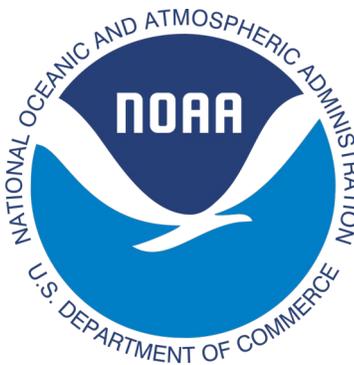


Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center (CELC) Network

The Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center (CELC) network is a consortium of 27 aquariums and marine science education centers in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. From youth summits to multi-institution projects, the CELC network works together to engage the public in protecting coastal and marine ecosystems.

A mutually beneficial partnership with NOAA



NOAA's Office of Education coordinates the partnership, bringing NOAA science, guidance, and resources to CELC member institutions.



CELC member institutions then share this information with the 20 million people they reach every year across North America.



Shared network, shared priorities

The CELC network works across institutions to reach the following shared objectives:

1. Improve ocean and climate literacy among our audiences.
2. Increase participation in coastal and ocean conservation and stewardship activities.
3. Foster our audiences' relationship with the coastal environment and increase community resilience.
4. Establish and support a community of practice with emphasis on cross-institution communication, coordination, and professional development.



Education directors from CELC member institutions (2017)

Aquaculture Education Initiative

We are leading an Aquaculture Initiative for aquariums interested in educational programs and messaging about aquaculture topics. Efforts include an analysis of public perceptions, connecting aquarium partners with local aquaculture experts, hosting quarterly aquaculture webinars, and convening a community of practice.

Key partners:
NOAA programs
CELC member institutions
Aquaculture industry

- Assessment of public's perception
- Collaborative space for sharing resources
- Quarterly aquaculture webinars
- Aquaculture education workshop (Fall 2020)
- Aquaculture education mini-grants (Early 2021)

Convening and sustaining a community of practice

Domestic aquaculture is critical for supporting our nation's seafood production, sustainable jobs, and building coastal resiliency. Recognizing the need to inspire informed consumers, NOAA's Office of Education, National Sea Grant Office, and Office of Aquaculture have joined forces to host a Knauss Aquaculture Education Coordinator position. The team is implementing a pilot program that convenes an aquaculture education community of practice within NOAA and connects aquaculture education efforts directly with aquarium and aquaculture industry partners. The objectives of this effort are driven by the results of a NOAA-wide aquaculture education inventory survey, and will be achieved through a fall 2020 collaborative aquaculture education workshop and winter 2021 transdisciplinary mini-grants

