



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

### January 2019

*It has been a busy quarter! We count three major U.S. Government reports released, two large international meetings on science or policy, one unprecedented lawsuit, one nationwide election and one unresolved budgetary fight.*

*Happy New Year,  
Sarah Cooley, Ph.D., Ocean Acidification Program Director*

### **The 4th National Climate Assessment & the 2nd State of the Carbon Cycle Report**

The U.S. Global Change Research Program, overseen by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), released two major reports assessing the impacts of climate change on North America. They provide a consensus statement by scientists confirming that climate change is here and its effects will grow. [Learn what these reports say about the ocean.](#)



### **Interventions to Increase Coral Reef Resilience**

The National Academies of Science has just released a report examining the array of high-tech interventions that have been proposed to help coral reefs withstand climate change. It looks at pros and cons associated with each, and it provides a "decision tree" to help reef managers. [See the report.](#)

### **Oceans Day at COP24**

The ocean is becoming part of international climate negotiations, as evidenced by Oceans Actions Day at the 24th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP24) to the UN Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Ocean impacts from climate change were highlighted in a series of sessions, including a dedicated panel discussion on ocean acidification. [Learn more and view photos from the day.](#)

### **Building bipartisan energy for action: American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting**

An incredible 889 abstracts at the fall 2018 AGU meeting focused on policy and science communication. Our policy poster on how we've successfully built bipartisan cooperation to act on acidification was featured in AGU's Eos journal. [Read the article.](#)



### **Dungeness crab fisherman file climate change suit**

The West Coast's Dungeness crab fishery has experienced several climate-related hits in the past several years, from marine heat waves ("the warm blob") to harmful algal blooms that may be enhanced by climate change. In response, the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA) has filed suit against the fossil fuel industry over its role in causing climate change. [Read more.](#)

### **Congressional midterm elections may bring new ocean champs to Capitol Hill**

The "freshman members of Congress" beginning their work in the 116th Congress include several scientists and ocean experts. At the same time, leadership of several scientific committees has changed, and early reports suggest that ocean issues, including acidification, will be key priorities of leaders this term. [Read more.](#)

### **U.S. government partial shutdown puts science on ice**

Many of the federal workers furloughed work for federal science agencies, including USGS, NOAA, EPA, NASA and NSF. Right now, the full effects are still not known, but anecdotal information suggests that a great deal of earth science research, including ocean acidification work, has come to a halt. [Read more.](#)





### Attention to OA grows in Chesapeake Bay

With Virginia's recent joining of the International OA Alliance, ongoing monitoring for OA and attention to OA by university researchers, restoration managers and shellfish growers, OA is becoming a hot topic in the Mid-Atlantic.

[Read more.](#)



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