

16th Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme & 13th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region

AGENDA ITEM 6:

Ocean Acidification: Update on international efforts to address ocean acidification

(Paper presented by the United States of America)



What is ocean acidification and why do we need to stop it?

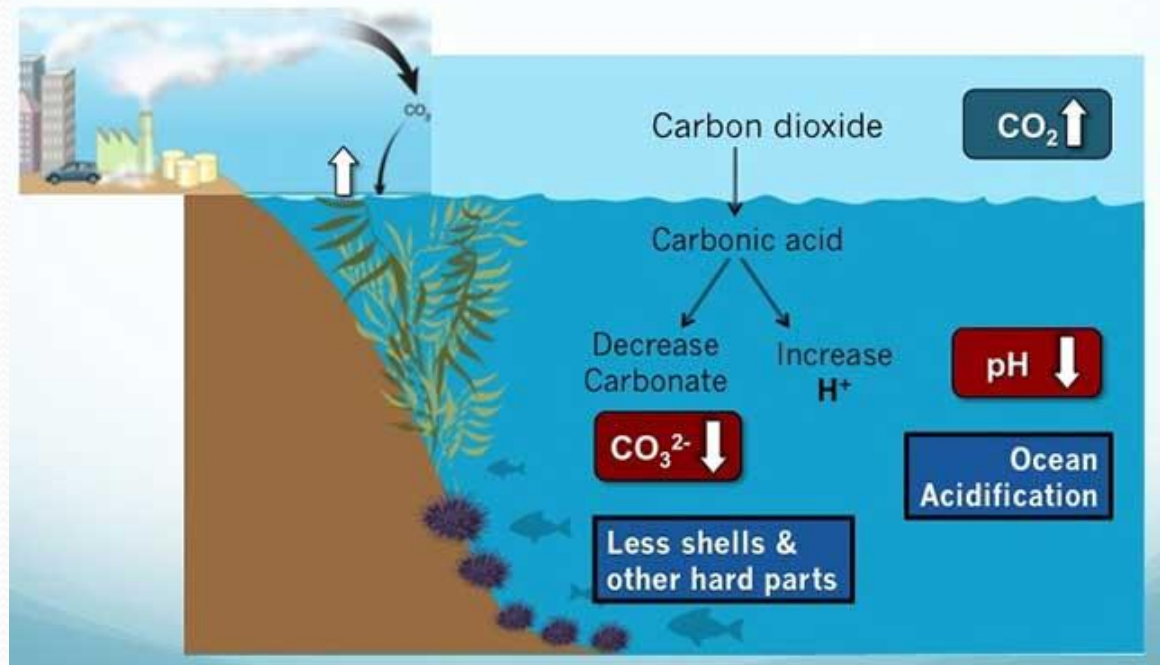
Absorption of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere

As ocean water absorbs carbon dioxide, it becomes more acidic

Importance of calcium carbonate

Danger to marine food web

Impacts on fisheries and coral reefs





Some of the problems we face...

- Unknown impacts due to incomplete research
- Lack of resources for monitoring and collecting data
- Lack of awareness by the general public
- Reduction of carbon emissions



Our Ocean conference

- Ocean Action Plan
 - Reduce carbon emissions
 - Worldwide capability to monitor ocean acidification
- Raising awareness at international meetings & holding workshops
- Participation in international efforts



The logo features the text "GOA-ON" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The text is enclosed within a thick, blue, stylized swoosh that forms a partial circle around the letters. The background of the entire image is a light blue and white abstract design with a grid of blue human figures connected by lines, suggesting a global network.

GOA-ON

Global Ocean Acidification
Observing Network

Ocean Acidification International Coordination Center (OA-ICC)

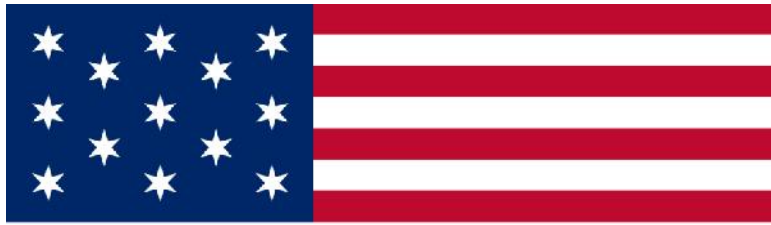
OA-ICC is the international coordination program that works to promote, facilitate and communicate global activities on ocean acidification.





SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme



An International Workshop on Ocean Acidification: Considerations for Small Island Developing States (SIDS)


August 28-29

Apia, Samoa



Recommendations

- **note** the progress of the international community on raising awareness about ocean acidification;
- **urge** countries of the Wider Caribbean Region to support and participate in international ocean acidification monitoring networks;
- **encourage** countries of the Wider Caribbean Region to explore opportunities to review the recommendations and actions arising from the workshop on ocean acidification that took place as a parallel event to the September 2014 Small Island Developing States Conference in Samoa; and
- **consider** including activities related to building ocean acidification monitoring capacity in the workplan for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the 2015-2016 biennium.



“We recognize that protecting our ocean is not a luxury. It is a necessity that contributes to our economy, our climate, and our way of life. Working together, we can change the current course and chart a sustainable future.”

United States Secretary of State John Kerry

Thank you! Questions?

Contact Information

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