

PWG meeting notes

4/13/18

Present: Beth Turner, Todd Capson, Todd Callaghan, Conor McManus, Sarah Cooley, Matt Liebmann, Juliana Barrett, Erik Chapman (+ Steve Jones), Esperanza Stancioff

NH Commission (Erik): no updates, commission is focusing on nutrients at this time.

MA update (Todd Callaghan): Todd has been reviewing proposals for MIT Sea Grant. They are looking to support aquaculture and OA. See <http://seagrant.mit.edu/RFP.php>.

RI Commission: (Conor): The RI commission is working on their report. They heard from Conor, URI, commercial fishermen, the Northeast Shellfish Grower's Association, Jason Gear (EPA). OCA hard to grasp and visualize for industry. They are more directly concerned other factors that may relate to OCA (temp, eutrophication). Quahog fishery located where eutrophication has become an issue. Also HAB events over the past few years. They wonder how ocean chemistry impacts their industry in a broader sense than acidification alone.

CT update (Julianna): no policy updates, but upcoming workshop on April 26 for citizen scientists on monitoring coastal acidification (see below for more info).

ME update (Esperanza): No policy updates, although MOCA will be holding their summer meeting at Bigelow in June. It will focus on lobsters and OA.

National (Sarah): Federal budget passed with an increase to the NOAA OA Program of \$500K. This had bipartisan support, which shows that legislators "get it" and feel that the OAP is providing value and integration. Sen. Murkowski (R-AK) introduced the "Coastal Communities Ocean Acidification Act of 2017" (see notes from our last meeting for more information).

RGGI outreach (Todd): Todd reached out to MA rep on RGGI website with information about NECAN to try to link NECAN to greenhouse gas reduction efforts. No reply has been received. Todd will keep working through names on the RGGI website to see if he gets a reply. Esperanza will provide Todd another name to try.

Personnel updates (Beth): Kelly will be leaving NERACOOS for the Marine Biological Lab in Woods Hole. In the short term, Jackie will be picking up some of the NECAN activities. In the longer term, Ru has some options for hiring that will not take too long. Beth will be taking a detail as the director of her office after her current director retires. The detail starts at the end of May and lasts through September. While Beth is on the detail, Aaron has agreed to co-chair the PWG.

Citizen Science workshops (Beth): NECAN is involved in hosting a series of state workshops focused on citizen scientists (mostly water quality monitoring groups). An [initial webinar](#) was held April 30, a second one will be April 18. Three workshops follow in CT (April 26), ME (May 2) and MIT (May 10). These will allow citizen scientists to learn about coastal acidification monitoring, how their measurements might relate to OCA and how they might expand their monitoring to include OCA. Science advisors have been identified for each locality, who are willing to bring some OCA monitoring equipment for hands-on demonstrations.

Conceptual models for legislators (Beth): An April 10-12 workshop at Avery Point, CT was focused on developing conceptual models to explain the complexities of coastal acidification and its impacts in the NECAN and the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Acidification Network (MACAN) regions. The first day provided background on major drivers of OCA, as well as a presentation by Meredith White from Mook Sea Farm. The rest of the meeting discussed similarities and differences in the two regions on major drivers and consequences, and how to communicate this to industry (shellfisheries) and legislators. For the legislators/policy makers, Beth volunteered to bring this to PWG to see who had enthusiasm to pursue developing some ideas on what to communicate and how to put information together, especially what are the actions needed and consequences of inaction? This might take the form of a “stoplight” approach (red to yellow to green indicating COA drivers and risks), it might be some kind of scenario analyses, it might be a more visual place-based model like a story map. The PWG (or a subset of it) can explore what makes sense to pursue. The focus should be on coastal acidification, not necessarily ocean acidification. Sarah circulated a recent [document](#) and mentioned the Pacific Coast Collaborative [action plan](#), which could be applicable. **Sarah, Juliana, Todd (Capson), Beth, Matt and Esperanza** volunteered to be a sub-group that will work on this.

Aaron will circulate a doodle poll for a June meeting. Meanwhile, there will be interim meetings of the conceptual model sub-team to develop ideas for conceptual models and information products for legislators.