

NECAN MPWG call 2/11/2019

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A relatively small number could join today, so we held an abbreviated call.

ME: MOCA held their winter meeting at the end of November 2018 at the ME State House. The mood was very energetic and optimistic with new legislators and a new governor. An outline of the meeting is on the [MOCA website](#). Gov. Mills mentioned OA in her inaugural address, and a couple of bills are being developed to monitor coastal waters and understand the impacts of climate change on Maine species. (see some news coverage [here](#)). Ivy could not join us because she is helping on some of those activities.

MA: Pressida reported that the MA commission is starting slower than initially planned, but members are being nominated and approved. MA also has a Shellfish Initiative that is mostly focused on aquaculture, but may have some intersections with OA. Lindsey reported that MIT Sea Grant has released [their research priorities](#), and OA is included.

EPA monitoring: Matt reported that EPA is supporting some coastal monitoring efforts through the NEP stations around the country. Casco Bay is already up and running, and Duxbury is about to get a continuous monitoring station. EPA would like to understand linkages between nutrient enrichment and coastal acidification. Since EPA does regulate nutrients, this might be a way to respond to OA without developing indicators specific to OA. Matt has also gotten support for a citizen science effort that will equip groups with a Durafet sensor that can measure pH and collect bottle samples to be analyzed for Total Alkalinity so that saturation state can be estimated. This summer's effort is a pilot to test the capability of doing this. Jason Gear at the EPA Narragansett Lab is also working to include TA in the EPA National Coastal Condition Assessment that happens every 5 years (next sampling will be in 2020).

Discussion related to the various state commissions: Is there a role for NECAN in getting some cross-state partnerships? Is there value in having cross-state coordination, similar to what the west coast is doing? General consensus was that it would be a great role for NECAN, perhaps in partnership with the [National Caucus of Environmental Legislators](#) (NCEL). This might be most effective if we wait until the MA commission has its feet under it. We can add this to a workplan for the MPWG, perhaps for next year.

MPWG members who were unable to join the call can update others on pertinent info via email.

Federal update from Sarah via email following the call: The OA Alliance is planning state-to-state knowledge exchange (roughly, "East-West Coast Knowledge Exchange") which I believe may be funded, and NECAN would probably be a bid/ideal contributor to that activity. I believe they are targeting September to have it. Would be worth checking with Jessie at the Alliance where they are before going far down the road of NECAN/NCEL trying to start this activity.

We will aim for our next meeting in April, TBD.