

# Carbonate chemistry parameters in flume study during the day from Richard B Gump Research Station - Moorea LTER, French Polynesia from 2013 (MCR LTER project, OA\_Corals project)

Website: <https://www.bco-dmo.org/dataset/544354>

Data Type: experimental

Version: 2014-11-04

## Project

» [Moorea Coral Reef Long-Term Ecological Research site](#) (MCR LTER)

» [RUI: Ocean Acidification- Category 1- The effects of ocean acidification on the organismic biology and community ecology of corals, calcified algae, and coral reefs](#) (OA\_Corals)

## Programs

» [Long Term Ecological Research network](#) (LTER)

» [Science, Engineering and Education for Sustainability NSF-Wide Investment \(SEES\): Ocean Acidification \(formerly CRI-OA\)](#) (SEES-OA)

Contributors	Affiliation	Role
<a href="#">Carpenter, Robert</a>	California State University Northridge (CSUN)	Principal Investigator
<a href="#">Edmunds, Peter J.</a>	California State University Northridge (CSUN)	Co-Principal Investigator
<a href="#">Comeau, Steeve</a>	California State University Northridge (CSUN)	Contact
<a href="#">Copley, Nancy</a>	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI BCO-DMO)	BCO-DMO Data Manager

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## Dataset Description

To investigate the response of coral reef communities to OA, we used large outdoor flumes in which communities composed of calcified algae, corals, and sediment were combined to match the percentage cover of benthic communities in the shallow back reef of Moorea, French Polynesia. Reef communities in the flumes were exposed to ambient (400  $\mu\text{atm}$ ) and high  $\text{pCO}_2$  (1300  $\mu\text{atm}$ ) for 8 weeks, and calcification 10 rates measured for the constructed communities including the sediments. Community calcification was depressed 59% under high  $\text{pCO}_2$ , with sediment dissolution explaining 50% of this decrease; net calcification of corals and calcified algae remained positive, but was reduced 29% under elevated  $\text{pCO}_2$ .

### Related Reference:

Comeau, S., Carpenter, R. C., Lantz, C. A., and Edmunds, P. J. (2015) Ocean acidification accelerates dissolution of experimental coral reef communities, *Biogeosciences*, 12, 365-372, doi:10.5194/bg-12-365-2015. [www.biogeosciences.net/12/365/2015/](http://www.biogeosciences.net/12/365/2015/)

Comeau, S., Edmunds, P. J., Lantz, C. A., & Carpenter, R. C. (2014). Water flow modulates the response of coral reef communities to ocean acidification. *Scientific Reports*, 4, doi:10.1038/srep06681

### Related datasets:

[calcification rates - flume expt](#)  
[algae calcification](#)  
[coral calcification](#)  
[carbonate chemistry](#)  
[light dark calcification](#)  
[mean calcification](#)

## Methods & Sampling

### Collection and sample preparation:

This study was carried out in August-October 2013 in Moorea, French Polynesia, using organisms collected from the back reef of the north shore at ~1-2m depth. The organisms were used to construct communities in outdoor flumes matching the contemporary (in 2013) mean cover of a back reef in Moorea (Carpenter, 2014; Edmunds, 2014). Coral communities were built from the four dominant coral taxa found on the back reefs of Moorea: massive *Porites* spp. (11% cover), *Porites* *rus* (6%), *Montipora* spp. (3%), and *Pocillopora* spp. (2%), that together accounted for 98% of the coral cover. In addition to corals, 6% of the surface comprised crustose coralline algae that consisted of 66% *Porolithon* *onkodes* and 33% *Lithophyllum* *flavescens*. After collection of corals and algae (10cm $\times$ 10 cm), they were returned to the Richard B. Gump South Pacific Research and attached to plastic supports using epoxy glue. Following preparation, samples were left to recover in a seawater table for 3 d. Sediments were collected from the lagoon on the north shore, ~200m from the reef crest, at 2m depth using 24 custom made boxes (0.4m $\times$ 0.3m $\times$ 0.3m). Sediment boxes were inserted into the sediment and left in situ for 4 d to allow sediment stratification to be established naturally before transfer to the flumes.

The 4 outdoor flumes consisted of a working section measuring 5.0m $\times$ 0.3m $\times$ 0.3m. Water was re-circulated using water pumps (W. Lim Wave II 373 J s<sup>-1</sup>) to obtain a 10 cm s<sup>-1</sup> flow. Flow was measured across the working section of the flume using a Nortek Vectrino Acoustic Doppler Velocimeter. At each end of the flume seawater passed through an 88 cm transition section (rectangular to circular) that housed 20 cm (length) flow straighteners made of stacked, 3 cm diameter PVC pipe, and then into a 12.5 cm return section. Fresh sand-filtered seawater, pumped from Cook's Bay at 12m depth, was dispensed continuously into the flume at 5 L min<sup>-1</sup>. Flumes experienced natural sunlight that was attenuated using screen to maintain irradiances similar to ambient irradiances in the back reefs of Moorea (daily maximum of ~1500  $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2} \text{ cm}^{-1}$  over the incubation period determined with a 4 quantum sensor LI-193 and a LiCor LI-1400 meter).

### Carbonate chemistry control and measurements:

Two flumes were maintained at ambient conditions and two at a  $\text{pCO}_2$  expected by the end of the present century under a pessimistic scenario (Representative Concentration Pathway 8.5, ~1300  $\mu\text{atm}$ , Moss et al., 2010). Control of the  $\text{pCO}_2$  was accomplished using a pH-stat (Aquacontroller, Neptune systems, USA) and pH was maintained 0.1 unit lower at night (from 18:00:00 to 6:00:00 LT) than during the day to match the natural diel variation in pH in the back reef of Moorea. pH was measured daily using a portable pH meter (Orion 3-stars, Thermo-Scientific, USA) fitted with a DG 115-SC pH probe (Mettler Toledo, Switzerland) calibrated every other day with Tris/HCl buffers (Dickson et al., 2007). pH also was measured spectrophotometrically using m-cresol dye (Dickson et al., 2007) at regular intervals. Measurement of total alkalinity (AT) was made using open-cell potentiometric titrations (Dickson et al., 2007) using 50mL samples of seawater collected every 2-3 d. Parameters of the carbonate system in seawater were calculated using the R package seacarb (Lavigne and Gattuso, 2013).

### Calcification measurements:

Calcification rates were measured using the total alkalinity anomaly method (Chisholm and Gattuso, 1991). Calcification measurements were made every 7 d on the constructed community, and in the analysis of sediments alone, after 7, 30, and 56 d incubation. During incubations, the addition of seawater was stopped so that each flume was a closed loop; seawater samples for AT were taken every 3 h during the day and every 6 h at night. To maintain AT and nutrients close to ambient levels, water in the flumes was refreshed every 6 h for 30 min. Nutrient changes in the flumes were monitored during 4 incubations and the changes in nitrate and ammonium during incubations were < 2  $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ . To conduct incubations with sediments alone, corals and coralline algae were removed from the flumes for 24 h and held in a separate tank where conditions were identical to those in the flumes. Corals and coralline algal calcification was calculated by subtracting the mean light and dark net calcification of the sediment from the community calcification. For both corals and algae, buoyant weight (Davies, 1989) was recorded before and after incubation and converted to dry weight to quantify the contribution of each functional group

to the calcification budget.

## Data Processing Description

### Statistical analysis:

All analyses were performed using R software (R Foundation for Statistical Computing) and assumptions of normality and equality of variance were evaluated through graphical analyses of residuals. Calcification rates were analyzed using a repeated measure ANOVA in which the within subject factor was time (week), pCO<sub>2</sub> was a fixed effect, and duplicate flumes were a nested effect.

### BCO-DMO Processing Notes:

- added conventional header with dataset name, PI name, version date, reference information
- renamed parameters to BCO-DMO standard
- added lab, lat, lon of experimental site (Richard B. Gump Research Site, Moorea), deployment id columns
- added 'day\_local', 'month\_local', 'year', 'yday\_local' to served view
- reformated date from m/d/yyyy to yyyy-mm-dd
- reduced number of significant digits

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## Data Files

File
<b>flume_carb_chem.csv</b> (Comma Separated Values (.csv), 31.79 KB) MD5:c5a6ff726bb33f394eb1e7c84e304d69
Primary data file for dataset ID 544354

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## Parameters

Parameter	Description	Units
lab	Unique descriptor for experiments indicating physical location where they were conducted (lab), lead investigator and lab location.	unitless
lat	Latitude component of geographic position where experiments were conducted.	decimal degrees
lon	Longitude component of geographic position where experiments were conducted.	decimal degrees
date_local	local date of sampling	yyyy-mm-dd
day_local	Two-digit day in local time.	dd
month_local	Two-digit month of the year in local time.	mm
year	Four-digit year.	yyyy
yday_local	Day of year in local time.	ddd
sal	salinity	Practical Salinity Units (PSU)
temp	temperature	degrees Celsius
pH	Measure of the acidity of a solution based upon the log of the hydrogen ion concentration.	dimensionless; pH scale
pCO <sub>2</sub>	Partial pressure of CO <sub>2</sub> in seawater.	micro atmospheres
HCO <sub>3</sub>	Bicarbonate ion concentration.	micro-mol/Kg
CO <sub>3</sub>	Carbonate ion concentration.	micro-mol/Kg
DIC	Dissolved inorganic carbon.	micro-mol/Kg
TAlk	Total Alkalinity; a measure of the ability of a solution to neutralize acids to the equivalence point of carbonate or bicarbonate; equal to the sum of the bases in solution.	micro-mol/Kg
OM_arag	The saturation state of seawater with respect to aragonite (known as OMEGA_ar) is a measure of the thermodynamic potential for aragonite to form or to dissolve and is defined as the product of the concentrations of dissolved calcium and carbonate ions in seawater divided by their product at equilibrium.	unitless
OM_calc	The saturation state of seawater with respect to calcite (known as OMEGA_ar) is a measure of the thermodynamic potential for calcite to form or to dissolve and is defined as the product of the concentrations of dissolved calcium and carbonate ions in seawater divided by their product at equilibrium.	unitless
flume_id	Identification number of flume	unitless
treatment	Experimental treatment of various concentrations of carbonate and bicarbonate ions used to test the effects of various carbonate chemistry regimes on coral and calcifying alga.	unitless

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## Instruments

<b>Dataset-specific Instrument Name</b>	automatic titrator
<b>Generic Instrument Name</b>	Automatic titrator
<b>Dataset-specific Description</b>	A Mettler-Toledo T50 model automatic titrator was employed to analyze samples for total alkalinity using open cell, potentiometric titration.
<b>Generic Instrument Description</b>	Instruments that incrementally add quantified aliquots of a reagent to a sample until the end-point of a chemical reaction is reached.

<b>Dataset-specific Instrument Name</b>	pH-stat
<b>Generic Instrument Name</b>	Mass Flow Controller
<b>Dataset-specific Description</b>	Aquacontroller, Neptune systems, USA
<b>Generic Instrument Description</b>	Mass Flow Controller (MFC) - A device used to measure and control the flow of fluids and gases

<b>Dataset-specific Instrument Name</b>	portable pH meter & probe
<b>Generic Instrument Name</b>	pH Sensor
<b>Dataset-specific Description</b>	Portable pH meter (Orion 3-stars, Thermo-Scientific, USA) fitted with a DG 115-SC pH probe (Mettler Toledo, Switzerland)
<b>Generic Instrument Description</b>	An instrument that measures the hydrogen ion activity in solutions. The overall concentration of hydrogen ions is inversely related to its pH. The pH scale ranges from 0 to 14 and indicates whether acidic (more H+) or basic (less H+).

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## Deployments

### lab\_Carpenter\_Moorea

<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/58885">https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/58885</a>
<b>Platform</b>	Richard B Gump Research Station - Moorea LTER
<b>Start Date</b>	2011-07-17
<b>End Date</b>	2011-08-12
<b>Description</b>	Laboratory experiments carried out by R. Carpenter and P. Edmunds of California State University Northridge at the Richard B. Gump Research Station in French Polynesia, for the project "RUI: Ocean Acidification- Category 1- The effects of ocean acidification on the organismic biology and community ecology of corals, calcified algae, and coral reefs".

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## Project Information

### Moorea Coral Reef Long-Term Ecological Research site (MCR LTER)

**Website:** <http://mcr.lternet.edu/>

**Coverage:** Island of Moorea, French Polynesia

**From** <http://www.lternet.edu/sites/mcr/> and <http://mcr.lternet.edu/>:

The Moorea Coral Reef LTER site encompasses the coral reef complex that surrounds the island of Moorea, French Polynesia (17°30'S, 149°50'W). Moorea is a small, triangular volcanic island 20 km west of Tahiti in the Society Islands of French Polynesia. An offshore barrier reef forms a system of shallow (mean depth ~ 5-7 m), narrow (~0.8-1.5 km wide) lagoons around the 60 km perimeter of Moorea. All major coral reef types (e.g., fringing reef, lagoon patch reefs, back reef, barrier reef and fore reef) are present and accessible by small boat.

The MCR LTER was established in 2004 by the US National Science Foundation (NSF) and is a partnership between the University of California Santa Barbara and California State University, Northridge. MCR researchers include marine scientists from the UC Santa Barbara, CSU Northridge, UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz, UC San Diego, CSU San Marcos, Duke University and the University of Hawaii. Field operations are conducted from the UC Berkeley Richard B. Gump South Pacific Research Station on the island of Moorea, French Polynesia.

**MCR LTER Data:** The Moorea Coral Reef (MCR) LTER data are managed by and available directly from the MCR project data site URL shown above. The datasets listed below were collected at or near the MCR LTER sampling locations, and funded by NSF OCE as ancillary projects related to the MCR LTER core research themes.

#### **This project is supported by continuing grants with slight name variations:**

LTER: Long-Term Dynamics of a Coral Reef Ecosystem  
 LTER: MCR II - Long-Term Dynamics of a Coral Reef Ecosystem  
 LTER: MCR IIB: Long-Term Dynamics of a Coral Reef Ecosystem  
 LTER: MCR III: Long-Term Dynamics of a Coral Reef Ecosystem  
 LTER: MCR IV: Long-Term Dynamics of a Coral Reef Ecosystem

### **RUI: Ocean Acidification- Category 1- The effects of ocean acidification on the organismic biology and community ecology of corals, calcified algae, and coral reefs (OA\_Corals)**

**Coverage:** Moorea, French Polynesia

While coral reefs have undergone unprecedented changes in community structure in the past 50 y, they now may be exposed to their gravest threat since the Triassic. This threat is increasing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, which equilibrates with seawater and causes ocean acidification (OA). In the marine environment, the resulting decline in carbonate saturation state (Omega) makes it energetically less feasible for calcifying taxa to mineralize; this is a major concern for coral reefs. It is possible that the scleractinian architects of reefs will cease to exist as a mineralized taxon within a century, and that calcifying algae will be severely impaired. While there is a rush to understand these effects and make recommendations leading to their mitigation, these efforts are influenced strongly by the notion that the impacts of pCO<sub>2</sub> (which causes Omega to change) on calcifying taxa, and the mechanisms that drive them, are well-known. The investigators believe that many of the key processes of mineralization on reefs that are potentially affected by OA are only poorly known and that current knowledge is inadequate to support the scaling of OA effects to the community level. It is vital to measure organismal-scale calcification of key taxa, elucidate the mechanistic bases of these responses, evaluate community scale calcification, and finally, to conduct focused experiments to describe the functional relationships between these scales of mineralization.

This project is a 4-y effort focused on the effects of Ocean Acidification (OA) on coral reefs at multiple spatial and functional scales. The project focuses on the corals, calcified algae, and coral reefs of Moorea, French Polynesia, establishes baseline community-wide calcification data for the detection of OA effects on a decadal-scale, and builds on the research context and climate change focus of the Moorea Coral Reef LTER.

This project is a hypothesis-driven approach to compare the effects of OA on reef taxa and coral reefs in Moorea. The PIs will utilize microcosms to address the impacts and mechanisms of OA on biological processes, as well as the ecological processes shaping community structure. Additionally, studies of reef-wide metabolism will be used to evaluate the impacts of OA on intact reef ecosystems, to provide a context within which the experimental investigations can be scaled to the real world, and critically, to provide a much needed reference against which future changes can be gauged.

**Datasets listed in the "Dataset Collection" section include references to results journal publications published as part of this project.**

**Program Information**

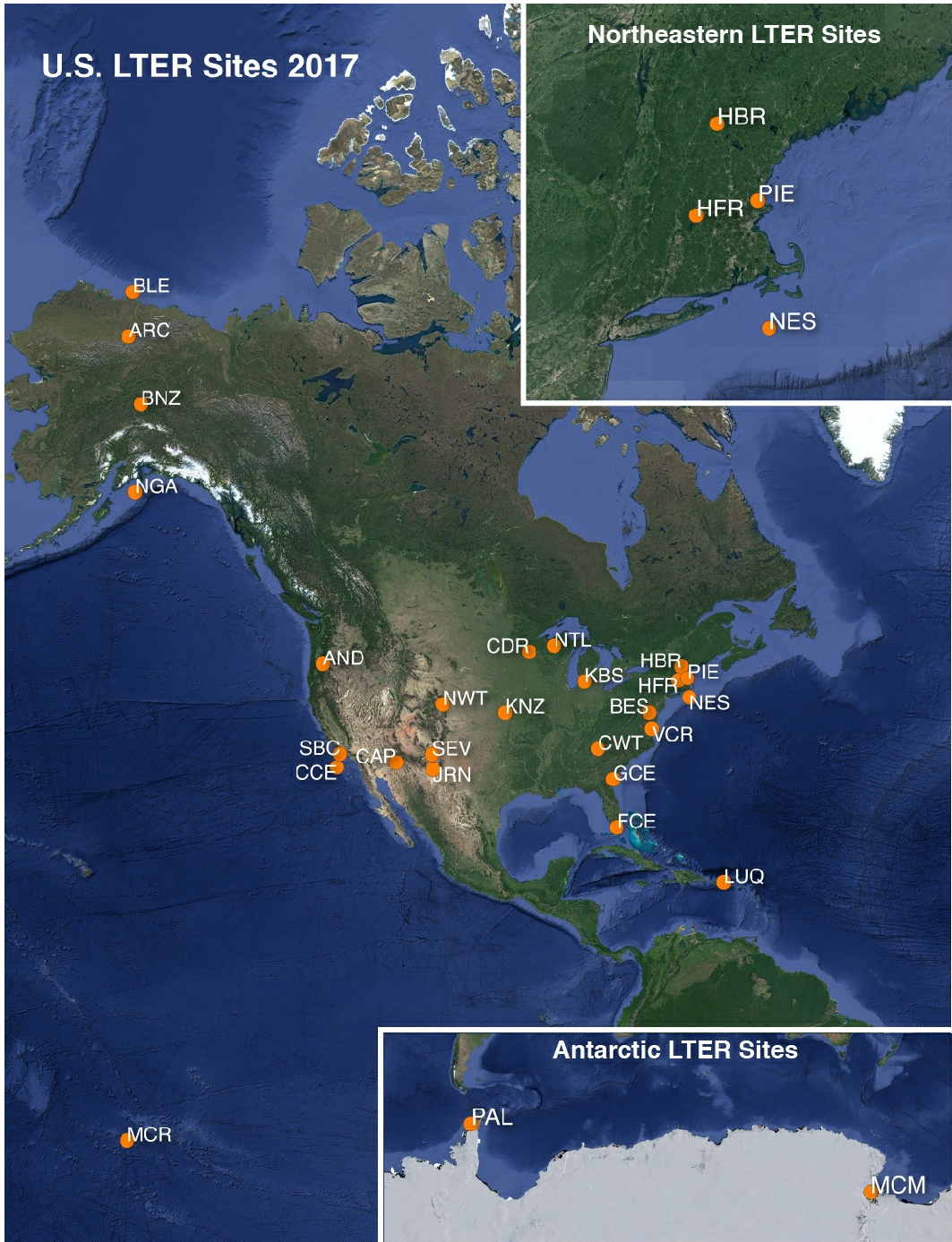
**Long Term Ecological Research network (LTER)**

**Website:** <http://www.lternet.edu/>

**Coverage:** United States

adapted from <http://www.lternet.edu/>

The National Science Foundation established the LTER program in 1980 to support research on long-term ecological phenomena in the United States. The Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) Network is a collaborative effort involving more than 1800 scientists and students investigating ecological processes over long temporal and broad spatial scales. The LTER Network promotes synthesis and comparative research across sites and ecosystems and among other related national and international research programs. The LTER research sites represent diverse ecosystems with emphasis on different research themes, and cross-site communication, network publications, and research-planning activities are coordinated through the LTER Network Office.



**Site Codes**

- AND Andrews Forest LTER
- ARC Arctic LTER
- BES Baltimore Ecosystem Stu
- BLE Beaufort Lagoon
- Ecosystems LTER
- BNZ Bonanza Creek LTER
- CCE California Current
- Ecosystem LTER
- CDR Cedar Creek Ecosystem
- Science Reserve
- CAP Central Arizona-
- Phoenix LTER
- CWT Coweeta LTER
- FCE Florida Coastal
- Everglades LTER
- GCE Georgia Coastal
- Ecosystems LTER
- HFR Harvard Forest LTER
- HBR Hubbard Brook LTER
- JRN Jornada Basin LTER
- KBS Kellogg Biological
- Station LTER
- KNZ Konza Prairie LTER
- LUQ Luquillo LTER
- MCM McMurdo Dry Valleys LT
- MCR Moorea Coral Reef LTER
- NWT Niwot Ridge LTER
- NTL North Temperate Lakes I
- NES Northeast U.S. Shelf LTER
- NGA Northern Gulf of Alaska I
- PAL Palmer Antarctica LTER
- PIE Plum Island
- Ecosystems LTER
- SBC Santa Barbara Coastal L
- SEV Sevilleta LTER
- VCR Virginia Coast Reserve L

2017 LTER research site map obtained from <https://lternet.edu/site/lter-network/>

**Website:** [https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=503477](https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503477)

**Coverage:** global

NSF Climate Research Investment (CRI) activities that were initiated in 2010 are now included under Science, Engineering and Education for Sustainability NSF-Wide Investment (SEES). SEES is a portfolio of activities that highlights NSF's unique role in helping society address the challenge(s) of achieving sustainability. Detailed information about the SEES program is available from NSF ([https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=504707](https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=504707)).

In recognition of the need for basic research concerning the nature, extent and impact of ocean acidification on oceanic environments in the past, present and future, the goal of the SEES: OA program is to understand (a) the chemistry and physical chemistry of ocean acidification; (b) how ocean acidification interacts with processes at the organismal level; and (c) how the earth system history informs our understanding of the effects of ocean acidification on the present day and future ocean.

**Solicitations issued under this program:**

[NSF 10-530](#), FY 2010-FY2011

[NSF 12-500](#), FY 2012

[NSF 12-600](#), FY 2013

[NSF 13-586](#), FY 2014

NSF 13-586 was the final solicitation that will be released for this program.

**PI Meetings:**

[1st U.S. Ocean Acidification PI Meeting](#) (March 22-24, 2011, Woods Hole, MA)

[2nd U.S. Ocean Acidification PI Meeting](#) (Sept. 18-20, 2013, Washington, DC)

[3rd U.S. Ocean Acidification PI Meeting](#) (June 9-11, 2015, Woods Hole, MA - Tentative)

**NSF media releases for the Ocean Acidification Program:**

[Press Release 10-186 NSF Awards Grants to Study Effects of Ocean Acidification](#)

[Discovery Blue Mussels "Hang On" Along Rocky Shores: For How Long?](#)

[Discovery nsf.gov - National Science Foundation \(NSF\) Discoveries - Trouble in Paradise: Ocean Acidification This Way Comes - US National Science Foundation \(NSF\)](#)

[Press Release 12-179 nsf.gov - National Science Foundation \(NSF\) News - Ocean Acidification: Finding New Answers Through National Science Foundation Research Grants - US National Science Foundation \(NSF\)](#)

[Press Release 13-102 World Oceans Month Brings Mixed News for Oysters](#)

[Press Release 13-108 nsf.gov - National Science Foundation \(NSF\) News - Natural Underwater Springs Show How Coral Reefs Respond to Ocean Acidification - US National Science Foundation \(NSF\)](#)

[Press Release 13-148 Ocean acidification: Making new discoveries through National Science Foundation research grants](#)

[Press Release 13-148 - Video nsf.gov - News - Video - NSF Ocean Sciences Division Director David Conover answers questions about ocean acidification. - US National Science Foundation \(NSF\)](#)

[Press Release 14-010 nsf.gov - National Science Foundation \(NSF\) News - Palau's coral reefs surprisingly resistant to ocean acidification - US National Science Foundation \(NSF\)](#)

[Press Release 14-116 nsf.gov - National Science Foundation \(NSF\) News - Ocean Acidification: NSF awards \\$11.4 million in new grants to study effects on marine ecosystems - US National Science Foundation \(NSF\)](#)

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**Funding**

Funding Source	Award
<a href="#">NSF Division of Ocean Sciences (NSF OCE)</a>	<a href="#">OCE-1041270</a>

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