

**OA**  
ALLIANCE

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE TO  
COMBAT OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

CASE STUDY:  
**UNITED STATES**  
ACTION PLAN

OA MEMBER:

# UNITED STATES



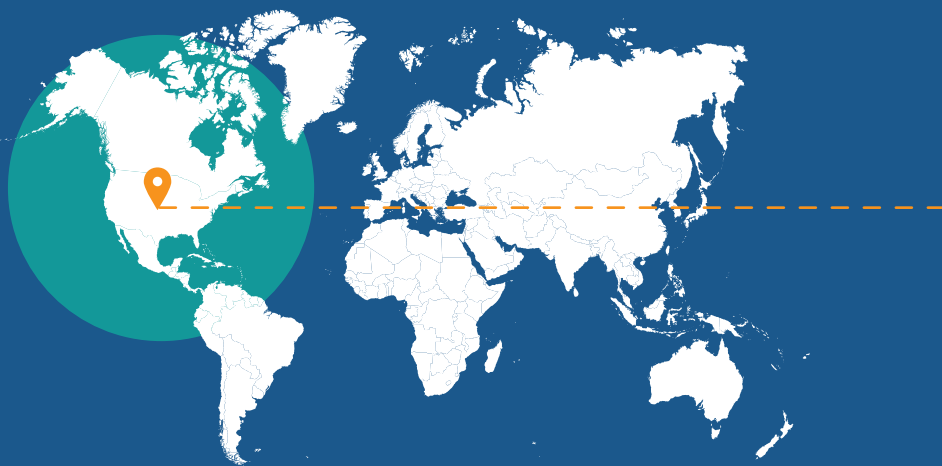
MEMBER TYPE:  
**GOVERNMENT MEMBER**

POINT OF CONTACT:

 Libby Jewett

 libby.jewett@noaa.gov

LOCATION:



CONTINENT:  
NORTH AMERICA

OCEAN BASIN:  
PACIFIC  
ATLANTIC  
ARCTIC

POPULATION SIZE:  
332,000,000

KILOMETERS OF COASTLINE:



**152,888 km**

REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT  
**MARINE ECOSYSTEMS:**



REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT  
**USES OF RESOURCES:**

Aquaculture

Coastal  
tourism

Artisanal or  
subsistence  
fisheries

Eco-tourism

Commercial  
fisheries

Food  
Security

Cultural  
practices  
or traditions

**THE OA ACTION PLAN  
WAS COMMISSIONED THROUGH:**

MINISTRY, COUNCIL OR DEPARTMENT DECISION  
TRIGGERED BY OA ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP

# ADVANCING OA ACTION PLANNING

## Main reason why an OA Action Plan was created/ government decided to work on ocean acidification:

In 2009, the federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act (FOARAM) led to the creation of U.S. NOAA Ocean Acidification Program (OAP) and expanded nationwide research and monitoring, enabling regions to develop baseline knowledge and information sharing.

We've invested in regional ocean and coastal acidification networks (CANS) that foster collaborations across academic institutions, relevant federal and state agencies, Tribal governments and a variety of stakeholders and non-governmental organizations. CANS advance monitoring, identify and fill knowledge gaps, and educate communities and stakeholders about the issue of climate related ocean change at regional scales.

Importantly, the US OA Interagency Working Group, also established by FOARAM, is conducting a national vulnerability assessment which is expected to guide future investments and support adaptation and resilience measures across the most vulnerable sectors and communities.

## Body that approved the final set of recommendations:

US State Department

## OA Action Plan policy context:

Independent plan based solidly on federal and agency research strategies already developed.

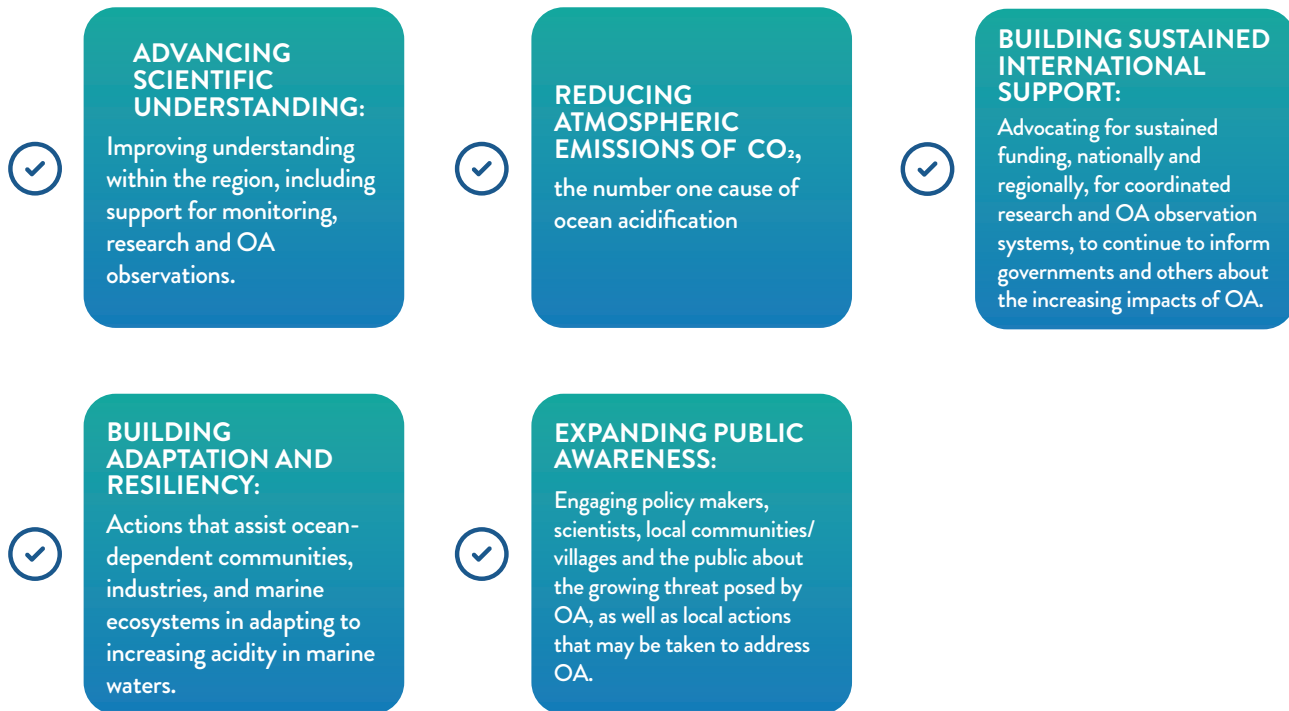
The U.S. is the only country with ocean acidification specific legislation, long term funding for OA research and monitoring through federal science agencies, a core lead science program in NOAA and a cross agency interagency working group. After more than a decade of research and a reauthorization of the legislation in 2022, the U.S. is a leader in OA response and thus development of an OA Action Plan evolves easily out of this expansive effort.

## Partners involved in helping to draft or conceive the OA Action Plan:

- Academic institutions
- Government or municipal departments
- Community members
- Tribal governments, indigenous communities or First Nations
- NGOs
- Monitoring and science networks

# PRIORITIES & RECOMMENDATIONS

OA Alliance Toolkit themes included in the Action Plan:



Highlights from the OA Action Plan that are unique to jurisdiction/regional context:

Has not yet been developed but we will root it in the Federal Research strategy found here: [https://oceanacidification.noaa.gov/sites/oap-redesign/Documents/IWGOA/IWG%20Ocean%20Acidification%20Strategic%20Plan\\_Public%20Comment.pdf?ver=2022-08-22-110402-613](https://oceanacidification.noaa.gov/sites/oap-redesign/Documents/IWGOA/IWG%20Ocean%20Acidification%20Strategic%20Plan_Public%20Comment.pdf?ver=2022-08-22-110402-613)

# MEASURES OF SUCCESS, CHALLENGES & LESSONS LEARNED

## Main challenges encountered while drafting the OA Action Plan:

No challenges yet.

## What will success look like in 5 years?

1. Monitoring in all large marine ecosystems which supports management of marine resources.
2. Expanded understanding of how marine resources are being affected by OA.
3. Identification of potential OA mitigation tools, which might include marine carbon-dioxide removal.
4. Reduced emissions from U.S. sources.
5. Expanded engagement with communities in the US and globally.

Additionally historic infrastructure investments through recent legislation will help us upgrade and modernize wastewater and stormwater systems that can help reduce local and land-based source contributions of pollution that further exacerbate coastal warming, acidification, and deoxygenation.

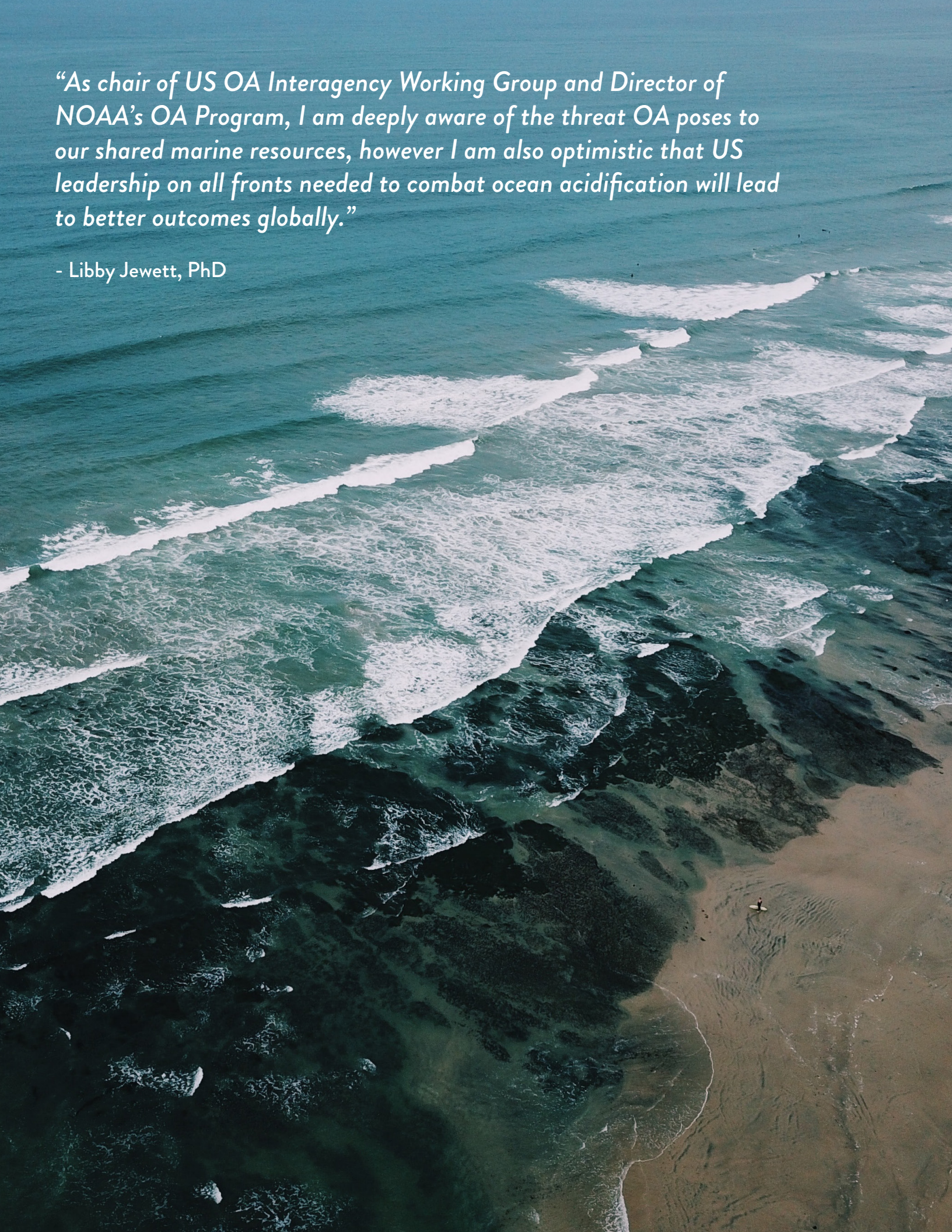
We are also supporting shoreline restoration activities and coastal habitat protection of aquatic vegetation, including kelp, sea grasses and salt marshes to sequester carbon and provide nature-based solutions against ongoing climate-ocean change.

## Financial investments/ commitments made to help advance proposed recommendations to-date:

Government appropriations provide long term support for the USG OA Actions

*“As chair of US OA Interagency Working Group and Director of NOAA’s OA Program, I am deeply aware of the threat OA poses to our shared marine resources, however I am also optimistic that US leadership on all fronts needed to combat ocean acidification will lead to better outcomes globally.”*

- Libby Jewett, PhD





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Learn more about how you can advance climate-ocean action  
through the OA Alliance. Visit:  
[www.oaalliance.org](http://www.oaalliance.org)

 [@OA\\_Alliance](https://twitter.com/OA_Alliance)

This case study was published on 2022.  
However, please note that climate-ocean commitments, policies, and priorities are dynamic. They are responsive to new information, administration changes and funding. Activities reflected here may have changed or evolved since the time of this publication.