

STRATEGIES FOR ADVANCING SCIENCE AND ENGAGEMENT OF COASTAL
ACIDIFICATION IN THE NORTHEAST COASTAL ACIDIFICATION NETWORK
REGION

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Public awareness and concern about Ocean Acidification (OA) is growing as the science reveals potential impacts to a growing number of marine organisms. In addition to a global increase in OA driven by increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide, near-coastal areas can experience further coastal acidification due to a broad range of local factors such as freshwater and nutrient delivery. In particular, high intensity precipitation events have increased by more than 70% in the northeast United States as a result of climate change which can result in coastal acidification. Collectively we refer to these impacts as ocean and coastal acidification (OCA). The Northeast Coastal Acidification Network (NECAN) is a collaboration of scientists, agency representatives, industry and non-governmental organizations that seek to provide relevant information about OCA to stakeholders from the Canadian Maritimes to Long Island Sound.

NECAN's mission is to provide rigorous and balanced scientific information to decision makers and user groups regarding the current state of knowledge of OCA and its potential environmental and socio-economic impacts. NECAN also serves as a conduit through which these groups can provide guidance for regional research, monitoring, and policy. NECAN is addressing these complex socio-ecological influences on marine species and engaging those whose livelihoods depend on a healthy ocean. NECAN's strategy is a multi-step process that will provide an implementation plan for the region outlining and supporting actions and policies. Over the last two years, NECAN has engaged stakeholders at the local and regional levels and its methods have been replicated nationally. This presentation will include the methods used for understanding and sharing the physical data on OCA as well as the social science engagement with stakeholders that can act as a model for other efforts engaged in climate adaptation efforts.