



# Ocean Acidification in New Jersey



**Megan Rutkowski**

MACAN's Coastal and Ocean Acidification Workshop  
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## OA IN NEW JERSEY

- NJ is not yet experiencing direct impacts of OA, but unfavorable conditions are predicted by 2100.
- Southern NJ counties rank 2<sup>nd</sup> in the U.S. in economic dependence on shellfish, which will suffer from increasing acidity.
- Impacts to commercial fishing, shellfishing, and aquaculture operations will occur. Collectively, industries contribute more than \$1 billion to the NJ economy.





## OA ACTION PLAN – WORKING TIMELINE

### 2020

- June - NJDEP published the “Scientific Report on Climate Change”.
- Formed OA Team.
- September - Rutgers published a report on “Opportunities to Address OA Impacts in NJ”.

### 2021

- April - NJ joins the International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification (OA Alliance).
- October - NJDEP published the “NJ Climate Change Resilience Strategy”.
- November - Rutgers and NJDEP host a virtual workshop of OA monitoring experts focused on the development of a statewide OA monitoring network and published a report with recommendations.

# WORKING TIMELINE CONTINUED

## 2023

- Stakeholder engagement to inform the elements of a NJ OA Action Plan.
  - 3 workshops occurring in June and July.
  - Final summary report of stakeholder engagement in September.

## 2024

- OA Action Plan draft written early 2024.
- Draft for formatting. (1-2 months)
- Formatted draft for comment and approval.
- Approved Draft for final stakeholder comment.
- Release. (Possibly Ocean Week in June?)





## OA Stakeholder Engagement – Main Take-aways

1. Incorporate existing State climate and environmental goals which address the threat of OA, while also including new goals that build OA resilience for NJ's vulnerable communities (e.g., fishing and aquaculture industry).
2. Prioritize building an expanded OA monitoring network in collaboration with State and regional partners that collects data on representative taxa and habitats.
3. Stress the importance of using existing data to act now rather than waiting for additional studies to be completed (or for the full monitoring network to be up and running).
4. Emphasize the importance of educating stakeholders on OA issues to galvanize partnerships and political will to address OA.
5. Establish an OA Workgroup/Coordination Committee to serve as the primary communicator with the DEP and serve as a consulting body NJDEP can turn to when making future OA mitigation and adaptation decisions.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!**



Megan Rutkowski

[Megan.Rutkowski@dep.nj.gov](mailto:Megan.Rutkowski@dep.nj.gov)

New Jersey Department of  
Environmental Protection  
Division of Science and Research

Thanks to our growing OA Teams

