Ocean Conservancy®

THE NEXUS:
OCEAN ACIDIFICATION NEWS, POLICY AND SCIENCE

October 2018

The recent IPCC report and severe storms around the world have unfortunately put the environment in the headlines this fall. Many major stories touched on ocean acidification.

Regards,
Sarah Cooley, Ph.D., Ocean Acidification Program Director

IPCC's "1.5 Degree Report"

The recently released IPCC "Global Warming of 1.5°C" report implicated ocean acidification as a risk to food security through alterations to fisheries and aquaculture and a risk to human communities through harm to coral reef systems. See the report.

International Commitments

September's Global Climate Action Summit in California included many leaders committing to join the International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification. With more than 70 members, including 11 governments, the Alliance is growing a coalition of leaders committed to taking action and sharing information and success stories with other partners to strengthen the effort. Learn about government commitments on OA at GCAS.

Ocean Conservancy CEO Janis Searles Jones with other panelists from the U.S. and other nations at the International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification side event during the Global Climate Action Summit.

Federal Budgeting

Federal funding for FY19 still is being finalized, but the latest news is that the Senate recommended $11M for the NOAA OA program in the federal FY19 appropriations cycle, while the House recommended $13M. We are optimistic that the final omnibus will settle on a strong number for OA research! Follow along with Ocean Conservancy ocean budget updates.

Arctic Assessment

The Arctic Marine Assessment Programme released its 2018 Assessment of Arctic Ocean Acidification. Reviewing the scientific knowledge about the progression of OA in the Arctic Ocean and its impact on regional species and human communities, the report provides a more detailed analysis of the risks involved and calls for prioritizing enhanced research and monitoring to decrease uncertainties and guide adaptation. Read the assessment.

Salmon Restoration

The Tulalip Tribe in Washington State is taking action to restore salmon habitat. Because OA is suspected to harm young salmon or disrupt their ability to "smell their way home" to breed, measures like this to support salmon populations are an important short-term action to mitigate the potential impacts of OA. See what the tribe is doing.

Ecosystem Research

NOAA's Ocean Acidification Program recently granted $3.5 million to support four regional research projects focusing on the role of OA in ecosystem "tipping points," or sudden environmental shifts. Work is starting in the Chesapeake Bay, Alaska, and in the Northeast Atlantic. See the details.

Harmful Algal Blooms and OA

Over the summer and fall, Florida caught national attention for multiple Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) that appeared off its coast killing thousands of fish. While HABs naturally occur, there is extensive evidence of humans can contribute to their occurrence. In fact, studies suggest increased oceanic CO2 can increase the growth rates of HAB species, and locals are increasingly concerned about the connection. Read the discussion.

OA and Clean Energy

Op-eds in local news outlets are pointing to OA as yet another reason adopt clean energy measures. The Seattle Times pointed out that weakening fuel efficiency in vehicles will also promote OA, while the Maryland Coast-Dispatch ran a piece explaining the added benefits of offshore wind turbines for recreational fishermen by helping curb OA. Learn what citizens in Seattle and Maryland are saying.

1300 19th Street NW • 8th Floor • Washington, DC 20036 • 800-519-1541