

OASeS 2022 Annual Accomplishments Report

The Olympic Coast Ocean Acidification Sentinel Site (OASeS) focuses on coordinating and facilitating collaboration on ocean acidification (OA) related policy, science, and education and outreach on the outer coast of Washington. The sentinel site works to inform resource managers and coastal communities by telling the story of OA and its impacts on Washington coastal marine resources, coastal cultures, communities, and economies. The sentinel site will seek to ensure that the Olympic Coast is well prepared for changing ocean conditions, with research and management actions in place. The OASeS Steering Committee first met in September of 2020. Since then, OASeS has met quarterly and achieved several successes in a primarily virtual environment.



In 2022, OASeS was led by three co-chairs: Russell Callender, Director of Washington Sea Grant; Micah Horwith, Senior Scientist for Washington Department of Ecology; and Tommy Moore, Oceanographer for the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission.

Over the past year, OASeS has been focused on implementation of the prioritized work plan. This work plan outlines key tasks the steering committee will focus on, including website development, hosting a biennial symposium, filling key management and science gaps, and expanding our formal and informal education and outreach efforts. In addition to the three subcommittees focused on management, science, and education and outreach, we have had two additional subcommittees focused on the development of an OASeS website and hosting a Symposium.

The first biennial OASeS Symposium was successfully convened in Ocean Shores, bringing together nearly 100 people, in person and remotely. Attendees included OASeS steering committee members, resource managers, tribal members, researchers, educators, students, and members of the public. The first day of the Symposium was focused on management and policy actions and needs. The second day was focused on research findings and needs as well as education and outreach efforts related to OA. The symposium provided a gathering station for a diversity of voices to share information and emergent research, generate solutions, and address work plan actions related to policy, management, science, education, and



Several former Sea Grant Fellows (Knauss and Hershman) with WA Sea Grant Director and OASeS co-chair, Russell Callender. From left to right: Halle Berger, Julie Ann Koehlinger, Kevin Grant, Laura Nelson, Haley Kennard, Russell Callender, Katie Wrubel, Kara Cardinal, Laura Letson. Photo: NOAA

outreach needs of the region regarding the changing ocean conditions. OASeS was intentional in hearing directly from tribal members on their observations, questions, and solutions. OASeS plans to host biennial symposia every even year on the outer Washington coast, rotating “themes” with education and student engagement being a focus for 2024. Funding to support the Symposium was provided by Washington Sea Grant, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, Washington Department of Ecology, Washington Ocean Acidification Center, and The Nature Conservancy.

An OASeS website is underway in partnership with the Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems (NANOOS)! The website will allow the steering committee to share information to broader audiences on what changes are being observed on the Olympic Coast, science and information needs, connections to formal and informal educational materials, and more.

OASeS is close to finalizing a communications plan that addresses the long-term and short-term communication needs of the steering committee, including website, targeted outreach, and development of informational materials. In 2022, we provided overview presentations of OASeS to the Pacific Coast Collaborative’s West Coast Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Symposium. OASeS has also developed an accomplishments report for 2021 and a symposium summary report. These materials were shared with the OASeS steering committee and were posted on our OASeS Team page through the Ocean Acidification Information Exchange (oainfoexchange.org). These materials will also be posted on the OASeS website.

Overall, OASeS has strengthened existing partnerships in the region. Fostering communication and collaboration among these partners will result in stronger science and more holistic management. Ultimately, an improved ability to understand, forecast, and communicate the environmental and societal impacts of ocean change on the Washington coast can serve as a model for the broader Pacific Northwest and coastal regions around the world.

Upcoming activities for 2023:

- 1. Launch OASeS Website and develop relevant content for advancing OASeS goals, including research priorities;**
- 2. Conduct in person community outreach with Olympic Coast communities, especially the Coastal Treaty Tribes, as appropriate;**
- 3. Explore the management and policy landscape for addressing ocean acidification impacts, including a possible workshop with relevant management entities on this topic; and**
- 4. Continue to hold quarterly steering committee meetings, including an in-person meeting in the spring.**