

# An update: California and OPC leadership on ocean acidification

Jenn Phillips  
OPC Meeting  
April 26, 2017

Photo by Gary O'Neill



# Milestones

**April  
2016**



Panel provides latest on science and management actions

**Post-Apr  
2016**



OPC, OST, leaders, scientists disseminate findings

**Sept  
2016**



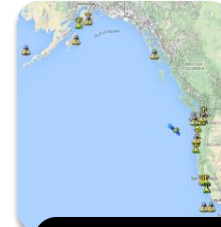
Strong coalitions help pass two bills, first ever for CA

**Oct  
2016**



Critical funding allocated by OPC to implement Panel

**Current**



Executing projects/legislation; advancing partnerships

**End of  
2017**



CA Action Plan released; stronger subnational agreements

<http://westcoastoah.org/impacts/>

# Legislative mandates

## Assembly Bill 2139



- Charges OPC to implement panel
- Establish science task force
- Facilitate agreements across many scales

## Senate Bill 1363



- Projects to research how eelgrass functions for carbon dioxide removal and OA mitigation
- Consider this benefit when restoring and conserving this habitat

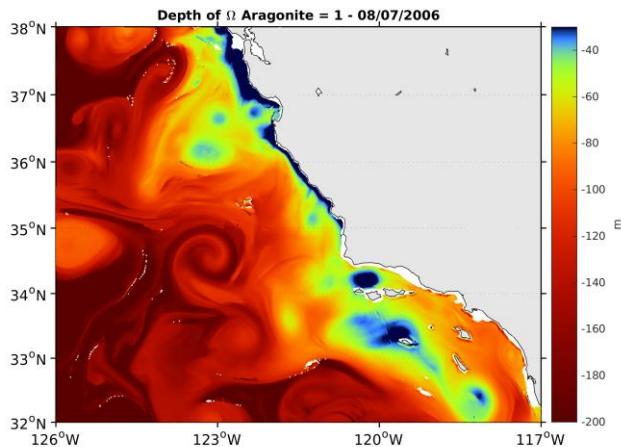
# Innovative & Critical Funding

Recent (Oct 2016) OPC investments: ~ 3.1 million

Previous OPC investments: ~1.3 M

To understand in real-time ocean chemistry, test and implement ways to adapt, and build tools to help communities and decision-makers understand change and respond

*All tie back to Science Panel and guidance documents*



# Regional and International Partnerships

## *Pacific Coast Collaborative*

- Brings together **West Coast leaders** to confront **climate** and **energy**
- Identified **ocean acidification** as **urgent ocean health issue**; paving way for greater regional, cross-border, and national efforts
- Focus of the PCC
  - enhanced **partnership with federal government to develop state of the art coastal OA monitoring that can predict when upwelling events will bring OA events to West Coast**
  - **efforts to elevate OA as an environmental and economic challenge that policy makers must address**
- Recently announced creation of the **International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification**



The Alliance brings together jurisdictions across the globe to highlight ocean acidification as an immediate threat to coastal economies and ocean ecosystems in their region. The Alliance welcomes all members, whether they are just beginning to work on these issues or are well into implementing mitigation strategies.



International Alliance to  
**Combat Ocean Acidification**

# Announced at the Our Ocean Conference in September 2016



....Chile and France announced their  
commitment as early signers



# Launched in December 2016



Photo Credit: Paige Berube



**International Alliance to  
Combat Ocean Acidification**



# Alliance Goals

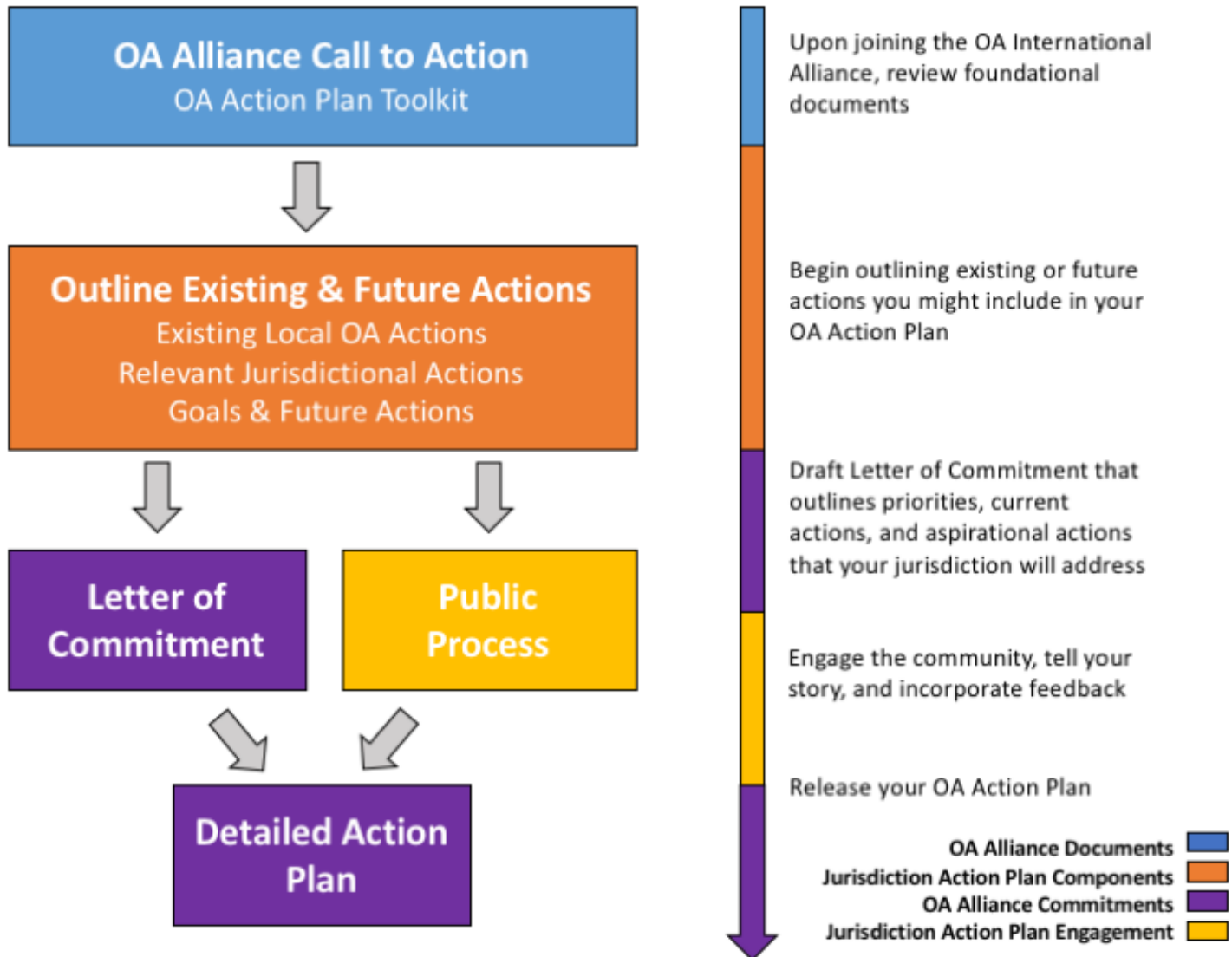
- 1) Advance scientific understanding of ocean acidification
- 2) Take meaningful actions to reduce causes of acidification
- 3) Protect the environment and coastal communities from impacts
- 4) Expand public awareness and understanding of acidification
- 5) Build sustained support for tackling this global problem



# Work Plan 2017

- ✓ Build coalition
- ✓ Advance OA Action Plans that describe the actions Alliance members will take to combat OA in their region and address Alliance goals
  - West Coast support to members through exchange of recent and relevant science, best practices to mitigate and adapt, sharing examples of existing action plans, and convening of members at international ocean and climate meetings
- ✓ Engage Alliance members at events and scheduled programs, including UN SDG 14 (UN Ocean Conference), the Our Ocean Conference, and COP23 where the Alliance will participate in efforts for the inclusion of ocean health language in the implementation of the Paris Agreement

# Pathway to Action Plan





# California's Timeline and Next Steps

- Build coalition and announce commitment at UN Ocean Conference in New York – June
  - Increase Alliance to 60 members by June 2018
  - Support the development of 15 Action Plans by June 2019
  - Meet with other international climate coalitions and recruit
- Release CA Letter of Commitment – August 2017
- Release CA Action Plan – Winter 2017
  - Outlining near and long-term strategy
- Continue scientifically-grounded funding and coordination across California government, West Coast, and with partners

