



Organized by:

OA Alliance
The Pew Charitable Trusts
UN Foundation
The Climate Registry

Day of contact:

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Date and Time:

Monday, September 18, 2023
1:00pm-2:30m
**Light reception to follow until 3:30pm*

Location:

Ford Foundation for Social Justice
320 E 43rd St 3rd floor, New York, NY 10017
**Across from UN Campus, Between Tudor City Place and Second Avenue*

Invited Participants:

30-40 people

- Federal partners:
 - o National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); Office of Special Presidential Envoy for Climate; White House
- U.S. States:
 - o State agency directors and executive policy leads in California, Oregon, Washington, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Virginia and North Carolina.
- Practitioners:
 - o UN Foundation, OA Alliance, Pew Charitable Trusts, Climate Registry, U.S Climate Alliance, National Caucus of Environmental Legislators (NCEL), Ocean Conservancy, Nature4Climate US, Ocean Defense Initiative, US Aquarium partners



Meeting Overview

Federally, the U.S. has led domestic and international leadership on climate-ocean change knowledge and response. On March 21, 2023 the U.S. government released President Biden's [Ocean Climate Action Plan](#).

U.S. states have been transforming climate-ocean policy by assessing regional risks, prioritizing information needs, incorporating coastal habitats into climate mitigation planning, and formulating local actions to support coastal and community resilience.

This working meeting will bring together U.S. states and federal practitioners around the themes of blue carbon ecosystems; and climate resilient marine resources and coastal communities.

Outcomes include: (1) identification of shared priorities or state/regional needs; (2) recommendations to the federal government in implementing related activities of the Ocean Climate Action Plan; (3) funding to support regional or state programs/ projects.

Agenda

Opening Remarks and Agenda Overview (5 minutes)

- Jessie Turner, OA Alliance at UN Foundation

Achieving state climate mitigation and resilience goals with coastal blue carbon habitats. (40 minutes)

- Moderator Overview: Priorities for mitigation and resilience benefits. Discussion will cover existing policy, state of the science, challenges/ barriers. (Alexandra Clayton Moya, The Pew Charitable Trusts)

Examples from states (3 minutes each)

- Blue carbon policy priorities across Maine Won't Wait Climate Action Plan (*Maine Department of Environmental Protection*)
- Coastal wetlands as coastal management and climate resilience tools (*Maryland Department of the Environment*)
- Evaluating the potential of marine ecosystems to sequester carbon and/or provide climate adaptation/ resilience co-benefits (*California Ocean Science Trust*)
- Perspective on blue carbon GHG inventory development and target-setting for natural climate solutions (*California Natural Resources Agency*)

Interventions from practitioners (3 minutes):

- U.S. Climate Alliance: Takeaways and state priorities from Natural Working Lands Learning Lab



Perspective from federal partners: [NOAA; State Department; White House CEQ, *invited remote*]

- Approaches to marine and coastal ecosystem mapping, sequestration quantification and incentives related to ecosystems restoration and conservation.
- Existing activities:
 - Recommendations outlined in the Ocean Climate Action Plan
 - Relationship to 30X30 commitments
 - Relationship to infrastructure bills and funding needs

Group Discussion: Collaboration Opportunities and Funding/Financing Needs

- What are the needs of states to better measure the climate contribution of their blue carbon habitats? E.g., technical assistance, high-resolution mapping, monitoring/evaluation, data management?
 - How can federal agencies best support states in filling their funding and information needs?
- What do states need to develop a more comprehensive approach to mitigation, adaptation, and resilience?
 - What is the role of science to support policies related to mitigation and resilience?

Improved assessments and integrated planning to support climate resilient living marine resources, seafood economies, coastal communities: (40 minutes)

- Moderator Overview: Understanding coastal change, improving risk assessments, and integrating information to support climate resilient marine resources and coastal communities. (*Dr. Caren Braby, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission*).

Examples from states (3 minutes each)

- State approaches to improving climate risk assessments to better reflect vulnerability of fisheries, aquaculture and thereby coastal community socio-economic impacts. Role of Insurance Commissioners in preparing for discrete disruptions and long-term changes. (*California Office of Insurance Commissioner*)
- Localized approaches to assessing information needs and vulnerabilities (ocean vs. estuary; grow operations, human communities) and applying a spatially-informed approach to resilience decision making (*Maryland Department of the Environment; Massachusetts Department of Energy and Environmental Affairs*)
- Integrating aspects of marine food security, access, and sovereignty across larger climate justice priorities, policies and investments. (*Washington, California Natural Resources Agency*.)



Interventions from practioners (3 minutes):

- National Caucus of Environmental Legislators, relevant priorities of coastal caucus.

Perspective from federal partners: [NOAA; State Department; White House CEQ, *invited remote*]

- Climate-ready fisheries strategies across NMFS and Regional Fishery Management Councils.
- Role of U.S. Ocean Climate Action Plan in supporting climate ready fisheries policy, guidance or communications documents.
- Regional approaches for synthesizing data and information distribution across seafood growers and coastal communities.
 - Relationship to risk and vulnerability assessments.
 - Relationship to regional funding opportunities.
 - Relationship to the Administration's Ocean Justice Strategy.

Group Discussion: Overcoming Barries to Cimate- Resilient Marine Resources

- How can state and federal partners cross pollinate traditional agency responsibilities and goals (climate, natural resources, fish and wildlife, environment, and coastal portfolios)?
- How can states and federal agencies better evaluate and prioritize trade-offs of potential action?
- Are there funding benefits to bundling climate-ocean-coatal resilience building activities and needs?
 - Examples: climate risk and preparedness strategies, fisheries management, blue infrastructure, community resilience projects
- Are there specific recommendations to the Administration's Ocean Justice Strategy?

Closing Summary (10 minutes)

- (1) identification of shared priorities or state/regional needs;
- (2) recommendations to the federal government in implementing related activities of the Ocean Climate Action Plan;
- (3) funding to support regional or state programs/ projects.

Light Fair Refreshments and Mingling (25 minutes, Until 3:30pm.)

