

The Northeast Coastal Acidification Network

Understanding the science of coastal and ocean acidification

What is NECAN?

The Northeast Coastal Acidification Network (NECAN) is the leading organization for the synthesis and dissemination of regional acidification data and information. NECAN's mission is to provide rigorous and balanced scientific information to decision makers and user groups regarding the current state of knowledge of coastal acidification and its potential environmental and socio-economic impacts to the northeast region. NECAN also serves as a conduit through which these groups can provide guidance for regional research and monitoring.

Established under the Northeast Regional Association for Coastal and Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS), NECAN is a partnership among government agencies, industry and the scientific community. NECAN's role is to:

- review and assess the most recent scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to the economically important marine organisms potentially impacted by ocean and coastal acidification;
- communicate critical knowledge gaps identified by stakeholders to relevant state and federal agencies;
- help to coordinate and set regional priorities for monitoring and research designed to further our understanding of coastal acidification;
- respond to user and stakeholder needs.

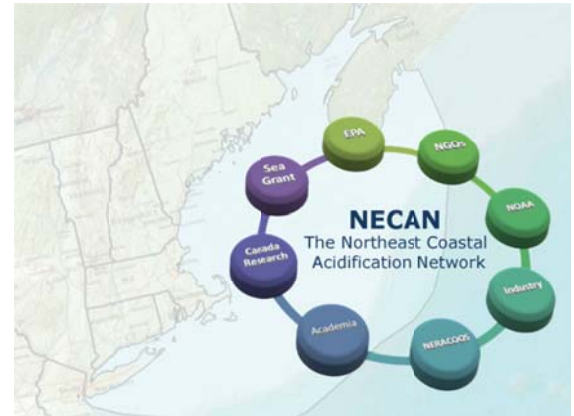
While the work of the organization is policy-relevant, it is intended as policy-neutral and not policy-prescriptive.

NECAN will

- serve as a clearinghouse for Gulf of Maine and associated coastal Ocean Acidification (OA) information
- develop a vision for and foster coordination of regional monitoring, research, and modeling
- recommend priorities for investment in regional monitoring, research, and modeling
- convene stakeholder workshops to document regional information needs
- produce synthesis documents describing regional OA drivers and effects
- identify important geographic areas and species at risk from OA in U.S. and Canadian waters off the Northeast Atlantic coast.
- highlight the role of coastal sources of carbon or nutrient enrichment which exacerbate OA in regional coastal waters
- maintain a database of regional expertise and monitoring capacity
- foster dialog between interest groups, agencies, and the research community.

NECAN will not

- develop policy goals or be a political advocacy organization (although it may be called upon to provide information that leads to policy deliberations)
- be a data repository (but may provide links to other relevant data sources) or provide primary funding for monitoring or research (but will help to coordinate activities funded through other sources)



The Northeast Coastal Acidification Network

Understanding the science of coastal and ocean acidification

NECAN Functions

- To provide guidance and direction on research and observations
 - Initial white papers/technical documents
 - Periodic workshops for research prioritization
 - Archived state-of-the-science webinar series
- To generate information products
 - Inventory of observation platforms
 - Link to data
 - Newsletters
 - “Breaking news” items (website, Twitter, Facebook, etc.)
 - Models and predictions (served through NERACOOS)
 - Conceptual model and web-based “cartoon” on coastal acidification in the Northeast region
 - Kept up-to-date and revised with new findings
 - Documents for policymakers
- To organize workshops and outreach activities
 - Targeted stakeholder workshops for specific
 - Geographic sub-regions
 - Industries and economic sectors
 - Educator outreach
- To provide resources for stakeholders
 - Seeking funding to address needs
 - Coordinate local expertise to address stakeholder concerns. Depending on future funding, this may include:
 - “Geek squad” to provide local expertise and assistance
 - “Ask a scientist” option on website

NECAN Working Groups

These working groups will generate the content for the NECAN functions summarized above. The working groups will consist of NECAN steering committee members and other experts.

1. **Science Working Group**
 - a. Workshops
 - i. Coordinate and integrate observations
 - ii. Recommend research priorities
 - iii. Link industry groups impacted by coastal acidification to needed expertise, *e.g.*, “Ask a scientist”
 - b. Develop citizen science opportunities (with Outreach WG)
 - c. Integrate new findings into outreach materials (with Outreach WG)
2. **Industry Working Group**
 - a. Develop targeted tools and mitigation approaches (with Science WG)
 - b. Conduct workshops to assess industry needs (with Outreach and Science WGs)
 - c. Provide a forum for industry representatives to discuss challenges and approaches to deal with acidification
 - d. Widen outreach to other industry groups (with Outreach WG)

The Northeast Coastal Acidification Network

Understanding the science of coastal and ocean acidification

3. **Policy** Working Group
 - a. Develop information products for policy makers (with science group)
 - b. Serve on local and regional commissions and task forces as appropriate
4. **Outreach and Education** Working Group
 - a. Develop and host ongoing webinar series, conceptual cartoon and other web materials
 - b. Develop lesson plans and other educational materials for K-12
 - c. Provide outreach to citizen scientists, industry, policymakers (with other working groups) via website, forums and stakeholder workshops

