We are very pleased to share the **2019 OA Alliance Member Survey** with you.

The survey provides an opportunity for the OA Alliance Secretariat to better understand your needs and priorities as members. Information from the surveys will help us tailor events, webinars and OA Action Planning tools and resources that best support you.

The OA Alliance has made a commitment to support the development of 20 OA Action Plans by the end of 2019, and we look forward to hearing from you about your own progress towards this goal.

The survey takes about 15 minutes and should be completed by the person primarily responsible for liaising with the OA Alliance in your government or organization.

Please note we have created separate surveys, one for government members and one for affiliate members of the OA Alliance. You can find links to your survey below.

[Government Member Survey](#)
Affiliate Member Survey

The deadline to submit your responses is **Friday April 19, 2019**.

We hope that you will take part in this opportunity to help the OA Alliance move forward together towards advancing our collective goals to:

- Support governments in taking meaningful actions to address changing ocean conditions;
- Push for inclusion of strong ocean protection provisions in international climate agreements and other relevant frameworks; and
- Create a coalition of governments and partners to elevate the visibility and importance of ocean acidification in public discourse and policy development.

Please don’t hesitate to contact us if you have any questions at Jessie@OAalliance.org

We are looking forward to hearing from you!

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OA Alliance Participates in Commonwealth Blue Charter Ocean Acidification Workshop in Dunedin, New Zealand

How can national governments work together to better understand the impact that climate change and increasing carbon emissions are having on our world’s oceans and coastal communities? A recent workshop held in Dunedin, New Zealand aimed to address this question by convening the Commonwealth Blue Charter Ocean Acidification Action Group to discuss the science, monitoring and current research on ocean acidification and the role that national governments can play in hastening understanding and implementing actions
that will address some of the worst impacts.

The ocean acidification-focused workshop hosted participants from all over the world including Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu, just to name a few.

At the workshop, the OA Alliance described our members’ efforts to create OA Action Plans which provide a policy framework through which governments can begin to think about how ocean acidification fits within existing climate and ocean mitigation, adaptation and resiliency strategies and priorities. OA Alliance members New Zealand, Fiji, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the University of Washington Ocean Acidification Center, along with OA Alliance partner The Ocean Foundation, were at the workshop and presented on their own efforts to advance OA Action Plans, monitoring efforts or pilot programs that aim to better understand the impact that OA may have on important marine resources and ecosystems within their region.

Read more about the meeting here.

Gullah/ Geechee Nation Unveils Rising Sea Initiative and Releases an OA Action Plan Created Under the OA Alliance Framework
OA Alliance member, the Gullah/Geechee Nation, encompasses Sea Islands in the Atlantic Ocean spanning from Jacksonville, North Carolina to Jacksonville, Florida. Gullah/Geechee native people have witnessed first-hand many of the changes that are happening to oceans and know that there are already unprecedented damages to oceans and marine ecosystems. Harm to the ocean adversely impacts commercial, subsistence, and ceremonial shellfish harvest, fisheries, and the seafood industries which have sustained the native population since they settled on the islands in the 1600s.

The leaders of the Gullah/Geechee Nation released their OA Action Plan on March 22, World Water Day. As members of the OA Alliance, they saw the need to ensure that the sustainability work being done within the Gullah/Geechee Nation incorporates protection of the ocean.

Released as part of their Rising Sea Initiative, the Action Plan outlines five strategies that map strategically with OA Alliance Call to Action:

1. Advance science
2. Reduce causes of ocean acidification
3. Protect the environment and coastal communities from impacts
4. Expand public awareness and understanding of ocean acidification
5. Build sustained international support

Specific actions within the plan include:

- Communicate concerns over water quality and water chemistry to scientific research institutions such as local universities, government agencies, regional research labs, and science networks such as the
Southeast Ocean and Coastal Acidification Network.

- Participate in local water quality monitoring efforts via efforts coordinated by the Gullah/Geechee Sustainability Think Tank.
- Communicate the need for biological monitoring and research of acidification impacts on organisms that are culturally and ecologically important to the Gullah/Geechee Nation.
- Undertake a public information campaign in order to build capacity to reduce water pollutants including single use plastics and chemicals contributing to runoff pollution that are used by households, businesses and organizations in our region.
- Promote and continue oyster reef conservation and restoration; continue participating in shell recycling programs.
- Create a guardianship model that identifies community members to represent the ocean and its species in policy decisions and encourages guardianship activities such as regional coastal restoration projects to be practiced by all.
- Survey the Gullah/Geechee community about what species of marine organisms are significant to their socio-economic well-being and cultural heritage and continue to promote seafood safety and human health.

In addition to the Gullah/Geechee Nation, the following members have completed or nearly completed OA Action Plans:

- State of Washington
- State of California
- State of Oregon
- New Zealand
- Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
- City of Vancouver
- Ocean Conservancy

*Completed OA Action Plans will be posted on the OA Alliance website by the end of May for member review.*
Additionally, the OA Alliance website has new tools and resources, including specific guidance on:

- OA Action Plan Toolkit
- City-led Actions to Mitigate, Adapt and Build Resiliency to OA
- State-Led Efforts to Address OA- Convening a Task Force, Commission or Panel
- Incorporating OA into Nationally Determined Contributions Pursuant to the Paris Climate Agreement
- Affiliate Member OA Action Plans

Check Out the New Tools and Resources Here.

2019 Webinar Schedule

Beginning in April, the OA Alliance will be scheduling a series of webinars that will facilitate member-driven information sharing opportunities across the following topics:

(1) Communications and Outreach: Best Practices for Communicating the Impacts of Changing Ocean Conditions

(2) OA Action Plans: Management Frameworks for National, State and
Municipal Governments

(3) Native Tribes and Indigenous Communities on the Front Lines- Treaty Rights and Taking Actions on Ocean Acidification through Ocean/ Climate Management Strategies

(4) Monitoring for OA: Sensors and Tools, Regional Resources and Growing Collaborations

(5) Adaptation and Resiliency Strategies: Examining Member Driven Pilots and Recent Studies

(6) IPCC Ocean and Cryosphere Report: Understanding and Interpreting the Report, What Are the Implications?

(7) Preparing for COP25 “The Blue Ocean COP”

Stay tuned for upcoming webinar dates and times, and let us know if you’d like to participate in a specific webinar topic.

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Register your OA Action Plan with the UN Sustainable Development Goal 14.3 Community of Action on OA

The OA Alliance has made international commitments with the United Nations through Sustainable Development Goal 14.3 to support the development of 20 OA Action Plans in 2019 and is well on pace to meet that goal.
As an OA Alliance member, you are invited to join the UN SDG 14.3 Community of Action on OA which aims to support its members in implementing their ocean acidification-related voluntary commitments by exchanging progress reports, experiences, lessons learned and good practices.

You can formalize your commitment to creating an OA Action Plan through the United Nations by registering your commitment here. It's important that we show the UN SDG 14.3 Community of Action that we are developing OA Action Plans which describe real, tangible actions governments will take to respond to the threat of ocean acidification.

We urge you to visit the COA on OA website and submit a voluntary commitment (VC) if are working on ocean acidification and have not yet submitted a VC through the UN SDG 14.

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**Global Ocean Health’s Ocean Acidification Report, Quarterly Newsletter**

OA Alliance affiliate member, Global Ocean Health (GOH), is a program of the National Fisheries Conservation Center and issues a quarterly newsletter called “The Ocean Acidification Report.”

The program’s mission is to protect seafood supplies, coastal communities and marine ecosystems from ocean acidification and climate change by enabling those who depend on healthy marine resources to tackle the underlying pollution and its consequences.

The Ocean Acidification Report provides the latest news and research on ocean acidification, other climate change-induced ocean threats, and related
stories. Each issue includes a profile of someone actively involved in the fight, as well as National US and International news, resources, and information about upcoming webinars and leading research papers.

If you are interested in finding out more, you can subscribe by emailing info@globaloceanhealth.org, and find archived issues here: http://globaloceanhealth.org/resources/publications/

Join us on Twitter!

The OA Alliance is officially on Twitter! Please follow us @OA_Alliance, as we invest in this important work together!

Track new member updates, upcoming events, member stories, OA in the news and other exciting posts that will keep you in the know and allow you to more easily share this work with your networks.
Thank You!

The OA Alliance has grown to over 70 members, including 11 national governments, 8 states, 2 provinces, 5 tribal nations, and 4 cities, along with research institutions, businesses and NGOs.

The OA Alliance was established in direct response to the observed impacts of ocean acidification in the mid-2000’s to oyster hatchery production across the North American Pacific Coast. The intent of the OA Alliance is to motivate governments to proactively respond to the impacts of ocean acidification by charting a course of action for sustaining coastal communities and livelihoods.

Together 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 2019 and thank you for your support.

The acidity of the world’s oceans has increased by 30 percent and is expected to double over pre-industrial levels by the end of this century. To protect our oceans, it is imperative that we significantly reduce carbon dioxide emissions across the world.

In 2015, 195 countries signed the historic Climate Agreement in Paris committing to
meaningful and timely action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The world’s nations and subnational governments must succeed in reducing emissions in order to protect the health of the oceans and other natural systems on which the planet depends. Mitigation and adaptation strategies designed to address ocean acidification must also be included in future international climate agreements in order to help communities around the world who make a living from the ocean.