



NOAA OCEAN ACIDIFICATION PROGRAM

NOAA Ocean Acidification Program

Strategic Plan

2021 - 2025

*Cumulus clouds over the ocean.
Credit: sborisov, Adobe Stock*



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Vision

A society that is prepared to respond deftly to the social and environmental impacts of ocean, coastal and Great Lakes acidification.

Mission

Our mission is to better prepare society to respond to ocean, coastal and Great Lakes acidification by fostering transdisciplinary research, education, and outreach.



Values

Transparency

Transdisciplinary Approach

Collaboration

Responsiveness

Commitment

*A placid view in Tutka Bay with near mirror-like conditions reflecting grand mountain scenery off the waters. Alaska, Kenai Peninsula, Kachemak Bay.
Credit: Mandy Lindeberg, NOAA/NMFS/AKFSC.*



Images (L-R): Phytoplankton bloom in the California Current (Credit: NASA); Community scientists checking oyster pots (Credit: Point Pinole Watershed Project); Coral reef monitoring in Pacific Remote Island Areas (Credit: NOAA/PIFSC)

Transparency

OAP ensures information about the state of ocean acidification knowledge and decision making is accessible by all.

OAP seeks regular input from NOAA scientists, interagency partners, and regional interest groups. Communities should be able to understand what we know about ocean acidification, as well as how and why OAP makes decisions.

Transdisciplinary Approach

OAP works toward solutions to build resilience and adaptive strategies to ocean acidification through transdisciplinary science and engagement.

Assessing vulnerability to ocean acidification combines an understanding of how conditions are changing, biological responses to change, and the impact of change on people and economies. It fosters co-production of information and adaptive strategies and reduces silos.

Collaboration

OAP builds relationships and leverages resources, expertise, and strengths to best meet ocean acidification challenges and achieve NOAA's mission.

OAP fosters partnerships across NOAA, as well as nationally and internationally, to devise adaptive strategies and bolster resilience to ocean acidification.



Images (L-R): Dungeness crab (Credit: Austin Trigg, NOAA/NMFS); Waves splashing on the bow of NOAA Ship Ronald Brown during the WCOA 2016 Cruise (Credit: Jonathon Sharp, NOAA/PMEL); Milford Lab Surfclam Study (Credit: Katie McFarland, NOAA/NEFSC)

Responsiveness

OAP works toward building solutions based on the best available science with the needs of impacted communities in mind.

We listen to community and partner needs, identify and develop required science based on the needs, and ensure accessibility to science and products in a timely manner.

Commitment

OAP is dedicated to long-term research, monitoring, and outreach, maintaining a coordinated program to improve our understanding of the impacts of ocean acidification.

Sustaining critical investments in monitoring the environment, understanding impacts to species and ecosystems, and addressing needs by impacted communities enhances partners' stability to engage in projects with the program, and increases capacity and resources to address challenges.

A scenic photograph of a sunset over a rocky beach. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow over the sky and the water. The foreground shows dark, wet rocks with small pools of water reflecting the sunset. The sky is a mix of deep blue and orange. A semi-transparent blue box with white text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Goals

Goal 1: Facilitate Research

Goal 2: Promote OA Awareness

Goal 3: Catalyze Action

Goal 1

Facilitate Research

Select, fund, and manage research aimed at understanding ocean acidification, including mitigation and adaptation, species and ecosystem responses, and impacts to people and economies.



Objective 1.1. Sustain and improve ocean acidification and ocean carbon monitoring, modeling, and technology development



Objective 1.2. Expand understanding of species and ecosystems response to ocean acidification



Objective 1.3. Advance understanding of social and environmental impacts to develop mitigation and adaptive strategies



Objective 1.4. Promote research that advances potential adaptation and mitigation strategies to conserve marine life and ecosystems exposed to ocean acidification



Objective 1.5. Curate and provide data and information products in a timely and accessible manner

Goal 2

Promote OA Awareness

Provide science-informed education, outreach, and information that support decision-making by impacted people, communities, and industries.



Objective 2.1. Identify impacted groups and understand their information and service needs



Objective 2.2. Provide education resources and opportunities that supports workforce development and implements NOAA's education goals



Objective 2.3. Build relationships with impacted communities and organizations and provide outreach responsive to needs



Objective 2.4. Expand communication networks, channels, and media using best practices to effectively reach audiences

Goal 3

Catalyze Action

Foster and support actions that prepare people for the consequences of ocean acidification including mitigation and adaptation.



Objective 3.1. Coordinate and engage research and community actions on local to global scales through leadership and partnerships



Objective 3.2. Engage regionally, nationally, and internationally to improve access to federal data products



Objective 3.3. Lead coordination and reporting of federal ocean acidification research and monitoring, including mitigation and adaptation efforts, and improve interoperability among federal agencies



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