

## The 2010 Ocean Acidification Reference User Group Meeting



# Introduction to the working group sessions

The 2010 Ocean Acidification Reference User Group Meeting



## The Monaco Ocean Acidification Action Plan

Short (c8) side publication, 5 languages

Strategic framework for action – including science, policy and communications and outreach and more..

Major feature of the 2011 RUG meeting in Brussels...but where else?

What do we need to do to move this agenda forwards quickly and effectively?

What is missing??

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## As examples of what is ‘missing’:

### Research gaps

Capacity to best coordination science

Capacity to develop and best coordination outreach

Legislative levers and opportunities

Social issues and implications

Policy route for maximum effectiveness

Decision support framework to address impacts

Strategy for communications

Understanding of economics

What are the questions we really need answers to?

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# Output from the RUG meeting

20 – 25 minute presentation covering main elements of the strategic framework

Presentation to H.S.H. Prince Albert

# Our Programme



## Tuesday 2nd

★ Opening ★

★ Introductions ★

★ EPOCA ★

**LUNCH**

EPOCA

SOLAS - IMBER

★ Introduction to Working Groups & on-line questionnaire ★

**Evening Reception  
(7pm for 730 pm)**

## Wednesday 3rd

★ BIOACID ★

★ UKOARP ★

Monaco OA Economics

Oceans in a High CO2 world

MedSEA

**LUNCH**

★ Working Groups (scoping) ★

**RUG Dinner  
(7pm)**

## Thursday 4th

★ Working Groups (documenting) ★

Brussels OA public day discussion

**LUNCH**

**Closing Plenary**  
H.S.H. Prince Albert  
(2pm – 330pm)

# Our Programme



## Tuesday 2nd

|   |               |   |
|---|---------------|---|
| ★ | Opening       | ★ |
|   | Introductions | ★ |
| ★ | <b>EPOCA</b>  |   |

LUNCH

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
|   | <b>EPOCA</b>   |  |
|   | SOLAS - IMBER  |  |
| ★ | Introduction to Working Groups & on-line questionnaire |  |

|  |
|--|
| <b>Evening Reception</b><br>(7pm for 730 pm) |
|--|

## Wednesday 3rd

|   |                            |   |
|---|----------------------------|---|
| ★ | <b>BIOACID</b>             | ★ |
| ★ | <b>UKOARP</b>              |   |
|   | Monaco OA Economics        |   |
|   | Oceans in a High CO2 world |   |
|   | MedSEA                     |   |

LUNCH

|   |                                 |  |
|---|---------------------------------|--|
| ★ | <b>Working Groups (scoping)</b> |  |
|---|---------------------------------|--|

|                            |
|----------------------------|
| <b>RUG Dinner</b><br>(7pm) |
|----------------------------|

## Thursday 4th

|   |                                     |   |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| ★ | <b>Working Groups (documenting)</b> | ★ |
|   | Brussels OA public day discussion   |   |

LUNCH

|   |
|---|
| <b>Closing Plenary</b><br>H.S.H. Prince Albert<br>(2pm – 330pm) |
|---|

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# Structure of working groups

3 groups chaired by

Lynne Hale, TNC – ‘outreach’

Emily Pidgeon, CI – ‘policy’

Kristian Teleki, SeaWeb – ‘research’

Coordinated by John Baxter and Dan L

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# OA Web Survey

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2010,  
Oceanographic Museum, Monaco

Kristian Teleki  
Vice President for Science





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To determine message and communications strategies on ocean acidification in order to elicit action amongst a range of stakeholders and policy fora:

- \* to begin crafting practical strategies for influencing national and international policy on ocean acidification
- \* to provide the broader ocean community with a message and communications framework that will elevate ocean acidification as a priority issue and advance solutions and resilience strategies

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# Ocean Acidification: What can we do about it?

23 November 2010 – Royal Geographic Society, London

[oceanacidification@seaweb.org](mailto:oceanacidification@seaweb.org)

- \* Industry, policy, donor, advocacy, media and scientific community
- \* Cutting through the complexity with science, communication and policy elements

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# Ocean Acidification Online Survey

- enhance the effectiveness of communication and outreach efforts
- Dan Laffoley, John Baxter and Carol Turley

As of 1<sup>st</sup> November – 397 responses

|               |     |                             |     |
|---------------|-----|-----------------------------|-----|
| North America | 53% | Science Research            | 63% |
| Europe        | 30% | NGO                         | 14% |
| Oceania       | 13% | Private Sector and industry | 6%  |
| Asia          | 2%  | Government                  | 6%  |
| Africa        | 1%  | IGO                         | 4%  |
| South America | 1%  | Other                       | 7%  |

[www.surveymonkey.com/s/QPN763J](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QPN763J)

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### **Where does ocean acidification sit as a priority in your organization?**

77% rated it as a medium to high priority

26% rated it as a high priority

### **Do you consider climate change, overfishing, pollution and/or coastal development a greater threat to the ocean than ocean acidification?**

72% Yes

Climate Change

Overfishing

Long vs short term, OA a result of climate change, synergistic effects

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**Do you believe that by elevating people's awareness of ocean acidification we will succeed in addressing ocean acidification?**

61% Yes

**Do you think that we could use ocean acidification to leverage action on other ocean issues?**

83% Yes

Climate Change

MPAs

Overfishing

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**Who should be the primary target for ocean acidification communications, which includes translating, and communicating the latest science?**

Policy makers and parliamentarians (88%)

General public

School children and university students

Seafood and fishing industry

**Do you think communicating ocean acidification would benefit from having a single body lead a partnership or multinational network of concerned entities?**

76% Yes

Coordinated but not centralised

Public for the most part unaware but will shift policy makers

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### **What do you think is the argument most likely to be used by those who are skeptical of ocean acidification?**

Any efforts to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> pollution will be in vain unless China and other developing countries make similar commitments (50%)

This is just another scare tactic by environmentalists. They failed to get the carbon emissions reductions they wanted at the Copenhagen meeting and now they are trying this.

Limiting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is unreasonable while the world economy is unstable; it will make basic things like food, fuel, etc. more expensive

The ocean has experienced much higher levels of acidity in the past, as long as some species survive, the ocean isn't in any real danger

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### **What do you think would be the most effective tools to communicate ocean acidification?**

Scientists need to be better communicators

Documentary for television

Teacher modules (K-12 level)

An 'Inconvenient Truth' type movement for ocean acidification

**Ocean acidification is increasingly being labelled as a poor description and name for the lowering of ocean pH.**

80% Disagreed with this statement

Presented with options that no one liked but no other suggestions

Carbon Pollution of the Ocean



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**Do you think there needs to be greater outreach and engagement with those sectors and communities which will be impacted most by ocean acidification?**

94% Yes

Fisheries a powerful lobby group

“Crying wolf we risk losing credibility”

Little if any outreach to developing countries

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### What do you feel are the ocean acidification research priorities?

Better understanding of the ocean systems and the resulting biological and human socioeconomic impacts

OA economic impact on ocean ecosystem services

Relationship and linkages with other ocean/atmospheric processes

Lab studies

Adaptation

In situ observations and examples

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### **Ocean acidification will have the greatest implications for:**

Food chain  
Biodiversity  
Economic impacts

Low human health and national security

**What do you think is the most important information need, that is currently missing or is weak, to underpin effective communication of ocean acidification?**

Expected outcomes  
Industry or economic impacts  
Science

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### **What policy formats or mechanisms for addressing ocean acidification should be pursued?**

Climate change conventions and agreements

Ocean related international governance (e.g. UN Law of the Sea)

Multilateral environmental agreements (e.g. Convention on Biological Diversity)

National Legislation

### **If you were going to advise the policy and funder communities what would be your priorities for targeting research funds?**

CO<sub>2</sub> reduction campaign

More rapid development of renewable energy options

More science

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# What do you think is the greatest impediment to effective communication about ocean acidification?

There is too much uncertainty with respect to impacts

There is apathy and fatigue around the 'doomed oceans' (and climate change)

It is a new and emerging issue

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# Ocean Acidification Survey

[www.surveymonkey.com/s/QPN763J](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QPN763J)

London Meeting – 23<sup>rd</sup> November

[oceanacidification@seaweb.org](mailto:oceanacidification@seaweb.org)