

NECAN MPWG meeting, Dec 9, 2019

Present: Emily Silva, Sarah Cooley, Matt Liebman, Prassede Villa, Esperanza Stancioff, Carolina Bastidas, Beth Turner

NECAN communication materials:

Emily displayed some [recent materials](#) developed through a Sea Grant – NOAA North Atlantic Regional Team project called VOCAL: Visualizing Ocean and Coastal Acidification Locally. Three products were developed: an overall conceptual model, an information sheet for shellfish industry members, and a sheet with information for policy makers. Beth asked for feedback on each of these.

Conceptual model diagram: There was overall positive feedback on the conceptual model. It is attractive visually and summarizes a lot of complex information.

Industry piece: While there is a lot more text on this piece, it was considered appropriate for a take-away information piece. There was some confusion on the diagram of aragonite saturation state, and thoughts that the colors relating to “limited minerals for growth” perhaps should be re-labeled as “Conditions are less favorable for shell growth” or “Shell growth requires more energy” to reflect that growth can still occur, but will be harder. Also, the gradient as shown in the label has bad conditions at the top of the label, good conditions in the middle, and less favorable conditions on the bottom. This could be restructured to be more unidirectional, with good-moderate-bad (or bad-moderate-good) listed in order.

Policy piece: General support for having a summary.

In the box for Nutrient Pollution, many different actions could be taken to reduce nutrients, and the appropriate action will depend on the community involved. There could be an overall heading to reduce nutrients, with 3 different bullets: point source, non point source and natural. Then possible actions such as revised water quality standards, permit requirements, tertiary treatment, stormwater management, reducing impervious cover could all be nested underneath these headings.

In the Habitat Destruction box, instead of “carbon mitigators”, it could use the term “carbon storage”

Beth asked for **any further thoughts on the communications items to be sent to her and Emily.**

OA Alliance meeting worksheet

Several MPWG members (Beth, Matt, Chris, Sarah) attended the [OA Alliance](#) Coast to Coast State Workshop in September, and a worksheet was used there to help tailor actions to regional capacity and issues. The MPWG took up the worksheet and did a polling exercise to see where their thoughts were relative to several items on page 2 of the worksheet. From the relatively few of us on the call, here are results of average ratings some of the worksheet items.

Scales

Mentimeter



6

A question about who is likely to be involved in actions around coastal acidification resulted in this word cloud:



If any MPWG members not present at the meeting wish to fill out the worksheet and share their results, send your responses to Beth.

Discussion about the worksheet included recognition that even within our region there are clear state-by-state differences. While coordination within the OA community is good through NECAN and other regional bodies, there is not as much intersection with state CZM programs, fisheries programs, water quality managers, etc. Even though this region has a lot of regional coordination bodies (NROC, Gulf of Maine Council, etc.), there is more that can be done to link coastal acidification issues with others that may rise to the top of concerns, such as changes due to temperature increases, eutrophication, DO, invasive species, HABS). The MPWG could think about how to make these linkages and leverage policy makers interest in other issues to include OA. Beth will be going to the NROC meeting Dec 16, and hopes to hear from them on areas where we can collaborate and extend each other's reach.

One thing that NECAN could do is to reconsider the original stakeholder outreach workshops that began NECAN activities. We know a lot more now than in 2013-2014 when the workshops occurred. A summary of what we've learned in the past 5 years would be valuable. We can discuss this at future MPWG meetings.

Brief Updates from states: (Because we discussed the worksheet and communication materials, there was little time for updates. **Everyone, please add any details into the notes**)

The MA OA commission has held its [first meeting](#) – **Prassede**, are there any details you want to provide?

The ME Climate Council also has held meetings of all the working groups and a quite comprehensive [website](#) has gone live. **Esperanza/Ivy**, do you want to add anything specific to OA beyond what is found on the website?

Not covered in the MPWG meeting, but, can we get an update from Gulf of Maine 2050 meeting?

The Gulf of Maine Council held the [Gulf of Maine 2050 symposium](#) Nov 4-8 in Portland, ME. Wed Nov. 6 was devoted to Ocean Acidification, and a background [white paper](#) was developed. **Ivy, Esperanza and Matt** attended. **Can you all report back on any meeting outcomes?**

Our next meeting will be in February, look for a doodle poll for that.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS, EVERYONE!