

PML

Plymouth Marine
Laboratory

Research excellence supporting a sustainable ocean

The importance of understanding OA trends and impacts in NE Atlantic and Mediterranean



INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE TO
COMBAT OCEAN ACIDIFICATION



OSPAR
COMMISSION



Global Ocean Acidification
Observing Network

CO₂

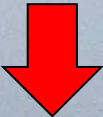


Natural uptake by oceans



Reacts with water as part of **marine carbonate system**

But too much, too quickly =

 **pH** = more “acidic”

 **Carbonate ion** = more “corrosive” to calcium carbonate
(especially *Aragonite*; when aragonite saturation state < 1)

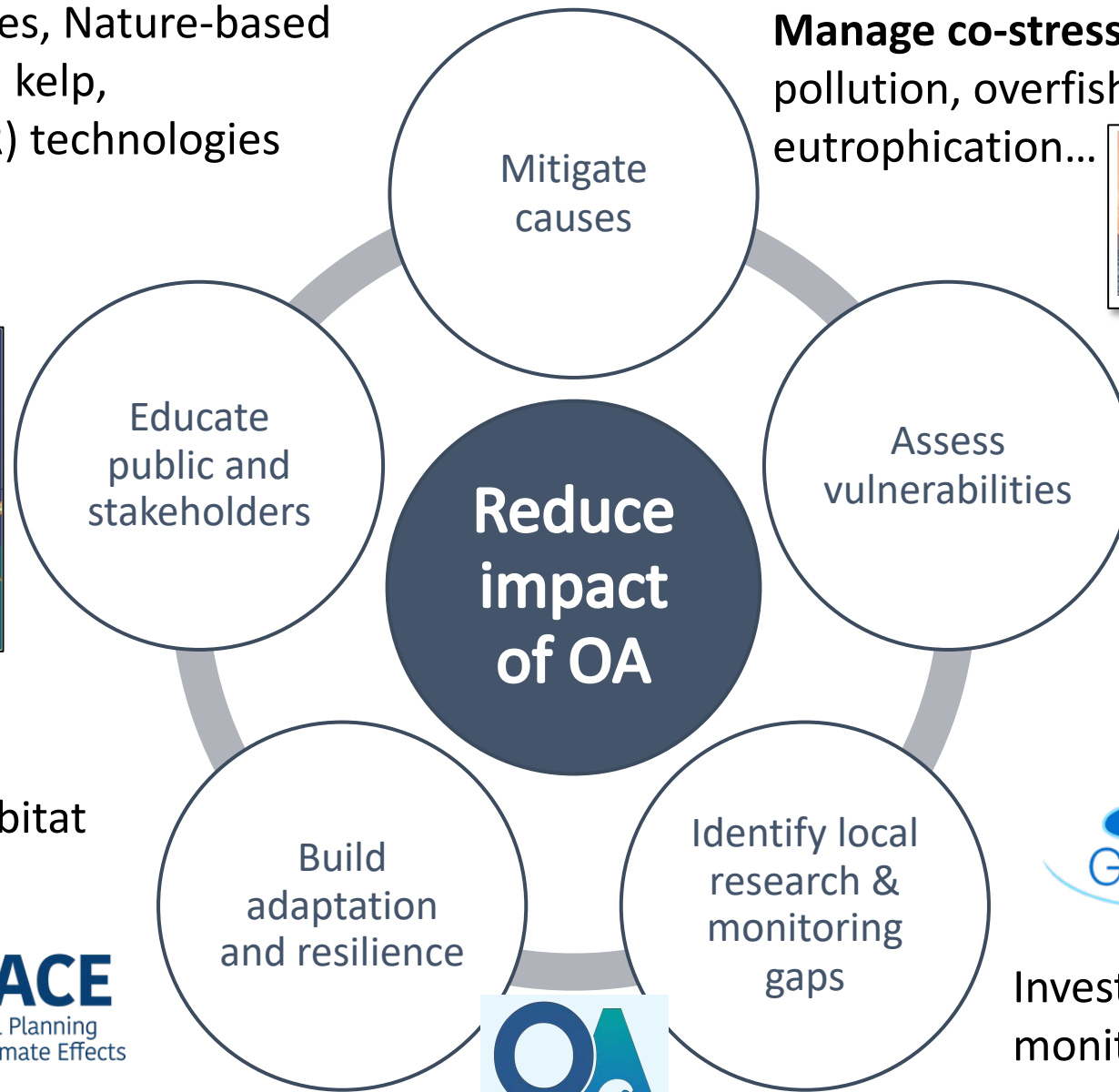
Why is it important to monitor OA locally?

Research excellence supporting a sustainable ocean

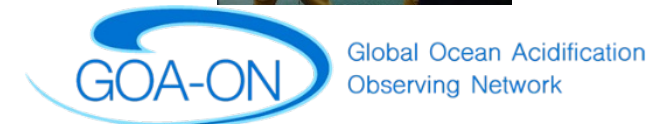
Reduce emissions, Use renewables, Nature-based solutions, Blue carbon (sea-grass, kelp, shellfisheries), CO₂ Removal (CDR) technologies



Invest in **adaptive planning**, habitat protection & restoration



Manage co-stressors: Land run-off, pollution, overfishing, agricultural, eutrophication...



Invest in science, networks, monitoring, **capacity building**



Why is it important to monitor OA locally?

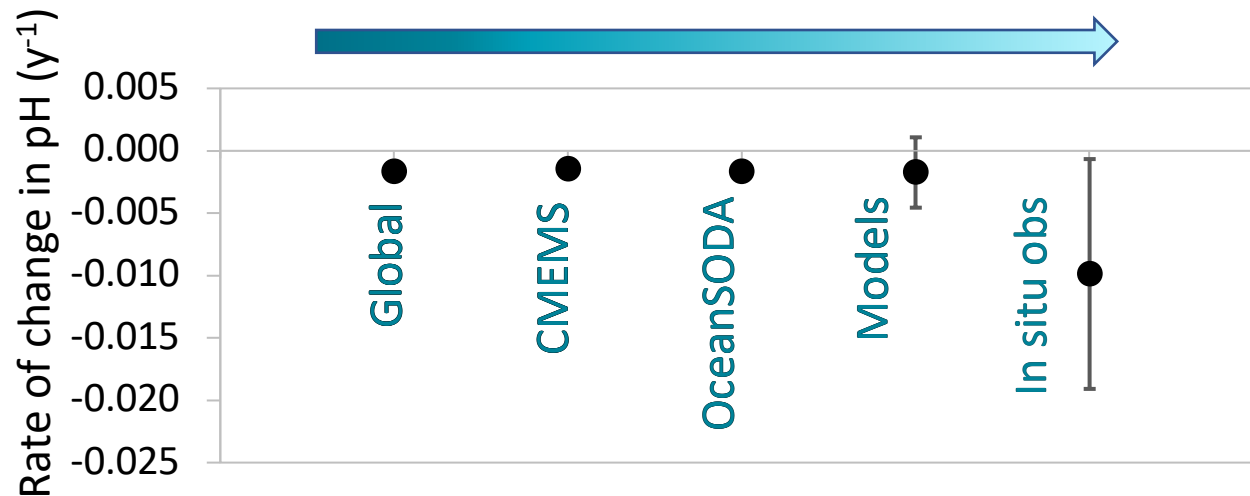
(Global: average = -0.0017 y^{-1})

Regional

Local

OSPAR QSR2023, OA Assessment

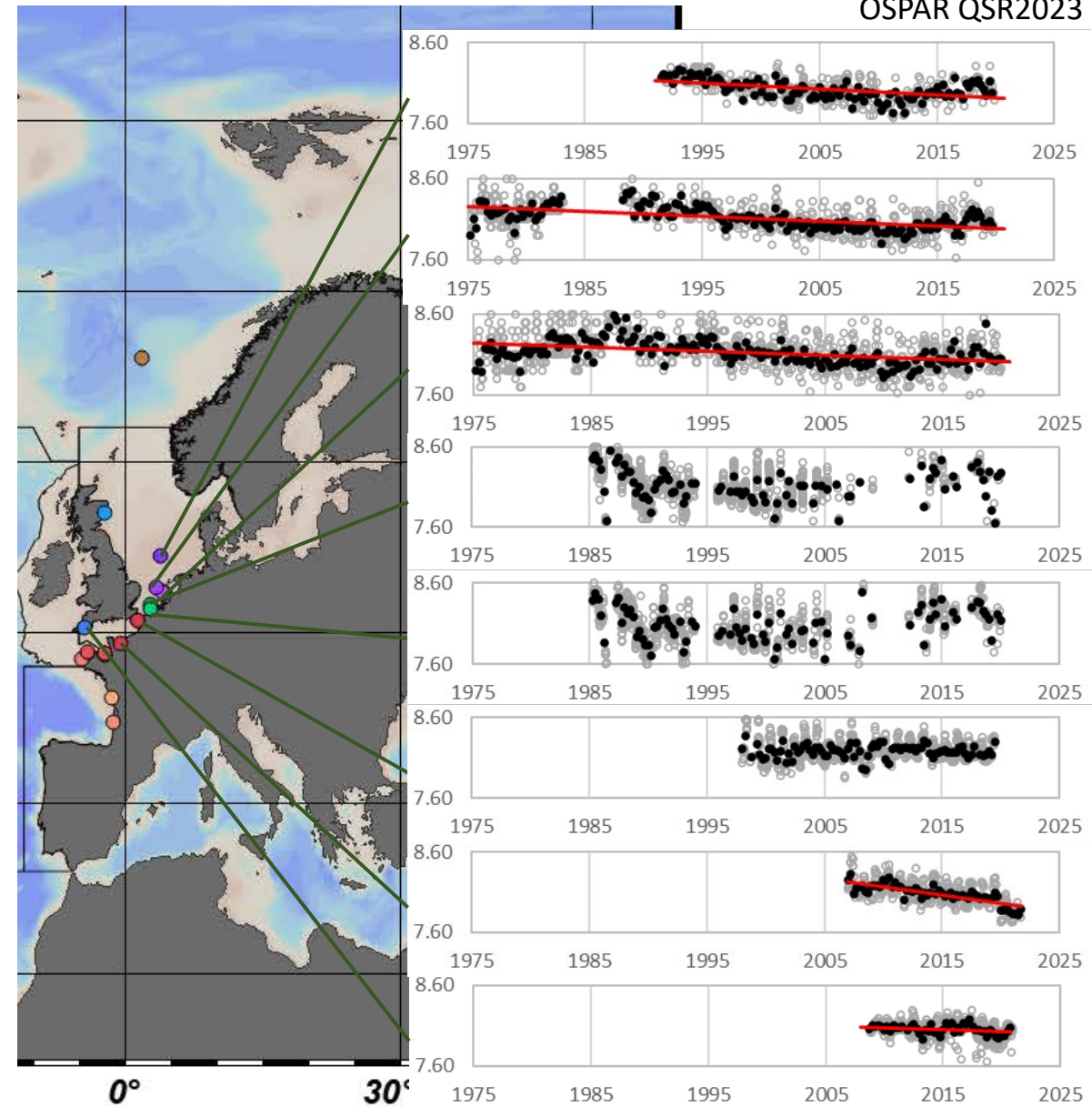
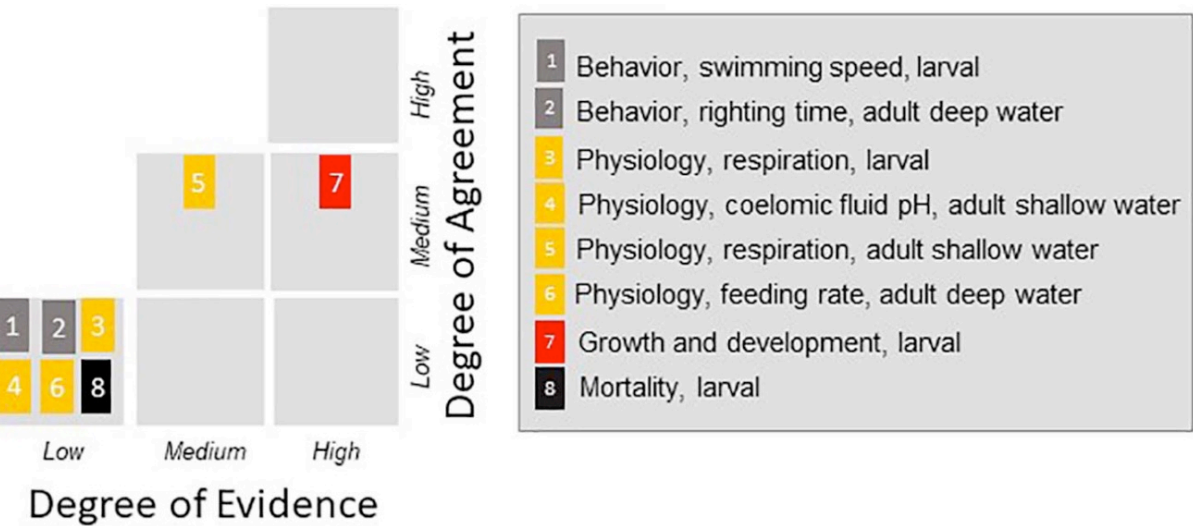
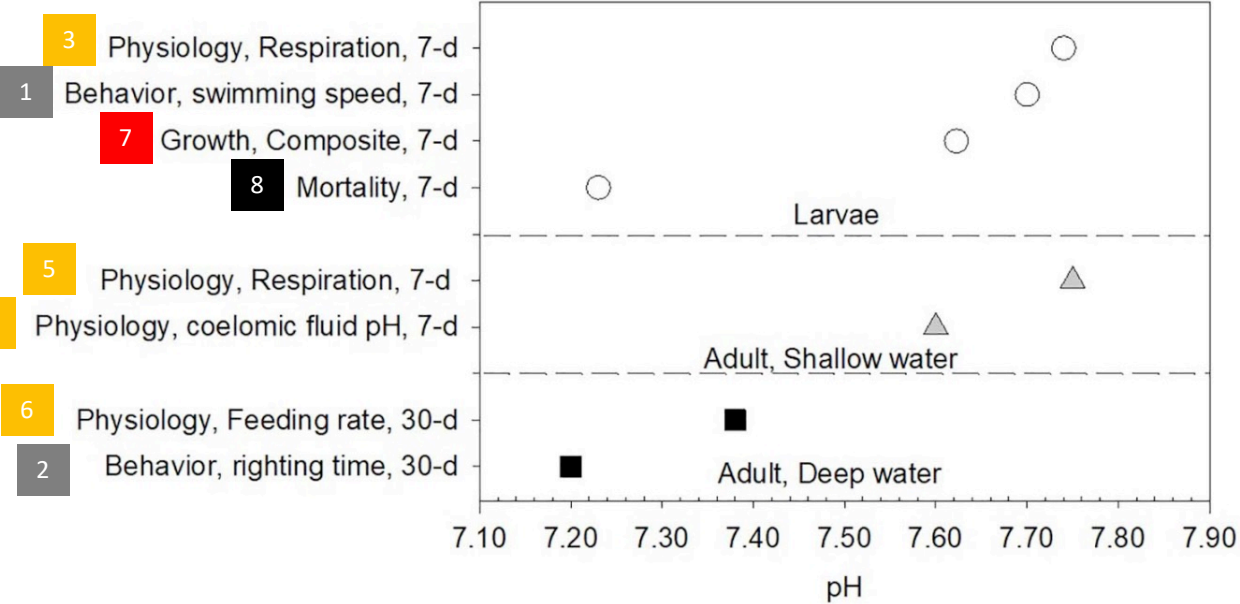
Region	Synthesis products		Regional models (hindcast)	In situ observations	
	CMEMS	OceanSODA		GLODAP	Time-series stations
Arctic Seas (OSPAR I)	-0.0011 y^{-1}	-0.0019 y^{-1}	Not available		-0.0021 to -0.0033 y^{-1}
Greater North Sea (OSPAR II)	-0.0015 y^{-1}	-0.0017 y^{-1}	-0.0020 y^{-1}		-0.0044 to -0.0197 y^{-1}
Celtic Seas (OSPAR III)	-0.0016 y^{-1}	-0.0016 y^{-1}	-0.0019 y^{-1}		-0.0120 to -0.0219 y^{-1}
Bay of Biscay & Iberian coast (OSPAR IV)	-0.0017 y^{-1}	-0.0016 y^{-1}	-0.0014 y^{-1}		-0.0089 to -0.0195 y^{-1}
Wider Atlantic (OSPAR V)	-0.0016 y^{-1}	-0.0016 y^{-1}	Not available	-0.001 to -0.002 y^{-1}	Not available
Mediterranean			-0.005 to -0.06 y^{-1} <small>Palmieri et al. (2015)</small>		-0.001 to -0.0026 y^{-1} <small>Hassoun et al. 2022</small>





(For example) Echinoderm threshold assessment

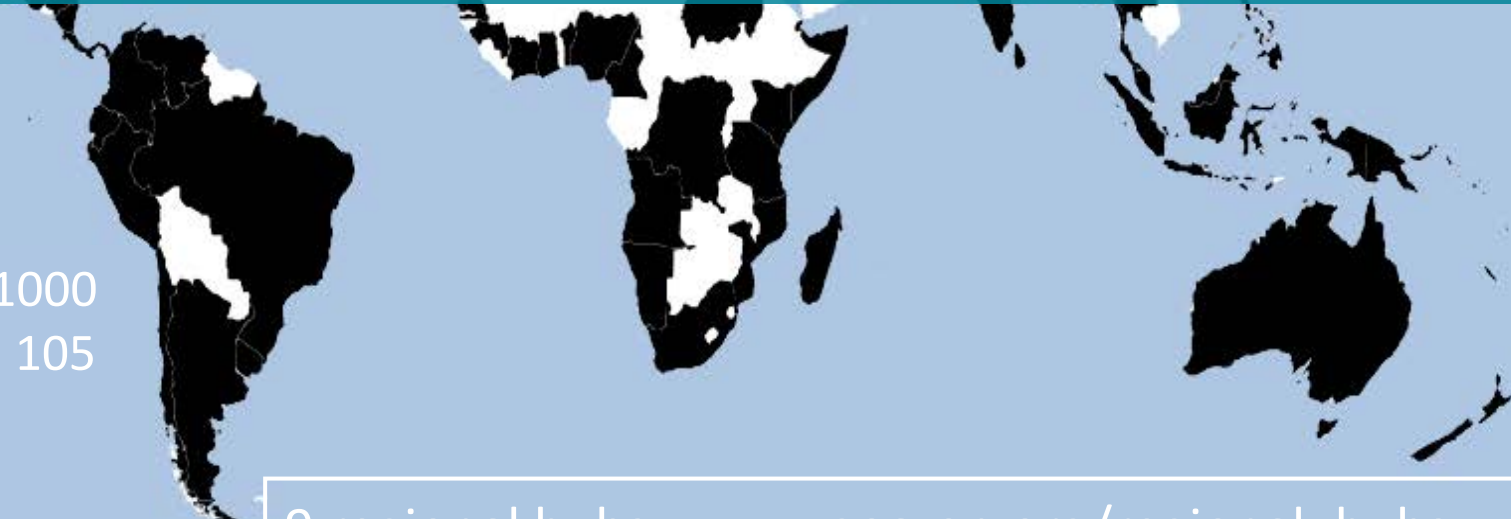
Bednarsek et al. 2021



A successful integrated ocean acidification (OA) observing network must include:

- **Scientists and technicians** from a range of disciplines;
- Government, private, and intergovernmental **support**;
- **Regional cohorts** working together on regionally specific issues;
- **Publicly accessible data** from the open ocean to coastal to estuarine systems;
- **Close integration** with other networks focusing on related measurements or issues;
- Observation-based **informational products useful for decision making** such as management of fisheries and aquaculture.

- 
- Document the **status and progress of ocean acidification** in open-ocean, coastal, estuarine, and coral reef environments
 - Understand the **impacts** of ocean acidification on diverse marine ecosystems and societies
 - Support **forecasts** of ocean acidification conditions



Network of >1000
scientist from 105
countries

9 regional hubs: www.goa-on.org/regional_hubs

The Ocean Acidification Mediterranean Hub



ACIDIFICATION

Mediterranean waters have been invaded by **anthropogenic CO₂** from the **surface to its deepest waters**. Rates are **faster** than global average

MULTIPLE STRESSORS

- Faster warming than the average global ocean,
- Increasing frequency, duration, and intensity of marine heatwaves
- Semi-enclosed
- Eutrophication



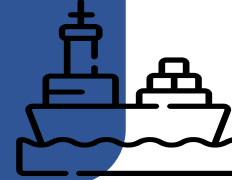
OA MED HUB

- ~**100** members from **14** countries
- Capacity building and training
- Improve communication
- Promote GOA-ON Best Practices
- Collaborate with solid science:
doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2022.892670

ANTHROPOGENIC PRESSURES

The Mediterranean Sea is:

- Surrounded by **23** countries
- A hot-spot for climate change
- Intense maritime traffic
- Very diverse geopolitically

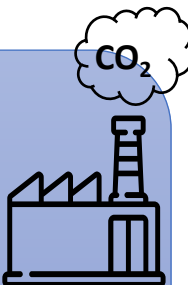


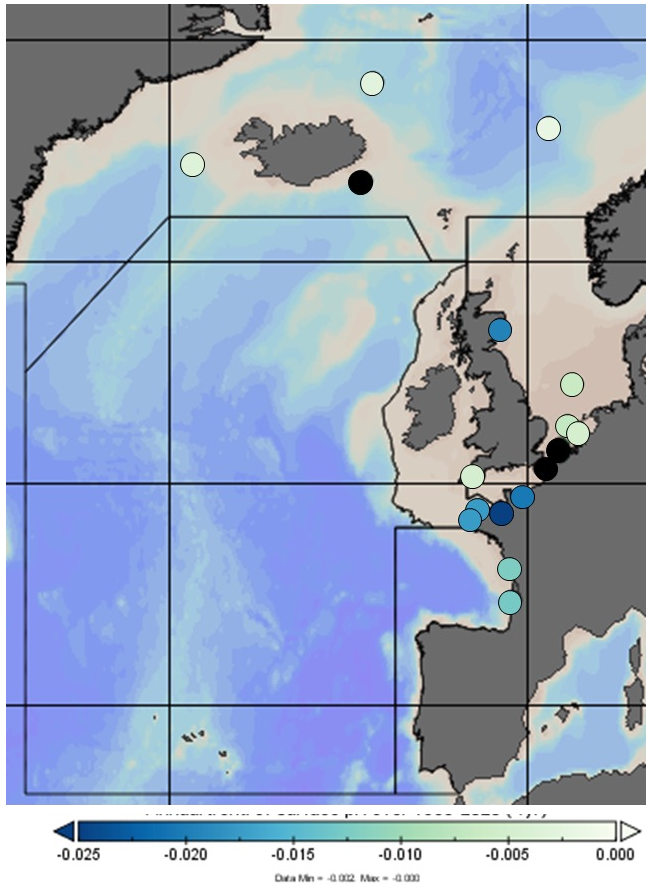
BIOLOGICAL IMPACTS

Acidification is having negative effects on marine species and ecosystem services. Without adaptation, **shellfish aquaculture** and iconic ecosystems will **decline** due to ocean acidification combined with other stressors.

POLICY MAKERS NEED TO

- Make consistent OA policies at Mediterranean level
- Promote regulatory Med-wide tools to combat OA
- Improve N-S and E-W connections
- Promote mCDR solutions
- Optimize strategies for protection and restoration
- Support solutions to decrease biological impacts in a multi stressor environment





Currently **108 members** from **15 countries**

- Share information on OA monitoring (and experimental and modelling) activities
- Facilitate data submission to the [GOA-ON data portal](#)
- Promote community “best practices” consistent with GOA-ON
- Facilitate capacity building & training activities
- Provide integration across the region

Contributed to the OSPAR QSR2023 OA Assessment

Assessing current status of monitoring

Facilitating dialogue between stakeholder groups

Facilitating data sharing and submission to SDG14.3.1

Thank you



www.nea-oa.org

goaon.atlantic@pml.ac.uk





OSPAR
QUALITY STATUS REPORT 2023



OSPAR
COMMISSION

The OSPAR Ocean Acidification Assessment (Quality Status Report 2023)

Exploring Marine Management and Policy
Response to Ocean Acidification Workshop

24 May 2023

Jos Schilder, OSPAR ICG-OA, Rijkswaterstaat (NL)

Jos.schilder@rws.nl

What I will (not) be presenting

- **OSPAR and the OA assessment process**
- **A taste of the content of the OSPAR OA assessment**
 - No detail on the science output (too much)
- **Key messages**
- **Recommendations**

OSPAR CONVENTION (1992) FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT OF THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC



OSPAR Vision

A clean, healthy and biologically diverse North-East Atlantic Ocean, which is **productive**, used **sustainably** and **resilient to climate change and ocean acidification**.

OSPAR is a platform where scientists, policy advisors and policy makers interact.

OSPAR produces Quality Status reports (2000, 2010, 2023) that

- Assess status (130 assessments)
- Inform policy
- Evaluate measures
- (Inform MSFD reporting)



OA assessment took 4 years and 30 contributors to complete

ICGOA Jan
2019

GOA-ON;
CMEMS

ICGOA
Sept 2019

Planning

ICGOA
Sept 2020

3 Sub-groups
6 Champions
*-Key
messages
-Work plan
-Content*

ICGOA
Sept 2021

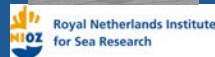
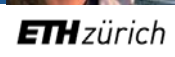
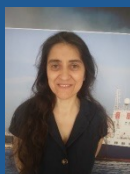
*-Progress
review SGs
-Messages
-Gaps*

Various to
Q1 2023

*-Integration
-Consistency
-Review
-Production
-Publication*

Summary, Key Messages, Recommendations

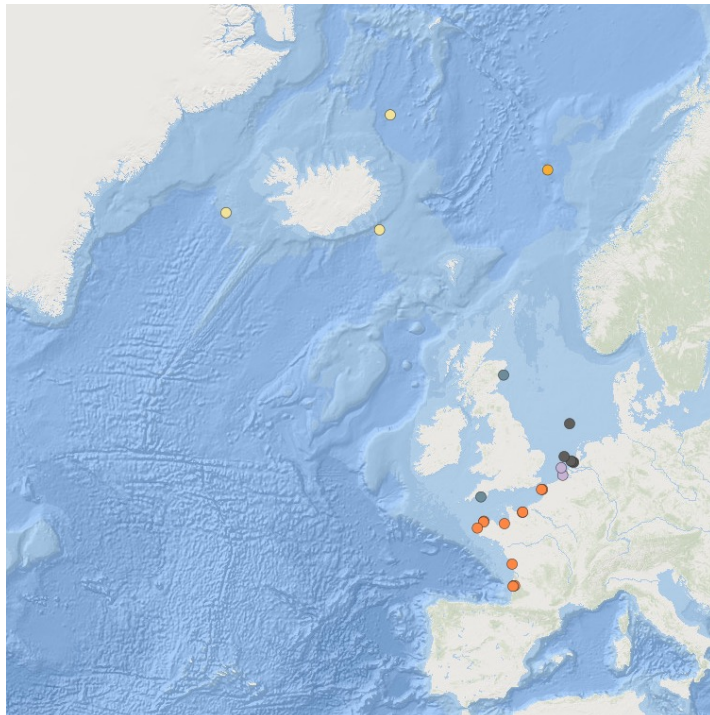
- 1 Introduction
- 2 Trends and variability
- 3 Future projections
- 4 Impacts & Case Studies
- 5 Adaptation and Mitigation



OSPAR Intersessional Correspondence Group on Ocean Acidification

Evin McGovern, Jos Schilder, Helen Findlay, Yuri Artioli, Silvana Birchenough, Sam Dupont, Ingunn Skjelvan, Morten D. Skogen, Marta Álvarez, Melisa Chierici, Pablo Leon Diaz, Johanna Järnegren, Karina von Schuckmann, Martina Stiasny, Janina Büsher, Jesper Philip Aagaard Christensen, Annika Grage, Luke Gregor, Matthew Humphreys, Marc Knockaert, Manuela Krakau, Marta Nogueira, Solveig Rosa Olafsdottir, Nicolas Savoye, Marina Carreiro-Silva, Pam Walsham, Steve Widdicombe, Alejandro Iglesias Campos, Carole Durussel

- *In situ*-time series
- Reconstruction synthesis products (*in situ* and satellite)
- Model hindcasts
- Synthesis of open ocean deep water database

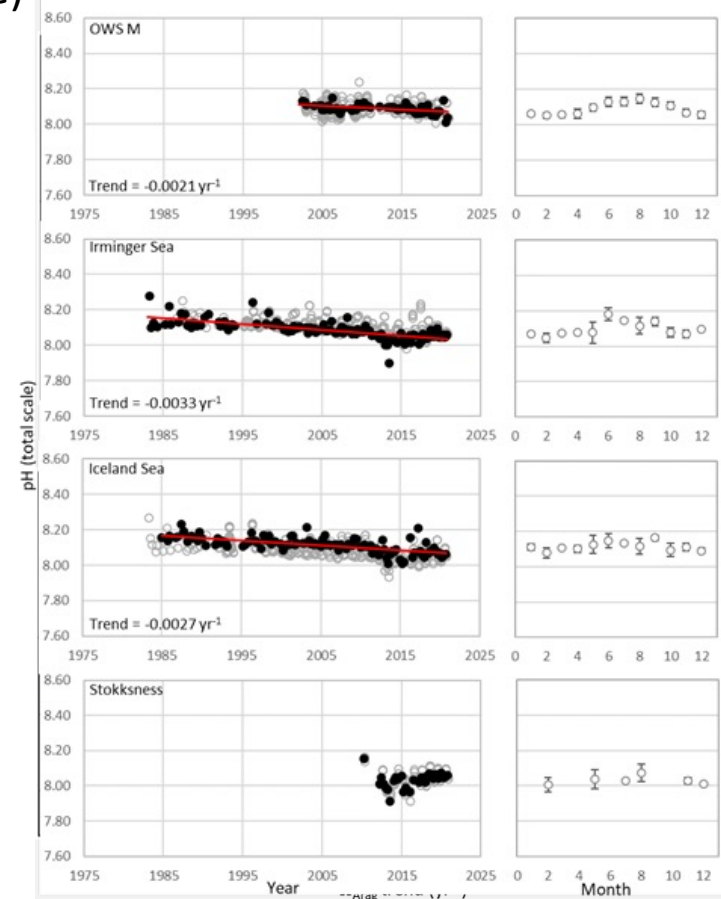


Key Messages, Recommendations

1 Introduction

2 Trends and variability

3 Future projections



Key Messages, Recommendations

1 Introduction

2 Trends and variability

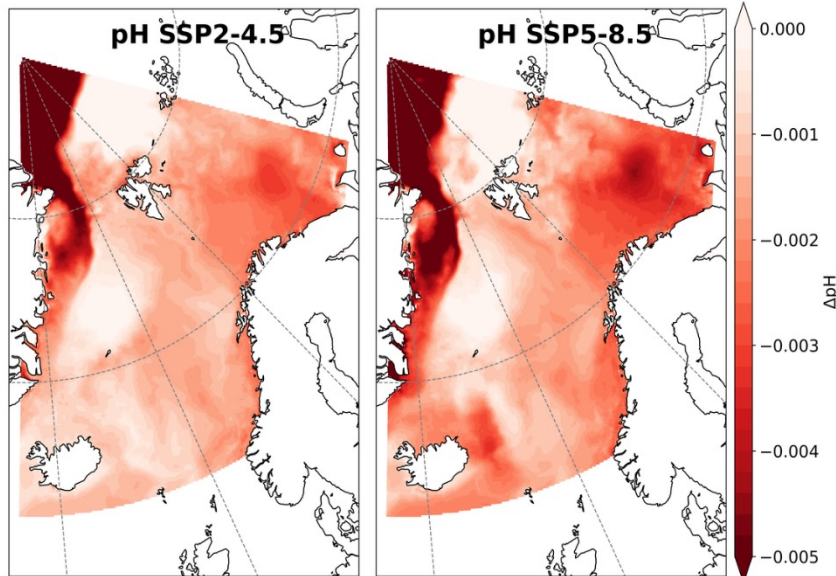
3 Future projections

4 Impacts & Case Studies

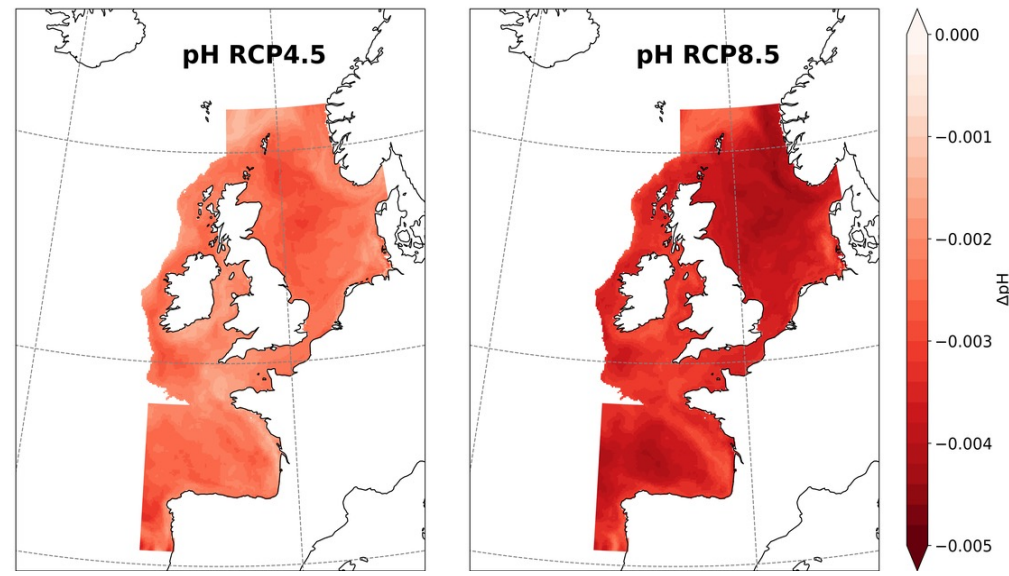
5 Adaptation and Mitigation

- 2 regional process-based models
- High and mid emission scenarios (2050)
- High emission scenario (2100)

pH trend (yr⁻¹) between 2015 and 2049



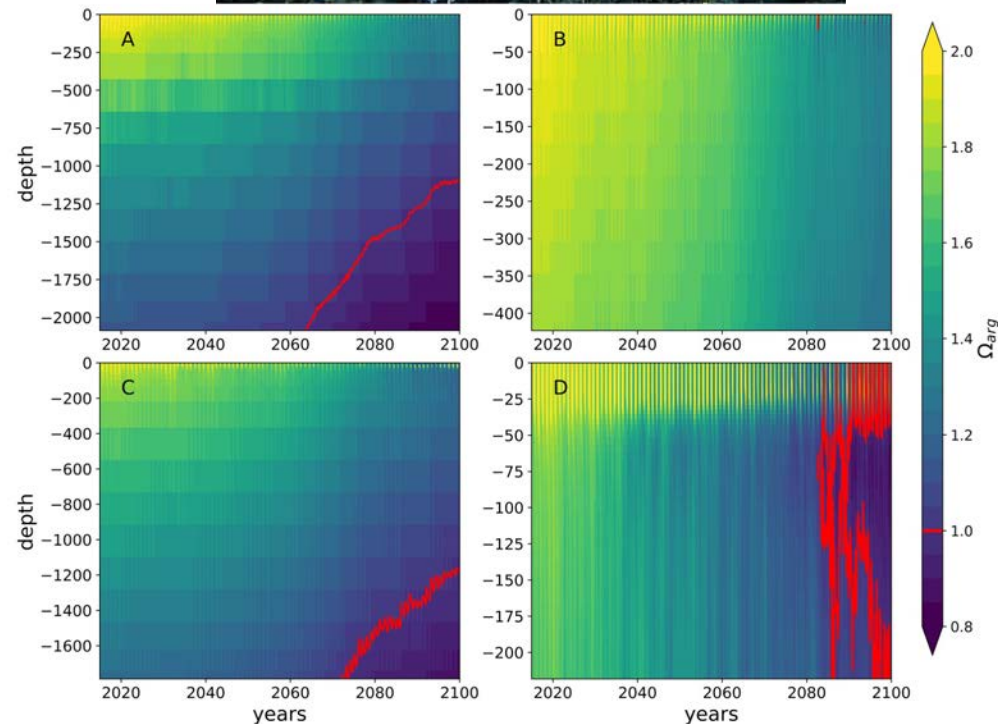
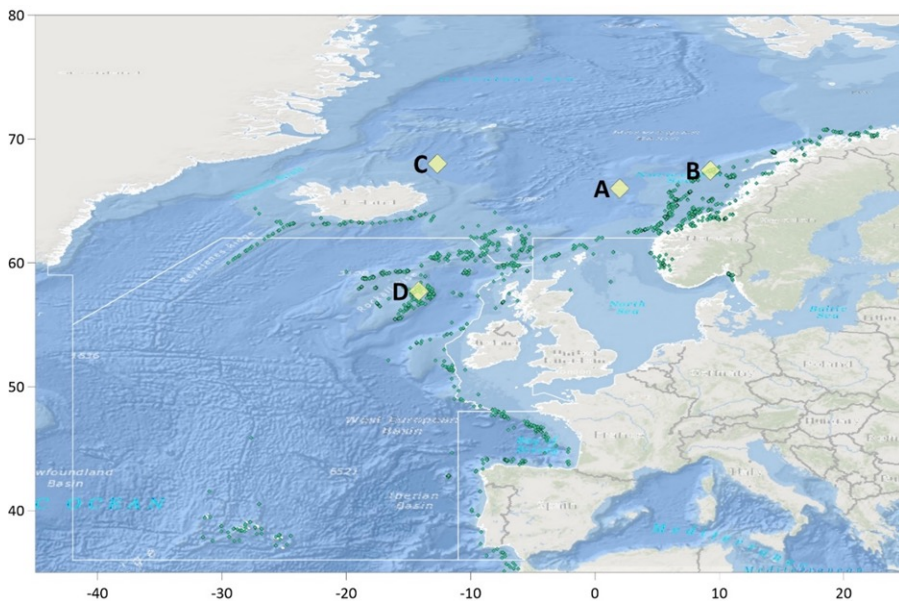
Region I Arctic Waters
NORWECOM.E2E (IMR NO)



Regions II North Sea, III Celtic Seas, IV Bay of Biscay
AMM7 NEMO-ERSEM (PML UK)

CASE STUDIES relevant to NE Atlantic:

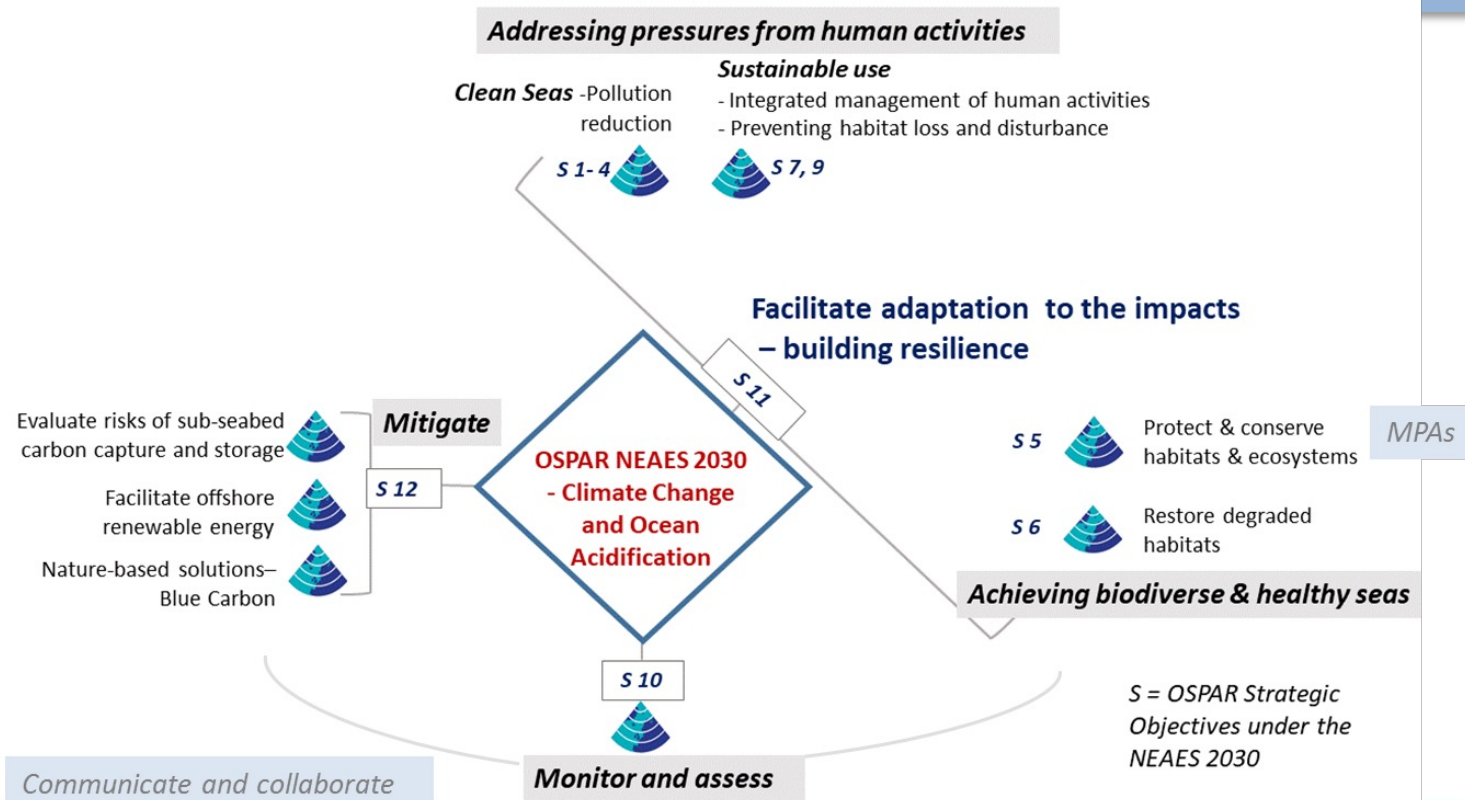
- *Lophelia pertusa* reefs
- Atlantic Cod (interactions with T & fishing pressure)
- Bivalve Larvae Shell integrity and Ω
- Literature on projected revenue loss (fisheries)



Mitigation, Adaptation & the OSPAR NE-Atlantic Environment Strategy (NEAES)

Key Messages, Recommendations

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Trends and variability
- 3 Future projections
- 4 Impacts & Case Studies
- 5 Adaptation and Mitigation**



Ocean acidification is observed in all regions of the OSPAR Maritime Area

- The rate of change varies per region (-0,0011 to -0,033 pH units per year)
- Local processes (such as nutrient input and productivity) have strong influence

Ocean acidification is projected to continue under the studied emission scenarios

- An acceleration is projected for the high emission scenario
- The sea floor area of deep waters corrosive to calcareous structures is projected to increase significantly

Ocean acidification puts marine life (further) under pressure

- OA pressure typically coincides with other pressures (multi-stressor)
- Threatened and/or declining species and habitats are particularly vulnerable
- Significant economical consequences expected (loss of revenue commercial species)

OA needs to be taken into account when considering climate change adaptation and mitigation

- Such measures may alleviate or exacerbate ocean acidification and its impacts
- Removing other pressures (pollution, habitat destruction) can increase ecosystem resilience to OA impacts

Recommendations (research)

More and continued support is needed for monitoring

- Multiple components of the carbonate system
- At appropriate spatial and temporal resolution (especially in coastal areas)
- Optimised for investigating biological impacts
- Optimised for informing measures

Support is needed to further constrain future projections of OA using model ensembles

Future work to resolve the biological impact should

- Consider realistic (and not just worst-case) scenarios
- Account for the modulating role of multiple ocean stressors, ecological interactions, and evolutionary processes

Further work is needed on potential 'bioindicator' candidates

- Robust
- Sensitive
- Ocean acidification-specific is needed
- Wide biogeographical range

Measures that reduce CO₂ emissions

Measures that remove CO₂ from the atmosphere or the ocean

- Notably with the latter: consider potential OA and other environmental impacts of measure

Measures that enhance resilience (by reducing other pressure), e.g.

- Nutrient input
- Pollution
- Habitat degradation and destruction

Measures that enhance resilience (by increasing biodiversity and community structure), e.g.

- MPA's
- OECM's
- (Over)exploitation



OSPAR

QUALITY STATUS REPORT 2023

Find the OA assessment on our Assessment Portal

<https://oap.ospar.org/en/ospar-assessments/quality-status-reports/qsr-2023/other-assessments/ocean-acidification/>

secretariat@ospar.org
jos.schilder@rws.nl



OSPAR

QUALITY STATUS REPORT 2023



EXPLORING MARINE MANAGEMENT AND POLICY RESPONSE TO OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

Brest, France | 24th May 2023



INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE TO
COMBAT OCEAN ACIDIFICATION



OSPAR
COMMISSION



NEA
Hub



INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE TO
COMBAT OCEAN ACIDIFICATION



OA ACTION PLANS INTEGRATE & INCLUDE:



ADVANCING SCIENTIFIC UNDERSTANDING:

Improving understanding within the region, including support for monitoring, research and OA observations.



REDUCING ATMOSPHERIC EMISSIONS OF CO₂,
the number one cause of ocean acidification



REDUCING LAND-BASED POLLUTIONS
(e.g. wastewater, stormwater, agriculture runoff, nutrients) that can exacerbate coastal conditions.



BUILDING ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCY:

Actions that assist ocean-dependent communities, industries, and marine ecosystems in adapting to increasing acidity in marine waters.



EXPANDING PUBLIC AWARENESS:

Engaging policy makers, scientists, local communities/villages and the public about the growing threat posed by OA, as well as local actions that may be taken to address OA.



BUILDING SUSTAINED INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT:

Advocating for sustained funding, nationally and regionally, for coordinated research and OA observation systems, to continue to inform governments and others about the increasing impacts of OA.



EXISTING EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE




CONVENTIONS WITH RELEVANT RESPONSIBILITIES

- OSPAR Convention
 - Intersessional Correspondence Group on Ocean Acidification (ICG-OA) OA Assessment
- Helsinki Convention (HELCOM)
- Barcelona Convention
- Arctic Council
 - Working groups including AMAP; CAAF; PAME
- Bucharest Convention



Barcelona Convention

CONVENTIONS WITH RELEVANT MANDATES

OSPAR Commission	
Existing Efforts	Relevance for OA
	<p>Monitor Report Set research priorities Reduction of CO2 (introduced through atmosphere & land) Reduction of other stressors (esp. pollution) Build ecosystem resilience</p>
Helcom	
Existing Efforts	Relevance for OA
	<p>Monitor Report Set research priorities Reduction of CO2 (introduced through atmosphere & land) Reduction of other stressors (esp. pollution_ Build ecosystem resilience</p>
Arctic Council – Working Groups: AMAP, CAFF, PAME	
Existing Efforts	Relevance for OA
	<p>Monitor Report Set research priorities Reduction of CO2 (introduced through atmosphere & land) Reduction of other stressors (esp. pollution) Build ecosystem resilience</p>

DIRECTIVES WITH RELEVANT GOALS OR MANDATES

- Marine Strategy Framework Directive
- Marine Spatial Planning Directive
- Water Framework Directive
- Nitrates Directive
- Habitats Directive
- Birds Directive

DIRECTIVES WITH RELEVANT GOALS OR MANDATES

Monitoring; Reporting; Research; Mitigation & Remediation; Adaptation & Resilience Building.

Directives	Legal and Management Responses to Ocean Acidification—European Frameworks				
	<u>OA Monitoring</u> Measure, Evaluate/Assessment	<u>OA Reporting</u> Document and Share OA information	<u>OA Research</u> Set OA Research Priorities	<u>Mitigation/Remediation</u> CO ₂ and Pollution	<u>Adaptation and Resilience Building</u>
MSFD					
MSPD					
WFD					
Nitrates Directive					
Habitats Directive					
Birds Directive					

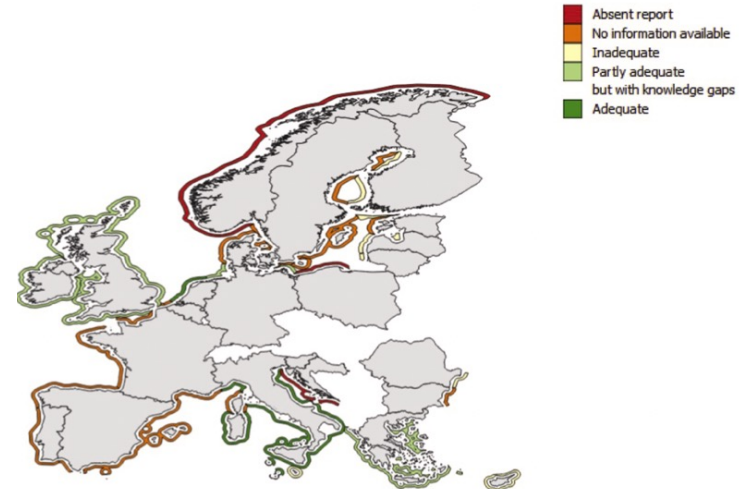
MARINE STRATEGY FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE



L-Università
ta' Malta

Assessing Frameworks for Implementing OA Action

European policies and legislation
targeting ocean acidification in
European waters



Funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework
Programme of the European Union

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

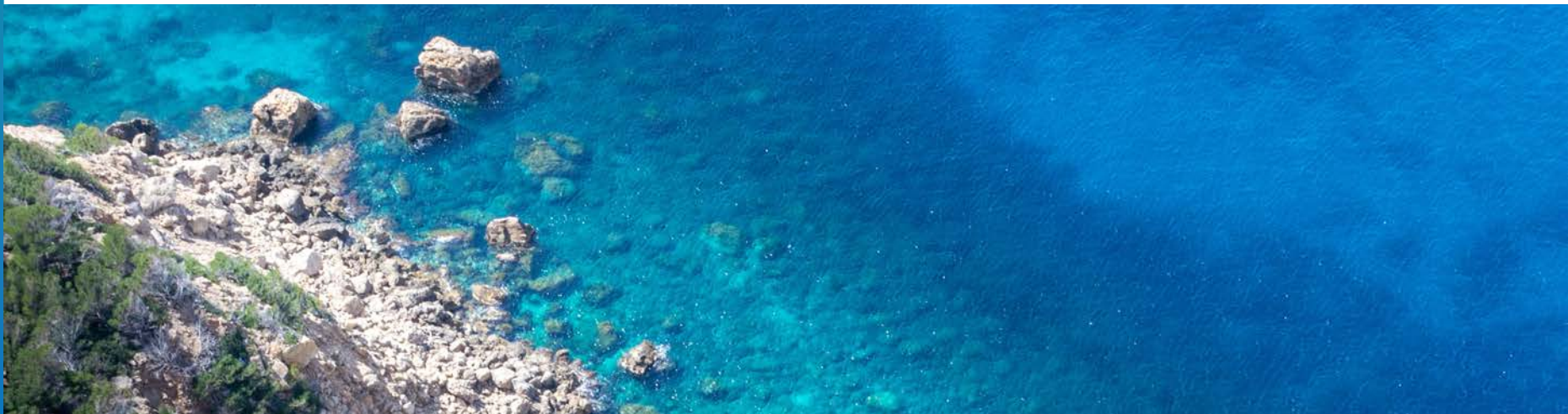
- Need to ensure a **coordinated governance** effort to directly address OA (global & regional).
- At the European level, national policies and legislation addressing OA remains **scarce** and **uncoordinated**.
- Need European-wide coordinated governance and to **improve national GES and MSFD reporting on OA**.

WE CAN ACCOMPLISH THIS BY...

- Identify **gaps/ opportunities** in current **policies and management** strategies (*information, mitigation and adaptation/resilience*).
- Strengthen the **MSFD** by making it **more comprehensive** towards OA abatement, **synergised** with other **EU Directives**.
- **Raise awareness** among policy-makers of the unique **threat, management** actions, and **governance** solutions needed to mitigate OA.

RELEVANCE OF OA INFORMATION TO MSFD

- **Aim and Objectives:** *To achieve GES using eco-based approach*
- **What Does it Measure:** *GES (bio, physio, geo, climate, physical, chemical, acoustic).*
- **Thresholds:** *Across 11 descriptors.*
 - Relevance for: OA monitoring, reporting, setting research priorities...
Also: remediation, adaptation and resilience strategies??



OA Information can be used for:

- Increasing monitoring, modelling and determining shared research priorities (biological/ indicators).
- Make the case for increased pollution controls (nutrients/ eutrophication).
- Help inform decisions about conservation (MPA).
- Help inform decisions about sustainable marine use/ activities (MSP).

The background is a teal gradient with several white, wavy lines that resemble ocean waves, starting from the top left and moving across the frame.

INTERVENTIONS & DISCUSSION

How is the European Commission approaching updates to the Marine Strategic Framework Directive and the Marine Spatial Planning Directive in the context of climate change?



Are countries including OA within annual reports?

From your perspective, how does OA information support evaluations of Good Environmental Status or taking an ecosystem – based approach to marine management?



Is OA information adequately represented across the MSFD?

What are the opportunities for incorporating OA monitoring and information more uniformly across MSFD? What are the challenges?

What other Conventions or Directives should be examined or utilized to accelerate OA information and reduce impacts?



IS IT USEFUL TO CONTINUE MAPPING RESPONSIBILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES?

OSPAR Commission – organized by Work Areas	
Existing Efforts	Relevance for OA
Biological Diversity and Ecosystems – Including through: MPAs, Biodiversity Monitoring & Assessment, (Monitoring: CEMP)	Monitor Adaptation, Report
Hazardous Substances and Eutrophication - Including through: HASEC (MIME, INPUT, ICG <u>Eut</u> , ICG EMO) (Monitoring: CAMP, RID, CEMP, JAMP, HARPNU, EMEP)	CO2 Reduction, Stressor Reduction, Monitor, Report
Human Activities – Including through: EIHA with Marine Litter (ICG ML including ML RAP for plastic), Cumulative Effects (ICG <u>EcoC</u>), Shipping & Ballast Water, Dredging & Dumping, Fisheries & Mariculture	Stressor Reduction, Monitor, CO2 Reduction
Cross-cutting issues – Including through: OA - OSPAR's Intersessional Correspondence Group on Ocean Acidification (ICG-OA) OA Assessment, Work on OA with partners from: IOC and ICES (SGOA), Climate Change both OA and CC added to North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2030, (Monitoring: CEMP, JAMP)	Monitor, Research, Report, CO2 Reduction, Stressor Reduction, Adaptation
<u>Helcom</u> – organized by Working Groups	
Existing Efforts	Relevance for OA
State & Conservation – Including through: EN Clime, EG Benthic, EG <u>Eutro</u> , EG Haz	Monitor, Research, Report, CO2 Reduction, Stressor Reduction, Adaptation
Maritime – Including through: JTG Ballast & Biofouling	Monitor, Research, Report, CO2 Reduction, Stressor Reduction
Pressure – Including through: EG <u>DreDS</u> , EG Marine Litter, EG <u>RedCore</u>	Monitor, Report, CO2 Reduction, Stressor Reduction
Agri	CO2 Reduction, Stressor Reduction
Fish – Including through: Fish M	Report, Monitor, Adaptation, Stressor Reduction
HELCOM-VASAB MSP	Monitor, Research, Report, Adaptation
Arctic Council – organized by Working Groups	
Existing Efforts	Relevance for OA
AMAP – Including through: Assessment on Arctic OA 2013, 2018; Scoping outline for AMAP-CAFF joint-work on Climate change impacts on Arctic ecosystems and associated climate feedbacks	Monitor, Report, Research, CO2 Reduction
CAFF – Including through: Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (CBMP); Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA): Report for Policy Makers 2013; Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA): Report for Policy Makers 2013 (policy recommendations); Actions for Arctic Biodiversity 2013-2021: implementing the recommendations of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA)	Monitor, Report, Research, CO2 Reduction, Stressor Reduction, Adaptation,
PAME – Including through: Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) 2009; Survey' of wastewater discharges; Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines 2009, 2017; Framework for a Pan-Arctic Network of Marine Protected Areas 2015 & 2021-2023 update assessment	CO2 Reduction, Stressor Reduction, Adaptation,

IS IT USEFUL TO CONTINUE MAPPING RESPONSIBILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES?

Directives	Legal and Management Responses to Ocean Acidification – European Frameworks				
	<u>OA Monitoring Measure, Evaluate/Assessment</u>	<u>OA Reporting</u> Document and Share OA information	<u>OA Research</u> Set OA Research Priorities	<u>Mitigation & Remediation</u> CO ₂ and Pollution	<u>Adaptation and Resilience Building</u>
MSFD	pH and equivalent OA indicators, <u>oxygen</u> and nutrients.	Reporting after reviews and updates of marine strategies including on monitoring programs, and the determination of GES (especially descriptor 5 and 7). Interim report on the implementation of programs of measures.			Marine Protected Areas (networks)
MSPD		Reporting of the Maritime Spatial Plans and explanatory materials by each Member State.			Marine Protected Areas as part of MSP
WFD	Especially: Oxygen and nutrient conditions.	Reporting on: Monitoring programs, the human impacts on surface water status and the implementation of the programs of measures.			Marine protected Areas (facilitative)
Nitrates Directive	Eutrophic state.	Reporting <u>on</u> : water (possibly) affected by pollution, monitoring results and the action programs implemented by Member States.		Reduction of nutrient input	Reduction of nutrient input
Habitats Directive	Conservation status of natural habitats and species → all parts influencing the <u>long-term natural distribution, structure, and functions of habitats</u> as well as the long-term survival of its typical species and the long-term distribution and abundance of species.	Reporting on: Conservation measures for protected areas, their effect on the conservation status of the natural habitats and species and the results of the monitoring.	Research facilitates the monitoring process and the achievement of favorable conservation status		Framework for Marine Protected Areas (Natura 2000)
Birds Directive		Reporting on the national implementation of the obligations under this directive (e.g., the establishment of MPAs).	<u>Particular</u> attention on the role of species as pollution indicators and the effects of chemical pollution on bird populations.		Framework for Marine Protected Areas (Natura 2000)



THANK YOU!

Brest, France | 24th May 2023



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