

# Ocean Acidification Planning and Action in Washington, the West Coast, and Beyond



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# Ocean Acidification –Washington policy approaches

## Presentation Outline

1. Local leadership in identifying the problem and forging solutions
2. Establishing a regional partnership- from science and monitoring to actions
3. West Coast leadership on the international stage



**Washington leads the nation in production of farmed clams, oysters, and mussels  
WA shellfish growers employ ~2,700 people (direct +indirect)**



- Estimated total economic contribution of ~\$184 million annually
- Large employer in rural western Washington counties

Photo: PCSGA

Shellfish is a critical subsistence, ceremonial, and commercial resource for Washington Tribes



Photo: Lummi Nation



Photos: NWIFC

Approximately 100,000 shellfish harvesting trips made to Puget Sound beaches

300,000 digger trips for razor clam harvests on the Washington coast annually



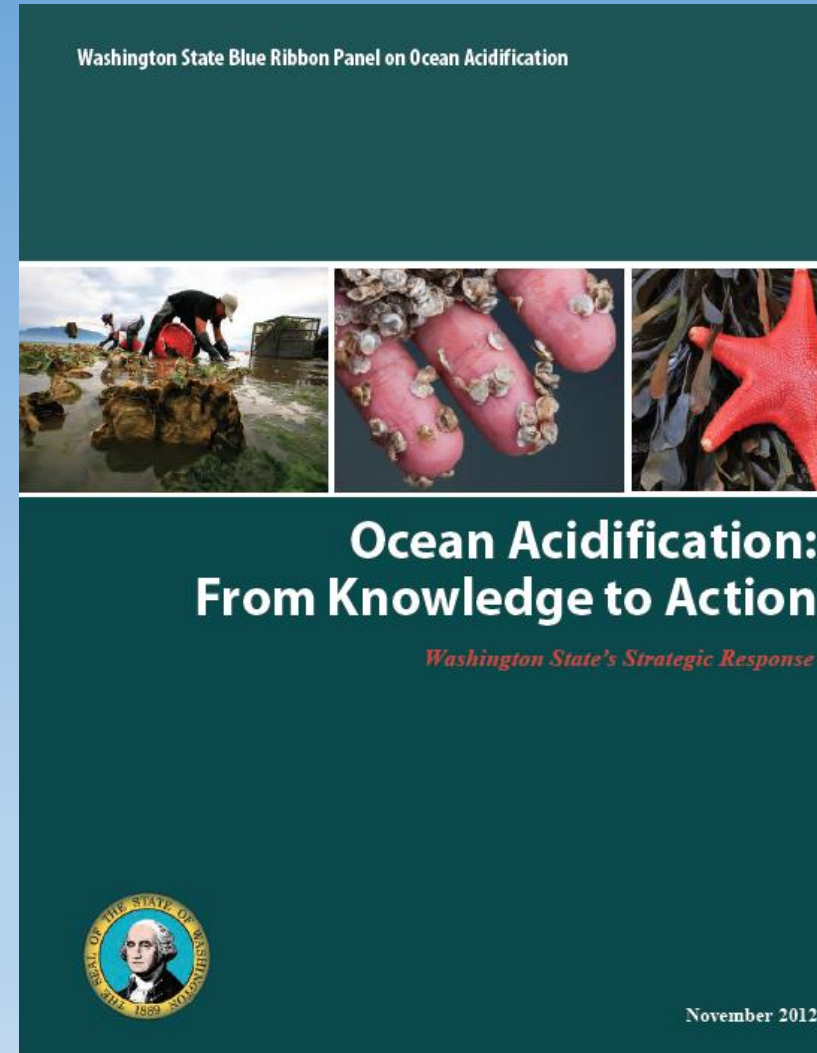
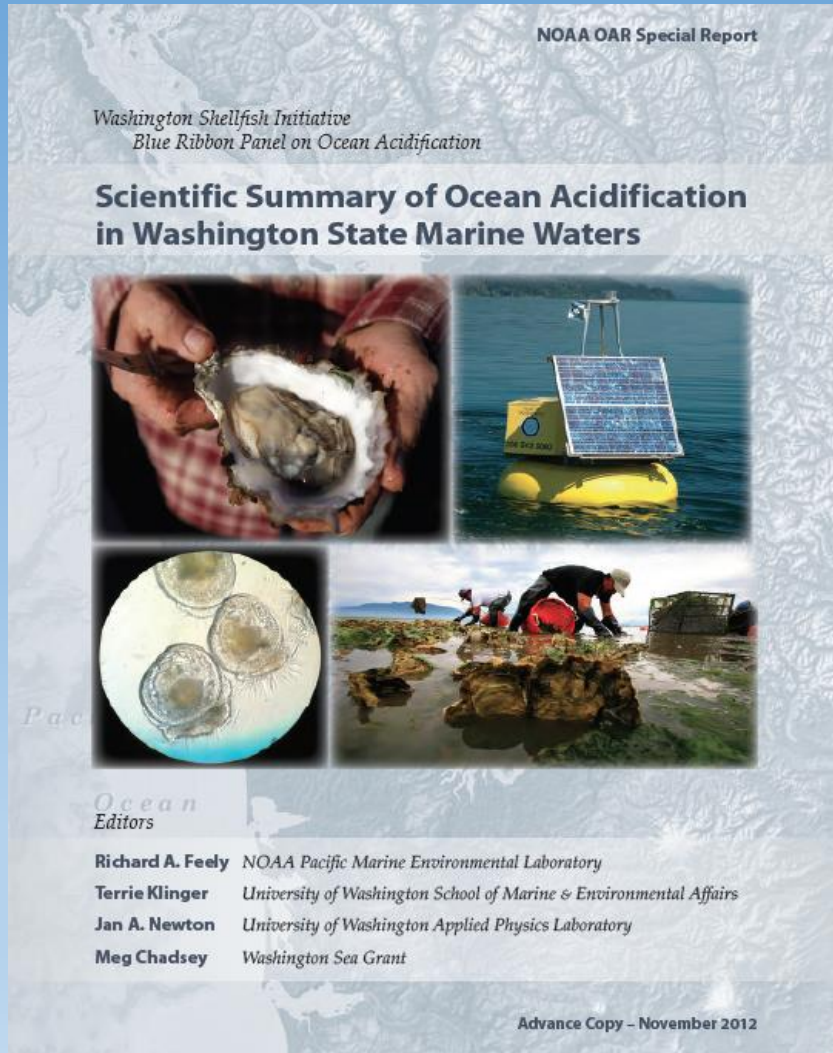
# Developing WA's Response: The Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification

- Convened by Governor Christine Gregoire in February 2012.
- A first-of-a-kind comprehensive state-level effort to address ocean acidification.
- Charged with reviewing the best available science, and producing a set of recommendations to guide Washington's response.
- Scientists, decision makers, industry stakeholders, tribal representatives, and conservation community representatives worked together to produce a comprehensive set of recommendations.



Gov. Gregoire and Bill Dewey of Taylor Shellfish Company discuss growing and harvesting techniques for oysters in the tide flats in Samish Bay.

# Washington State Blue Ribbon Panel Reports



# Panel Recommendations

42 recommendations, including 18 *Key Early Actions*, that will:

- Monitor OA conditions over time
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Research impacts to ecologically and economically important species
- Increase human adaptation to OA impacts
- Investigate contributions from local sources
- Educate and raise awareness about OA





# Governor and Legislative Response

Created:

- Marine Resources Advisory Council
- Washington Ocean Acidification Center

Appropriated:

2013: \$3.31 million

2015: \$1.7 million

2017: \$1.95 million



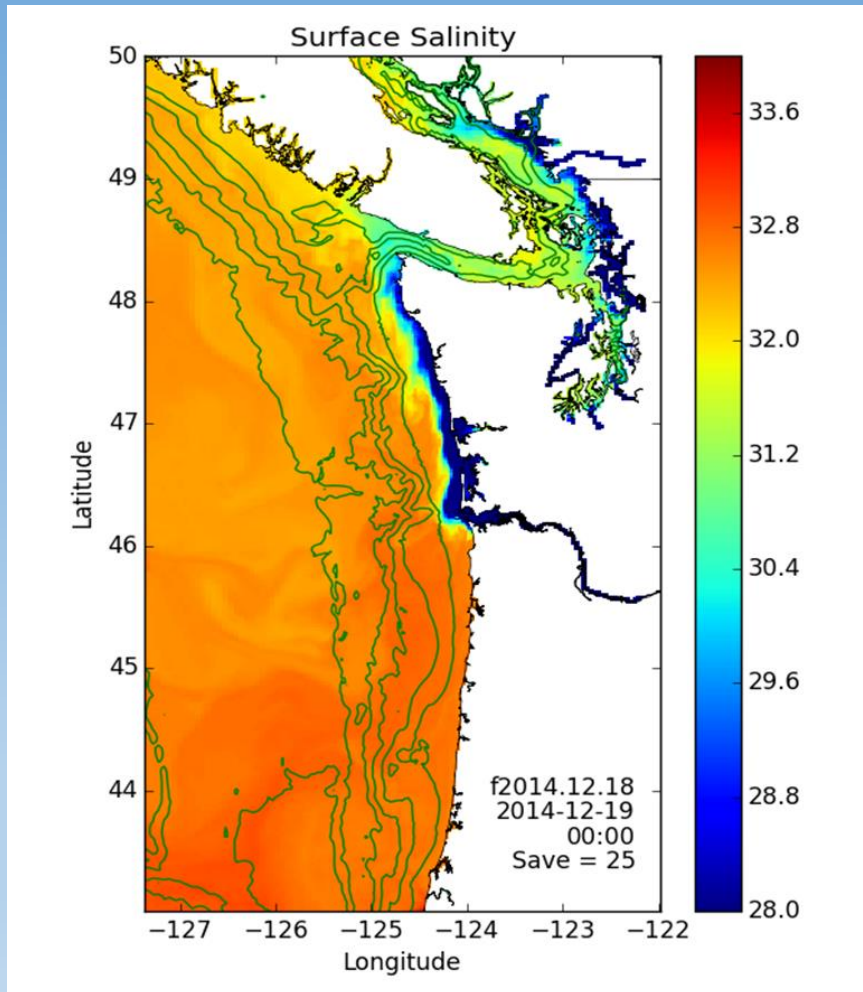
Capitol Building, Olympia  
Shucked Pacific oyster

# Marine Resource Advisory Council



- Maintaining a coordinated focus on ocean acidification
- Advising and working with the WA OA Center on OA effects and sources
- Making recommendations to the Governor and Legislature on OA
- Seeking public and private funding
- Assisting in conducting public education

# Washington Ocean Acidification Center



- Sustaining an integrated OA monitoring network
- Supporting real time water quality monitoring at 6 shellfish hatcheries
- Developing short-term forecasts of corrosive conditions
- Conducting lab studies of OA impacts on key species in Washington
- Coordinating state-resourced efforts with federal and other research and monitoring
- Supporting information needs

# Maintaining momentum on implementation

2016:

- Governor Inslee launched Phase II of the WA Shellfish Initiative in
- West Coast OA Hypoxia Science Panel Report



2017:

Blue Ribbon Panel  
Five Year “Refresh”



Photos:  
Governor's Office

# The Pacific Coast Collaborative

**2013:** Pacific Coast Action Plan on Climate and Energy

***“Enlist support for research on ocean acidification and take action to combat it.”***

**2016:** Pacific Coast Climate Leadership Action Plan

***“Increase awareness, understanding, and action...”***

- 1. Design and implement coordinated, effective West Coast ocean acidification monitoring and research...***
- 2. Initiate the development of an international network of countries, states, provinces and cities that will work together to address the threat...”***





# International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification

OA ALLIANCE International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification

OA Action Plans ▾ Join Us ▾ FAQs News About ▾ 🔍

Join the International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification, an international network of governments and organizations that together will address ocean acidification and other threats from changing ocean conditions.

Join Us





# International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification

## Objectives

### *Build Coalition*

- Collaborate with other ocean groups (Under 2 MOU, others)
- Attend international ocean conferences
- Recruitment of new members and affiliates

### *Advance OA Action Plans*

- Action Toolkit
- Webinars and Additional Support/ Resources
- Letter of Commitment
- OA Action Plan

### *Elevate OA in Climate Agreements*

- Attend International ocean conferences (COP 23, others)
- Collaborative with partner efforts and initiatives
- Engage OA Alliance members



# West Coast Leadership on the International Stage

1. International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification Launch
2. The Global Ocean Forum
3. 2017 UN Oceans Conference to Implement SDG 14
4. Our Ocean Conference
  1. 2016 US State Department hosted
  2. 2017 European Union hosted
5. Upcoming – COP 23



# Science to Action

- Locally, regionally, globally – need to be deepening the science and not waiting to respond.
- We need to reduce carbon emissions and need to do it now.
- Governments and communities need to identify solutions to mitigate and adapt.
- We need to work together to share solutions and momentum.