

NECAN Policy Working Group Meeting 9/2/15

Present:

Todd Capson (NECAN), Beth Turner (NECAN), Emily Bird (NEIWPC), Ralph Johnson (RI), Steve Couture (NH), Susie Arnold (ME), Chris Williams (NH), Ru Morrison (NERACOOS/NECAN), Nick Battista (ME)

Started w intros: *(WG members, please insert a sentence or two in the notes about who you are, for the benefit of those who couldn't make the call)*

Todd Capson is on the NECAN steering committee, is co-chair of the NECAN Policy Working Group, and served on the US Interagency Working Group on Ocean Acidification.

Beth Turner works for the NOAA National Ocean Service, Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research. She is a program manager in a NOAA office that funds extramural research, including extramural research for the NOAA Ocean Acidification Program. Member of NECAN steering committee, based in Durham, NH.

Steve Couture is the Coastal Program Manager at the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) and also serves on the Board of Directors for NERACOOS. Steve is involved with coastal and ocean policy development for NH.

Chris Williams is the Federal Consistency Coordinator for the NHDES Coastal Program. Chris is the Program's lead on regional ocean planning efforts and is involved with coastal and ocean policy development.

Ralph Johnson is a retired research & development engineer. After 20 years in NH, he retired to RI, living near URI campus. Interested in maintaining health of coastal waters in Narragansett Bay, attended following stakeholder meetings for the past 2 years: RI Beach SAMP & RI Shellfish SMP.

Dan Peckham, New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPC) Environmental Analyst based in Lowell, MA, manages all programs at NEIWPC related to total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), water quality standards, nutrients and nutrient criteria, harmful algal blooms, and mercury. Dan replaced Emily Byrd after Emily's move to another position.

Susie Arnold is a Marine Scientist at the Island Institute in Rockland, ME. She works primarily on the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on marine resources and fisheries dependent communities. Currently, Susie is interested in researching the OA phytoremediation potential of marine vegetation, particularly kelp. She was a member of Maine's Ocean Acidification Study Commission and is actively involved in efforts to keep the momentum going in Maine.

Reviewed terms of reference and goals of WG:

- Compile info on policies, make info available
- Online repository
- Case studies

Feedback on initial terms of reference:

1. There was broad agreement that the overall role of the Policy Working Group Summary, the sources of information to be used by the Policy Working Group, and the products of the Policy Working Group, as outlined in the document "Summary of tasks for the NECAN Policy Working Group" from August 2nd, are appropriate.
2. Timing and resources for these goals?
 - a. TBD, not necessarily all at once. These will be living documents and online repository.
 - b. Todd and Beth committed to making efficient use of everyone's time, will make assignments clear
3. OA policy is still in infancy in the region, need the case studies and repository
 - a. Website to update OA policy from NE states would be very helpful. Google group in ME OA community, but hard to get participation from other groups. Who will be updating website, who will follow the website? Need to make sure that people know about materials, think about how to publicize once it is online (NECAN Education and Outreach WG)
4. Some reservations about publishing a paper – capacity might not be there to work on a paper.
 - a. Policy makers are more likely to listen to short bits of info, less from published journal paper.
 - b. Published paper could be incentive for WG members?
5. Reach out to policy makers before developing materials to see what would be useful
 - a. WG members can serve to make these connections
 - i. Steve C for NH
 - ii. Susie for ME
 - iii. NEIWPC for New Eng states and NY
6. Updates from around the room:
 - a. Maine has 2 bills carried over to next session
 - i. Creation of OA council – coordinating group, not carrying out recommendations of commission
 - ii. \$3M bond bill for OA monitoring equipment
 - b. July Island Institute meeting – is an OA Council best way forward? Might be less feasible than we would like. Other ways to sustain focus? Any thoughts from other states?
 - c. It was asked whether anyone envisioned the possibility of bi-State or regional cooperation in the NECAN region to address OA
 - i. NEIWPC coordinates with states to work on bi-state/interstate water quality issues. One example mentioned is the Northeast Voluntary Turf Fertilizer Initiative (<http://neiwpc.org/turffertilizer.asp>). The NEIWPC Executive Committee and/or Commission meetings could be a good venue to raise any policy issues or recommendations related to OA.
 - d. NH legislator will introduce something next session (Jan 2016), discussion Sept 21 at meeting of environmental legislators.
 - i. NECAN will present at this meeting – can we use this for initial outreach re. item #4 above?
 - e. Can a regional group be formed similar to west coast OA efforts?
 - i. Policy coordination through NEIWPC

- ii. W coast state legislators will be coming to Sept 21 meeting in NH
 - iii. Also NEP sites, NERRS
7. Sarah Cooley putting together publication re. OA policy – more info on later call

Future meetings:

- Initial monthly meetings, look for doodle poll for next meeting
- *WG members, please suggest other members for the group and/or people who should be targeted for initial conversations re. potential WG products*
 - Azure Cygler (azure@crc.uri.edu) RI Shellfish Management Plan (RI first comprehensive plan to protect shellfish resources and industries.
 - Cory Riley – Manager, Great Bay NERR. Cory.Riley@wildlife.nh.gov
 - Rachel Rouillard – Director, Piscataqua region Estuaries Partnership
Rachel.Rouillard@unh.edu
 - *Doug Grout, Chief, NH F&G Marine Fisheries Division.*
DOUGLAS.GROUT@WILDLIFE.NH.GOV
 - Rep Mick Devin, [207-975-3132](tel:207-975-3132), mick@mickdevin.org
 - Kathleen Leyden, Maine Coastal Program, 207-287-3144,
Kathleen.Leyden@maine.gov
 - Sarah Schumann, Eating with the Ecosystem/commercial shellfish harvester in RI, schumannsarah@gmail.com (she may be more interested in the industry working group, but was interested in policy progress in RI last time we connected)
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