

NECAN MPWG call 8/9/19/19

Beth Turner, Todd Capson, Emily Silva, Ru Morrison, Todd Callaghan, Prassede Vella, Aaron Strong

We held an abbreviated meeting with a few attendees, due to the difficulties in getting people together in August.

NECAN updates:

Todd Capson is regretfully stepping down as the co-chair of MPWG. He will continue to be engaged as a member, and hopes to support the work of the group as much as possible, but has found it difficult from his current address in Senegal. Thank you to Todd for helping to get the group up and running, and we look forward to his further participation!

The NECAN Steering Committee held a call yesterday and is close to finalizing their Strategic Plan. Emily will send the draft plan to the MPWG to show near-term priorities and where our WG actions fit in with NECAN as a whole. The Steering Committee is also engaged in planning for the [Gulf of Maine 2050](#) symposium, which will include a day devoted to OA on Nov. 6. An upcoming NECAN webinar series will highlight recent results from Sea Grant sponsored research; Emily will send details next week through the NECAN listserv. UMass Dartmouth School for Marine Science and Technology is sponsoring a meeting in October that will discuss OA impacts on fisheries. Steve Lorenz is coordinating, and NECAN is providing input. More details will be forthcoming.

NY updates (Aaron): The NY Task force has had 2 meetings, the 3rd was postponed. They have been getting input from scientists and gathering background information. They will be sending a group to the OA Alliance meeting in September (see below). Gov. Cuomo signed the [Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act](#), which has a goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2050. There will be a big push on climate policy and action in NY resulting from the Act.

ME updates (Beth): As noted in the last MPWG meeting, MOCA recently concluded a series of 3 workshops focused on Science, Policy and Law, and Adaptation and Mitigation. These will support the new [Maine Climate Council](#) and provide updates to the original ME OA commission recommendations. Notes from the meetings will be available on the MOCA website, and MOCA will be evaluating what (if any) role for MOCA remains.

MA updates (Todd Callaghan): On Monday, Todd will be participating in a scoping meeting for the [MA Shellfish Initiative](#). This is undertaken to bring groups together to foster bivalve culture and extraction industries in MA. Some of their deliberations will include environmental factors. There are concerns on seed production, although these can usually be mitigated effectively by buffering of hatchery waters. Other concerns are for shellfish in field conditions (in Wellfleet, shells have been found that one can shine a light through!). The initiative is extensive and will cover a range of topics. Monday's meeting will scope out more specific goals. Also, the MA Commission may be moving towards final membership and their first meeting. MA was approached to join the OA Alliance and Lisa Engler, Director of MA Coastal Zone Management, is sending that request through MA state government. Lisa also plans to be at the OA Alliance meeting in Sept (see below).

RI (Conor) was unable to be on today's call, but sent a note indicating no updates

OA Alliance meeting (Beth): The [OA Alliance](#) is convening a meeting at the NY Aquarium Sept 25 to bring together east and west coast representatives and discuss lessons learned and best practices to address ocean and coastal acidification, especially those that have led to the development of state OA Action Plans. The MPWG will be well-represented. Currently, Beth, Aaron, Ru, Esperanza, Sarah and Chris Williams are planning to attend. Beth will circulate the draft agenda along with these meeting notes.

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