

HIGHLIGHTS

AOOS Board Chair Retires – We say farewell to Ed Fogels, long-time deputy commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, who left ADNR service at the end of July. Ed was a strong advocate for AOOS and served as board vice-chair and for the past year, as chair. Ed fostered the current collaboration between ADNR and AOOS to develop alternative water level observing technologies and coastal flood and inundation maps and products. He was also a big supporter of AOOS’ Data Assembly Center and encouraged its use by state agencies. We wish him well in his new endeavors.



ADMINISTRATIVE

AOOS EXCOM – The AOOS Executive Committee met July 14 to accept some additional funding and tasks from the national IOOS Program Office as part of our Year 2 cooperative agreement, and make a few adjustments to the Year 1 work plan and budget. New activities include bridge funding for the sea ice radar in Barrow and the ocean acidification burke-o-lator in Seward.

Data Portal Feedback Synthesis – As part of developing the coming year’s data system work plan, AOOS and Axiom staff reviewed feedback on the data portal collected over the past year. Among topics discussed were the addition of tutorials to be potentially shared by CeNCOOS, SECOORA, IOOS, and AOOS, methods for checking the status of sensor feeds, and the creation of “data dashboards” for power users of the portal.

Evaluations – Molly conducted annual evaluations for Carol and Darcy.

Office space – Our lease at 1007 W. Third Ave is up in late October. Since our partner AK Sea Grant needed to find cheaper space, AOOS and NPRB are also looking to relocate to reduce our costs. We are pursuing one option in the downtown area.

Data System Review – Molly and Carol continue to work on plans for conducting an external review of the AOOS data system sometime this fall. We are currently assembling the review team and the review scope of work.

H2300 Closeout – We are working on final closeout and reporting for our 6-year NOAA cooperative agreement that ended May 31. We are knee-deep in reviewing final reports and invoices, tracking equipment purchases, and synthesizing 6 years of work into a 15-page report.

MEETINGS & CONFERENCES

Ocean Cluster brainstorming meeting - Molly joined UAF College of Fish and Ocean Sciences Dean Brad Moran at a brainstorming session July 28 in Seward on developing an “Ocean Cluster” in Alaska, based on a model developed in Iceland to enhance collaborations among industry, academia and non-profits involved in the marine sector. Molly also had the opportunity to tour the AK research vessel Sikuliaq for the first time.



Ice Diminishing Arctic Symposium – Molly participated in a panel on July 19 on Arctic Marine Transportation at the “Impacts of an Ice-Diminishing Arctic on Naval and Maritime Operations” symposium, sponsored by the US Arctic Research Commission and US National Ice Center in Washington DC.

Animal Telemetry Network Workshop – Staff has begun planning with ATN Director Bill Woodward for this workshop to be held in Anchorage December 5-6 at the Anchorage Marriott. Speakers will be invited; participation is open. A “Save the Date” notice will be sent out shortly.

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

IOOS Honorary Directors – Molly participated in the IOOS Association Executive Committee meeting July 6 with their Honorary Directors to discuss strategies for FY 18 funding requests. The Honorary Directors include former NOAA chief of staff Scott Rayder, former NOAA Administrator Conrad Lautenbacher, retired Admiral Paul Gaffney, and former Washington Congressman Norm Dicks.

IOOS Op-Ed Initiative – Molly is working with the IOOS Association to develop a series of op-eds to be published across the country highlighting the value of ocean observations to the economy and national security.

US AON AIS Task Team Meeting – Molly and Rob participated in this effort initiated by the US AON office to help coordinate the various US AIS database efforts. The first step is to identify these efforts, their source of funding, the resolution of the data, and the products and outcomes expected.

DC Meetings – While in DC for the Ice-Diminishing Arctic symposium, Molly also stopped by the Alaska delegation offices July 21 to update them on AOOs activities. She also spent a morning in Silver Spring meeting with Chris Oliver and Cisco Werner at NMFS, Nicole LeBoeuf at NOS, and Libby Jewett with the national Ocean Acidification Program.

ALASKA AND REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

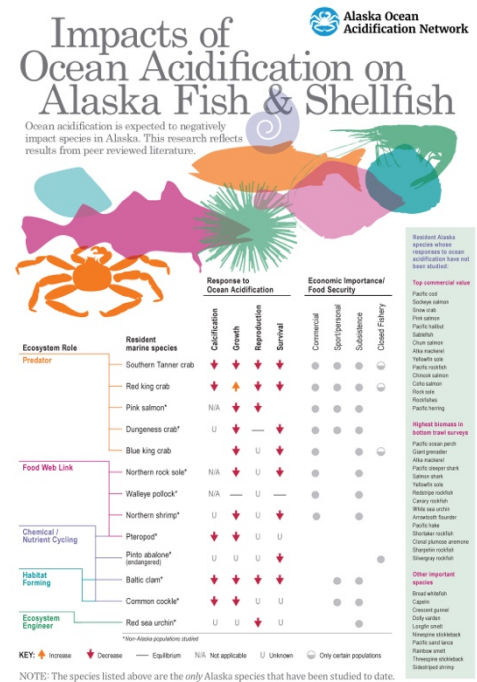
Alaska Regional Team Strategy meeting – Molly met July 27 with a small group of NOAA staff and partners organized by Regional Team Lead Doug Demaster and Coordinator Amy Holman to brainstorm future NOAA collaboration (cross line offices) priorities.

ERMA semi-annual telecon – Molly, Carol and Will Koeppen from Axiom met with Amy Merten and the Arctic ERMA team July 26 to share new technical capacities and data layers on both ERMA and the AOOs Ocean Data Explorer. The meetings are held to implement the AOOs-ERMA letter of agreement that describes how we work together and collaborate.

Alaska Marine Policy Forum – The bi-monthly forum was held July 26.

Adapt Alaska – A follow-up team met July 5 to discuss how to move forward with the recommendations developed from the 4 coastal resiliency workshops held in western Alaska in the past year. Activities include an Adapt Alaska website, recommendations on how to streamline community plans and continuing the adaptation dialogue.

AK Ocean Acidification Network – A new one page document describing the impacts of OA on researched Alaska species has gone viral. This publication also includes a long list of many Alaska species that have yet to be researched for impacts from OA. As part of the OA Network, five topic-specific working groups have been convened and are actively working to help implement the network’s mission. More information can be found at www.aos.org/alaska-ocean-acidification-network/



OUTREACH

Communicating Ocean Sciences Workshop – Holly is on the steering committee for this workshop to be held on January 21, 2018. In a departure from past workshops, the committee has secured the Sharing Sciences Program staff of the American Geophysical Union for a full day workshop on science communication for the Sunday prior to the start of the Alaska Marine Science Symposium – January 21.

DATA MANAGEMENT

The AOOs data management team spent the month of July exposing several long-awaited capabilities. The AOOs Research Workspace became DataONE enabled with the Axiom team standing up a DataONE member node for the core Research Workspace platform. Working with EVOS Gulf Watch investigators, the AOOs data team was able to formally publish finalized data products to the DataONE network. Additionally, final modifications have been completed on the climatology toolbox with public release expected in August.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 22-23** NOAA's second Emerging Technologies Workshop, [NOAA's second annual Emerging Technologies Workshop](#)
- September 18-21** MTS and IEEE OES sponsored OCEANS'17 Conference, Anchorage at the Dena'ina Convention Center (Carol) <http://www.oceans17mtsieeeanchorage.org/>
- September 25-27** IOOS national meeting, Puerto Rico
- October 25** Consortium for Ocean Leadership Industry Forum, WA DC
- October 26-27** COL Trustee meeting, WA DC
- November 7-8** AK Sea Grant Advisory Committee, Anchorage
- November 13-15** Gulf Watch AK PI meeting, Cordova or Anchorage
- December 5-6** ATN Workshop, Anchorage

Molly, Carol, Holly, Darcy, and Rob