

## Abstract

The recently published report from The Royal Society (June 2005) raises an alert over ocean acidification. Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is absorbed by the surface seawater making oceans more acidic. The dissolved carbon dioxide causes chemical reactions to shift the chemical balance of the oceans, which has significantly negative impacts primarily on calcifying marine organisms, such as corals, shellfish, and planktons. If the emission continues as it does today to double the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide, the tropical and subtropical reefs can be rare by 2050 to 2100. With no systematic frameworks specifically tackling ocean acidification, political or legal, the report recommends incorporating this issue into all the national and international discussions that relate to climate and other global changes. With these as a backdrop, this research asks if policy concerning ocean acidification, when put on agenda or created, will be likely to be supported by society. Specifically, I proposes to uncover the mechanism in which social support is formed for policy in the very context of ocean acidification. The Value-Belief-Norm theory (Stern et al, 1999) provides theoretical underpinnings and the hypothesis model created based on the theory will be tested against different segments of society using Structural Equation Modeling with Latent Variables (SEM/LV). At the completion of this study, 1) what is known and what is not known by society at present about ocean acidification will be cleared out, 2) the factors that enhance or inhibit the process of becoming supportive of ocean acidification will be found, 3) the process will be explained using the structural relationships among the factors, and 4) how the structural relationships of the process can be different among different groups of people will be understood.