



**Maryland**  
Department of  
the Environment

# Maryland Ocean Acidification Action Plan and Implementation

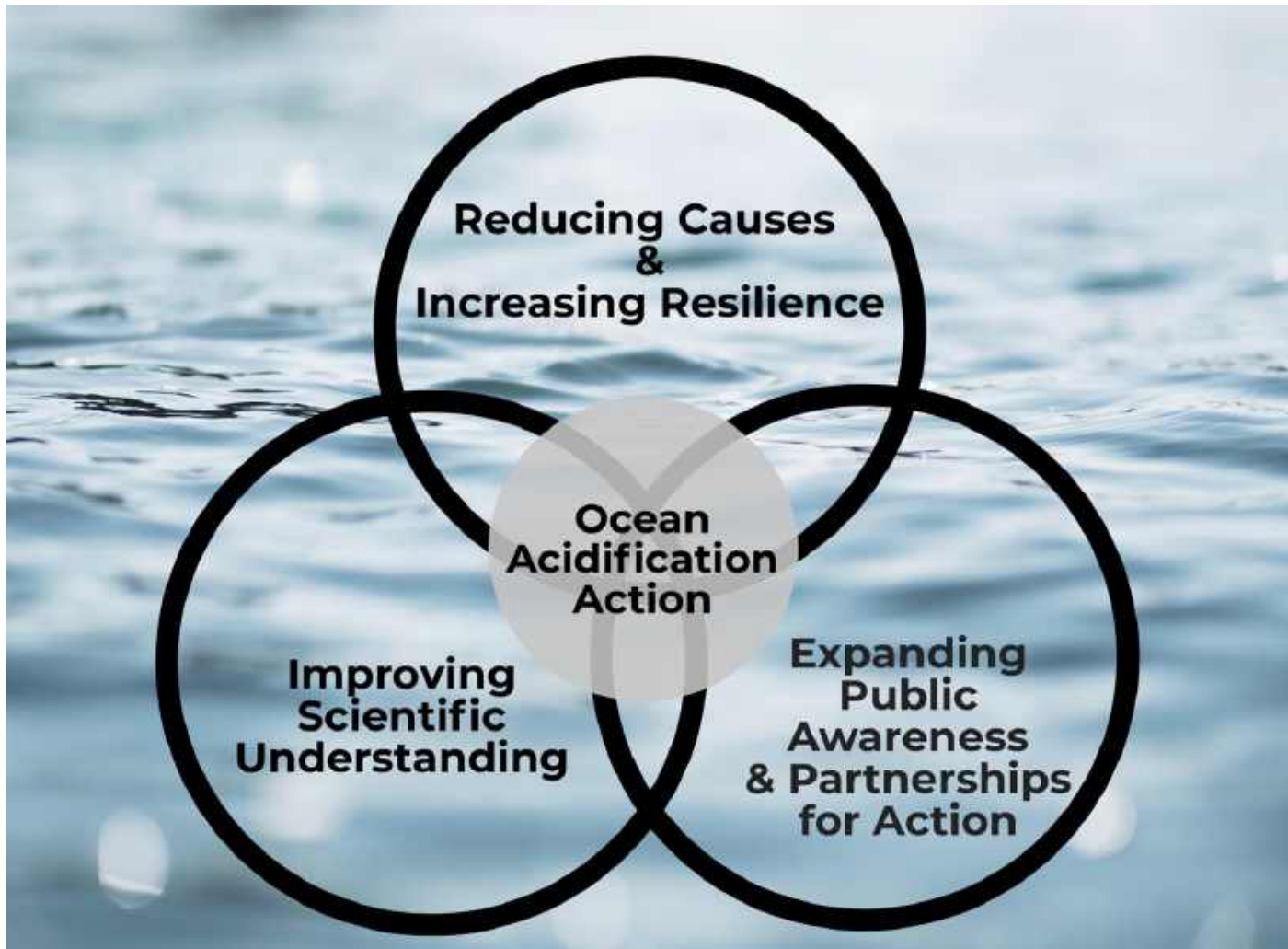
MACAN's Mid-Atlantic Coastal & Ocean  
Acidification Workshop

September 11, 2023



# Maryland's OA Action Plan

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# State Leadership

## 1. Reducing Causes and Increasing Resilience

**JUNE 2023**

# MARYLAND'S CLIMATE PATHWAY

An analysis of actions the state can take to achieve Maryland's nation-leading greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals

Target	Future	Global
How Maryland can meet its climate goals of 80% reduction of GHG emissions by 2031 and attain a net-zero economy by 2045	The benefits of this pathway extend beyond emissions reductions to improved air quality, job creation, cost-savings, and more	By achieving Maryland's climate targets the State can set a national and global example for how a state can go all-in on climate action

**SCHOOLS OF PUBLIC POLICY**  
CENTER FOR CLIMATE ACTION

**Maryland**  
Department of the Environment

[www.marylandsclimatepathway.com](http://www.marylandsclimatepathway.com)

**CHESAPEAKE WATERSHED AGREEMENT**

2 0 1 4

As amended, January 24, 2020

### Maryland's Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan to Restore Chesapeake Bay by 2025

Final Document | August 23, 2019



# State Leadership

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## 2. Expanding Public Awareness & Partnerships for Action

- Engaging Maryland Commission on Climate Change (MCCC)
- Leveraging ongoing work with Chesapeake Bay Program
- Enhancing partnerships among state agencies, federal partners, and universities (re: water, climate, living resources)
- Expanding public connections to underscore impact
  - *OA Action as Climate Action*
  - *OA Action for a Healthy Chesapeake Bay*





# State Leadership

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## 3. Improving Scientific Understanding

- Aquaculture: Oyster aquaculture adaptation options and potential gaps/unknowns in dynamic Bay envr.
- OA & SAV: Relationship between OA and submerged aquatic vegetation (e.g. buffering capacity, spatially strategic restoration, co-benefits for industry)
- Monitoring: State monitoring enhancement plan to inform OA adaptive management with key indicators; focus on leveraging existing sites, network, data, etc.





# Relevance to UN SDGs



**United Nations**

Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
Sustainable Development



INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE TO  
COMBAT OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

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## Expanded and Effective Implementation of the U.S. State of Maryland's Ocean Acidification Action Plan

State of Maryland / Maryland Department of the Environment (Local / Regional Government)

#OceanAction47567

DESCRIPTION

SDG 14 TARGETS COVERED

DELIVERABLES & TIMELINE

RESOURCES MOBILIZED

PROGRESS REPORTS

FEEDBACK



# Next Steps for Action

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In a 2022 update, the State identified at least three specific next steps on OA Action Plan implementation:

1. Development of a **blue carbon coordinating strategy** in Maryland, highlighting intersections between climate action and OA Action.
2. Collaboration with federal, state, and university partners on a regional **carbonate system monitoring strategy** in the Chesapeake and Coastal Bays.
3. Development of a **virtual platform that makes accessible to the public ongoing OA Action outcomes**, including communities on the front lines of climate and OA impacts.



# New Opportunities on the Horizon

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- IRA and BIL Funding
- Beyond 2025 in the Chesapeake Bay
- 2031 MD GHG Mitigation Plan and path to net zero
- Statewide adaptation and resilience planning
- Implementing Maryland's Conservation Finance Act
- MDE's EJ Screening Tool and focus on Justice 40
- U.S. OA Action Plan and Ocean Climate Action Plan
- More...





# What Will Make Us Successful

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- ***Consistent communication*** of drivers and impacts across communities of practice
- ***Strategic investment*** in infrastructure and science coordination that sustains data collection and broad access
- ***Efficient integration of data analysis*** into existing information pipelines (e.g., Bay Program, MCCC, local planning authorities)
- ***Support for innovative research design*** and synergy at landscape scale with attention to co-benefits
- ***Direct delivery of information*** to communities on the frontlines of climate change impacts



# Contact

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