

Ocean Acidification International Conference Directions

You and your Stakeholder Group will create a poster and a 1-2 minute presentation for the meeting. Think about the message you want everyone to understand about ocean acidification.

- Why should policy makers and the public care? How does ocean acidification affect your group? How do you affect ocean acidification?
- What can your group do about ocean acidification? Think about your strengths, resources, and consequences.
- What would you want the other groups to do about ocean acidification?

Following presentations, you will break up into Task Forces. Taking what you have learned from the presentations, your Task Force will discuss what you see as the biggest challenges or issues of ocean acidification. Each Task Force will help find solutions to these challenges.

Ocean Acidification Basics

- Since 1980, the ocean has taken up 30% of excess CO₂ released by human activity, specifically the burning of fossil fuels such as coal and oil for energy and transportation.
- The uptake of CO₂ has tipped resulted in a pH drop in the oceans.
- This increased acidity makes carbonate *less available* to the marine organisms that use calcium carbonate for the creation of their shells or skeletons.
- Calcification rates of many organisms have decreased, making it harder for them to build shells or skeletons.
- If the pH drops enough, calcium carbonate structures may even dissolve.