



California's OCEAN ACIDIFICATION Action Plan

The U.S. West Coast is exposed to some of the lowest and most variable pH waters, and it is likely to be among the first places to experience the biological and economic effects of ocean acidification (OA). In California, several top coastal fishery resources and the industries they support are at risk, including West Coast Dungeness crab, market squid, and shellfish aquaculture species (e.g., oysters, mussels). California's recent scientific investments support the decision to act now.

The State of California is now undertaking development of an Ocean Acidification Action Plan under the leadership of the California Ocean Protection Council and in cooperation with the California Ocean Science Trust. This policy and management action plan will be one of the first of its kind, and is being developed within the framework of the International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification (OA Alliance), a global partnership founded in 2016 to assist governments in taking meaningful action to anticipate, mitigate, and adapt to the significant changes to the chemistry of the world's oceans that are now occurring as a result of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions.

Continuing on the same path as the state's bold leadership on climate change, the California Ocean Acidification Action Plan will provide a concrete vision and tractable actions for making progress in better understanding and addressing this critical threat to the productivity, ecology, and economic benefits derived from the state's coastal and nearshore marine ecosystems. In so doing, it may serve as a model for other jurisdictions seeking to take action on ocean acidification.

Development of the Plan will involve broad consultation with policy-makers, managers, experts, and interested parties across California and the OA Alliance and will draw on key resources (such as the OA Alliance's OA Action Plan Toolkit). Consultation with the recently established Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science Task Force, per Assembly Bill 2139, will help ensure the Action Plan is scientifically robust and feasible.

A public comment period will occur in late summer. The Action Plan is expected to be approved by the Council later in calendar year 2018.



TIMELINE AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

JUNE: Public informational webinar

JULY: 30-day public comment period on draft OA Action Plan

SEPTEMBER 12-14: Governor's Global Climate Action Summit: Draft OA Action Plan highlights announced, San Francisco, CA

OCTOBER 25: OPC Public Meeting: Scheduled adoption of the OA Action Plan (webcast)

DECEMBER 3-14: United Nations Climate Change Conference: Share OA Action Plan, Katowice, Poland

RESOURCES

- **International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification** – an alliance that brings together jurisdictions across the globe to combat OA and changing ocean conditions. www.oaalliance.org
- **California's Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science Task Force** – scientific advisory body convened to help ensure decisions about ocean acidification and hypoxia in California are informed by the best available science. www.oceansciencetrust.org/projects/oahtaskforce/
- **OA Alliance's Action Plan Toolkit** – a reference aid with suggested actions to consider when crafting an Action Plan. <https://www.oaalliance.org/build-your-oa-action-plan/>

PROJECT TEAM

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STAY UPDATED

For additional details, continual updates on the Action Plan process, and opportunities for stakeholder input:

- Subscribe to OPC's public listserv, "CNRA OCEANS PUBLIC" at <http://www.opc.ca.gov>
- Visit OPC <http://www.opc.ca.gov/oa-action-plan/>
- Visit Ocean Science Trust <http://www.oceansciencetrust.org/projects/oaactionplan/>

