



INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE TO
COMBAT OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

A detailed line-art illustration in orange and teal colors depicting various marine organisms. On the left, there is a large scallop with its mantle edge visible. In the center, there are several pieces of seaweed or kelp with long, flowing fronds. On the right, a fish is shown swimming towards the right. The background is a solid orange color.

COMMUNICATIONS PACK

FOR #OAAMEMBERS

ABOUT THE OA ALLIANCE & MEMBERSHIP

General:

- What is the OA Alliance?
 - The International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification (OA Alliance) brings together governments and affiliate partners from across the globe dedicated to taking urgent action to protect coastal communities and livelihoods from the threat of ocean acidification and other climate- ocean impacts.
- What does it mean to be a member of the OA Alliance?
 - OA Alliance members are leading discussions across climate and ocean platforms, ensuring that climate and ocean commitments, policies and communications accurately reflect their interdependence.
 - By joining the OA Alliance and endorsing the Call to Action, members commit to creating a unique [OA Action Plan](#).
- How will joining the OA Alliance enhance our current activities?
 - In joining the OA Alliance, members become part of a global community of OA practitioners (science, managers, policy makers, industry leaders, community leaders) who are defining OA information needs for discrete management applications and decision making.
 - This includes practitioners helping to assess:
 - regional climate-ocean change and associated risk.
 - food security and resilience of seafood economies.
 - Best local remediation and adaptation strategies achieved through reduction of land-based pollution.
 - best applications of marine management tools in the face of climate -ocean change.
 - Blue carbon sequestration potential or ecosystem resilience achieved with habitat conservation and restoration (nature -based solutions).
 - potential risks, benefits, and monitoring/ evaluation needs for marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR) strategies.



- Why is highlighting OA important?
 - OA is one of many impacts of climate-ocean change, at the OA Alliance we aim to increase awareness of OA as *'flagship impact'* in order to increase ambition for carbon emissions reduction and help governments and communities transform their unique response to climate-ocean change.

OA Action Plans:

- **What is an OA Action Plan:**
 - An OA Action Plan encompasses the actions that OA Alliance members will take (or are taking) to better understand the impacts of OA to their region and accelerate OA mitigation, adaptation, and resilience nearshore.
- **Why is creating an OA Action Plan Important:**
 - OA Action Plans allow governments to increase ambition for mitigating carbon dioxide emissions and actively address localized manifestations of OA, helping to turn back the tide and manage marine resources effectively in the context of climate-ocean change.
 - OA Action Plans help governments: take inventory; prioritize needs and make recommendations; and align policies and investments in the face of climate-ocean change.
- **What are main elements of an [OA Action Plan](#)?**

The structure of an OA Action Plan is organized around 6 key themes:

1. Reduce atmospheric emissions of CO₂, the number one cause of ocean acidification.
2. Advance scientific understanding of climate-ocean impacts, locally and globally.
3. Reduce local pollutions that exacerbate OA: Implement actions that reduce local inputs of land-based pollutants (e.g., nutrient loading, storm water, and wastewater) that make conditions worse.
4. Protect the environment and coastal communities from climate-ocean impacts through adaptation and resilience building strategies.



5. Expand public awareness: Engage policy makers, industry, scientists and the public on the growing threat posed by OA, as well as local actions that may be taken to address OA.
6. Sustain international support: Secure sustained support globally, regionally and locally for increased investments and actions.

- **Why is an OA Action Plan necessary?**

- Increasingly, OA must become a cross cutting issue embedded across climate, ocean and marine science priorities, opportunities, and actions. Advancing domestic OA action will inform better decision making for achieving mitigation, adaptation, and resilience goals.
- OA Action Plans help governments: take inventory; prioritize needs and make recommendations; and align policies and investments in the face of climate-ocean change.
- This is especially important for achieving climate resilient fisheries and aquaculture, climate-smart conservation, coastal resilience and habitat restoration, effective upgrades of infrastructure, and evaluation of marine carbon dioxide removal strategies.
- OA Action Plans call forth renewed ambition to realize mitigation and adaptation targets already in place across the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and deliver on Sustainable Development Goal 14.3, “to minimize and address ocean acidification.” Additionally, OA Action Plans help prioritize science, policy, and funding needs across the UN SDG 14 and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainability.

- **What are the benefits of implementing an OA Action Plan?**

- While increasing ambition to meet GHG and carbon mitigation goals and targets is essential for mitigating OA, there are additional actions governments can be incorporating now, across domestic strategies.
- To be successful in responding to OA, governments must have a more comprehensive stock take of regional and local information that will allow them to prioritize and evaluate their unique risks and response strategies. This is especially true across marine dependent regions with little data on local trends and potential impacts.
- National policies can be leveraged to promote adequate and equitable investments in climate-ocean change information, gaps analysis, and capacity or technology that result in better mitigation, adaptation, and resilience choices in national waters.

