

NECAN PWG meeting 1/12/17

Present: Beth Turner, Sarah Cooley, Aaron Strong, Esperanza Stancioff, Ru Morrison, Chris Williams, Julianna Barrett, Todd Capson, Jackie Ball, Matt Liebman, Priscilla Brooks, Ralph Johnson

West Coast criteria meeting: “Ocean Acidification: Setting Water Quality Goals, Uncommon Dialogue” was held October 17–18, 2016 Stanford University. The meeting report is now finalized and released (http://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/_media_library/2017/01/OA_Uncommon_Dialogue.pdf). Participants were asked to help develop goals that in the short term could be used as management tools for defining OA monitoring needs and for interpreting modeling and monitoring output, and in the longer term could form the foundation for water quality criteria linked to OA. There was consensus that the best parameters to use for monitoring were pH and carbonate saturation state. There was also a recognition that there need to be clearly identified benefits to WQ managers. Co-location of OA and biological impacts studies could help to make the case for using WQ criteria to set management goals. Conclusions were similar to those from the Nov MOCA meeting in Maine.

The meeting had a west coast orientation, for example used pteropods as a target species, which is not as big an issue on east coast. EPA recently decided to deny the petition from the Center for Biological Diversity, saying that the science is not sufficient (for some background, see <https://www.epa.gov/wqc/aquatic-life-ambient-water-quality-criteria#marine>). However, a lot of criteria development (e.g., metals) has not required *in situ* data, but use lab data. Managers still need some kind of threshold for impairment. If we see mussels declining, how do we evaluate that and link it to OA? We need to have a research plan to figure that out.

Possible NECAN workshop: How can we use this for NECAN? We could pursue definition of a research plan that would assist in listing decisions. Not a focus on criteria themselves, but what is a research plan for the east coast that could help align WQ and OA standards? Connection of impairment needs to a draft research plan is important. NECAN could help out with scoping the next research steps to bring OA into WQ deliberations.

What is EPA’s ability to do this work in a new administration? EPA had concerns about workloads even before election. But a research plan is needed for listing decisions, and EPA promised guidance to states to help with listing decisions. East coast species are sessile shellfish, exposure conditions can be monitored better than planktonic pteropods. A research plan could be used through the OA Interagency Working Group to help guide Federal investments.

The FOARAM Act is likely to be put forward for reauthorization this year, but there is not much hope for it to pass this year because it includes recommended funding levels for agencies. “Message bills” might be possible for different slices of OA. It might be possible to propose some bill that amends FOARAM somehow, or a free-standing bill could emphasize some aspects of FOARAM like the linkage to water quality. A public meeting to identify science recommendation merged with policy needs could be used to inform this type of bill. Sarah will continue to monitor FOARAM legislative efforts.

Late spring (May) could be an appropriate timeframe for a workshop. Aaron, Sarah, and Beth volunteered to work on this. Jackie will send a doodle poll and help set up an initial meeting. **Important, still TBD: locating funding for such a workshop.**

OA session Mar 30 @ Civic Center in Augusta: A session at the Maine Sustainability and Water Conference has been put together by Esperanza, Aaron, Susie, et al. (<http://umaine.edu/mitchellcenter/2017-conference/2017-concurrent-sessions/#acidification>). This session will explore the multiple dimensions of the ocean and coastal acidification adaptation and resilience efforts in Maine. Oral abstracts are due Jan 20, poster abstracts Mar 9. Good opportunity for students to showcase some of their work. **Esperanza and Aaron** will work on summary materials after the meeting for NECAN Outreach and Education.

NH Commission – The next meeting on Jan 23rd will include a NECAN presentation by **Beth**. The commission held an initial meeting in Oct to work out logistics, this will be their 2nd meeting. NH Coastal Program staff met with Sen. Watters (main sponsor of legislation) and Erik Chapman (interim director of NH Sea Grant and chair of the commission) in mid-Dec on priorities for the commission and its membership roster after the turnover from the election. Sen. Watters wants to focus first on OA. Hopefully membership will be more defined by the 23rd. The NH Office of Legislative Services has a research arm, Sen Watters wanted them to see what has been done in other states. Jeff Barnum is the Great Bay Waterkeeper on the commission, and is interested in bringing issue forward.

MA outreach materials were edited to address comments from the Dec meeting (see Dec 23 e-mail from Todd with latest version of the fact sheet). The NECAN Education & Outreach group was asked to give comments and Todd has addressed the one comment received. Dissemination by face-to-face meeting vs email? Face to face is more impactful, but e-mail more expedient. We can make the fact sheet available to shellfish representatives who attended the NECAN stakeholder meetings. **Todd** can identify MA shellfish reps from the NECAN Industry group and the stakeholder workshop reports.

Is there central point for the MA legislation? The Ocean Foundation is funded to work on state legislation with the National Council for Environmental Legislators. **Sarah** will reach out to ask if there is an advocacy and outreach plan and include **Priscilla**. **Todd** will coordinate with Sarah and Priscilla after identifying appropriate shellfish contacts.

Update from RI: A House bill was approved with dates to get things done by Dec, but only 3 members have been named so far. Rep Edwards is the sponsor, but it seems that it isn't his top priority. The bill lists specific titles of people on commission. NECAN could reach out to these people just to ask them about the status of efforts. NECAN could point out that it is named by other states to help out commissions. Ralph has offered NECAN assistance on any issues and sent info to members of Save the Bay (the director is supposed to be on the panel). No responses yet. NECAN's next targeted information product could be for RI. **Ralph** will provide a list of names to ask about status. **Beth** will draft a polite "status request" letter. **Ru** will send it on behalf of NECAN. **Todd** will search the RI workshop report to develop a targeted information product.

Next PWG meeting: **Thurs, Feb 9 at 10 AM**