on our docks for K-12 students. We have also started a relationship with Port of Los Angeles High School and our volunteer internship program for their students. The AltaSea project has gained momentum with the hiring of their new CEO Rachael Etherington. SCMI staff has continued their work to improve the facility by expanding our seawater filtration system, installing a new compressor in the dive locker and improving the small boat operations. We have also launched the new SCMI website ([www.scmi.net](http://www.scmi.net)) in time for the fiscal year 2014/2015 and have continued our distribution of a bi-annual newsletter. SCMI continues to fulfill our mission in the areas of research and education and has seen a 12% growth in the use of the R/V Yellowfin. SCMI assisted a wide variety of research project form both member and non-member institutions that utilized all aspects of the facility. Visitors to SCMI continue to grow with the addition of new tenants. Mountain and Sea Educational Adventures (MSA) now holds an office in our building and has permanent docking space for their vessel Wilderness Explorer. Occidental College is also docking their new research dive boat Neo that is being used in a kelp forest restoration project through the Bay Foundation.



## 2013-2014 Highlights

### AltaSea Project



Plans for the AltaSea project, a 35-acre marine research campus at the Port of Los Angeles, have gained momentum since its unveiling on June 16, 2013. Phase 1 of the project which includes Berth 57, the proposed new location for SCMI, is expected to be completed in 2019. The master lease for the project was approved by the Harbor Commission on November 7, 2013 and unanimously approved by the Los Angeles City Council on December 17, 2013. AltaSea introduced Rachel Etherington as their new CEO in April. Etherington founded Fauna and Flora International Australia in 2008 and was Director of the Blue Foundation in the UK. The SCMI boards are enthusiastic about the proposed world class marine research center that will bring together public and private research.



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## Outreach

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SCMI has continued our effort to outreach to the community and increase public awareness of marine science research and education by collaborating with local schools and institutions. SCMI staff attended Port of Los Angeles High School's Green Festival, where we set up a booth besides other environmental science participants such as the OC Coastal Keepers and USC Sea Grant. Our booth displayed pictures and information on SCMI's education and research opportunities. The Green Festival was a wonderful opportunity to introduce high school students preparing for college to the many programs offered at SCMI. SCMI has also continued its participation in the Earth Day Festival at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium. SCMI's booth was great success this year with over 150 public participants stopping by.

We have also continued our collaboration with Mountain and Sea Educational Adventures (MSA). MSA main vessel the Wilderness Explorer is docked at SCMI and makes regular trips to and from Catalina Island to MSA's Science camps. The vessel transports around 1000 students each month during the school year. SCMI has conducted dock side water quality demonstrations for K-12 student waiting to board their vessel.

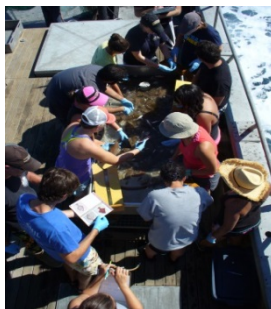
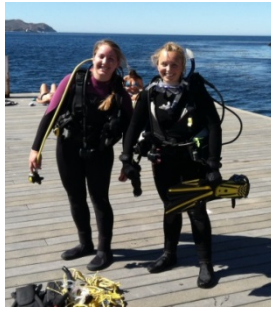
To further the Southern California Marine Institute's mission to provide marine expertise and hands-on experience to students at all levels, SCMI has reached out to Port of Los Angeles High School (POLAHS) seeking students for our Volunteer/Internship Program. SCMI's Volunteer Internship program is designed to introduce high school students to marine science careers in marine biology, aquarist/ animal husbandry, and vessel engineering.



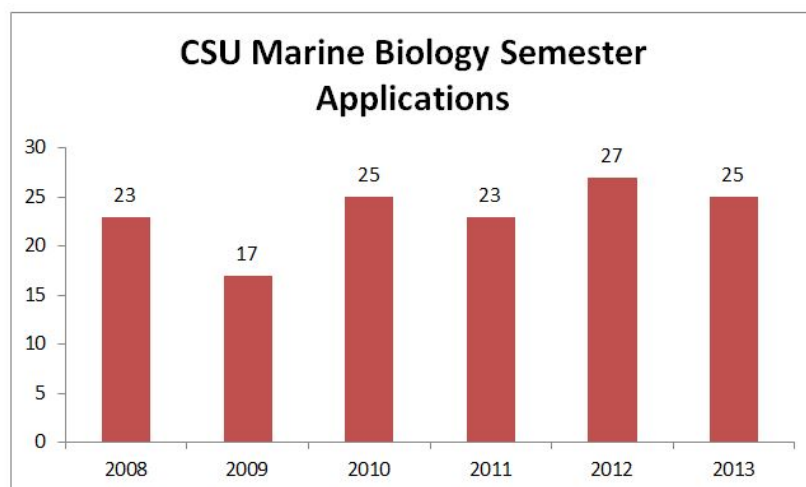
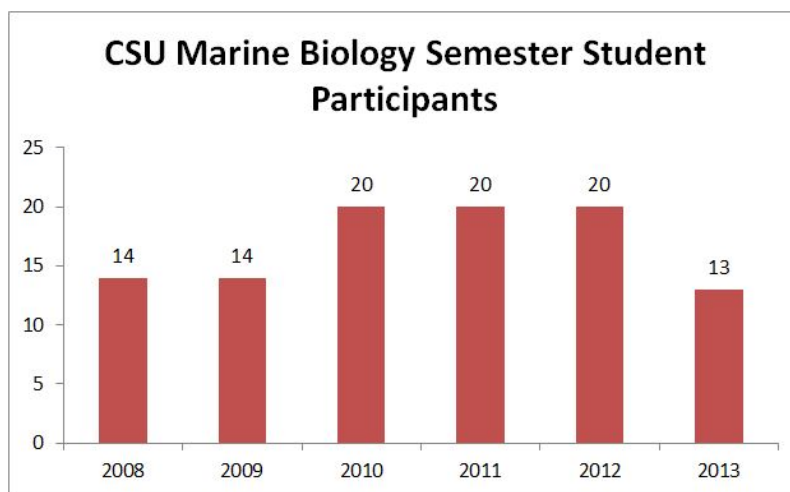
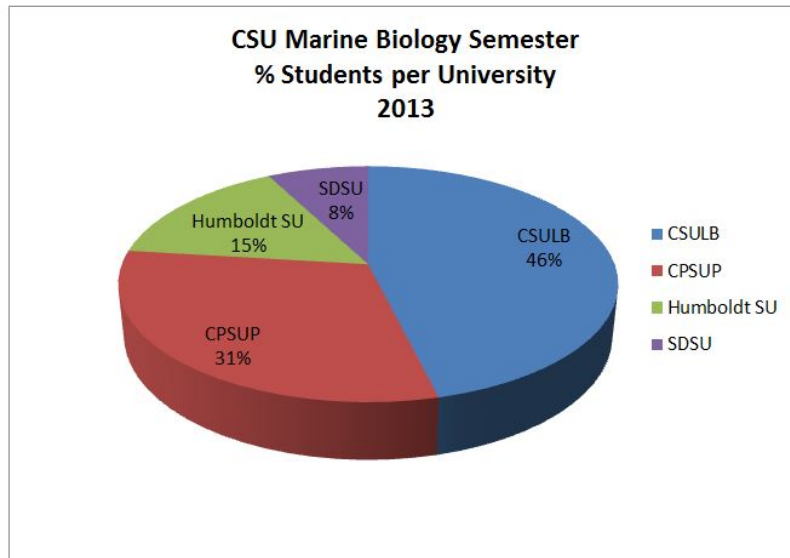
# Educational Activities

## CSU Marine Biology Semester on Catalina Island

The CSU Marine Biology Semester on Catalina continues to grow and benefit CSU students each Fall. The semester is a rewarding opportunity for CSU students to learn hands on marine biology and guide them to a career in marine science. The Fall 2013 Marine Biology Semester was a great success with a total of 13 students from four different CSU's attending. The semester was taught by professors: Dr. Chris Lowe from CSULB, Dr. Bengt Allen from CSULB, Dr. Janet Kubler from CSUN, and Dr. Jayson Smith from CPSUP. We have received positive feedback from the participating students and are excited to see the program grow to more CSU campuses. Students conducted research projects on a large range of topics from elasmobranch habitat selection to photosynthetic rates of marine macroalgae.



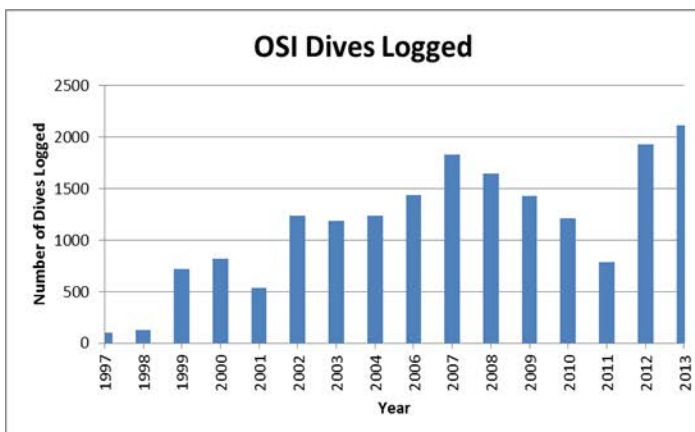
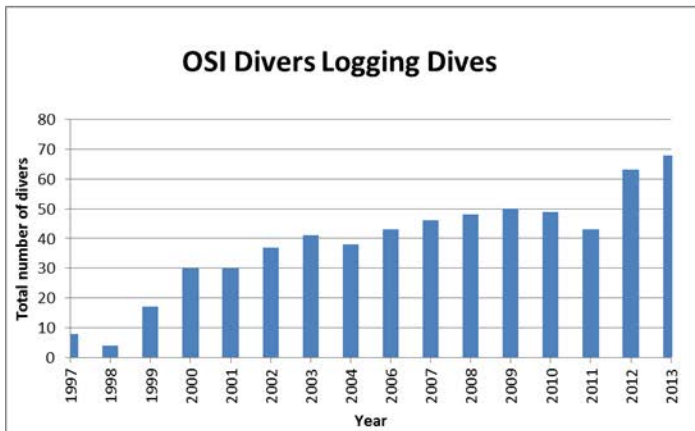
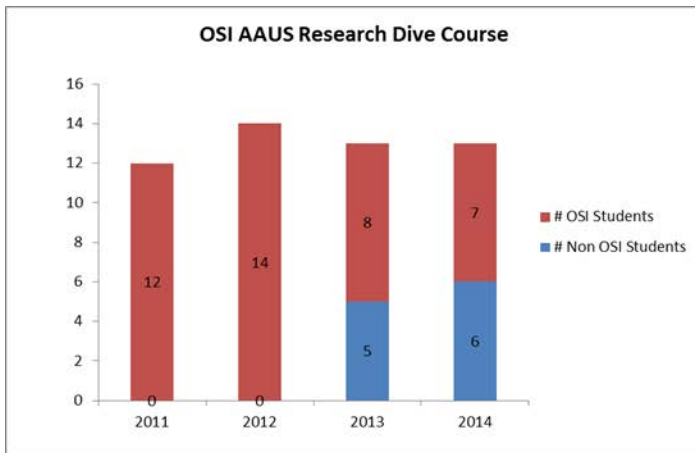
CSU Marine Biology Semester on Catalina Fall 2013			
University	# Students	Professors	Courses
CSULB	6	Dr. Chris Lowe	OSI 419 – Marine Ichthyology (4 units)
CPSUP	4	Dr. Bengt Allen	OSI 455 – Marine Ecological Processes (4 units)
Humboldt SU	2	Dr. Janet Kubler	OSI 425 – Marine Phycology (4 units)
SDSU	1	Dr. Jayson Smith	OSI 496 – Directed Research (3 units)
<b>Total # Students</b>	<b>13</b>		
<b>Total # of Schools</b>	<b>4</b>		





## OSI AAUS Research Dive Program

The winter 2014 OSI AAUS Research Dive course had a total of 7 participants, 4 students from OSI and 3 students from Occidental College. The summer 2014 course has a total of 6 participants, 3 students from OSI and 3 non-OSI students. The course was taught by OSI Dive Safety Officer Jim Cvitanovich and Captain Chris Wade. There were a total of 68 divers logging dives for 2013 a 7% increase from 2012. The total number of logged dives has also increased 9% from 2012.



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## Mountain Sea Education Adventure Collaboration

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SCMI continues to fulfill our mission in the areas of education and public awareness through our collaboration with Mountain Sea Education Adventures (MSA). MSA provides educational camps to K-12 grades on Catalina Island. Their marine vessel Wilderness Explorer docked at SCMI's main docks transport around 1,000 students per month from around 30 schools. SCMI has collaborated with MSA to provide dock-side marine science demonstrations to their students. The demonstrations introduce the students to water quality testing techniques and equipment all marine scientist use. Students also get a chance to view the marine organisms present in SCMI's aquariums. This collaboration is beneficial to SCMI's K-12 educational goals and promoting our facility and programs.

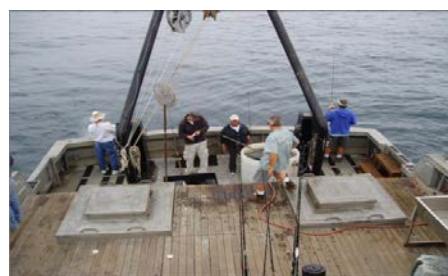


## Research Activities

SCMI has provided vessel support, equipment, and expertise to researchers from member and non-member campuses, and other organizations. This year SCMI has assisted researchers from University of Southern California, Occidental College, California State Universities Northridge and Long Beach, Claremont Colleges, NOAA, and the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.

### SCMI Assisted Research

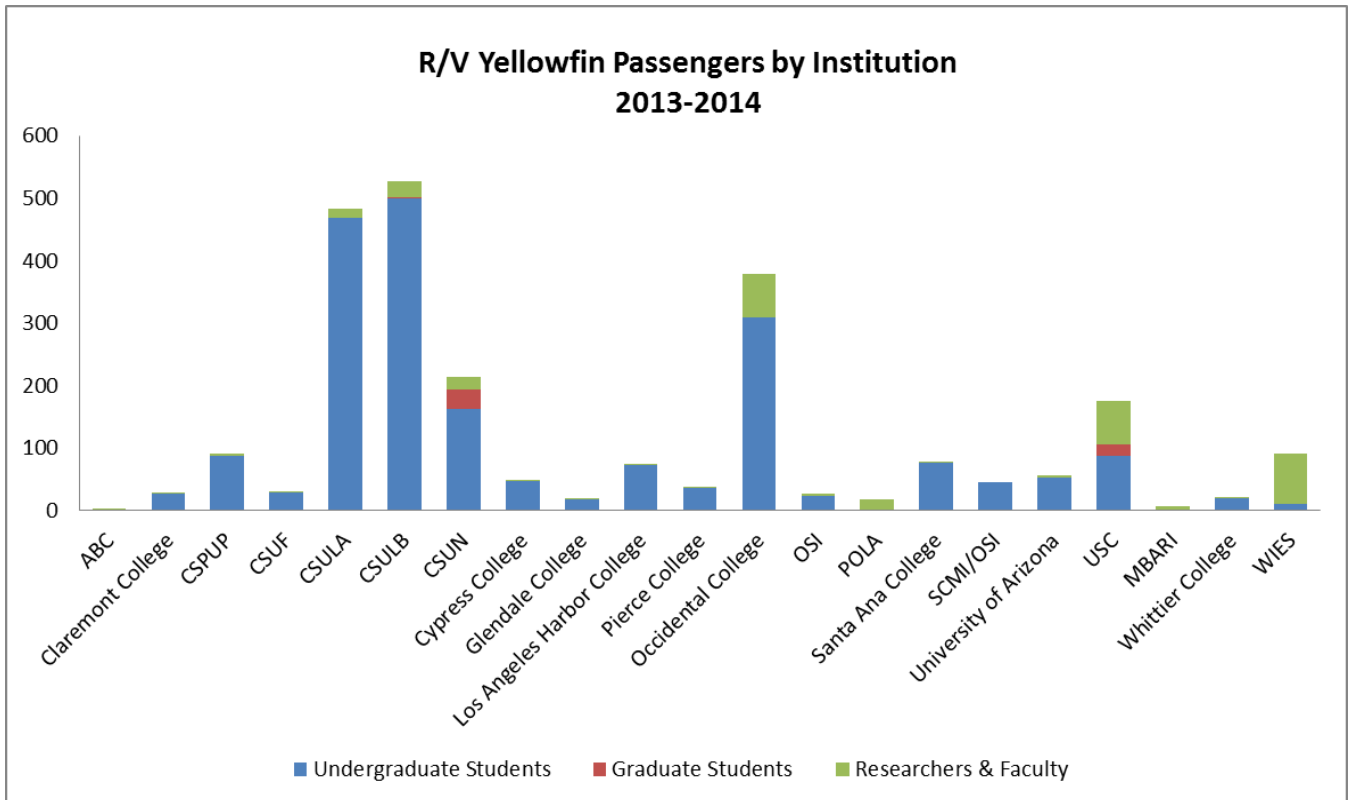
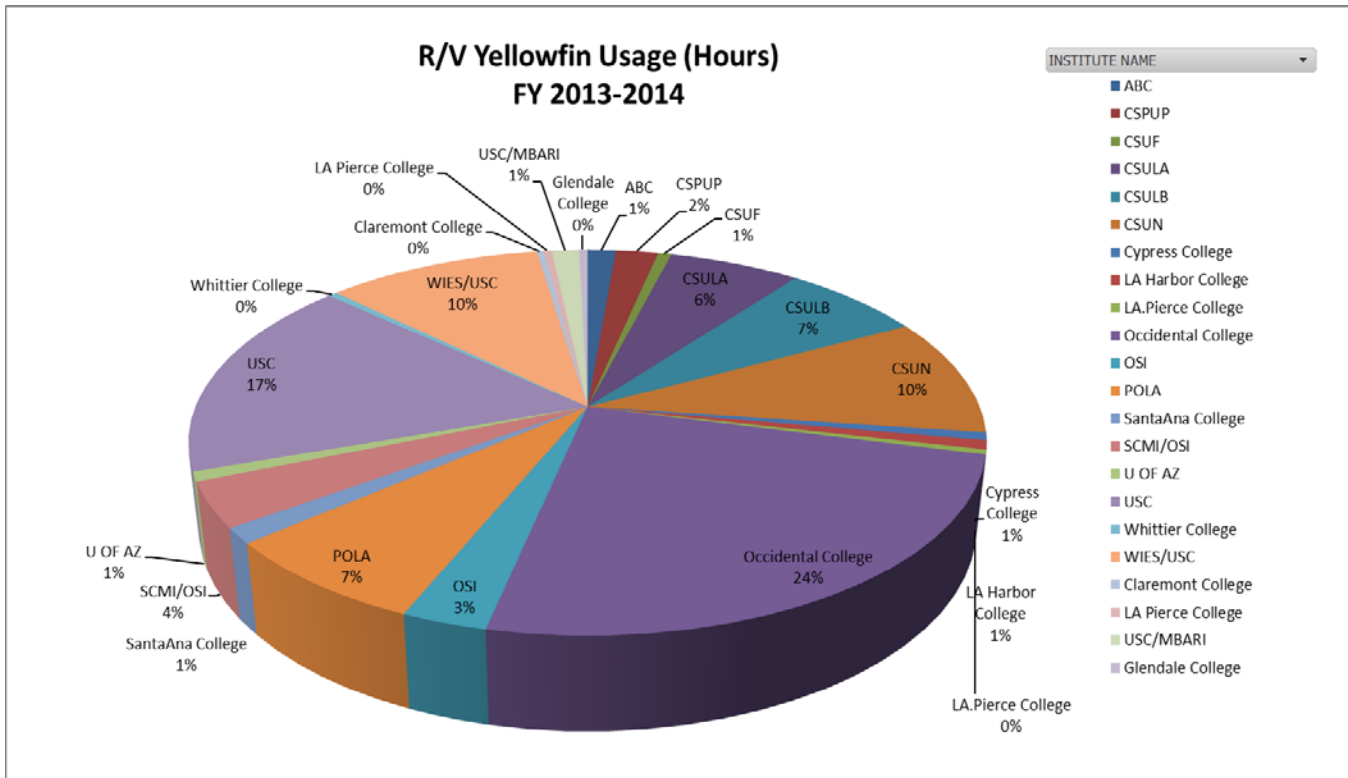
- Port of Los Angeles Water Quality Monitoring
  - [Real-Time Water Quality Monitoring Program](#)
  - [Monthly Water Quality Monitoring aboard R/V Yellowfin](#)
- [Port of Los Angeles Fish Tracking Study](#) - Dr. Chris Lowe, CSULB
- Biological Surveys of Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbors
- [Barred Sand Bass Study](#) - Dr. Larry Allen, CSUN
- [Rocky Reef Ecology Studies](#) - Vantuna Research Group
- [The Bay Foundation Kelp Forest Restoration](#)
- [NOAA Ship of Opportunity Program](#)
- [Ecology of Harmful Algal Blooms ECOHAB](#)
- [San Pedro Ocean Time Series SPOT](#)
- [Up.R.I.S.E.E. Time-Series Investigation](#)
- [Salt Pond Project](#) - Dr. Christine Whitcraft, CSULB
- Marine Wood Borer Survey - Dr. Don Reish, CSULB
- [Temperature Influence on Ecology and Distribution of Intertidal Species](#) - Dr. Sarah Gilman, Claremont Colleges

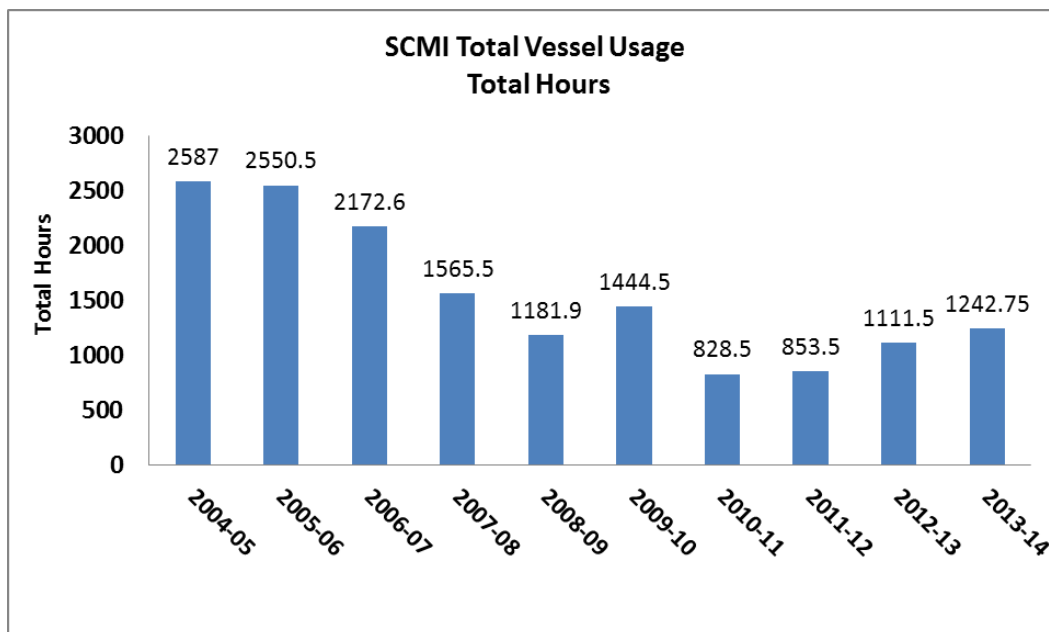
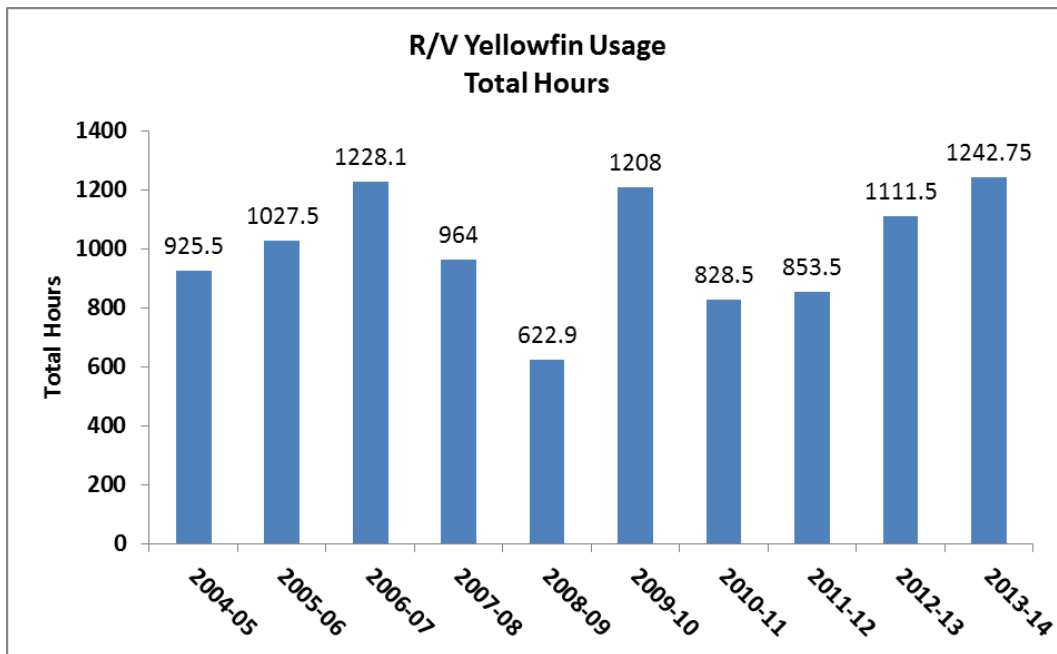


# Vessel Use

## R/V Yellowfin Usage by Institutions

R/V Yellowfin Usage 2013-2014				
Institute Name	Undergraduate Students	Graduate Students	Researchers & Faculty	Hours of Vessel Use
ABC			3	17
Claremont College	27		2	4
CSPUP	87		4	25.5
CSUF	29		2	8
CSULA	468		15	79
CSULB	500	1	25	84.5
CSUN	163	30	20	123
Cypress College	47		2	8
Glendale College	17		1	5
Los Angeles Harbor College	73		2	9.5
Pierce College	36		2	10
Occidental College	308	1	69	304.25
OSI	23		3	36.5
POLA			17	93
Santa Ana College	76		2	16
SCMI/OSI	45			47
University of Arizona	53		3	10
USC	87	19	69	211.25
MBARI			6	16.5
Whittier College	20		1	5.25
WIES	11		79	129.5
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2070</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>1242.75</b>





## Financial

### SCMI TOTAL ACCOUNTS

<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$935,359.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 950,819.00</b>
<b>NET GAIN (LOSS)</b>	<b>\$ (15,460.00)</b>
<b>BALANCE FORWARD FROM FY 2012-2013</b>	<b>\$ 96,773.00</b>
<b>ADJUSTMENT FROM FY 2012-2013</b>	<b>\$ 1,680.00</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 82,993.00</b>

## Southern California Marine Institute Members

### Southern California Marine Institute Staff 2013-2014

Dr. Daniel Pondella  
*Director*

Tom Chavez  
*Assistant Director*

Dan Warren  
*Operations Coordinator*

Carrie Wolfe  
*Research and Education  
Coordinator*

Brian Tufts  
*Facilities Coordinator  
Aquarist*

Dennis Dunn  
*Captian  
R/V Yellowfin*

Denis Mahaffy  
*Vessel Support Technician*

Bob Adams  
*Demonstration Technician*

Jim Cvitanovich  
*OSI Dive Safety Officer*

John Birmingham  
*Vessel Support Technician*

Adriana Bell  
*Instructional &  
Adminstrative Assistant*

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## Southern California Marine Institute Board of Directors 2013-2014

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*President:* Dr. Roberta Marinelli  
*Vice President:* Dr. Laura Kingsford  
*Secretary:* Dr. Doug Hammond

### USC

Dr. Roberta Marinelli  
Dr. Doug Hammond  
Dr. James Moffett (Alternate)

### OSI

Dr. Jerry Stinner  
Dr. Laura Kingsford  
Dr. Chris Lowe  
Dr. Steve Murray

### Occidental

Dr. Daniel Pondella

### UCLA

Dr. Mark Gold

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## Ocean Studies Institute Board of Governors 2013-2014

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*Chairperson:* Dr. Chris Lowe  
*Vice Chairperson:* Dr. Kathy Dickson  
*Member at Large:* Dr. Ana Pitchon  
*Director-Coordinator:* Dr. Daniel J. Pondella II

### CSU Dominguez Hills

*Academic:* Dr. Ana Pitchon  
*Administrative:* Dr. Rob Hay

### CSU Fullerton

*Academic:* Dr. Kathy Dickson  
*Administrative:* Dr. David Bowman

### CSU Long Beach

*Academic:* Dr. Chris Lowe  
*Administrative:* Dr. Laura Kingsford

### CSU Los Angeles

*Academic:* Dr. Elizabeth Torres  
*Administrative:* Dr. Scott Bowman

### CSU Northridge

*Academic:* Dr. Larry Allen  
*Administrative:* Dr. Jerry Stinner

### CSU Pomona

*Academic:* Dr. Jayson Smith  
*Administrative:* Dr. Tina Hartney

### CSU San Bernardino

*Academic:* Dr. Britt Leatham

### CSU Channel Islands

*Academic:* Dr. Sean Anderson  
*Administrative:* Dr. Karen Carey

### CSU San Marcos

*Academic:* Dr. Jackie Trischman  
*Administrative:* Dr. Gerardo M. Gonzalez

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## Consortium Members

