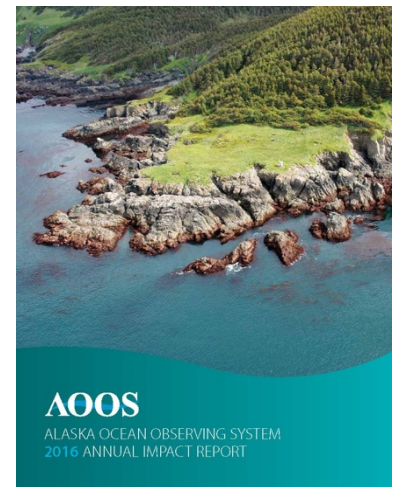


HIGHLIGHTS

AOOS Board Meeting – The AOOS Board met in Juneau on March 20, beginning with a morning business session at the Alaska Department of Natural Resources offices. The session included an update on national IOOS activities from the new IOOS Program Office Director, Carl Gouldman, as well as an update from Molly on AOOS activities on both the Alaska and National fronts. The Board approved a work plan for fiscal year 2017 based on the expected flat funding of \$2,131,000. Molly reported on follow-up to the strategic planning effort conducted by the Board at its Fall 2016 meeting. The Board approved a revision to the process for accepting new grants and added three new members to the AOOS Data Management Advisory Committee. A highlight was an informal lunch with Alaska Lt. Governor Byron Mallott, discussing his concerns with transboundary mine issues and other ocean issues. The afternoon session was held at the US Coast Guard 17th District Conference room in the federal building. This session included briefings by staff on various AOOS programs and Bill Benning of the Marine Exchange of Alaska and discussions with the Coast Guard 17th District Commander RADM Michael McAllister, as well as a tour of the District’s Command Center. Following the Board meeting, AOOS hosted a small reception at the Coast Guard Buoy Deck. We greatly appreciated all the assistance provided by Paul Webb (Coast Guard), Ed Fogels (ADNR) and Ed Page (though he managed to miss the meeting) and Brett Farrell (Marine Exchange) for a successful meeting in Juneau.

AOOS Annual Impact Report – The first Annual Impact Report for AOOS was produced this spring with input from staff, but largely due to the efforts of Holly Kent, who was responsible for much of the content and design. This publication can be found under latest news on the AOOS website and [here](#).



ADMINISTRATIVE

Delta Sound Connections – Holly prepared a two-page spread to be included in this magazine published by the Prince William Sound Science Center and to be widely distributed in various venues including the Alaska Marine Highway System traversing the sound.

Certification – AOOS responded to a second round of questions about our certification application from the IOOS review team in Silver Spring. We think the review will be concluded very soon.

Sea Grant Pre-Proposal Review – Molly participated in the review of pre-proposals for the Sea Grant research program on March 23.

Proposals – AOOS partnered on six IOOS Ocean Technology Transfer proposals that were due March 24; provided support to an Alaska DNR-lead Coastal Resiliency proposal effort, submitted March 15; and submitted three pre-proposal white papers to the Arctic Domain Awareness Center for future projects aimed at maritime domain awareness and marine safety issues in the Arctic.

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

IOOS Spring Meeting – Molly and AOOS vice-chair Katrina Hoffman attended three days of IOOS Program Office meetings in Silver Spring and Washington DC March 14-16. The meetings included an IOOS Association business meeting, an all-day joint session between Regional Association directors and board members and their data management leads, strategic planning with the IOOS Program Office, and a presentation by Russell Callender, the head of NOAA’s National Ocean Service. Molly and Katrina met with all 3 Alaska congressional offices and talked about the importance of ocean observing for

national security and the economy. A highlight of the week was a farewell dinner with Zdenka Willis, who just retired from her position as IOOS Program director.

IARPC Data Team – Molly participated in the data team’s meeting on March 30. The group is headed up by Peter Pulsifer.

PARTNERSHIPS & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

COL Meetings in Washington DC - As an elected Trustee for the Consortium for Ocean Leadership (COL), Molly attended the March 8 Public Policy Forum on Aquaculture, as well as membership meetings on March 9 and 10. Congressman Don Young was one of the participants on a leadership panel at the policy forum, providing an Alaska perspective on aquaculture issues. Senator Roger Wicker from Mississippi told the group that he planned to introduce aquaculture legislation this session.



MTS/IEEE Oceans’ 17 – Carol continues to participate on the Local Organizing Committee for the OCEANS’ 17 Conference scheduled for September 2017 in Anchorage. Carol is a technical co-chair and is in the process of preparing over 580 abstracts for peer review. Holly and Darcy are providing abstract reviews in support of outreach and education abstracts. For more information about this meeting, visit the conference [website](#).

Western Alaska Interdisciplinary Science Conference – Holly continues to participate on this steering committee for the conference to be held in Unalaska on April 26-29.

Alaska Marine Policy Forum – This bi-monthly teleconference was held on March 22 and in addition to updates from the Alaska Congressional delegation and the Lt. Governor’s office, a discussion was held on regional science conferences and their importance to rural areas of Alaska and in connecting research scientists with the communities near their research sites. Julie Matweyou and Melissa Good, Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Agents for Kodiak and Unalaska respectively, talked about the conferences that they have organized in their areas.

Alaska Ocean Acidification Network – The new outreach working group of the Alaska OA Network met on March 6 to review existing outreach avenues and discuss new activities and partnerships for the coming months. Also, this month, network partners began the installation of an OA sensor package on the state ferry M/V Columbia which will collect data between Bellingham, WA and Skagway, AK twice/week from April-Oct. More details on this project will be available soon. Darcy also provided an update on the Alaska OA Network to the AOOS Board.

Alaska HAB Network – The newly formed Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network (Alaska HAB Network) initiated a monthly meeting schedule, discussing the development of a statewide action plan and a new website. Darcy is serving on the steering committee and the outreach working group of the network, and is leading the development of the website.

MEETINGS & CONFERENCES

Presentations in Juneau – Holly, Darcy and Will Koeppen from Axiom gave AOOS 101 presentations and data portal demonstrations to around 15 people from NOAA and the USCG at the Federal Building in Juneau on March 21. This was a great outreach opportunity and provided an introduction to people not familiar with AOOS. In particular, there was a lot of interest in the data portal capabilities. Another presentation was given later in the day at the Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute to six researchers,



most of whom were already familiar with AOOS. Technical discussions that followed centered around the data portal, rescue of old data and potential data sharing opportunities.

UAA Arctic Research Day – Molly participated in a community resources panel at UAA’s first ever Arctic Research Day on the UAA campus on March 24. The all-day symposium highlighted UAA Arctic research and was the conclusion of meetings by the federal Interagency Arctic Research Policy Group in Anchorage that same week.

DATA MANAGEMENT

The AOOS data management team spent the month of March involved in several national and regional planning and coordination efforts. Rob Bochenek, the AOOS data manager, participated in a multiday meeting in Silver Springs, Maryland at the national IOOS office working with other data managers and regional association executive directors on how to augment the community's capabilities and realize improved efficiencies. The team also continues to make progress on cyber infrastructure improvements and will be launching the next generation AOOS sensor map in the coming month of April.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 3-11 North Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting, Anchorage
- April 13-14 Arctic Encounters, Seattle WA
- April 18-21 Kodiak Area Marine Science Symposium, Kodiak
- April 22: Earth Day – OA Network and AOOS booths, Anchorage Museum
- April 26-29 Western Alaska Interdisciplinary Science Conference, Unalaska

Molly, Carol, Holly, Darcy, and Rob