Finding Solutions and Sharing Knowledge and Expertise Through the Ocean Acidification Information Exchange

Save the Date for Webinar on Thursday, May 17 at 12:00pm PST

Increased sharing of emerging science and research along with policy actions and adaptation strategies is critical to ensuring coastal communities are prepared to respond locally and regionally to ocean acidification.

Staff from U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Ocean Acidification Program will provide OA Alliance members a user tutorial of the newly launched OA Information Exchange. You will learn how to use the site’s collaborative tools to get new resources (and share your own), participate in online discussions and get answers to your most pressing questions. By encouraging interaction with people and experts across disciplines and regions, the OA Information Exchange reflects the goals of the OA Alliance – we are stronger working together, and we can meet this global challenge with a well-informed community working to respond and adapt to ocean acidification.

Register for the Webinar by clicking here to receive connection information!
Ocean Acidification Recognized as a World Ocean Climate Indicator

Ocean acidification knows no jurisdictional boundaries, which is why the OA Alliance works to strengthen information sharing across governments and engages multiple jurisdictions and non-government actors in the work to adapt locally and elevate the importance of ocean acidification impacts globally.

This month the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) announced ocean acidification as a headline World Ocean Climate indicator, along with sea level and ocean heat content, that will be added to an existing set of parameters that describe the world's changing climate.

This is big news for the community of ocean and climate actors that have been working to ensure climate change science and adaptation and resiliency recommendations reflect not only the important role oceans play to regulate climate but also the hastening impacts of climate change experienced by the world's oceans.

The announcement serves as important step along the pathway to realizing commitments made by OA Alliance members to elevate ocean acidification and ocean health within the UNFCCC process and other applicable climate frameworks.
Member Highlights & Report Out from Webinar on April 12, 2018

The OA Alliance is committed to supporting and encouraging members in the development of OA Action Plans. During our April 12th webinar we received updates from:

- New Zealand Ministry of Environment and New Zealand OA Community
- Office of Foreign Affairs in Chile
- Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP)
- Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
- The State of Oregon Coordinating Council on Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia

All are making great strides to develop regional responses to ocean acidification other climate related ocean conditions and the OA Alliance is grateful for their leadership.

Taholo Kami representing Fiji and COP23 Presidency provided an overview of the Ocean Pathway Partnership Initiative and noted multiple opportunities for continued engagement over the next two years.

This month, Fiji led the Talanoa Dialogues in Bonn, Germany were climate negotiators took stock of the current efforts to meet the goals and ambitions set forth in the Paris Climate Agreement. You can read more about Fiji’s leadership here.

Preceding the Talanoa Dialogues, OA Alliance members France and Pacific Community co-convened a high-level dialogue on climate change and biodiversity featuring critical inputs from Tokelau and other Pacific Islands calling for commitments to take actions that respond to the threats facing the region and outlining a series of recommendations for delegates to consider.

New Zealand also recently announced their leadership role within the newly launched "Commonwealth Blue Charter" which includes 53 member nations. Within the charter, New Zealand will act as a key champion for action on ocean acidification.
Washington State is moving forward on one of their recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification report by supporting efforts to preserve and restore the state’s native seagrass and kelp populations. The Washington State non-profit group Puget Sound Restoration Fund was recently featured on 60 Minutes discussing their work to plant kelp in Puget Sound and monitor the impact it is having to reduce the CO2 within the water column and ideally protect vulnerable species in the area from the impacts of acidification.

Many OA Alliance affiliate members including the Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association, Taylor Shellfish Farms, Hog Island Oyster Company, Mook Sea Farm and The Nature Conservancy recently announced the launch of the Shellfish Growers Climate Coalition a partnership between shellfish growers working to shine a light on how climate change is already affecting food production in the United States.

Thank you for your continued participation in OA Alliance webinars and convenings. If you have a request for a topic to be included in future activities, please contact Jessie Turner at jessie@oaalliance.org.

For a deeper look at the updates shared by members, a recording of the webinar is available upon request.
Save the Date- California Climate Summit, September 12-14, 2017

The OA Alliance will be participating in the Global Climate Action Summit this September hosted by OA Alliance co-founder and California Governor Jerry Brown. The summit will provide a unique opportunity to demonstrate leadership for taking actions to address ocean acidification and to push for meaningful inclusion of ocean impacts and solutions within subnational and national climate action frameworks.

The OA Alliance will plan to:

- Host an event where we will share information and resources and highlight progress made to date with member OA Action Plans.
- Report on progress and reinforce commitments to advance OA Action Plans in line with the UN SDG 14.3 voluntary commitments made in 2017.
- Support members and partners in calling for greater focus on ocean issues and impacts within the UNFCCC process and build momentum for sustained collective action at COP24 and COP25.
- Announce new members and partnerships.

We invite you to join us at this important summit and showcase your leadership in taking actions to address the threat of ocean acidification and climate related impacts to our world oceans.
Thank You For Your Commitment

The OA Alliance was established in direct response to the impact of ocean acidification to oyster hatchery production that was felt across the West Coast, and to motivate governments to proactively respond to impacts of ocean acidification on coastal communities and livelihoods.

The OA Alliance is:

1. Supporting governments to take meaningful actions to address changing ocean conditions;
2. Pushing for inclusion of strong ocean protection provisions in international climate agreements and other relevant frameworks; and
3. Creating a coalition of governments and partners elevate the visibility and importance of ocean acidification in public discourse and policy development.

We look forward to working with you in 2018 and thank you for your support.