



2022 United Nations Ocean Conference Side Event

“Ocean Acidification: Co-designing data connections to underserved communities for equitable outcomes”

Thursday, 30 June at 1330-1500

Pavilhão do Conhecimento – Pavilion of Knowledge Library

Organized by: University of Washington EarthLab, Nippon Foundation, Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON), Ocean Acidification Research for Sustainability (OARS), National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (IOC-UNESCO), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Ocean Decade Regional Collaborative Center for NE Pacific, Tula Foundation of Canada, International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification (OA Alliance), Plymouth Marine Laboratory, The Ocean Foundation

Background on the event (one paragraph)

The University of Washington’s Washington Ocean Acidification Center and Ocean Nexus Center hosted a side event “Ocean Acidification: Co-designing data connections to underserved communities for equitable outcomes” during the United Nations Ocean Conference in Lisbon, Portugal, on June 30th, 2022. The event highlighted successful partnerships with Indigenous, Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and other underserved communities on co-designing activities for adaptation and response strategies. It focused panel and audience discussion to underscore the importance of conducting local scale observations that are co-designed with communities to support local data usage, and of the value of doing so within a global context, both for how this can inform global assessments (e.g., UN Sustainable Development Goal 14.3) and for how global programs (e.g., UN Ocean Decade Programme ‘Ocean Acidification Research for Sustainability’ (OARS)) can give visibility to local voices. A live recording of the event is available [here](#).

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Successful partnerships where partners are co-designing work to inform communities about ocean acidification and develop strategies on local scales within the context of international and global scale programs that can directly support assessments like SDG 14.3.1
- Importance of local and global scales: of conducting local scale observations co-designed with communities, assuring connections for data usage; and of doing so within a global context, both for how this can inform global assessments (e.g., SDG 14.3) and for how global programs can give visibility to local voices.
- Policy informed by local stories; global programmes can provide visibility of status, needs, and successes.
- Collaboration with groups like international groups GOA-ON, OA Alliance, and the Ocean Nexus Center that are connected to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and supporting its outcomes
- Examples of best practices within Indigenous and SIDS communities.

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- Conduct regional Vulnerability Assessments i.e. place-based social-ecological system approaches to addressing ocean acidification
- Involve Indigenous communities early and often in the design and implementation of ocean acidification observing programs
- Improve training to increase regional expertise in ocean acidification monitoring
- Advise on the application of monitoring data and information to support adaptation and mitigation approaches
- Provide access to international networks that support monitoring, action, and policy efforts
- Enhance assistance with ocean acidification data management and accessibility

Voluntary Commitments (one paragraph)

The University of Washington submitted a Voluntary Commitment “Ocean Acidification Research on Local Scales” (<https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/ocean-acidification-research-local-scales>) at the UNOC regarding its commitment to supporting ocean acidification studies and observations. The Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON) and its UN Ocean Decade programmer Ocean Acidification Research for Sustainability (OARS) have ongoing commitments already registered, as do many of the other organising partners for this side event, with whom we will continue to coordinate with.