

# “Translating ocean acidification into practical applications to support aquaculture and food sustainability”

Dr Silvana N.R. Birchenough

International Symposium on Ocean Acidification - Dialogues between scientists and stakeholders  
28<sup>th</sup> October 2018.



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# News

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**Increasing Acidification Threatens Marine Life**

A major study of the world's oceans has concluded that all marine life will be affected by increasing acidification caused by carbon dioxide emissions.

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What's left of the Calais "Jungle" demolished by police in France one year ago?



German BioAcid  
(8yrs)



An unhealthy pteropod shows the effects of ocean acidification, including dissolving shell ridges on its upper surface, a cloudy shell, and severe abrasions. Photograph: Courtesy of NOAA

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## Ocean acidification is deadly threat to marine life, finds eight-year study

Plastic pollution, overfishing, global warming and increased acidification from burning fossil fuels means oceans are increasingly hostile to marine life



# ICES/PICES ACIDUSE WK

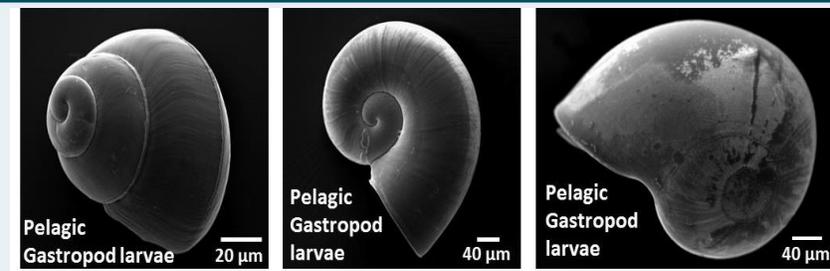


- 5-8<sup>th</sup> December 2016, at ICES;
- The workshop on understanding the impacts and consequences of ocean acidification for commercial species and end-users;
- Government, advisors, scientists and end-users.
- Discuss ways of translating science into applications.
- Follow up from the OSPAR/ICES SG
- The report is available:



# ICES/PICES ACIDUSE WK

- Importance of monitoring practices;
- Develop a suite of suitable robust, sensitive, and OA-specific biological indicators,
- Pteropods, foraminifera are widely found but no a clear pH response;
- OA and multiple stressors on marine life and potential socio-economic implications;
- Saturation thresholds:  $\Omega_{ar}$  and  $\Omega_{ca}$  at which a species responds was different for plankton and fish. Saturation thresholds for marine species has not been fully characterised



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## WKACIDUSE

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Workshop on Understanding the Impacts and Consequences of Ocean Acidification for Commercial Species and End-users

Affiliation: SSGEPI

Chair: Catriona Clemmesen, Tsuneo Ono, Silvana Birchenough



This workshop will address the understanding of acidification and its consequences for marine organisms, ecosystems, and end-users.

WKACIDUSE will convene 5-8 December at ICES Secretariat in Copenhagen. One key outcome of its remit will be collecting the available state of the art science to support the advisory

LINKS



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# UK/USA Workshop

- July 2016 in London and in West Mersea, Essex;
- Organised by Ocean Conservancy, USA;
- Aquaculture and end-users interested in understanding climate change effects on mussels, oysters and overall;
- USA- examples on oysters (Whiskey Creek)
- UK- still these examples are not felt in UK waters
- Several degrees of inshore variability



# House of Commons Science & Technology Committee

## Defra response (18 July, 2017) to issues raised re the OA inquiry:



Science and Technology Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA  
Tel 020 7219 7126  
<http://www.parliament.uk/science>

From Stephen Metcalfe MP, Chair

Thérèse Coffey MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London SW1P 3JR

26 April 2017

*Dear Thérèse,*

Ocean acidification

I am writing on behalf of the Science and Technology Committee about our recent inquiry into ocean acidification. We were grateful for your evidence to us last month and wanted to draw your attention to some of the key points from our inquiry, and highlight the follow up needed by Government.

Our inquiry highlighted the breadth and scale of work undertaken by marine scientists as part of the UK Ocean Acidification Research Programme (UKOA) that ran from 2010-2015. It is clear that the programme played an important role in advancing the general understanding of ocean acidification processes, as well as highlighting its specific implications for marine life, and human society, in the UK and beyond. We note that the future impacts of ocean acidification on shellfish and finfish fisheries remain highly uncertain<sup>1</sup> and ask that, when the results of the Defra and UKOA-funded PLACID programme (Placing Ocean Acidification in a wider Fisheries Context) have been analysed, Government outlines its conclusions to our successor Committee, together with plans for addressing PLACID's findings.

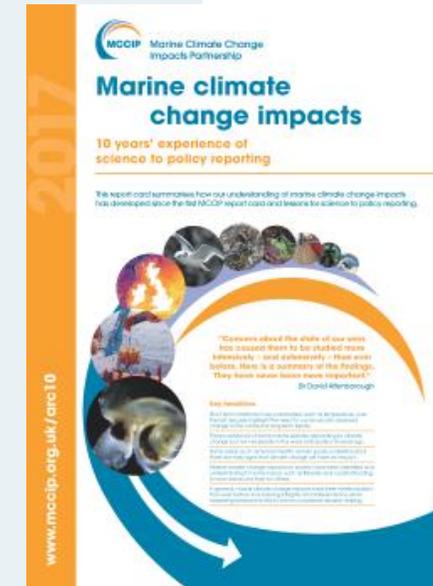
Research programmes such as PLACID enable the UK to develop and cement its

- Monitoring of UK waters
- Understanding of ocean acidification effects on commercial species
- OA effects over species and habitats of conservation importance
- Key gaps, so where should we target efforts...

Government  
Office for Science

Foresight

Future of the Sea:  
Ocean Acidification



Future of the Sea  
Evidence Review  
Foresight, Government Office for Science



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Science

Birchenough, SNR, Williamson, P and Turley, C (2017)



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# Defra Ocean Acidification sub group of the Science Advisory Council (CSAC)

- UK national experts were tasked to compile advice;
- An advice document was drafted;
- Endorsed by Defra;
- Several recommendations to establish a UK network of monitoring stations for carbonate chemistry;
- Also ideas for sampling carbonate chemistry over OTs and SIDs.

## Recommendations to inform a UK Ocean Acidification Monitoring Strategy

Report by the Ocean Acidification sub group of the Science Advisory Council

10 May 2018

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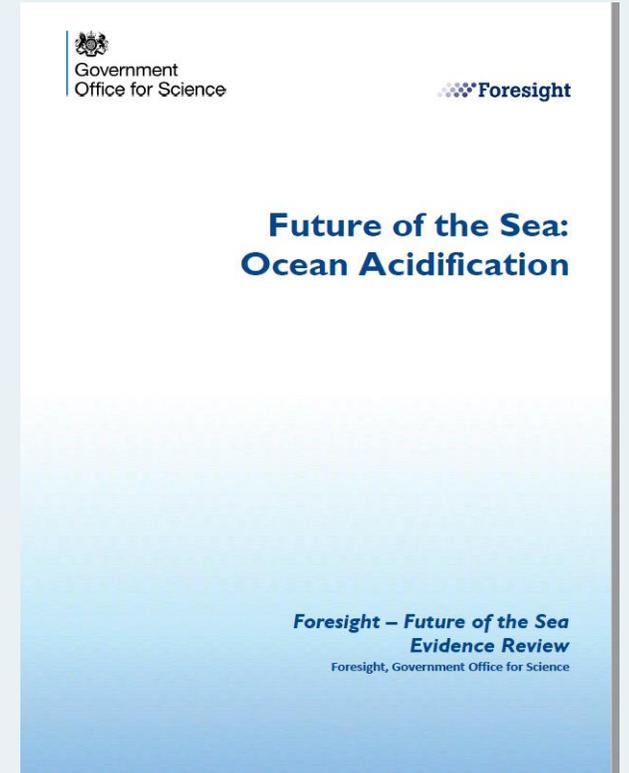
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# UK science & advice

- Monitoring data conducted over the North Sea assessments have shown clear pH changes in shelf and coastal sites.
- Trends of pH variability are still uncertain and further work to disentangle the observed variability does require further investigation;
- Though the future impacts of ocean acidification on commercial fisheries are still uncertain, recent research has indicated that annual economic losses in the UK resulting from the effects of ocean acidification could reach US\$ 97.1 million by 2100;
- The integrity of some UK species and habitats of conservation importance could be affected by future changes in pH and temperature;

These results are particularly important for UK shellfisheries and shellfish aquaculture, as these industries could be negatively affected. Therefore, future adaptations strategies may need to be considered to support these sectors.



# Recent work.....

Environmental Science and Policy xxx (2018) xxx-xxx

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

 Environmental Science and Policy 

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com](http://www.elsevier.com)

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## The economic impacts of ocean acidification on shellfish fisheries and aquaculture in the United Kingdom

Stephen C. Mangi<sup>a,\*</sup>, Joo Lee<sup>c</sup>, John K. Pinnegar<sup>b</sup>, Robin J. Law<sup>b</sup>, Emmanouil Tyllianakis<sup>b</sup>, Silvana N.R. Birchenough<sup>b</sup>

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
<p><b>Keywords:</b></p> <p>Crustaceans Marine climate change Risk assessment Molluscs Economic costs Shellfish production</p>	<p>Ocean acidification may pose a major threat to commercial fisheries, especially those for calcifying shellfish species. This study was undertaken to estimate the potential economic costs resulting from ocean acidification on UK wild capture and aquaculture shellfish production. Applying the net present value (NPV) and partial equilibrium (PE) models, we estimate both direct and economy-wide economic losses of shellfish production by 2100. Estimates using the NPV method show that the direct potential losses due to reduced shellfish production range from 14% to 28% of fishery NPV. This equates to annual economic losses of between £3 and £6 billion of the UK's GDP in 2013, for medium and high emission scenarios. Results using the PE model showed the total loss</p>

- Applying the net present value (NPV) and partial equilibrium (PE) models;
- Estimations of direct and economy-wide economic losses of shellfish production by 2100;
- Estimates using the NPV method showed that the direct potential losses due to reduced shellfish production range from 14% to 28% of fishery (£3-£6 billion) of the UK's GDP in 2013, for medium and high emission scenarios
- Results using the PE model showed the total loss to the UK economy from shellfish production and consumption ranging from £23 - £88 million.



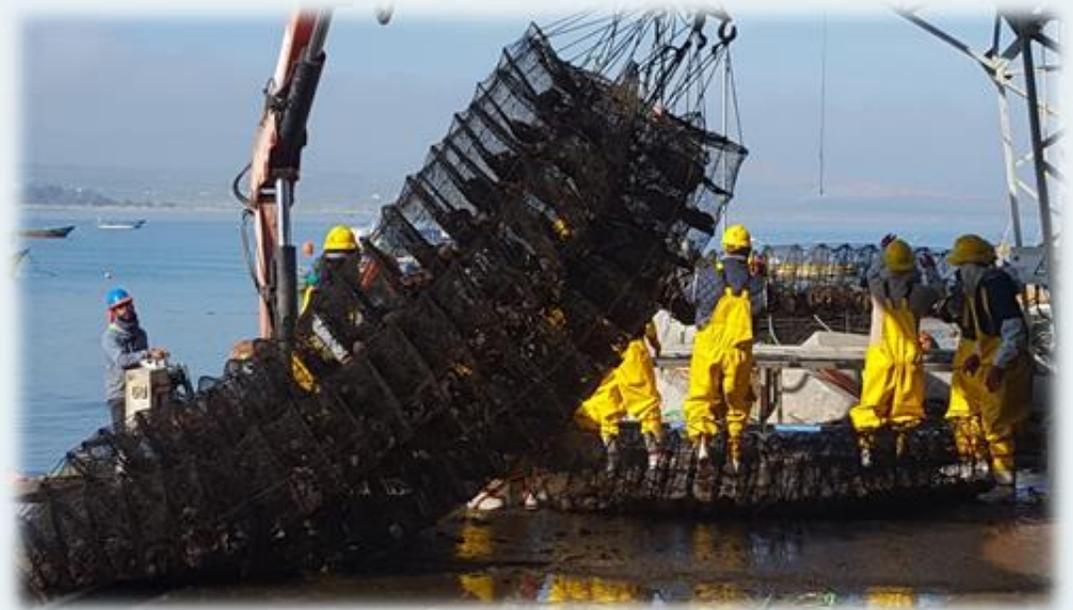
# ...So What?

- How end-users/industry will be affected by these changes;
- Are they aware of these changes ( e.g. early warning/signals?)
- Are they industry prepared to deal with these changes...

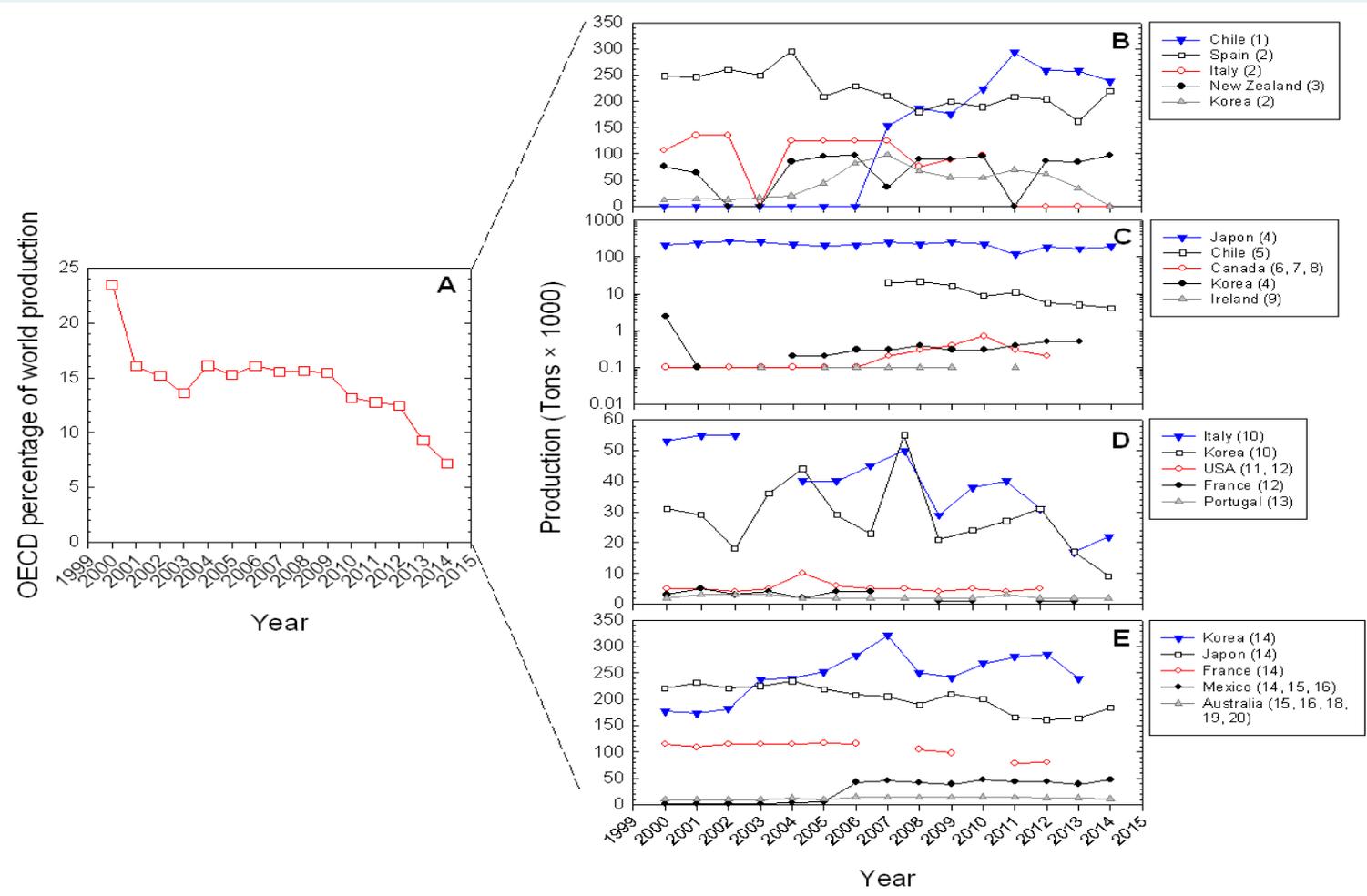


# Background

- Aquaculture is key to feed the increasing global population with high-quality nutritional components;
- Production has grown steadily over the past decades, and is now the fastest growing food production system worldwide;
- World's seafood production including fish (66.6 million tonnes), algae (23.8 tons/yr) and molluscs (15.1 tons/yr)}, a trend that may account for 60% of seafood by 2030;
- Multiple stressors effects (coastal areas)



# Production and trends



- (1) *Mytilus chilensis*, (2) *Mytilus galloprovincialis*, (3) *Perna canaliculus*, (4) *Patinopecten yessoensis*, (5) *Argopecten purpuratus*, (6) *Patinopecten caurinus*, (7) *Placopecten magellanicus*, (8) *Argopecten irradians*, (9) *Pecten maximus*, (10) *Ruditapes philippinarum*, (11) *Mercenaria mercenaria*, (12) *Venerupis philippinaru*, (13) *Ruditapes decussatus*, (14) *Crassostrea gigas*, (15) *Crassostrea virginica*, (16) *Crassostrea corteziensis*, (17) *Sacostrea glomerata*, (18) *Sacostrea cucullata*, (19) *Ostrea angasi*, (20) *Striostria*

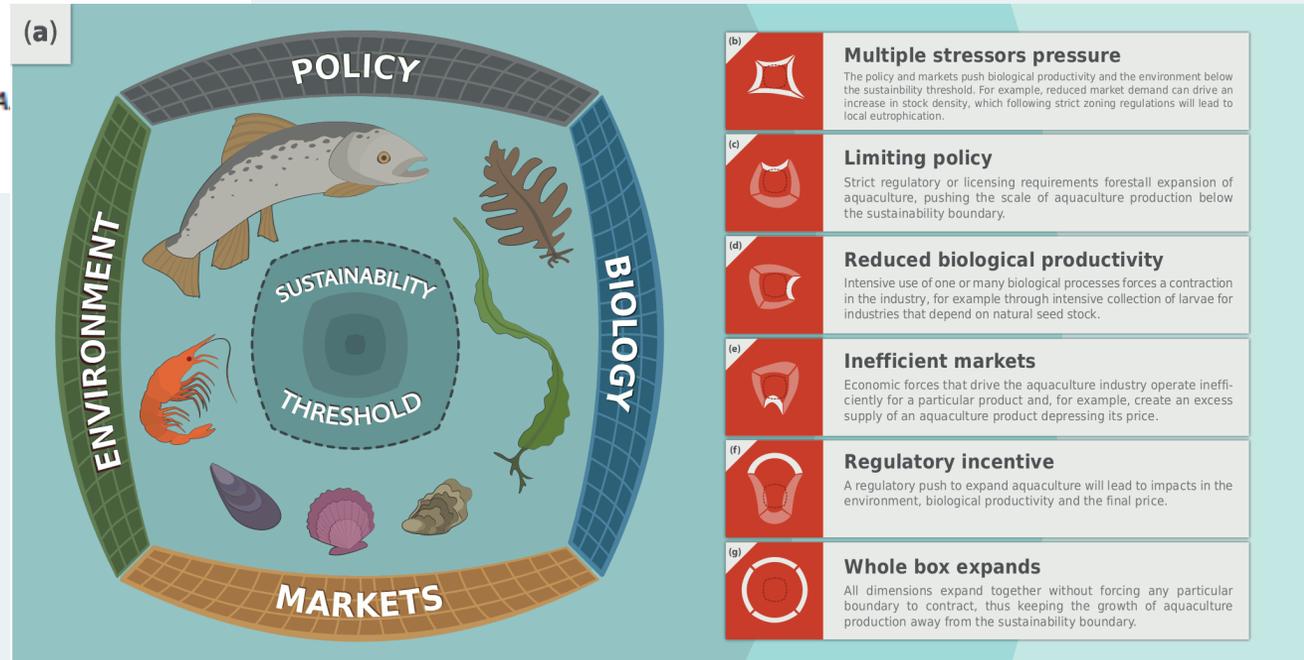
Source: OECD



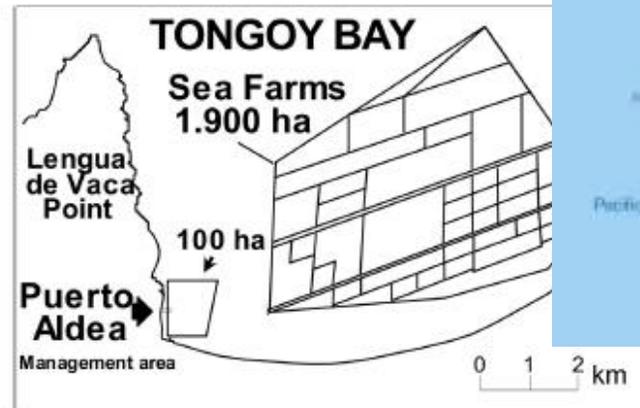
# Dynamic Interactions among Boundaries and the Expansion of Sustainable Aquaculture

Bernardo R. Broitman<sup>1\*</sup>, Benjamin S. Halpern<sup>2</sup>, Stefan Gelcich<sup>3</sup>, Marco A. Cristian A. Vargas<sup>5</sup>, Felipe Vásquez-Lavin<sup>6</sup>, Stephen Widdicombe<sup>7</sup> and Silvana N. R. Birchenough<sup>8</sup>

- Conceptual framework ;
- Support growth and development;
- 4 areas: environment, biology, policy and markets;
- This work helped to generate scenarios;

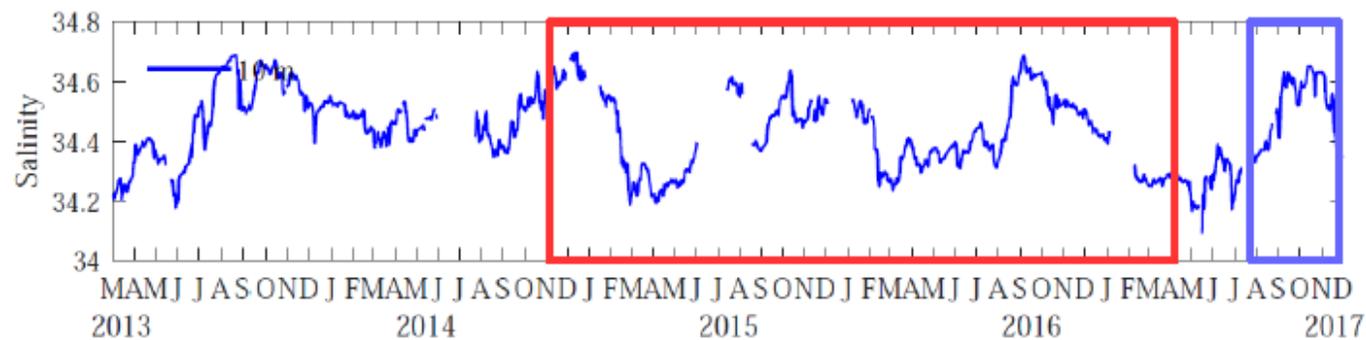
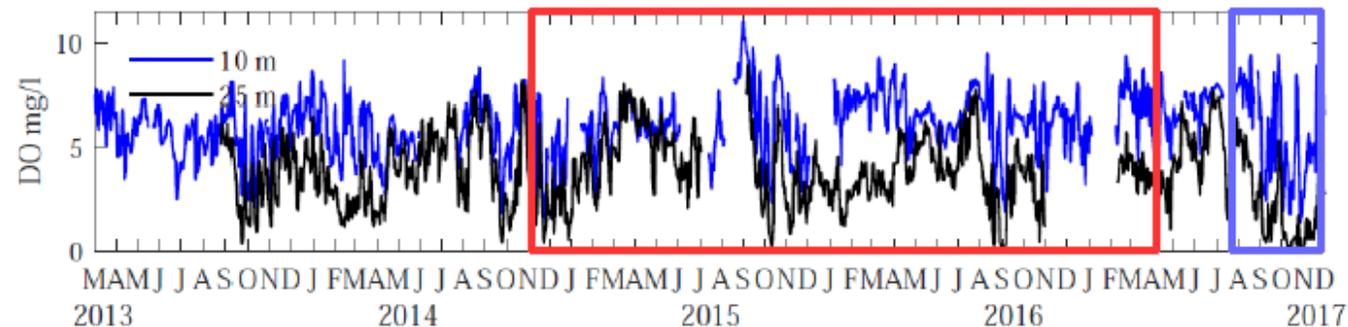
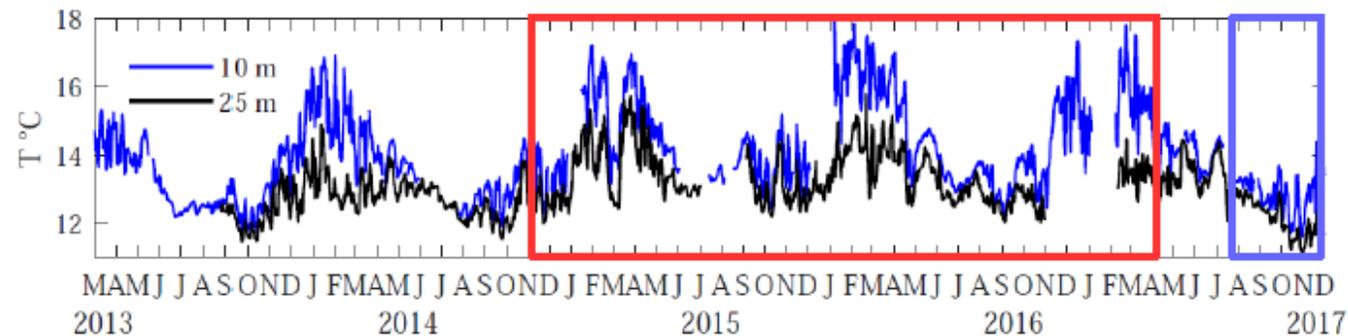
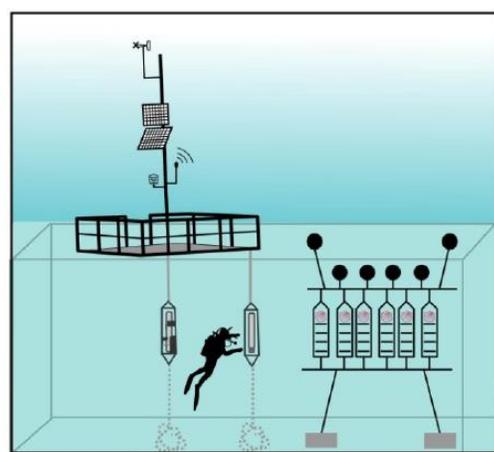
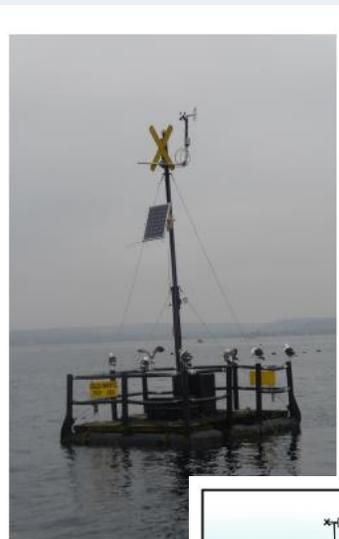


# Study area: Bahía de Tongoy



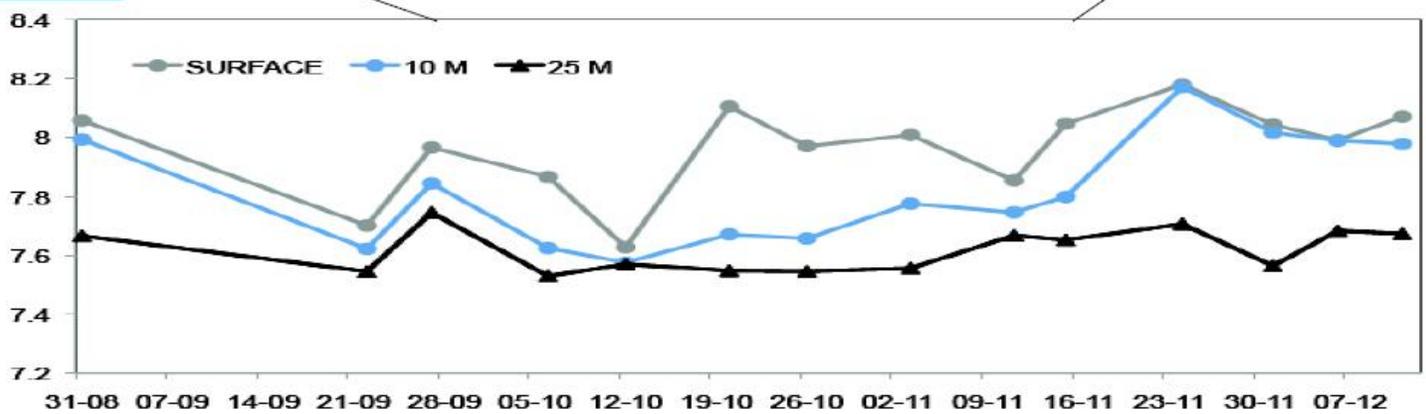
# Monitoring local conditions

- Local variability and changes



2017

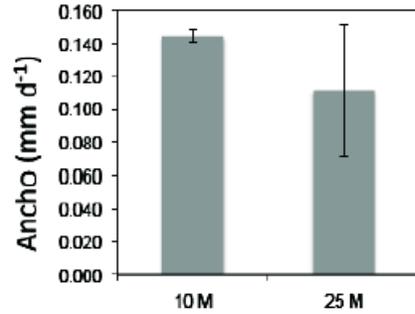
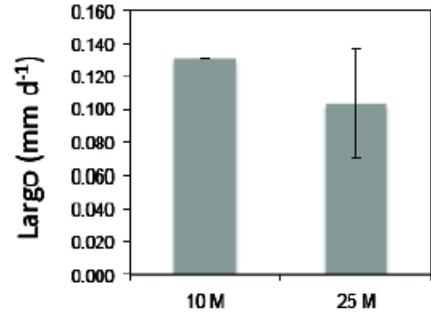
### pH (25°C)



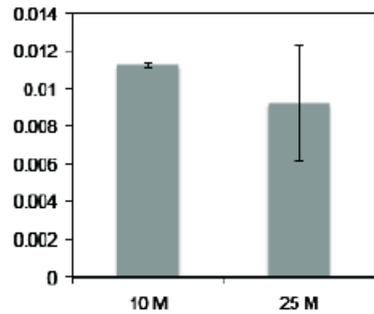
# Parameters measured



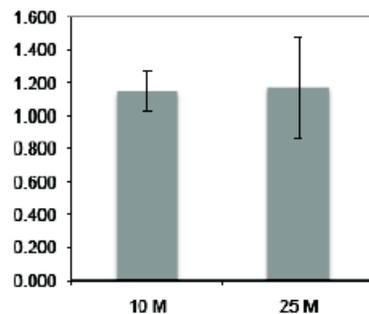
## Growth



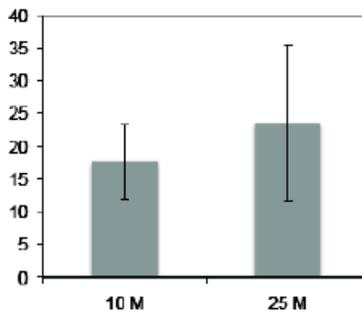
## Calcification (gd<sup>-1</sup>)



## Metabolic activity (mgO<sub>2</sub>h<sup>-1</sup>g<sup>-1</sup>)



## Mortality %

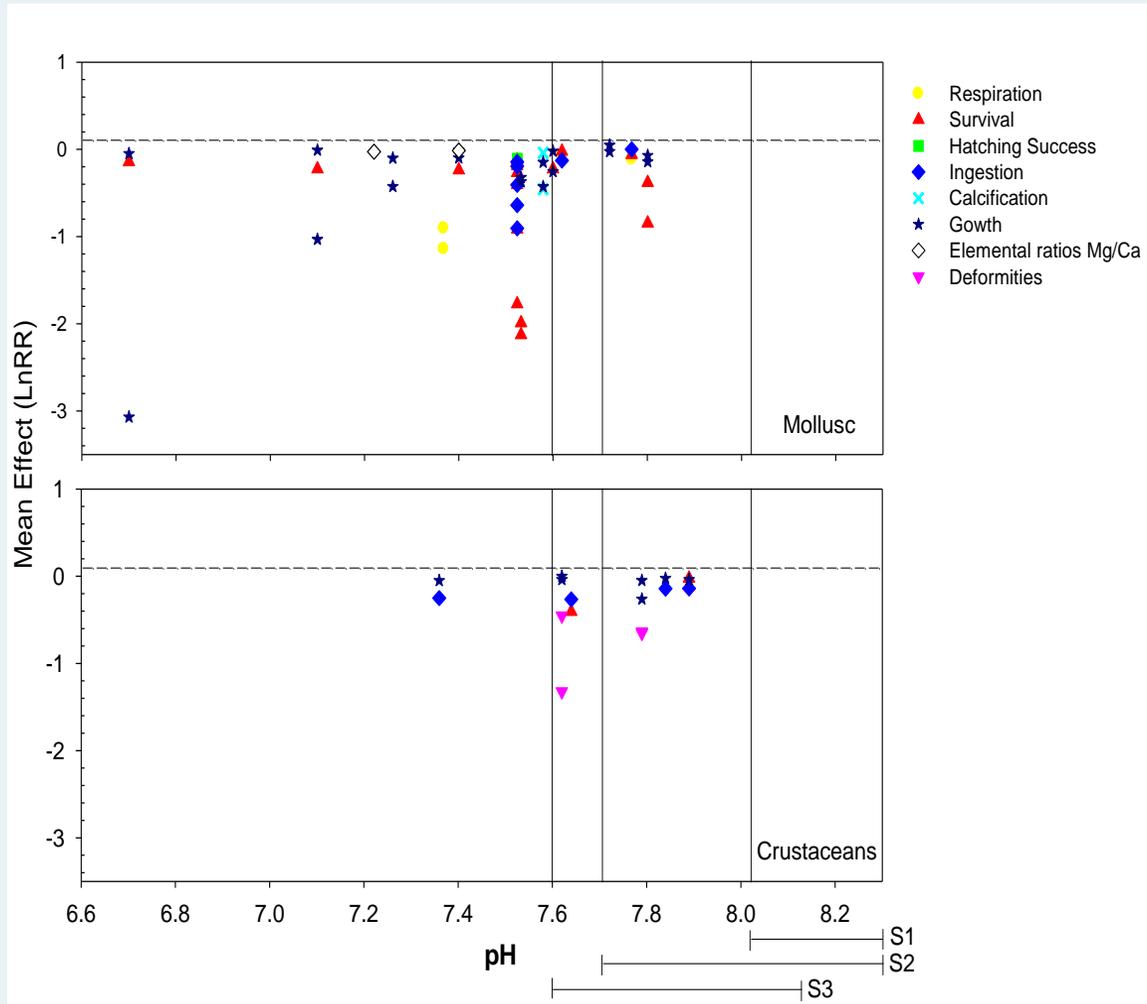


# End-users: industry

- Stakeholder workshops;
- Evaluations of OA/climate effects on commercial species;
- Realistic scenarios for adaptation;
- Economic implications some of these changes will modify these areas;
- Current options and future ideas to support these areas.



# Literature review



- Literature review was conducted to assess experimental responses to OA;
- Several endpoints (respiration, survival, calcification, growth, Mg/Ca, deformities);
- Molluscs and crustaceans were analysed;
- Mean effects was used;
- Overall pH levels 8.0-8.2, 7.6-8.1 and 7.6-8.1
- Methodology used by Kroeker et al (2013), Ramajo et al., (2016)

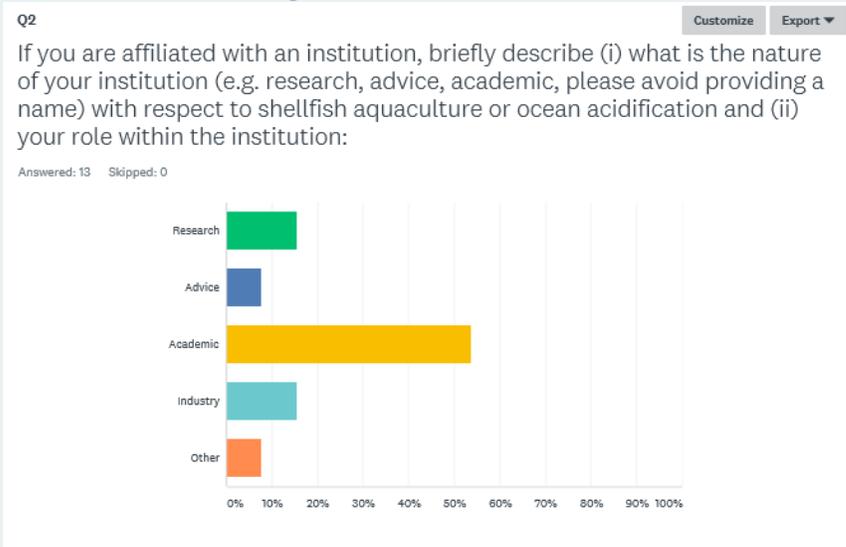
# Next steps: questions

Questionnaires and workshops to ground-through potential adaption options:

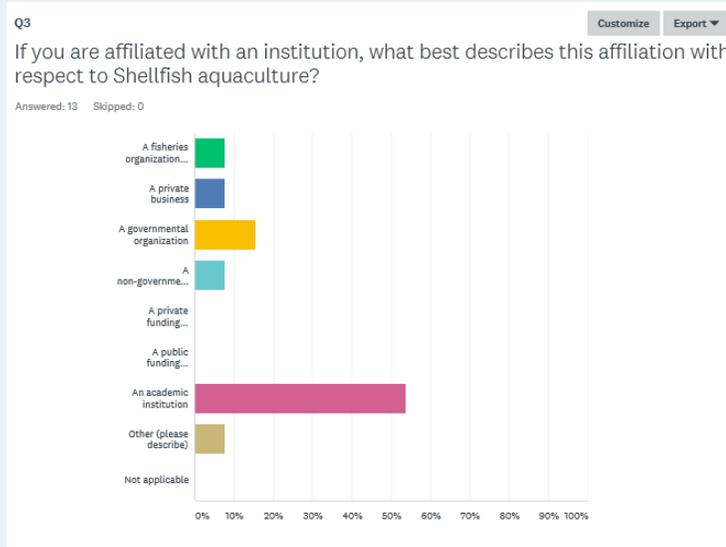
1. Survey Monkey was used as a tool gain fast return of information;
2. 8 questions were developed to assess preferences/feasibility;
3. Results were gathered over a period of 3 months;



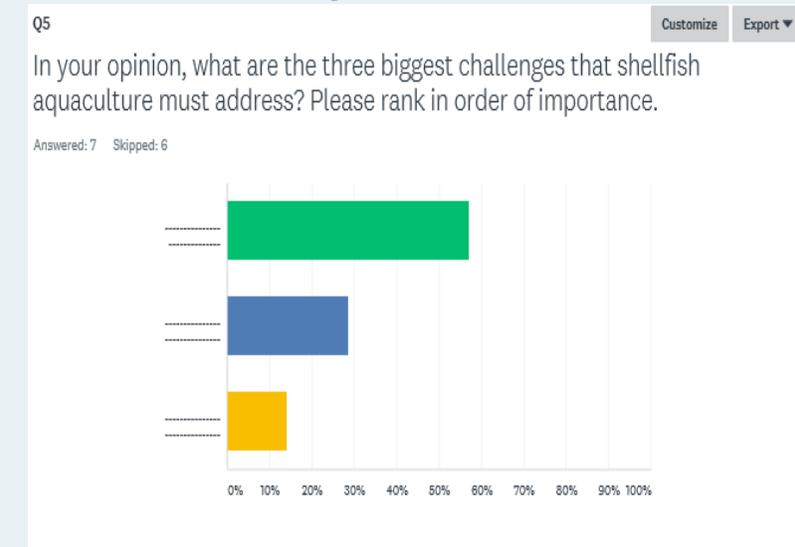
## Background



## Interests



## Challenges



1. Marketing and trade - production keeps rising. Can demand fulfil these needs
  2. Obtaining new farm permits. A real barrier to entry for new or expanding growers.
  3. Environmental factors, in which OA could become a concern, at least to hatcheries. Temperature increase, pollution from various sources
- Seed availability challenge in some areas (small hatcheries).

# Summary

- Bottom- up approach (local changes and options)
- Opportunity to work with local end-users;
- Provide ideas to support monitoring, early warning signals and dedicated biological action;
- Consider further local issues (e.g. expansion of aquaculture concerns, production of seeds);
- Clear and tangible socio-ecological scenarios to support end-users for shellfish adaption



# Acknowledgments

- *Centro De Studios Avanzados de Zona Arida (CEAZA)*
- *Valeska San Martin (Universidad de Concepcion)*
- *Invertect colleagues*
- *Many questionnaire respondents*
- ***Development and Cooperation-OECD fellowship***  
***entitled: "Optimising science, technology and innovation for studying ocean acidification effects on commercial species (Ostiones)" (Theme II MANAGING RISKS IN A CONNECTED WORLD). June-August 2017, at CEAZA, Coquimbo, Chile.***



**Questions?**

**Thank you...**

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Science

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