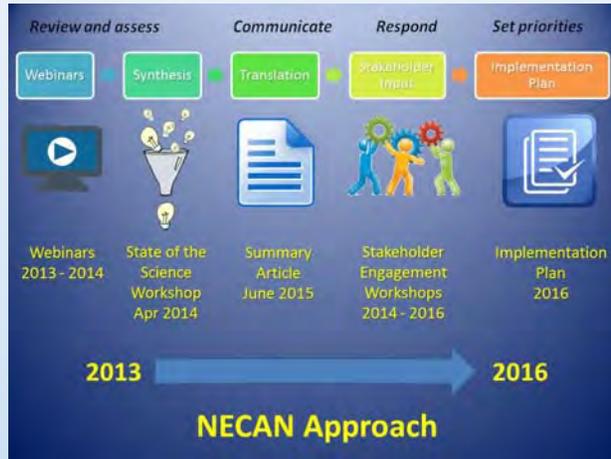




Bringing Ocean and Coastal Acidification Home: Connecting Regional Stakeholders to Information through the Northeast Coastal Acidification Network

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Background:

- The Northeast Coastal Acidification Network (NECAN) is a collaboration of scientists, resource managers and marine industry partners dedicated to providing information and data products tailored to the interests of regional stakeholders and decision-makers.
- NECAN held a series of stakeholder outreach meetings from 2014 – 2016 in the northeast US states and Canadian Maritime provinces.
- Conversations were focused on participants' questions, concerns, and observations; their ideas on research needs and focus; and feedback on communication and outreach needs and opportunities.



Findings:

- Stakeholder concerns about changes in coastal water quality
- Increasing occurrences of hypoxic and acidic muds
- Changes in the abundance of certain species (e.g., lobster) and significant declines in many nearshore shellfisheries
- Need to understand interactions of acidification, nutrients, stormwater runoff and other coastal inputs
- Long-term and continuous datasets are needed to track trends, along with guidance and training to ensure the data are uniform and usable
- Need for more research on species and food chain impacts and adaptability, especially for commercially important species
- Focus on improving our understanding and communication of local mitigation opportunities, not just statements of the problem
- Complexity makes effective communication difficult, but it is important not to focus too much on scientific uncertainty



Existing capacity for ocean acidification research and monitoring in the New England/Nova Scotia region. Shown are laboratories researching ocean acidification (red squares), along with its effects on biology (blue squares). Monitoring of carbonate chemistry parameters by buoys and vessels and approximate cruise tracks and sampling waypoints are color coded according to frequency of observation/reoccupation. From Gledhill et al, 2015.



A Climate Calamity in the Gulf of Maine Part 2: Acid in the Gulf

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZimEBFw1Q7c>

What NECAN is doing:

- Inventory of existing monitoring capabilities and locations
- Practical monitoring guidance for coastal acidification parameters
- Scientific synthesis summarizing regional research (Gledhill et al, 2015)
- Identify research priorities to funding agencies (e.g., Northeast Sea Grant)
- State-of-the-science webinar series as new results become available
- User-friendly website (necan.org), e-mail list and monthly newsletter
- Accessible video describing coastal acidification and regional impacts
- Information materials specific to policymakers and industry groups, directly linking to economic impacts
- Working groups for research, industry, policy, communication and outreach