

Ocean Acidification

State Update

Washington

- In December 2017, the state's Marine Resource Advisory Council (MRAC) [released](#) a report outlining the state's work carried out to date on mitigating ocean acidification.
- The [2017 Addendum](#) serves a follow-up to the Blue Ribbon Panel's 2012 strategy, providing an update on emerging science and management practices, suggesting areas for more concerted effort, and highlighting accomplishments.
- Washington was the first to create a Blue Ribbon Panel to study OA in 2011 and subsequently created the MRAC in 2013 to implement recommendations.

California

- In October, the state's Ocean Protection Council adopted the [State of California Ocean Acidification Action Plan](#).
 - Co-produced by the Ocean Protection Council and the California Ocean Science Trust
 - Developed within the framework of the International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification (OA Alliance).
- Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science Task Force, convened per [AB 2139](#), provided scientific and technical input and reviewed the draft plan for scientific feasibility.
- The Action Plan will be shared during the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Katowice, Poland, Dec. 3-14, 2018

Oregon

- In September, the state's [Coordinating Council on Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia](#) released and submitted their first biennial report to the legislature.
- The report makes recommendations on:
 - Strengthening the science on OA
 - Reducing OA causes
 - Promoting adaptation and resilience
 - Raising awareness of the problem
 - Committing resources to taking action.
- The Coordinating Council on Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia was established in 2017 by [SB 1039](#). The state is also partnering with the Washington, California, and British Columbia to collaboratively build a unified regional strategy.
- Oregon's OAH Action Plan is expected to be finished by mid-2019.

New York

- In August, the Department of Environmental Conservation announced the creation of a 14-member [Ocean Acidification Task Force](#) to assess anticipated impacts of OA and make recommendations for:
 - More protective standards
 - Adaptive measures to respond to OA, including measures to identify and monitor early effects of ocean acidification on marine life
 - Integrating ocean acidification mitigation and adaptation strategies into state environmental plans
 - State and local regulatory and/or statutory actions to respond to impacts
 - Increasing public awareness of OA
- The Task Force was established by law in 2016 through companion bills [SB 7908](#) and [AB 10264](#), sponsored by Sen. LaVella and Assm. Englebright.

Massachusetts

- Enacted [HB 4835](#) (2018), an environmental bond bill that requires the establishment of a study commission on OA, tasked to:
 - Identify actual and potential effects of coastal and ocean acidification on commercially-valuable marine species.
 - Identify scientific data and knowledge gaps that may hinder the ability to craft policy and respond to coastal and ocean acidification.
 - Prioritize strategies for filling those gaps to provide policies and tools to respond to the adverse effects of coastal and ocean acidification on commercially-important fisheries and shellfish aquaculture industry.
- Report of findings and recommendations, along with drafts of legislation necessary to carry out recommendations, due no later than December 31, 2018.

New Hampshire

- In November 2017, the state's [Coastal Marine Natural Resources and Environment Commission](#), wrapped up its focus on ocean acidification and released a [report](#) of the commission's activities, findings, and recommendations on OA
- The Commission continues to meet and is now shifting focus to nutrient loading in coastal habitats.
- Established in 2016 by [SB 375](#), the Commission is tasked with investigating, monitoring, and proposing prevention/mitigation strategies for emerging environmental threats to the NH coast. The Commission will also examine establishing a Blue Carbon credit program for seagrass promotion and oyster bed restoration.