

NECAN Policy Working Group call 9/29/16

Present: Beth Turner, Sarah Cooley, Seth Tuler, Aaron Strong, Susie Arnold, Priscilla Brooks, Ivy Frignoca, Chris Williams, Julie Simpson, Esperanza Stancioff, Matt Liebman, Todd Capson, Theresa Torrent, Hauke Kite-Powell

Introductions:

Priscilla Brooks, director of the Ocean Conservation Program at Conservation Law Foundation in Boston (<http://www.clf.org/about/our-team/priscilla-brooks/>). Interest in a broad range of ocean conservation issues, trying to see what role CLF could play w.r.t. OA, especially mitigation of coastal acidification.

Seth Tuler, Worcester Polytechnic Institute (<https://www.wpi.edu/people/faculty/stuler>). Has a project on aquaculture and fisheries in the North Atlantic, interests in community impacts from climate stresses and mitigation strategies.

Updates from NECAN:

- NECAN has a new webpage (necan.org). **Action item:** Please take a look and offer suggestions (to Beth) on how to improve it.
- NECAN is writing an implementation plan for the coming 3 – 5 year period. It is meant to be used by the NECAN steering committee and working groups to prioritize actions in the coming few years. It is still in draft stage, the NECAN steering committee will discuss at their next call (10/4). Beth will share it with PWG for their input when it is ready to circulate.
- The NECAN webinar series is being “rebooted”. The original webinars (<http://www.necan.org/necan-webinar-series>) were designed to show the state of the science when NECAN started in 2014. NECAN would like to highlight new research results in an ongoing webinar format. Aaron Strong will speak on Nov. 4; Beth will circulate the information sooner to the date. **Action item:** Forward any ideas on good potential speakers to Beth.
- NECAN has collaborated with EPA to support OA monitoring guidance. A draft has been produced by Jason Gear at the EPA lab in Narragansett and is under review. It includes information on what instrumentation can be used, how to sample, what temporal resolution to use, what the measurements can tell you. It is geared towards marine and estuarine waters, not fresh water. Matt will share with the PWG when it is finalized.

News from EPA:

EPA is being sued by the Center for Biological Diversity (http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2016/ocean-acidification-09-08-2016.html) to develop criteria for state water quality standards related to OA. Criteria are not necessarily just one number, but could include a range, frequency and duration, specific applications to eco-regions, and/or more than one parameter.

NECAN might not be the best place to look for developing criteria, but might be able to help identify when there is impairment (real-world examples). NECAN could bring industry to bear – aquaculture, fisheries, lobster fishermen. Perhaps host a series of meetings to consider impairment criteria and information needs?

Action item: Matt, Aaron, Todd and Beth will work to develop some ideas about how NECAN could help in convening partners to think about how to develop criteria.

NOTE: after the PWG meeting, Beth discovered that there is an effort on the west coast that is dealing with similar issues. A closed meeting is going to be held (in the next month?) to discuss how to develop criteria. That meeting came out of the recommendations from the West Coast OAH panel. Beth will try to find out more about their efforts.

State updates:

MA: This summer Representative Tim Madden's bill H.716 made it through the House Ways and Means committee in mid-June 2016, and then was finally, on its third reading in August, amended by being substituted with H4593 from Rep. Ted Speliotis of Danvers and was passed by the House. The bill has now been referred to Senate Ways and Means Committee and is on their docket, although unclear when it will be taken up. Karen Spilka is the chair of Senate Ways and Means, which will be assessing how much it costs to implement a 19-member commission to meet 4 times in 2017. Their model explicitly follows Maine's model in many ways and NECAN is explicitly by name called out as a partner. Aaron shared the text of the House bill with the PWG via e-mail.

ME: MOCA held a symposium in June to consider progress and updates since the ME OA Commission report. They will hold another symposium in Nov. in Augusta to discuss remediation projects in the region, and perhaps examples from other states (WA). Susie, Nick Battista, Esperanza, Ivy and Aaron are on the steering committee. Items will be published on the MOCA website hosted by ME Sea Grant (<http://www.seagrant.umaine.edu/extension/maine-ocean-and-coastal-acidification-partnership>). Susie asked about contacts re. growing kelp as part of N trading in CT. Matt will provide contact information re. the Long Island Sound Study.

MOCA also tried to support an OA bond bill to pay for monitoring equipment. That didn't pass in the last legislative session, but a research and development bond bill did pass and will be on the ballot in June. The NECAN monitoring guidance may be very useful as Maine thinks about what capacity is needed and how to align monitoring across the region.

NH: A bill to establish a Coastal Marine Natural Resources and Environment Commission passed the NH House and Senate and was signed in May (http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/billText.aspx?sy=2016&id=927&txtFormat=pdf&v=current). It will:

- I. Investigate, monitor, and propose prevention and mitigation strategies for emerging environmental threats in coastal and Great Bay waters, including but not limited to warming of waters, ocean acidification, sedimentation, and nutrient loading, which impact fish, shellfish, and the food chain thereof.
- II. Identify gaps and recommend improvements in water quality monitoring, including monitoring pH and evaluating its impact on the impaired waters designation of water bodies.
- III. Recommend strategies for enhancing capacities for improving water quality.
- IV. Examine the Blue Carbon credit program for sea grass promotion and oyster bed restoration.
- V. Report annually on November 1

Membership includes industry, state agencies, watermen, etc. and are detailed in the bill (see link above).

RI: Ralph Johnson was not present, but previously provided the following update:

“My last email request to Rep. Edwards for reconsideration to re-introduce the initial bill was on May 8, 2016. A new House Bill **H8223** was re-introduced on May 18, 2016, passed the committee & passed the House on June 14, 2016.”

Beth e-mailed a copy of the Bill History Report along with a copy of the House Bill Resolution text.

Discussion on providing OA materials targeted to MA:

MA has a great number of OA-sensitive industries and legislative efforts are underway. How can NECAN PWG engage to build support for the legislative effort?

- Consider how to involve industry?
- Advice for building monitoring network?
- Develop impact information for legislators?
- Bullet points for legislators re. what has been successful in other states?

It is likely that what is provided to MA legislators will probably be useful to other states with similar efforts (perhaps with some state-specific tailoring).

Action item: Todd will draft some ideas on what would be helpful to move the legislative effort forward in MA. Aaron, Seth, Hauke and Priscilla will contribute.

Next meetings: Try to schedule monthly calls (with interim e-mail traffic). If Thurs at 10 AM is a reasonable time, here are some suggestions for future calls:

- Thurs 10/27, 10 AM
- Thurs 12/1, 10 AM (skipped a week because of Thanksgiving)
- Thurs 1/12, 10 AM (skipped over the Christmas Holiday)
- 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
- Then maybe take our summer hiatus?

Action item: feedback to Beth on proposed schedule.