

NAML Briefing on Ocean Acidification
Washington, D.C.
October 22, 2014

The National Association of Marine Laboratories (NAML) hosted a very successful briefing to Congressional staff, Federal agency officials, and representatives from interested science and conservation organizations on ocean and coastal acidification. The briefing was held on October 22 and sponsored by the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation – the Senate committee that authorizes programs related to ocean and coastal programs and oversees the following agencies of interest to NAML -- NOAA, NASA, NSF, and OSTP.

The speakers included four NAML members and the CEO of a major seafood company based in New Jersey:

- Mr. Mike DeLuca, Manager, Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve, Director, NJ Aquaculture Innovation Center, Rutgers University, and Chairman of the NAML's Public Policy Committee;
- Dr. Roberta Marinelli, Director of the USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California;
- Dr. Louis Burnett, Professor, College of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina;
- Dr. Daniel McCorkle, Department Chair, Geology and Geophysics, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution; and
- Mr. Daniel Cohen, President, Atlantic Cape Fisheries, Inc., Cape May, New Jersey

The briefing focused on research being conducted and the impacts being observed on a regional scale as it relates to ocean and coastal acidification. Approximately 70 Congressional staff, agency personnel, and other interested parties attended the NAML session – including the majority and minority staffs from the authorizing committees – Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee and House Science, Space, and Technology Committee – as well as both majority and minority staff from both the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees that oversee NSF, NOAA, and NASA. A number of NOAA officials were present including the program director for NOAA's Ocean Acidification program.

The briefing was well attended and served to heighten NAML's visibility with key decision makers as well as help educate and inform those in attendance about the observations and consequences, on a regional level, emanating from ocean and coastal acidification.

The briefing was a direct result of decisions made by NAML members at last winter's public policy meeting in Washington, D.C. NAML will look for additional opportunities in the coming months to hold other briefing sessions. Topics and volunteers to participate will be gratefully accepted.

Copies of the slides used at the briefing are available for downloading at www.naml.org.

We thank Joel Widder and Meg Thompson of Federal Science Partners, David Drupa of Burk Associates, Inc., and Daniel Cohen for assistance and support in developing and conducting this event.