Join us for our 2nd Roundtable discussion on Wednesday, May 27th at 3pm PDT (6pm EDT)

"Using pteropods as a case study in water quality assessment"

Presented by Nina Bednarsek, Washington Ocean Acidification Center, with perspective offered by Brad Warren of Global Ocean Health

Abstract: Pteropods are pelagic sea snails with aragonite shells. Numerous laboratory studies have shown that ocean acidification (OA) affects their vital biological functions in ways that can be quantified. Consequently, pteropods are a good candidate for use in water quality assessments pertaining to OA, for example those required under the U.S. Clean Water Act. The principal challenge in using pteropods for this purpose lies in connecting laboratory studies that show effects on individuals with population effects occurring in the natural environment. Nonetheless, several lines of evidence suggest that pteropods in natural settings are affected by exposure to OA, and that these effects encompass multiple levels of biological organization, ranging from physiological to individual, population, and community levels. These responses correspond to specific aragonite saturation states and are both quantifiable and repeatable, making pteropods a potential bioindicator of aragonite saturation state in the natural environment. Moreover, pteropods contribute up to 50-60% of the diet of fish species such as salmon, indicating their importance to the health of the broader biological community and adding to their potential use as an indicator in regulatory water quality assessment.

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Following the presentation there will be a few short informational announcements relevant to the C-CAN community. Please forward this invitation to interested colleagues. We look forward to seeing you at this event!

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