

# The International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification Looking Ahead 2018

## Growing the Coalition & Making an Impact:

Since its launch one year ago the [International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification](#) (OA Alliance) has grown to 55 members, including 10 national governments, 5 states, 2 provinces, 5 tribal nations, and 3 cities, along with research institutions, businesses and NGOs.

OA Alliance members are working together to elevate the issue of ocean acidification and develop OA Action Plans that contain practicable, implementable steps to mitigate causes, to adapt to unavoidable change and to build resiliency in marine ecosystems and the coastal communities impacted by changing ocean conditions.

In the last year:

- New Zealand, California and Oregon have begun to initiate the development of OA Action Plans.
- Washington developed an update to their OA Action Plan.
- Chile, Ocean Conservancy and the PCC states hosted 10 national governments at the first in-person meeting of OA Alliance in conjunction with the 2017 Our Ocean Conference.
- Fiji co-hosted an OA Alliance side event at COP23 and invited the OA Alliance to join the Ocean Pathways Partnership, a coalition working to integrate oceans into the UNFCCC process by 2019.
- France hosted Ocean Climate Platform events which featured OA Alliance leadership on taking actions to combat ocean acidification.
- The OA Alliance hosted four member webinars bringing diverse member together in dialogue to share updates on their progress towards developing OA Action Plans and collaborating to elevate the issue of ocean acidification on a global stage.
- The OA Alliance hosted a side event and registered a voluntary commitment to build the coalition and advance OA Action Plans at the United Nations Ocean Conference to Implement Sustainable Development Goal 14.

***“Support and cooperation are needed by the alliance. This can be achieved in the form of information sharing of recent science, importance of best practices to mitigate and adapt and a call for collaboration.”***

***Fiji Minister of Fisheries Semi Koroilavesau***

The OA Alliance was proud to welcome new members to the OA Alliance during our side event at COP23 including Fiji, Sweden, Iceland, New Zealand, Tokelau, SPREP, and Seychelles. OA Alliance side event panel included Governor Jay Inslee (WA); Governor Kate Brown (OR); Dr. Jan Newton, Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network; Fiji Minister of Fisheries Semi Koroilavesau; Chile Minister of the Environment Marcelo Mena.



Dec. 13, 2016. California Gov. Jerry Brown speaks at a news conference to launch a new organization aimed at protecting the oceans, called the International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification, at the Hotel del Coronado. (Gregory Bull). Via San Diego Union-Tribune



### **Advancing OA Action Plans:**

The OA Alliance has engaged with members in the development of OA Action Plans which describe real, tangible actions governments will take to respond to the threat of ocean acidification. Calling for the development of regional, member-driven, OA Action plans makes the OA Alliance unique in the focus on concrete, implementable actions to address changing ocean conditions. The OA Alliance registered a voluntary commitment to assist in the creation of 15 OA Action Plans by June 2019 at the United Nations Ocean Conference to Implement Sustainable Development Goal 14.

The [OA Action Plan toolkit](#) provides members with examples and suggestions on a strategic process for getting started on the creation OA Action Plans. The OA Alliance has hosted periodic webinars and provided other opportunities to help members better understand the content and format that is encouraged, or possible, within an individual plan. The OA Alliance hosted its first in-person member meeting in conjunction with the Our Ocean Conference on October 6, 2017. The key takeaway from discussion amongst gathered national partners was the desire to see more products like the OA Action Plan toolkit which help members with the details and examples required to make progress regionally.

The OA Alliance is continuing to develop the Action Plan toolkit and supporting resources for both government and affiliate members to utilize.

***“Global climate change and ocean acidification in particular knows no jurisdictional boundaries and that’s why it’s so absolutely critical that we work together.”***

***Oregon Governor Kate Brown***

### **Why the OA Alliance?**

In December 2016, the Pacific Coast Collaborative launched the OA Alliance, an international network of governments and organizations that together address ocean acidification and other threats from changing ocean conditions.

The OA Alliance was established in direct response to the impact of ocean acidification to oyster hatchery production that was felt across the West Coast, and to motivate governments to proactively respond to impacts of ocean acidification on coastal communities and livelihoods. 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.



**Kate Brown**, Governor of Oregon, said acting on climate change is a moral imperative, as it will impact all of us. Credit: Vicki Arroyo (Georgetown Climate Center) Elliot Diringer (C2ES).