

## Field Trip to the Birch Aquarium at Scripps

The aquarium is divided into two sections. The fish are on the right as you enter, and science exhibits are on the left. We'll start with the exhibits on the left.

1. Take a look at the photo of Scripps in 1910. How has the area changed? Was the area pristine wilderness in 1910? When was the baseline?

2. Ocean instruments. Examine the CTD and XBT and current meters. What do they measure? Why do oceanographers want to measure these quantities?

3. Properties of water and of sea water. Do the six mini-experiments about ice, heat, salt, density, the freezing point of sea water, and electrical conductivity. Write down the results and conclusions from the experiments.

4. Now on the fish side of the exhibit hall, take a look at the kelp forest. What environmental problems does San Diego's kelp forest face?

5. Finally, take the time to explore the aquarium exhibits. Choose one exhibit that is pertinent to the material in this class. For your field trip report, write a summary of the exhibit. What does it show? What do you learn from the exhibit?

Survey: (optional) This is the first year we've run an organized aquarium trip, so we still have some challenges to resolve. Was the trip interesting and useful to you? Would you recommend doing it next year? What would you change?