

Comeau 2017 Biogeosciences: calcification and chemistry

Website: <https://www.bco-dmo.org/dataset/754750>

Version: 1

Version Date: 2019-02-01

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

Contributors	Affiliation	Role
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Abstract

These data were published in Comeau et al. (2017).

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Methods & Sampling

See Comeau et al. (2017) for a detailed overview of the methodology.

Locations:

UCB Gump Research Station Moorea, French Polynesia
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, Kaneohe Bay, O'ahu, HI

Methodology:

For the three experiments, pH on the total scale (pHT) 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). pHT also was measured every 2 weeks spectrophotometrically using m-cresol dye (Dickson et al., 2007). Mean values of pHT measured spectrophotometrically and using a pH electrode differed by < 0.02 pH units. Total alkalinity (AT) was measured using open-cell potentiometric titrations (Dickson et al., 2007) on ~ 50 g samples of seawater collected every 2-3 days. Parameters of the carbonate system in seawater were determined with the seacarb R package (Gattuso et al., 2015) using measured values of pHT, AT, temperature, and salinity.

Net community calcification (Gnet) in the flumes was measured using the total alkalinity anomaly method (Chisholm and Gattuso 1991), and net community primary production (Pnet) was measured using oxygen sensors (TROLL 9500, In-Situ) that measured the O₂ concentration at 60 s intervals with an accuracy of 0.2 mg L⁻¹.

Data Processing Description

BCO-DMO Data Manager Processing Notes:

* Data submitted as sheet "data" in original excel file "comeau et al. 2017_data.xlsx" exported as csv with the formatting that was set in Excel.

* added a conventional header with dataset name, PI name, version date

* modified parameter names to conform with BCO-DMO naming conventions: only A-Za-z0-9 and underscore allowed. Can not start with a number. (spaces, +, and - changed to underscores).

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Related Publications

Chisholm, J. R. M., & Gattuso, J.-P. (1991). Validation of the alkalinity anomaly technique for investigating calcification of photosynthesis in coral reef communities. *Limnology and Oceanography*, 36(6), 1232-1239. doi:[10.4319/lm.1991.36.6.1232](https://doi.org/10.4319/lm.1991.36.6.1232)

Methods

Comeau, S., Edmunds, P. J., Lantz, C. A., & Carpenter, R. C. (2017). Daily variation in net primary production and net calcification in coral reef communities exposed to elevated pCO₂. *Biogeosciences*, 14(14), 3549-3560. doi:[10.5194/bg-14-3549-2017](https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-14-3549-2017)

Results

Dickson, A.G., Sabine, C.L. and Christian, J.R. (Eds.) 2007. Guide to Best Practices for Ocean CO₂ Measurements. PICES Special Publication 3, 191 pp
<https://isbsearch.org/isbn/1-897176-07-4>

Methods

Gattuso J-P, Epitalon J-M, Lavigne H (2015) seacarb: seawater carbonate chemistry. R package version 3.0.6. <http://CRAN.R-project.org/package=seacarb>

Software

Nisumaa, A.-M., Pesant, S., Bellerby, R. G. J., Delille, B., Middelburg, J. J., Orr, J. C., ... Gattuso, J.-P. (2010). EPOCA/EUR-OCEANS data compilation on the biological and biogeochemical responses to ocean acidification. *Earth System Science Data*, 2(2), 167-175. doi:[10.5194/essd-2-167-2010](https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-2-167-2010)

Methods

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Parameters

Parameter	Description	Units
Type	Type	unitless
Exp_duration_days	Experiment duration in days	days
Site	Site	unitless
Treat	Treatment	unitless
E	Irradiance	umol/m2/s
PN	Net photosynthesis rate	mmol/m2/h
Calc_rate_CaCO3	Calcification rate of calcium carbonate (CaCO3)	mmol/m2/h
pH	pH, Potentiometric.	total hydrogen ion scale (pHT)
AT	Alkalinity, total. Potentiometric titration.	umol/kg
pCO2water_SST_wet_1	Partial pressure of carbon dioxide (water) at sea surface temperature (wet air). Calculated using seacarb.	uatm
DIC_1	Carbon, inorganic, dissolved. Calculated using seacarb.	umol/kg
Omega_Arg_1	Aragonite saturation state. Calculated using seacarb.	Omega aragonite (Qa)
Sal	Salinity	PSU
Temp	Temperature, water	degrees Celsius
CSC_flag	Carbonate system computation flag. Calculated using seacarb after Nisumaa et al. (2010).	unitless
CO2	Carbon dioxide. Calculated using seacarb after Nisumaa et al. (2010).	umol/kg
fCO2water_SST_wet_2	Fugacity of carbon dioxide (water) at sea surface temperature (wet air). Calculated using seacarb after Nisumaa et al. (2010).	uatm
pCO2water_SST_wet_2	Partial pressure of carbon dioxide (water) at sea surface temperature (wet air). Calculated using seacarb after Nisumaa et al. (2010).	uatm
Bicarbonate_ion	Bicarbonate ion [HCO3]-. Calculated using seacarb after Nisumaa et al. (2010).	umol/kg
Carbonate_ion	Carbonate ion [CO3]2-. Calculated using seacarb after Nisumaa et al. (2010).	umol/kg
DIC_2	Carbon, inorganic, dissolved. Calculated using seacarb after Nisumaa et al. (2010).	umol/kg
Omega_Arg_2	Aragonite saturation state. Calculated using seacarb after Nisumaa et al. (2010).	Omega aragonite (Qa)
Omega_Cal	Calcite saturation state. Calculated using seacarb after Nisumaa et al. (2010).	Omega calcite (Qcal)

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Instruments

Dataset-specific Instrument Name	PAR logger, Odyssey, Dataflow Systems
Generic Instrument Name	Light Meter
Generic Instrument Description	Light meters are instruments that measure light intensity. Common units of measure for light intensity are umol/m2/s or uE/m2/s (micromoles per meter squared per second or microEinsteins per meter squared per second). (example: LI-COR 250A)

Dataset-specific Instrument Name	TROLL 9500
Generic Instrument Name	Oxygen Sensor
Dataset-specific Description	Dissolved oxygen: TROLL 9500
Generic Instrument Description	An electronic device that measures the proportion of oxygen (O2) in the gas or liquid being analyzed

Dataset-specific Instrument Name	YSI 3100
Generic Instrument Name	Salinity Sensor
Generic Instrument Description	Category of instrument that simultaneously measures electrical conductivity and temperature in the water column to provide temperature and salinity data.

Dataset-specific Instrument Name	
Generic Instrument Name	Spectrophotometer
Dataset-specific Description	pH was measured with a spectrophotometer.
Generic Instrument Description	An instrument used to measure the relative absorption of electromagnetic radiation of different wavelengths in the near infra-red, visible and ultraviolet wavebands by samples.

Dataset-specific Instrument Name	Mettler Toledo T50
Generic Instrument Name	Titration
Dataset-specific Description	TA: Mettler Toledo T50
Generic Instrument Description	Titration is an instrument that incrementally adds quantified aliquots of a reagent to a sample until the end-point of a chemical reaction is reached.

Dataset-specific Instrument Name	ThermoFisher Traceable
Generic Instrument Name	Water Temperature Sensor
Generic Instrument Description	General term for an instrument that measures the temperature of the water with which it is in contact (thermometer).

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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

NSF Award Abstract:

Coral reefs provide important benefits to society, from food to exceptional biodiversity to shoreline protection and recreation, but they are threatened by natural perturbations and human activities, including those causing global-scale changes. These pressures increasingly are causing coral reefs to undergo large, often abrupt, ecological changes where corals are being replaced by seaweeds or other undesirable organisms. Historically, the major agent of disturbance to coral reefs has been powerful storms, but in recent decades, episodes of mass coral bleaching from marine heat waves have become more frequent and severe as the temperature of ocean surface waters continues to rise. Coral reefs are further stressed by local human activities that cause nutrient pollution and deplete herbivorous fishes that control growth of seaweeds. Studying how coral reefs respond to these two types of disturbance under different levels of nutrient pollution and fishing provides essential information on what affects the ability of coral reefs to buffer environmental change and disturbances without collapsing to a persistent, degraded condition. The fundamental goals of the Moorea Coral Reef Long Term Ecological Research program (MCR LTER) are to understand how and why coral reefs change over time, to assess the consequences of these changes, and to contribute scientific knowledge needed to sustain coral reef ecosystems and the important societal services they provide. This research improves understanding and management of coral reefs, which benefits all groups concerned with the welfare of this ecologically, economically and culturally important ecosystem. In addition to academic communities, scientific findings are communicated to interested individuals, non-governmental organizations, island communities and governmental entities. These findings also are integrated into K-12, undergraduate, graduate and public education activities through a multi-pronged program that includes inquiry-based curricula, interactive and media-based public education programs, and internet-based resources. MCR's research, training, education and outreach efforts all emphasize broadening participation in STEM fields and strengthening STEM literacy.

New research activities build on MCR LTER's powerful foundation of long-term observations and broad ecological understanding of oceanic coral reefs to address the following core issues: How is the changing disturbance regime (recurrent heat waves in addition to cyclonic storms) altering the resilience of coral reefs, and what are the ecological consequences of altered resilience? Research activities are organized around a unifying framework that explicitly addresses how reef communities are affected by the nature and history of coral-killing disturbances, and how those responses to disturbance are influenced by the pattern of local human stressors. New studies answer three focal questions: (1) How do different disturbance types, which either remove (storms) or retain (heat waves) dead coral skeletons, affect community dynamics, abrupt changes in ecological state, and resilience? (2) How do local stressors interact with new disturbance regimes to create spatial heterogeneity in community dynamics, ecosystem processes, and spatial resilience? And (3) What attributes of coral and coral reef communities influence their capacity to remain resilient under current and future environmental conditions? These questions provide an unparalleled opportunity to test hypotheses and advance theory regarding ecological resilience and the causes and consequences of abrupt ecological change, which is broadly relevant across aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

This award reflects NSF's statutory mission and has been deemed worthy of support through evaluation using the Foundation's intellectual merit and broader impacts review criteria.

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 CO₂, 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 pCO₂ (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.

Collaborative Research: Ocean Acidification and Coral Reefs: Scale Dependence and Adaptive Capacity (OA coral adaptation)

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

Coverage: Moorea, French Polynesia

Extracted from the NSF award abstract:

This project focuses on the most serious threat to marine ecosystems, Ocean Acidification (OA), and addresses the problem in the most diverse and beautiful ecosystem on the planet, coral reefs. The research utilizes Moorea, French Polynesia as a model system, and builds from the NSF investment in the Moorea Coral Reef Long Term Ecological Research Site (LTER) to exploit physical and biological monitoring of coral reefs as a context for a program of studies focused on the ways in which OA will affect corals, calcified algae, and coral reef ecosystems. The project builds on a four-year NSF award with research in five new directions: (1) experiments of year-long duration, (2) studies of coral reefs to 20-m depth, (3) experiments in which carbon dioxide will be administered to plots of coral reef underwater, (4) measurements of the capacity of coral reef organisms to change through evolutionary and induced responses to improve their resistance to OA, and (5) application of emerging theories to couple studies of individual organisms to studies of whole coral reefs. Broader impacts will accrue through a better understanding of the ways in which OA will affect coral reefs that are the poster child for demonstrating climate change effects in the marine environment, and which provide income, food, and coastal protection to millions of people living in coastal areas, including in the United States.

This project focuses on the effects of Ocean Acidification on tropical coral reefs and builds on a program of research results from an existing 4-year award, and closely interfaces with the technical, hardware, and information infrastructure provided through the Moorea Coral Reef (MCR) LTER. The MCR-LTER, provides an unparalleled opportunity to partner with a study of OA effects on a coral reef with a location that arguably is better instrumented and studied in more ecological detail than any other coral reef in the world. Therefore, the results can be both contextualized by a high degree of ecological and physical relevance, and readily integrated into emerging theory seeking to predict the structure and function of coral reefs in warmer and more acidic future oceans. The existing award has involved a program of study in Moorea that has focused mostly on short-term organismic and ecological responses of corals and calcified algae, experiments conducted in mesocosms and flumes, and measurements of reef-scale calcification. This new award involves three new technical advances: for the first time, experiments will be conducted of year-long duration in replicate outdoor flumes; CO₂ treatments will be administered to fully intact reef ecosystems in situ using replicated underwater flumes; and replicated common garden cultivation techniques will be used to explore within-species genetic variation in the response to OA conditions. Together, these tools will be used to support research on corals and calcified algae in three thematic areas: (1) tests for long-term (1 year) effects of OA on growth, performance, and fitness, (2) tests for depth-dependent effects of OA on reef communities at 20-m depth where light regimes are attenuated compared to shallow water, and (3) tests for beneficial responses to OA through intrinsic, within-species genetic variability and phenotypic plasticity. Some of the key experiments in these thematic areas will be designed to exploit integral projection models (IPMs) to couple organism with community responses, and to support the use of the metabolic theory of ecology (MTE) to address scale-dependence of OA effects on coral reef organisms and the function of the communities they build.

The following publications and data resulted from this project:

Comeau S, Carpenter RC, Lantz CA, Edmunds PJ. (2016) Parameterization of the response of calcification to temperature and pCO₂ in the coral *Acropora pulchra* and the alga *Lithophyllum kotschyannum*. Coral Reefs 2016. DOI [10.1007/s00338-016-1425-0](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00338-016-1425-0).
[calcification rates](#) (2014)
[calcification rates](#) (2010)

Comeau, S., Carpenter, R.C., Edmunds, P.J. (2016) Effects of pCO₂ on photosynthesis and respiration of tropical scleractinian corals and calcified algae. ICES Journal of Marine Science doi:[10.1093/icesjms/fsv267](https://doi.org/10.1093/icesjms/fsv267).
[respiration and photosynthesis I](#)
[respiration and photosynthesis II](#)

Evensen, N.R. & Edmunds P. J. (2016) Interactive effects of ocean acidification and neighboring corals on the growth of *Pocillopora verrucosa*. Marine Biology, 163:148.
doi: [10.1007/s00227-016-2921-z](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00227-016-2921-z)
[coral growth](#)
[seawater chemistry](#)
[coral colony interactions](#)

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Program Information

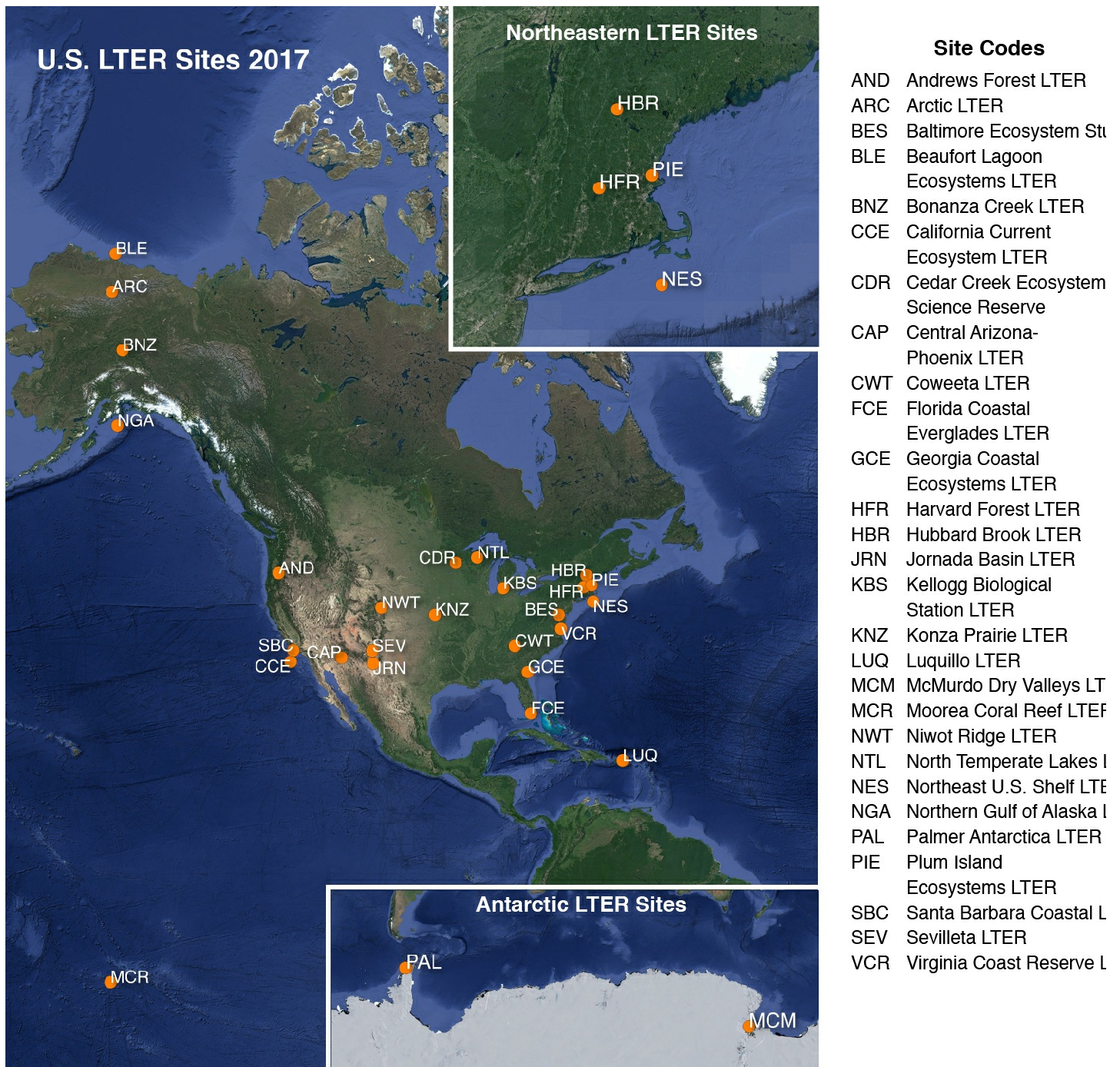
Long Term Ecological Research network (LTER)

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.



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

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

Website: 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).

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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Coverage: global

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Funding

Funding Source	Award
NSF Division of Ocean Sciences (NSF OCE)	OCE-0417412
NSF Division of Ocean Sciences (NSF OCE)	OCE-1041270
NSF Division of Ocean Sciences (NSF OCE)	OCE-1026851
NSF Division of Ocean Sciences (NSF OCE)	OCE-1415268

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