

NECAN MPWG call 4/16/2019

Beth Tuner, Sarah Cooley, Chris Williams, Ivy Frignoca, Todd Capson, Lindsey Williams, Ru Morrison, and Emily Silva.

Updates from NECAN: The [NECAN newsletter](#) came out recently. Emily is working with Erik Chapman to put together a new webinar series based on SG-funded OA work.

National: Four bills have gone through markup in the House Space, Science, and Technology committee's Environment subcommittee. Sarah has descriptions of the bills in [a recent blog post](#). All bills passed out of the subcommittee with unanimous bipartisan support, which is a great sign of support. In another sign of support, the FY19 budget included \$12M in appropriations for the NOAA OA Program. (In addition to the OAP within NOAA Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, NOAA has supported OA activities under the National Ocean Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the National Environmental Data and Information Service.)

ME: After the November meeting at the Maine State house, 2 actions came forth. One was to formulate a bill for an advisory council on the impacts of climate on Maine's marine and coastal species. Lydia Blume [developed a bill](#) that went to hearing 2 weeks ago. Strong support came from both letters and in-person testimony, including testimony from former US Rep. Tom Allen. Rep. Blume's bill is tabled for the time being, while Gov. Mill's team (led by Hannah Pingree) works on a climate bill that would include a marine and coastal component.

The second action from November's meeting was for MOCA to develop an action plan to move some of the original OA recommendations to actions. A professional facilitator has been hired to help with initial stakeholder outreach meetings to develop a consensus plan. MOCA will convene meetings to discuss science, policy and funding components.

NH: No updates since our last call.

MA: No updates since our last call.

RI: No RI representative were able to be at this meeting.

NY: The NY OA Task Force has a [website](#) that includes agendas from their past 2 meetings, and the Task Force members.

OA Alliance: Beth and Ru were contacted by Jessie Turner from [the OA Alliance](#) and Jennifer Hennessey from the Washington Governor's office. They are convening a meeting at the end of September to bring USA west and east coast interested parties together to help formulate OA action plans at the state level. They were interested to hear of our working group, and want to attract attendees from state agencies who might be involved in developing action plans. Beth mentioned Steve Couture, Ivy Frignoca, Prassede Vella, Aaron Strong and Conor McManus as potential invitees from MPWG. Beth and Ru will remain engaged as planning continues.

NERACOOS update: NERACOOS and EPA are working on developing a practical guidance document for OA data management, similar to the [OA monitoring guidance](#) that was developed by Jason Grear and Adam Pimenta.

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

We will aim for our next meeting in June, TBD. At that time, we can decide whether to take a summer break, as we have in the past, or continue our meetings through the summer.