

NECAN Policy Working Group
6th meeting
4/11/16

Present: Todd Capson, Beth Turner, Aaron Strong, Cassie Stymiest, Matt Liebman, Chris Williams, Ralph Johnson, Julie Simpson, Dan Peckham, Ivy Fignoca, Hauke Kite-Powell

Aaron introduced himself to the group. He will be joining the faculty at UMaine Orono in August as an asst prof in Marine Policy. He comes to us from [Stanford](#), where he has worked on OA policy and management, and wrote a [2014 review paper for Bioscience](#) on linking OA science and management, with actions that decision makers can take. Aaron will continue to work on the intersection of science to policy and actionable information in problems that require multifaceted approaches.

Beth gave an update on a March 28 meeting that was held at the Woods Hole Research Center on March 28, organized by US Rep. Bill Keating and MA Rep. Tim Madden. The agenda for the meeting and background materials (including some that NECAN provided) are available at <http://tinyurl.com/igma9ci>. Some take-aways: aquaculture interests perceive OA as one in a long list of things that they have to worry about, maybe not at the top of their list (this is similar to what we heard at NECAN stakeholder outreach meetings). A rep from the MA Lobstermen's Assn. was quite vocal in expressing concerns the lobstering community has, especially about how OA interacts with temp and disease that may potentially impact lobsters. There was general recognition about the multi-stress aspect of the problem, and a call for more monitoring and research. If a meeting summary is produced, Beth will share it with the group.

Ivy presented the latest from the Maine Ocean and Coastal Acidification Partnership (MOCA Partnership). Their latest meeting was held at the Darling Center and included updates from recent science projects. Esperanza is working on a webpage for the group under ME Sea Grant that will include links to NECAN. The group agreed to quarterly meetings and is working on a plan for a June symposium on OA to provide the most recent research findings. MOCA is looking to track the recommendations made by the ME OA Commission and provide info specific to ME interests.

Matt summarized a recent meeting with the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership that was a "casual conversation" to start to think about a nutrient management council. Presentations from Curtis Boehlen, Damian Brady and Andrew Gottleib provided information on Casco Bay nutrients, linkages to coastal acidification and approaches that the Cape Cod Commission has taken to address nutrient issues. Some questions that were raised were where nutrients were coming from into Casco Bay, and what sources were the major drivers of nutrient conditions in the bay. More monitoring is needed, especially upriver for nutrient sources. Notes from the meeting will be written up soon, and Matt will circulate when available. An effort is underway through Meggan Dwyer at UMaine to collate the efforts happening around Casco Bay, and Matt sent around information about that to the group. Linking these efforts to NECAN will be important.

Beth discussed the summary of legislative actions that she provided, and the group discussed how to keep current on these efforts. Ralph volunteered to contact RI lawmakers to understand

the status of the RI bill. Hauke volunteered to keep up on MA efforts. Chris will track NH. Aaron suggested that this is something that he intends to do as part of his research, so will also be tracking these activities. Todd and Beth will try to track efforts at the national level, hopefully with the help of Sarah Cooley. The PWG can serve a good coordination function in sharing information from various sources.

Hauke introduced himself to the group. He is a [research specialist at the WHOI Marine Policy Center](#), and deals with marine resource economics. He also collates information from OA research at WHOI and develops information products for various audiences.

Todd is refining materials derived from the NECAN stakeholder outreach meetings into a fact sheet about OA for general circulation. He will send around his latest version when he has it completed. Adding graphics will make it more attractive and will entice more people to read it. The PWG can work on this in conjunction with the NECAN Outreach and Education WG.

Cassie updated the group on the new NECAN website, <http://necan.neracoos.org>. We hope to have a PWG presence there to post legislative updates from the NECAN states (which is why it is important to keep current on the various state bills).

Aaron mentioned the recent [Presidential Executive Order](#) that requires Federal agencies to incorporate ecosystem services into Federal planning and decision making. NOAA is drafting a response to this EO, Beth will circulate when it is finalized. Matt will check on what EPA is doing in response.