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## THE NEXUS: OCEAN ACIDIFICATION NEWS, POLICY AND SCIENCE

### August 2018

*Spring and summer have seen the deployment of new observational equipment plus definite commitments from Members of Congress to take action on ocean acidification. Meanwhile, acidification has continued to be covered in the popular media with several in-depth pieces.*

Regards,

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

### [Congressional Ocean Champions Take Action](#)

The ocean champions in Congress observed Oceans Month this June with lots of attention to ocean acidification. Reps. Bonamici (D-OR) and Young (R-AK) introduced a resolution on World Oceans Day (June 8<sup>th</sup>) to recognize the day and [wrote an op-ed](#) about improving ocean health. Later in the month, Reps. Bonamici, Young, and Posey (R-FL) introduced the COAST Research Act ([H.R.6267](#)), which reauthorizes and updates the 2009 FOARAM Act. The same day, Reps. Posey, Bonamici, and Mast (R-FL) introduced the NEAR Act of 2018 ([H.R. 6270](#)), which [calls for a National Academies of Science study of ocean acidification and other stressors in estuarine and nearshore environments](#). Reps. Bonamici and Posey are co-chairs of the [Congressional Estuaries Caucus](#).

### [It's a buoy! And another, and another...](#)

There's been a "buoy boom" around North America the past few months, as new OA monitoring equipment is being deployed from coast to coast. Hakai Institute created a [short film and blog post](#) about the launch of their newest in Kwakshua Channel, west of Fitz Hugh Sound in British Columbia, which will be part of the NANOOS and GOA-ON network.



Further south in Tomales Bay, California, [Hog Island Oyster Company installed a Burke-o-Lator](#) as part of a collaboration among Humboldt State University, Oregon State University, California Sea Grant, and the Wiyot Tribe to monitor locations with both shellfish and eelgrass beds. In Tampa Bay, Florida, the United States Geological Survey, Tampa Bay Estuary Program, Tampa Bay Environmental Restoration Fund, and the University of South Florida have all teamed up to install the [Tampa Bay Land/Ocean Biogeochemical Observatory](#), which adds pH observing capability to an existing meteorological station.

### [Congress is hearing citizens' calls to fund ocean acidification!](#)

Although the FY19 Federal Appropriations process is not yet complete, there's positive news: the House appropriations bill recommended \$13M for the NOAA OA Program, and the [Senate appropriations bill recommended \\$11M](#). It's possible the final FY19 number will repeat the \$11M appropriated in FY18. ([Here's an explainer](#) about how the appropriations process works.)

### [Could seaweed farming help address OA?](#)

A Puget Sound project studying the possibilities of kelp farming to address OA and create an edible product made its broadcast debut on 60 Minutes a few months ago. After visiting the seaweed "farm" and hatchery in Puget Sound, reporter Lesley Stahl spoke with Betsy Peabody from the Puget Sound Restoration Fund about how seaweed helps remediate OA locally. She even got to sample it in some dishes created by Chef Barton Seaver!



## [Seagrass and sugar kelp on the national news](#)

Not to be outdone, PBS Newshour also reported on Puget Sound and California-based phytoremediation experiments looking at both kelp and seagrass' effects on mitigating the effects of OA. This report included a cool stop-motion animated explainer of OA's chemistry.

*Photo Credits: KC Buoy photo provided by Grant Callegari/Hakai Institute; Seaweed "farm" photo provided by Stephen Schreck of Puget Sound Restoration Fund*



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