

Celebrating 10 years of eyes on Alaska's oceans and coast!

AOOS Film Contest Winners announced – With 32 outstanding submissions, the AOOS judging panel had a tough time selecting winners. Congratulations to Charlie Ess, Margaret Burch, JJ Kelley, DeAnna Morris, Patrick Farrell, Arina Fillipenko and Calesia Monroe. We would like to thank all the entrants for sharing their creativity and insights. [Read more.](#)



Don't forget to join us Wednesday evening, Nov 19, at the Anchorage Museum to celebrate [AOOS' 10th Anniversary!](#) There will be films, food and drinks. The event is free and open to any friend of AOOS. See announcement at bottom.

ADMINISTRATIVE



New AOOS officers – The AOOS Board met in Anchorage on October 17. Ed Page, Executive Director of the Marine Exchange of Alaska, was re-elected Board Chair and Ed Fogels, Deputy Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, was re-elected Vice-chair. Cheryl Rosa, Deputy Director of the U.S. Arctic Research Commission, was newly elected secretary and Jim Kendall, Alaska Regional Director of the US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, was elected treasurer.

Left: *New officers Cheryl Rosa and Jim Kendall*

IOOS Association ED Visits Alaska - Josie Quintrell, Executive Director of the IOOS Association, joined the AOOS Board for its October meeting in Anchorage. This was the first time Josie met in person with the full AOOS Board. She was able to share her insights into the overall IOOS budget and planning initiatives and the upcoming regional association certification process. **Right:** *Josie and Molly taking in the view of Cook Inlet at Hilltop with Darcy's son Suvan.*



IOOS Association – Molly was in Washington, DC November 5-6 for the annual meeting of the IOOS Association (of which she is Board Treasurer). The Board did some strategic planning on day 1. On day 2, board members heard from the three co-chairs of the IOOC (Interagency Ocean Observing Committee): NOAA's David Legler, NASA's Eric Lindstrom and NSF's Bob Houtman; IOOS Program Office Director Zdenka Willis; and IOOS Federal Advisory Committee Chair Conrad Lautenbacher. BOEM's national Director of the Environmental Studies Program, Dr. Rodney Cluck, briefed the board on BOEM research activities and offered suggestions on how IOOS regions can better engage with BOEM. Dr. Cluck recommended that other regions look to AOOS as a model for future collaborations.

MEETINGS/CONFERENCES/TRAVEL

AOOS Ocean Obs & Navigation Safety session at Week of the Arctic – Molly and Ellen Tyler attended ‘Week of the Arctic’ in Nome, and Molly facilitated a panel discussion on October 6 focused on the needs and priorities for safe, efficient and environmentally sound marine navigation. Panelists included representatives from the Marine Exchange of Alaska, the US Coast Guard, Crowley Marine Operations, NOAA’s regional coordinator and the Nome Harbormaster. Recommendations from the meeting will inform the next AOOS 5-year grant.



EVOSTC Public Advisory Committee – Molly joined other members of the Gulf Watch Alaska Program Management Team on October 16 to brief the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council’s Public Advisory Committee on the current status of the Trustee Council’s long-term monitoring program.

NOAA NWS visitors – AOOS hosted a meeting October 21 with John Murphy, director of the National Weather Service’s Office of Science and Technology and Helmut Portmann, director of the National Data Buoy Center the AOOS conference room. The meeting was attended by eight local NWS officials, as well as a representative of the Marine Exchange of Alaska via teleconference, and focused on current and future collaborations between AOOS, the Marine Exchange and NWS.

AK Sea Grant Advisory Committee - Molly met October 21-22 with other members of the advisory committee to hear about the latest activities of AK Sea Grant and provide input into their future research needs.

AK Arctic Policy Commission Research Needs Listening Session – Led by commission members Dr. Lawson Brigham and state representative David Guttenberg of Fairbanks, the commission hosted a discussion session on October 27 on research needs for Alaska’s Arctic. Molly participated on behalf of AOOS.

PAG/DBO Workshops – AOOS data team members Will Koeppen and Chris Turner traveled to Seattle on October 28-31 for meetings of the Pacific Arctic Group (PAG) and the Distributed Biological Observatory (DBO) Program. The PAG workshop served as a forum for international science teams to present broad overviews of research they are conducting in Arctic waters. The DBO is a program aimed at establishing a long-term ocean sampling record in the Arctic waters of the Bering and Beaufort Seas. The meeting provided time to have detailed discussions with DBO participants on potential ways to coordinate scientific sampling efforts and data distribution, fill in knowledge and sampling gaps, and avoid duplication of effort between countries.

PRESENTATIONS

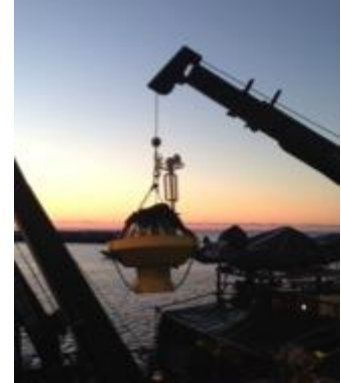
National Ocean Council – Molly took advantage of being in Washington DC on November 5 to brief National Ocean Council and Office of Science and Technology Policy staff on the observing activities and data management capabilities of AOOS. The briefing was attended by the new NOC director Beth Kerttula, a former state legislator from Juneau.

UPDATES & HIGHLIGHTS

Upcoming Workshop on Ocean Acidification in Alaska – Jointly sponsored and organized by AOOS, ACCAP, Alaska Sea Grant, the Alaska Marine Conservation Council, and UAF’s Ocean Acidification Research Center, this workshop will take place December 2 at the Marriott Hotel in Anchorage. The workshop aims to bring together concerned and/or interested individuals to hear the latest research, policy implications, community perspectives, and potential impacts along Alaska’s coast and oceans. The event is open to the public. [Learn more and RSVP](#).



Nome wave buoy - On Oct 8, the R/V Norseman II recovered the Norton Sound wave buoy from the Bering Sea, 30 miles West of King Island, thanks to Olgoonik Fairweather. Ellen took advantage of being in Nome for “Week of the Arctic” and convened a team of Nome-based residents to strategize on how best to take over stewardship of the buoy. AOOS will continue to support data telemetry and provide access to the data through the AOOS real-time sensor map and the National Data Buoy Center. The Norton Sound Economic Development Council will be leading the effort with Alaska Sea Grant and others to help decide where the buoy should be placed next season. If you have ideas contact Ellen at tyler@aoos.org.



Storm Surge Monitoring in Unalakleet and Tununak; Color indexed maps for 5 communities – AOOS, the National Weather Service and the Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys partnered to outfit two new coastal water level instruments in Unalakleet and Tununak this month. The real-time water level data from these sensors is available from the NWS Alaska Region River Forecast Center website and on the AOOS [real-time sensor map](#). In a separate but related project the same group produced flood maps for Shishmaref, Kivalina, Unalakleet, Shaktoolik, and Golovin. These maps are available [here](#) and may be integrated into the AOOs data system over the next year.

GOING FORWARD – Some Key Upcoming 2014 Activities

- Nov 19 AOOS 10th Anniversary Celebration, Anchorage Museum
- Dec 2 Ocean Acidification Workshop, Anchorage
- Dec 3 Ocean Acidification workgroup meeting, Anchorage
- Dec 10-11 ABCVA Capstone Workshop, Anchorage

Molly McCammon, Darcy Dugan, Ellen Tyler and Rob Bochenek

