

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

**AOOS Fall Board Meeting** – The board met on October 25 in Anchorage and welcomed new board members Mike Miller representing the Indigenous People’s Council for Marine Mammals and Theresa Peterson representing the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. Board member Ed Fogels, deputy commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, was elected board chair replacing Captain Ed Page of the Alaska Marine Exchange. Also elected was Katrina Hoffman, president of the Prince William Sound Science Center, as vice-chair. Cheryl Rosa, U.S. Arctic Research Commission deputy director, and Jim Kendall, Alaska Regional Director of BOEM, were re-elected as board secretary and treasurer, respectively. Retiring board member Denby Lloyd was thanked for his service to the organization, which included a stint as Board Chair.

Strategic planning took up half of the board’s meeting time. The board honed in on four key strategic activities to focus on in the coming year: 1) update the AOOS build-out plans; 2) develop a communications and outreach plan to increase partnerships and develop new outreach tools; 3) use the upcoming external review of the AOOS data system to explore new business models; and 4) explore new organizational structures. A summary of the planning session will be posted on the AOOS website in the next week.



**IOOS Certification** – WE SUBMITTED! AOOS staff submitted our application for certification with the national IOOS office on October 6. The U.S. IOOS Program Office has asked all regional associations (RAs) to submit applications for certification demonstrating that they meet the requirements established by the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System: Regulations to Certify and Integrate Regional Information Coordination Entities. This effort will ensure that the data collected and distributed by the RAs are managed according to the best practices, as identified by NOAA. We will keep you posted as the review gets underway. The application included two key components: one focusing on governance and organizational structure and accountability; the other focusing on our data management system.

**Alaska Ocean Leadership Awards** – Nominations are now being accepted for the 2017 Alaska Ocean Leadership Awards. AOOS sponsors the Marine Science Outreach Award. See [http://www.alaskasealife.org/news\\_item/46](http://www.alaskasealife.org/news_item/46) for more information.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

**Grants Fiscal Management** – Holly Kent met with the Alaska SeaLife Center (ASLC) finance staff to discuss and develop a refined methodology for tracking expenses on grants received by AOOS. At its recent meeting, the AOOS board extended the fiscal sponsor agreement between AOOS and the ASLC for an additional year, to September 30, 2017.

**New Staff at WALCC** – AOOS staff met recently with Leanna Heffner and Karen Murphy of the Western Alaska Landscape Conservation Cooperative. Leanna is the new communications and outreach staff for the Alaska LCCs. Her background in oceanography and science communication will be valuable additions to these programs.

### **PROPOSALS & NEW GRANTS**

**Arctic Incident of National Significance** – In collaboration with Axiom Data Science and the Marine Exchange of Alaska, AOOS submitted a proposal to the Arctic Domain Awareness Center under the

theme of Mitigating Arctic Environmental Hazards. The proposed project uses vessel tracking data to prioritize bathymetric surveying in a rapidly changing Arctic.

**Gulf Research Program** – AOOS, Axiom and Steve Braund and Associates received word that their proposal entitled *Synthesizing AIS ship tracking data, GNOME oil spill model results, and subsistence use information into a unique, interactive tool to aid research and planning in coastal communities bordering the Alaska Beaufort Sea* has been funded by the National Academy of Science’s Gulf Research Program.

**Other funding** – AOOS also received the following funds, that were included in our most recent cooperative agreement with NOAA: \$15,000 a year for two years for Alaska Ocean Acidification Network outreach activities; \$65,000 from USGS for Axiom to develop a geospatial data portal; \$74,278 from BOEM for Axiom to integrate and ingest WRF model and metocean data and make them available through the AOOS data portal; and \$250,000 from the National Weather Service to support development of alternative water level observations. A proposal to support up to 5 years of data management services for the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council’s two long term research and monitoring programs (Gulf Watch Alaska and Herring Research and Monitoring) is being considered by the EVOSTC November 3.

### **MEETINGS & CONFERENCES**

**Consortium for Ocean Leadership** – Molly attended COL’s 2-day meeting in Washington DC October 27-28. Molly serves as a trustee and is participating in the ocean observing and public policy committees. The meeting was preceded by an industry forum held on October 26 that focused on “Sound in the Sea.”

**Arctic Council Event** – AOOS co-hosted with NERACOOS (Northeastern Regional Association for Coastal and Ocean Observing Systems) a public event on October 4 in conjunction with the Arctic Council’s most recent meeting in Portland Maine. The event, called “One Arctic: Pacific to Atlantic Connections,” featured two Alaska presentations by Dr. Larry Hinzman and Dr. Peter Winsor, both of University of Alaska Fairbanks. Alaska Congressman Don Young and Maine Congresswoman Chellie Pingree both delivered opening remarks. Molly also participated on October 5 in the Maine-Alaska roundtable discussion hosted by the Institute of the North.

**Alaska Marine Science Symposium** – AOOS staff are all helping with planning for the 2017 AMSS, January 23-27 (see [www.amss.nprb.org](http://www.amss.nprb.org)). Molly is coordinating keynote and plenary speakers and Holly is working with the Communicating Ocean Science Workshop committee to develop a series of breakout sessions for the workshop. Molly and Carol are both helping review abstract submissions.



*Shorezone imagery from Cook Inlet*

**Shorezone Annual Meeting** – Holly attended the two-day annual meeting on October 12-13 to get updates on the progress of the Shorezone project. The project has almost completed imaging the entire coastline of Alaska. This aerial imagery is then used for the interpretation and integration of geological and biological features of the intertidal zone and nearshore environment. Project staff are now developing a schedule for reimagining the parts of the Alaska coastline that were initially done with older technology in order to upgrade the images and document changes. More information on the mapped habitat characteristics and access to data layers in the

portal can be found [here](#). The Ocean Data Explorer also allows users to view and download the high definition still and video images [here](#).

**AOOS DMAC Meeting** – The AOOS Data Management Advisory Committee met on October 19 at the Axiom offices in Anchorage. The committee reviewed the annual data system work plan, was briefed on the AOOS certification application and data management plan and viewed new technical capabilities. The committee also provided input into the external data review of the AOOS data system, planned for this coming winter.

**Gulf Watch Alaska (GWA) Annual Meeting** – Carol attended the annual Gulf Watch Alaska (GWA) Program meeting held in Cordova October 25-29. Carol will serve as Program Lead for the 2017-2021 Data Management Program component of this project. Stacey Buckelew and Chris Turner from AXIOM also attended and provided one-on-one data submittal working sessions with project PIs. The GWA Program, largely funded by the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustees Council, also leverages other activities in the region and involves multiple federal and state agencies and research organizations.

**Alaska Ocean Acidification Network** – The Network is preparing for the upcoming Alaska OA “State of the Science” workshop to be held Nov 30-Dec 1 in Anchorage. Over 100 people have registered so far. Registration is free and more information can be found on the network website: <http://www.aoos.org/alaska-ocean-acidification-network/>. The network steering committee met on October 24 by phone to discuss the workshop, an upcoming funding opportunity and a Pacific-wide monitoring inventory.

**Planning for upcoming conferences:** Molly is serving on the steering committee for the upcoming Coastal Resilience workshop in Kotzebue Dec 7-8, and Holly is attending steering committee meetings for the Western Alaska Interdisciplinary Science Conference, to be held in Unalaska in April 2017.



*OA monitoring in Seldovia*

#### **DATA MANAGEMENT**

**IOOS Big Data** – The IOOS Federal Advisory Committee convened a half-day session on big data at the University of Washington in Seattle on October 11. Carol Janzen participated by teleconference.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

November 7-8 Alaska Sea Grant Advisory Committee, Anchorage (Molly)

Nov 30-Dec 1 Alaska Ocean Acidification Network State of Science Workshop, Anchorage (all staff)

December 7-8 Coastal Resiliency Workshop, Kotzebue (Molly)

Dec 8-9 – Harmful Algal Bloom workshop, Anchorage (Darcy and Molly)

**Molly, Carol, Holly, Darcy, and Rob**