

NSGL Document #: WASHU-R-19-019

Sea Grant Program/Affiliate: Washington Sea Grant

Title: Building the Knowledge-to-Action Pipeline in North America: Connecting Ocean Acidification Research and Actionable Decision Support

Author: Cross, Jessica N.

Author: Turner, Jessie A.

Author: Cooley, Sarah R.

Author: Newton, Jan A.

Author: Azetsu-Scott, Kumiko

Author: Chambers, R. Christopher

Author: Dugan, Darcy

Author: Goldsmith, Kaitlin

Author: Gurney-Smith, Helen

Author: Harper, Alexandra R.

Author: Jewett, Elizabeth B.

Author: Joy, Denise

Author: King, Teri

Author: Klinger, Terrie

Author: Kurz, Meredith

Author: Morrison, John

Author: Motyka, Jackie

Author: Ombres, Erica H.

Author: Saba, Grace

Author: Silva, Emily L.

Author: Smits, Emily

Author: Vreeland-Dawson, Jennifer

Author: Wickes, Leslie

Publication Year : 2019

Source Citation: Frontiers in Marine Science, 6: Article 356, July 2, 2019

DOI #: 10.3389/fmars.2019.00356

Pages / Video Length: 14

Publication Type: reprints (peer-reviewed)

Program Report #: WSG-TA 19-16

Grant/Contract #: NA18OAR4170095

Project #: A/ACE-1

Notes: Open access

Abstract:

Ocean acidification (OA) describes the progressive decrease in the pH of seawater and other cascading chemical changes resulting from oceanic uptake of atmospheric carbon. These changes can have important implications for marine ecosystems, creating risk for commercial industries, subsistence communities, cultural practices, and recreation. Characterizing the extent of acidification and predicting the ramifications for marine and freshwater resources and ecosystem services are critical to national and international climate mitigation discussions and to local communities that rely on these resources. Based on critical grassroots connections between scientists, stakeholders and decision makers, "Knowledge-to-Action" networks for ocean acidification issues have formed at local, regional and international scales to take action. Here, we review three examples of North American groups elevating the issue of ocean acidification at these three levels. They each focus on developing practicable, implementable steps to mitigate causes, to adapt to unavoidable change, and to build resilience to changing ocean conditions in the marine environment and coastal communities. While these first steps represent critical efforts in protecting ecosystems and economies from the risks posed by ocean acidification, some challenges remain. Sensitivity and risk to OA varies by region, species and ecosystems; priorities for action can vary between multiple and conflicting partners; evidence-based strategies for OA risk mitigation are still in the early stages; and gaps remain between scientific research and actionable decision-maker support products. However, the scaled networks profiled here have proven to be adept at identifying and addressing these barriers to action. In the future, it will be critical to expand funding for food web impact studies and development of decision support tools, and to maintain the connections between scientists and marine resource users to build resilience to ocean acidification impacts.