



**COMMISSION**  
**AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

**Item No.** 11c

**BRIEFING ITEM**

**Date of Meeting** July 13, 2021

**DATE:** June 3, 2021

**TO:** Stephen P. Metruck, Executive Director

**FROM:** Sandy Kilroy, Sr. Director-Environment, Sustainability & Engineering  
Kathleen Hurley, Sr. Environmental Program Manager

**SUBJECT: Briefing on the Ocean Acidification Action Plan and Case Study**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In 2020, the Port of Seattle was the first port globally to join the International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification (OA Alliance) and by joining the alliance, the Port recognizes the many ways in which ocean acidification (OA) impacts the maritime sector. In order to fulfill our commitment as a member in good standing, the Port was required to develop an Ocean Acidification Action Plan and a Case Study that demonstrates how the Port is taking action on OA and how the Port will continue to take action on OA.

OA threatens marine life in the Salish Sea by making it more difficult for organisms with calcium carbonate shells, like crabs and oysters, to develop these protective structures and by disrupting the foraging habits of marine wildlife, which impacts mortality and reproduction. OA threatens key natural resources and associated industries that are core to the Port's mission and operations. Thus, addressing OA aligns with the Port's [mission](#) and [Century Agenda](#) goals. All three Port operating divisions are represented in the initiatives described in this document.

This action plan summarizes current Port initiatives and efforts to combat OA and includes general recommendations for further action. Each of the current initiatives is connected to at least one of the six action goals of the OA Alliance, as listed below.

1. Reduce atmospheric emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>
2. Advance scientific understanding of climate-ocean impacts, locally and globally
3. Reduce local pollutions that exacerbate OA
4. Protect the environment and coastal communities
5. Expand public awareness
6. Sustain international support

Initiative	Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Goal 4	Goal 5	Goal 6
Century Agenda	•	•	•	•	•	
Sustainable Aviation Fuels	•		•			
Northwest Port Clean Air Strategy	•	•	•	•		•
Maritime Climate & Air Action Plan	•	•	•	•	•	
Seattle Waterfront Clean Energy Strategic Plan	•			•		
Sustainable Aviation Fuels	•		•		•	
SEA Emissions Reduction Initiatives	•		•		•	
Habitat Restoration Program Initiatives		•	•	•	•	
Smith Cove Blue Carbon Pilot Project		•	•	•	•	
Duwamish River Floating Wetlands Projects		•			•	
Stormwater Initiatives		•	•	•	•	
Exhaust Gas Cleaning Discharge Ban			•	•		
Alternative Bankline Stabilization Program			•	•		
Duwamish Valley Community Benefits Commitment				•	•	
Duwamish River Green Jobs Program				•	•	

**ATTACHMENTS TO THIS BRIEFING**

- (1) Presentation slides

**PREVIOUS COMMISSION ACTIONS OR BRIEFINGS**

None.