

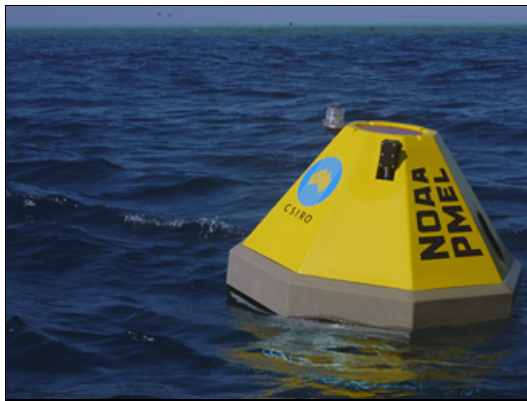
ClimateWire

5. SCIENCE: Researchers press for more ways to measure changing ocean chemistry (11/01/2010)

Lauren Morello, E&E reporter

An umbrella group representing ocean research institutions in 21 countries is pushing governments to improve their monitoring of the world's seas.

"We're seeing unprecedented changes in the chemistry of the ocean, leading to issues such as ocean acidification, and changes in sea level rise," said Tony Knap, president and director of the Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences. "But we can only measure these changes in a few places over time, and we really need to expand that."



A moored platform with a suite of instruments to measure ocean acidification and other changes was recently installed near Australia's Great Barrier Reef. Photo courtesy of Bronte Tilbrook, CSIRO, Australia.

The United Nations is supervising the development of a worldwide monitoring network, the Global Ocean Observing System, but the oceanographic institutions that comprise the Partnership for Observation of Global Oceans say governments should take more aggressive action to finish the work.

They plan to take that message to the meeting of the Group on Earth Observations, where environment ministers from around the world will gather to discuss the ongoing development of a planetwide monitoring network, of which GOOS is one component.

"There have been conferences, strategic plans, implementation plans, and many other things done under U.N. auspices," Knap said. "Where the problem always comes is where the rubber hits the road, there is never any money to implement it."

He said it would cost \$10 billion to \$15 billion to put in place enough monitoring floats, buoys, moorings

and other equipment, and another \$5 billion per year to operate it.

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