

Summary of 29 June, 2017, meeting of NECAN policy working group.

Attendees: Conor McManus, Todd Capson, Beth Turner, Ralph Johnson, Sarah Cooley, Matt Leibman.

Sarah (Oceana) reported that on 26 June, the U.S. Conference of Mayors passed a resolution aimed at confronting OA that Oceana crafted and helped win support for ([link](#), [link](#)). New Bedford MA Mayor Jon Mitchell introduced the resolution, which passed the full conference. The resolution states that “cities are at the forefront of preparing for, mitigating against, and responding to the consequences of changes in ocean chemistry like ocean acidification.” It encourages efforts to reduce carbon dioxide emissions (the root cause of OA), calls on Congress to fund research assessing the vulnerability of coastal communities to its impacts, and promotes taking other measurable steps towards confronting OA.

Beth reported on a workshop convened on June 19 by the Maine Ocean and Coastal Acidification (MOCA) Partnership to discuss the current state of Ocean and Coastal Acidification monitoring in Maine and to promote collaboration among groups. Breakout groups discussed collaborative potential, data management and availability, citizen science, OCA parameters to be measured, and the intercalibration of sensors. A workshop report is being drafted and will be available on the MOCA website (<https://www.seagrant.umaine.edu/extension/maine-ocean-and-coastal-acidification-partnership>). ME has evolved as an excellent example of bringing together disparate stakeholders and management entities in order to effectively address OA on a statewide level.

Conor (RI DEM Fish and Wildlife) reported on a meeting of the RI Commission on OA ([link](#)) that was held on June 14th including presentations by Jason Gear (EPA) and Bob Rheault ([ECSGA](#)) provided their perspectives on OA to commission. Gear gave a review of research on OA impacts to species, the difficulties and complexities in such research, and the elements of EPA’s mission that may align with the commission goals. Rheault discussed literature on the impact of OA on shellfish including impacts on particular life stages and the potential commercial repercussions, highlighting uncertainties of OA impacts on shellfish. Also discussed were options for mitigating OA including the use of shell hash, and the need to decrease acidity in sediment pore water in order to provide more suitable habitats for shellfish and increase water column pH. The RI Commission on OA will not meet for rest of summer but will reconvene in September or October of 2017. The objectives of that meeting have not yet been established but may review what has been discussed to date, and assess the commission’s original goals (assess gaps in research, tools to address OA, and what can be leveraged in terms of monitoring programs, staff, and resources in order to address OA in RI.)

Todd summarized his efforts to build a team to build capacity in West Africa in order to monitor OA. There are currently no permanent assets in the region despite its vulnerability to OA (two of the planet’s four Eastern Boundary Upwelling Ecosystems are in W. Africa) and its dependence upon marine resources for national economies and food security. The current objective of his work is to establish a pilot project in Senegal that will serve as a model for the region. The team he has assembled consists of scientists and policy makers the Institute de Recherche Pour le Développement, Future Earth Coasts, the Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar, and the Centre de Recherche Océanographique de Dakar Thiaroye. They submitted a proposal for the drafting of a detailed proposal for training scientists and to monitor OA that is currently under evaluation by Kosmos Energy and the UN Environment Programme.