

NECAN Policy Working Group call 12/1/2016

Present: Todd Capson, Esperanza Stancioff, Beth Turner, Priscilla Brooks, Juliana Barrett, Chris Williams, Aaron Strong, Matt Liebman, Susie Arnold

Updates from PWG members:

ME (Aaron, Esperanza, Susie): MOCA meeting Nov. 15th at ME State House. Morning presentations focused on remediation (kelp and mussels for OA remediation, macroalgal nutrient uptake). Afternoon discussion on OA-specific criteria for water quality and update from Casco Bay nutrient management. Final discussion on role of MOCA and what focus should be. Relative contribution of terrestrial vs. oceanic drivers, intense monitoring effort included in ME bond bill. MOCA subgroup to be looking at this. Citizen science efforts can be coordinated through MOCA. MOCA is serving its role as bringing together interested parties in the state. Notes and ppts will be on ME SG website.

Discussion: What is latest sense from the community on developing criteria? There has been no news from the west coast meeting. Aaron will follow up with his contacts to find out when the meeting summary will come out. Don't think that there is an appetite yet for setting thresholds, recognition that we need a lot more information before these can be set.

How does this affect our planning for a workshop in the spring? We should wait for CA meeting take-away messages. If a national conversation is moving forward, we could have a meeting that discusses implications to NECAN region and capacities.

The ME bond bill could be a key asset for monitoring and serve as model for other states. Good time for PWG to think about this as other states develop commissions. How can a state keep recommendations from the state commissions going? What are some tools and info that we (PWG) could provide, based on the ME experience?

NH (Chris): The NH commission is looking at mitigation strategies around emerging threats, including OA. Inaugural meeting was held on Oct 19 focused on selecting members. Upcoming Dec 19 meeting may be postponed to allow new House membership to decide who would sit on it. NECAN could provide a presentation in the future.

NY (Beth): new commission, not clear who is being named to that. Englebright was original bill sponsor. Is there a NGO or academic? Beth will contact Chris Gobler to find out details.

RI (Aaron, passing on info from Ralph): HR passed, hasn't moved through Senate. Ralph has been trying to insert issue into papers. PWG might think about how to provide info to RI, similar to MA effort.

Senegal (Todd): interested in putting seabed sensors in Canary Current. (Slightly out of NECAN region!)

MA (Beth *et al.*): The commission bill has been passed by the House and it is currently before the Senate ways and means committee. PWG can provide info, but not direct advocacy. PWG can provide policy-relevant but policy-neutral info. We can let relevant legislators know that NECAN is available as a resource for info. Fact sheet can be available, individual PWG members can use in face-to-face meetings. The fact sheet can be used by different constituents to contact their own legislators. (Beth circulated an example of Richard Nelson's letter written after the MOCA meeting.)

Discussion: To approach legislators, it is more powerful to put together a group that represents different points of view (Science, NGO, etc.) – is there someone from aquaculture or fisheries that could be included? Commission is a no-brainer, a way to show support for fishermen. Any budget implications of bill?

How to get a fact sheet into the hands of legislators? Go and spend time with legislators. Briefing meetings – Rep. Maddon in MA House. Not just with a focus on Senate Ways and Means, but any ocean-related legislators.

Should PWG members form a separate group on advocacy? Sit down with Tim Maddon, find out who has been helping him. Priscilla will contact Seth, Julie, Hauke and Bruce (contact with Bruce is not for advocacy, but for awareness and advice). CLF has experience at State House, bring in experts to talk to legislators (not lobbying, but education). All PWG members should contact Seth and Priscilla if they want to be included in an outreach group. Sarah also provided an e-update, since she couldn't phone in to today's meeting: "Ocean Conservancy will be submitting a letter of support for the MA bill (4593) to Chairwomen Spilka (Senate ways/means cmte chair), Gobi (Chair, joint cmte Envi, Nat. Res., and Ag), and Hon. Rosenberg (senate president) in the next day or so. We would be happy to share examples we have as templates if that would help others". Julian Cyr was just elected to the MA State Senate from the Cape and Islands, could be a good contact to make.

Todd will go back to stakeholder workshop summaries and get names of participants from industry. We could e-mail the fact sheet to all of them indicating that this is available information. (This could also be a useful way to keep engaging with those at the stakeholder workshops). Todd will also check the fact sheet to make sure it accurately reflects the discussion at the workshops.

Happy holidays, everyone!

Next meetings:

- **Thurs 1/12, 10 AM**
- Thurs 2/9, 10 AM
- Thurs 3/9, 10 AM
- Thurs 4/6, 10 AM
- Thurs 5/4, 10 AM
- Thurs 6/1, 10 AM