

Sharing information and resources about impacts of ocean acidification



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Ocean Acidification Specialist

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), NOAA Sea Grant, and Washington Sea Grant (WSG) created the Ocean Acidification (OA) liaison position in cooperation with the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (PMEL) to foster collaborations across NOAA, partner organizations, communities, and stakeholders who need science-based outreach, data, and tools to understand the threats and impacts of ocean acidification.

Meet Meg Chadsey, Washington Sea Grant - PMEL Ocean Acidification Specialist



Dr. Meg Chadsey feels fortunate that her dual role as a Washington Sea Grant specialist and

PMEL liaison allows her to work on a variety of ocean acidification (OA)-related projects with diverse partners. Her favorite projects are those that connect the world of scientific research with the information needs of stakeholders and the public. Meg has created outreach materials, videos, and demonstration projects for schools, science communicators, and decision makers.

The oceans' absorption of carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere is causing fundamental changes in seawater chemistry. CO₂ reacts with water to form carbonic acid, which makes seawater more acidic. This process, known as ocean acidification (or OA) has a range of potentially harmful consequences for marine life. Washington is experiencing ocean acidification sooner and more severely than expected, due to a combination of human and natural causes.



Assembling communities to address ocean acidification

As the Washington Sea Grant (WSG) - PMEL OA specialist, Dr. Meg Chadsey supports communication between technical experts and stakeholders by facilitating workshops and meetings across the region. WSG facilitated the Ocean Acidification Sentinel Site Workshop in Forks, WA, which convened agency representatives, researchers, tribes and natural resource managers to discuss the impacts OA will have on the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. WSG was also a major contributor to the Washington Marine Resources Advisory Council's (MRAC) 'refresh' of the Washington State Blue Ribbon Panel's 2012 OA recommendations.

Straight from the SOARCE

The Sharing Ocean Acidification Resources for Communicators and Educators (SOARCE) webinar series has reached over 1,900 viewers, and WSG's presentations and curricula on the causes, consequences, and means of addressing OA have reached thousands more.

Kelp aquaculture to combat OA

WSG has been integral in efforts to cultivate native kelp in Puget Sound and monitor its effect on seawater chemistry. WSG has played a vital role in this experiment, including recruiting experts, establishing partnerships with users in the culinary, agricultural and biofuel communities, and mentoring graduate students developing project-based communication tools.

Research cruise outreach

During the 2016 West Coast Ocean Acidification Cruise, Dr. Chadsey shared real-time results about OA and its impacts in the California Current Ecosystem. While she had to live vicariously from her desk in Seattle, she served as editor of a cruise blog which was highlighted in a NOAA news feature and on multiple agency and partner sites.

