

NECAN MPWG meeting notes

January 22, 2021

Attendees: Beth, Emily, Todd, Juliana, Prassede, Carolina, Katie, Anna, Sarah, Matt, Hauke

NECAN Updates (Emily)

- Seminar series underway to highlight up-and-coming OA scientists, see <http://necan.org/studentwebinars> for details
- [Industry survey](#) is being analyzed by science working group to identify useful actions. It was also used in NERACOOS proposal for data access to industry.
- [Shell Day](#) papers are starting to come out. The Shell Day group will reach out to the monitoring organizations to highlight results.
- NECAN received funding from RARGOM to develop information products re. impacts to important regional species. A small steering committee is forming to develop this. Let Beth know if you are interested in participating. Esperanza, Beth and Carolina are on the steering committee.

The National View (Sarah, Matt)

- [IOOS reauthorization](#) was passed and included many of the OA priorities in earlier bills that passed the House.
- National Estuary Program was re-authorized in EPA. EPA will soon publish a synthesis of OA data from NEPs. Matt will keep us informed on where we can locate that when published.
- The Biden administration re-joined the Paris Climate Accord.
- The new administration will submit budget proposals in Feb/Mar, that will show where their priorities are.
- EPA will post recordings from their webinar series on OA mitigation strategies.

State Updates

MA: (Prassede, Todd, Carolina)

- Over the past few months, the Massachusetts Ocean Acidification Commission, which includes Senate and House representatives, state agencies, academia and industry representatives, has been working to draft a report on the status of OA in Massachusetts and to develop a set of policy recommendations to be presented to the legislature in the next few months. Four work groups were established over the summer to discuss and gather information on specific aspects of OA in MA including: monitoring and barrier beaches, fishing and aquaculture, scientific literature, and policy. The report is a compilation of the findings and recommendations developed by the work groups and is expected to be finalized in the next few weeks. It summarizes ongoing water quality monitoring and research that could potentially incorporate OA monitoring in the future to inform managers on ecosystem conditions as well as provide information on potential impacts on the shellfishing industry. The report also examines potential federal and state funding opportunities to enhance capacity building for OA studies. A set of recommendations were also developed including, among others, establishing a funding mechanisms to fund research and monitoring programs, establishing a

January 21, 2021

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January 22, 2021

monitoring program, continuing research to better understand the effects of OA on commercially important species and the industry, and establishing a blue communities division.

- Important to recognize existing programs and augment those instead of creating something entirely new. Funding is still a question, there have been discussions around other models such as the Chesapeake Bay “flush tax”, but that will be difficult politically. With other tax receipts down due to the pandemic, it may not be possible to expand monitoring efforts right away.

CT: (Katie, Juliana)

- The governor’s Council on Climate Change released a draft report including recommendations to address monitoring, join the OA alliance and develop an OA Action Plan.
- The LI Sound Study continues to have sensors on buoys, collect OA data on cruises and analyze associations between OA and eutrophication, especially in western LIS. Proposals have been submitted to enhance nearshore monitoring.
- [A National Estuarine Research Reserve site](#) is being pursued. This will be a hybrid site, with a series of locations along the CT shore. Plans have moved to the Environmental Impact stage, and meetings are planned for steering and stakeholder advisory groups. It might be 2 years before the process is completed.

RI: (Anna)

- No updates to report

ME: (no representation at our Jan. meeting, but will submit a written summary)

NH: (no representation at our Jan. meeting, but will submit a written summary)

Other regions: (Hauke)

- Hauke is working on a Gulf of Mexico synthesis paper

Collation of State Summaries:

- Beth will collate the summaries from each state for posting on the NECAN website and to identify similarities and differences across state boundaries. She proposed that this could be an annual report from the MPWG to document progress. Members present agreed that this was a good idea. Please provide any comments to Beth.

Next Meeting

- Beth will reach out to Becca Newhall re. meeting with us to discuss whether/how states can propose Projects of Special Merit across states. Look for a doodle poll in Feb.

January 21, 2021