Ocean Acidification and New York

A presentation to New York State Ocean Acidification Task Force Dr. Janet Nye

Increasing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere



Ocean acidification



Carbonic acid "steals" bicarbonate ions from shell-forming animals





Coastal acidification



Fig 3. SEM images of D-larvae from various experimental treatments.



Bylenga CH, Cummings VJ, Ryan KG (2017) High resolution microscopy reveals significant impacts of ocean acidification and warming on larval shell development in Laternula elliptica. PLOS ONE 12(4): e0175706. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0175706 https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0175706





What are the consequences?

- When all taxa are pooled together, the effects are generally negative
- Shell-forming organisms are the most at risk while primary producers are the least at risk
- There are many taxa for which we don't know the risks
- We don't understand how predator-prey interactions and other ecological processes are altered by OA

Monitoring carbonate chemistry in New York



Gobler Laboratory monitoring sites in NY







Underway pCO2 measurements









Aragonite = carbonate available to organisms



Questions?











