The Gulf of Maine and Canadian fishing industries are worth $3 billion and support more than 230,000 jobs. Studies to date suggest that OA could damage some of our area’s most lucrative species, and a decline in these would have severe consequences for people and the economy.

OA could also threaten species that build habitat and serve as primary food sources. If these key species are less plentiful, the ecosystem will become less resilient.

Fortunately, there are actions we can take to combat OA: support legislation that encourages green energy and reduces our reliance on nonrenewables; enact policies that protect watersheds from runoff and point source pollution; and encourage funding for OA research.

**The ten species profiled here only represent a tiny portion of valuable organisms found in the Gulf of Maine; we based our selections on feedback from regional stakeholders as to which species they felt were the most important to include in this piece.**