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Marine Policy Seminar
Abstract – S13

**SpongeBob Is Doomed: An Update on Ocean Acidification Research
and the Federal Government Response**

Ocean Acidification represents a significant threat to all organisms that depend on the ocean for resources and habitat, including human beings. At the same time, uncertainty and complexity in measuring and predicting the impacts of decreasing pH has made it difficult for people and governments to judge the appropriate level and types of mitigation and adaptation efforts needed to head off the worst effects. Called the “evil twin” of global warming, ocean acidification uniquely challenges government institutions because it is multidisciplinary; urgent, yet uncertain; requires international, national, state, and local government engagement; and is taking shape during a time of limited resources. Since the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act of 2009, the U.S. Federal Government has worked on the problem, investing in further scientific research and preparing a multi-agency strategic plan intended to direct federal investments. It is important to examine aspects of this plan, like prioritization and messaging, and to develop ways to ensure that the research leads to policy-relevant answers so that governments, industry, and communities can prepare. This presentation provides an overview of the current ocean acidification landscape and suggests potential ideas for ocean acidification policy studies at UD.