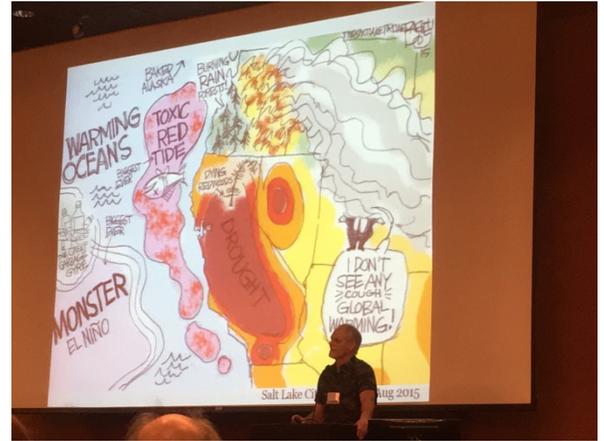


HIGHLIGHTS

Alaska Marine Science Symposium – AOOS staff were busy in January preparing for, and then attending the annual AMSS January 23-27 which attracted more than 800 scientists, resource managers and media. The week began with the **Communicating Ocean Sciences Workshop**, which Holly Kent helped to plan. Molly McCammon participated in the workshop on Communicating Ocean Science to Policy Makers. This was followed by an afternoon of keynote talks to the full symposium that Molly helped organize. Staff used the poster sessions Monday and Tuesday nights for garnering input into updating the AOOS Buildout Plans as well outreach on AOOS activities. Several AOOS PIs gave oral presentations or posters on various observing activities supported by AOOS.



Keynote speaker Nick Bond on The Recent Marine Heat Wave in Alaska: A Dress Rehearsal for Climate Change?

What's Up with the Blob – AOOS hosted an evening town hall during AMSS week on January 25, organized by Carol Janzen. National Weather Service climatologist Rick Thoman's slides kicked off the event, followed by presentations by AOOS PIs Kris Holderied, Seth Danielson, Russ Hopcroft and Rob Campbell. All the presentations highlighted the continuing warmth in Alaska's waters, especially at depth, and potential relationship to bird and marine mammal die-offs and increased harmful algal bloom incidents.

ATN Network outreach – AOOS also hosted a lunch event January 26 with Mike Wiese, Office of Naval Research, to brief AMSS participants on the status of the new national Animal Telemetry Network. AOOS is conducting a survey of potential ATN participants from Alaska as an aid in planning a workshop to be funded by the network later this year.

Harmful Algal Bloom follow-up – AMSS week was also a good time for follow-up to the December HABs workshop and further discussion on establishing an Alaska HAB network and an Alaska HABs data portal. Darcy Dugan is the AOOS representative on that effort.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Upcoming Board Meeting – The AOOS Board will be meeting in Juneau March 20 or 21 to approve the fiscal 2017 work plan.

Other administrative – We are working on closing out our last 5-year cooperative agreement with NOAA (which received a 1-year extension until May 31, 2017). We responded to comments received on our semi-annual progress report. We are also finalizing revisions to the AOOS Employee Manual.

IOOS ACTIVITIES

National IOOS spring meeting – Molly is participating in planning efforts for the upcoming spring IOOS Program meetings in Silver Spring in mid-March.

3 RA data meeting – Three of the IOOS Regional Associations share Axiom Data Science as our data provider. We are now starting to meet quarterly to increase our collaborations.

PROPOSALS & NEW GRANTS

NOAA Coastal Resiliency FFO – AOOS Board member Amy Holman convened a group of agencies, non-profits and tribal representatives interested in potential collaborations on proposals in response to a current NOAA FFO for coastal resiliency projects. AOOS will likely be a partner in at least one of the proposals currently underway.

MEETINGS & CONFERENCES

Consortium for Ocean Leadership – Molly met in Dallas January 11 for a one-day meeting of the COL board to discuss budget and planning activities.

International Arctic Observing Assessment Framework workshop – Molly was invited to attend an NSF and SAON-sponsored workshop January 12-13 focused on using societal benefits as a framework for determining arctic observing priorities.



Libbey Jewett and Bob Foy in NOAA OA PI strategic planning session.

NOAA Ocean Acidification Program PI Meeting – Darcy attended a 2-day meeting at NOAA's Sand Point facility in Seattle on Jan 4-5 to review NOAA initiatives across the country addressing OA and discuss priorities and ideas for monitoring, research and outreach.

Climate Prediction Applications Science Workshop (CPASW) – Holly is on the planning committee for this conference, to be held in Anchorage, May 2-4.

Western Alaskan Interdisciplinary Science Conference (WAISC) – Holly is also on the planning committee for this conference, to be held in Unalaska, April 26-29.

OBSERVING ACTIVITIES

Water Levels – AOOS is funding ASTRA LLC to test deploy 2 GPS reflectometry sensors in Seward as a shore-based water level observation solution. They should be deployed in the next few weeks.

If successful, we would then test them at a remote location this summer. We are also working with UNAVCO to explore testing their GPS reflectometry sensors in a remote location this summer as well. This is part of the piloting of alternative water level observations funded by the National Weather Service.

Updating Buildout Plans – AOOS is currently meeting with partners and stakeholders as part of our review of our statewide and Arctic buildout plans. We have met with partners in Juneau, Fairbanks, Seattle and Anchorage. The goal is to have revised plans finished this spring that reflect a broad community consensus of what long-term, sustained observations should be supported in Alaska.

DATA MANAGEMENT

During January 2017, Axiom Data Science participated in the Alaska Marine Science Symposium and facilitated a workshop on developing metadata for numerical modeling projects. The data management team has also been hard at work rolling out the next generation AOOS data system which includes the ability to generate climatologies and seasonal averages on the fly from long-term sensor time series and to visualize 4-dimensional ocean observations collected through the water column. Stay tuned for the release of these new exciting capabilities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 6-19 Alaska Forum for the Environment (ocean acidification session Feb 8 included)

Feb 16 Alaska Ocean Acidification Network executive committee meeting (Darcy)

March 8-10 Consortium for Ocean Leadership public policy forum & spring meeting, Washington DC (Molly)

March 14-16 IOOS Program spring meeting, Washington DC (Molly)

March 20 AOOS Board meeting, Juneau

March 22 Alaska Marine Policy Forum

Molly, Carol, Holly, Darcy, and Rob