



AOOS Board Meeting

Dec. 10, 2013 12 - 5pm

Anchorage, Alaska

Draft summary prepared by Molly McCammon

Board Members Present: Ed Page, Marine Exchange of AK; Glenn Sheehan (by phone), BASC; Amy Holman, NOAA; Chris Siddon, ADF&G; Denby Lloyd, NPRB; Paula Cullenberg, AK Sea Grant; Paul Gill, Coast Guard; Michael Castellini, UAF; Tara Riemer Jones, ASLC; Margaret Williams, WWF; Duncan Fields, North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Robert Raye (by phone), Shell Oil; Katrina Hoffman (by phone), PWSSC/OSRI. **Alternates Present:** Dee Williams, on behalf of Jim Kendall, BOEM; Elizabeth Bluemink, on behalf of Ed Fogels, ADNR; Lynn Kent, on behalf of Larry Hartig, ADEC; Lyman Thorsteinson, on behalf of Leslie Holland-Bartels, USGS; Phil Mundy, on behalf of Doug DeMaster (NOAA AFSC). **Guests:** Aaron Poe, ABSI LCC; Zdenka S. Willis (by phone), national IOOS office; Scott Pegau (by phone), PWSSC. **AOOS Staff:** Molly McCammon, Darcy Dugan (by phone), Ellen Tyler, and Rob Bochenek.

Approval of agenda and notes from last meeting

- Draft agenda was approved (motion by Lynn Kent, second by Tara Jones).
- April 25, 2013 Board Meeting Summary was approved with minor edits (motion by Amy Holman, second by Phil Mundy).
- April 25, 2013 Executive Committee Meeting Summary was approved with minor edits (motion by Holman, second by Ed Fogels).

Update on national IOOS activities - Zdenka Willis, Director, national IOOS

- Willis reviewed national funding levels for FY13, highlighting that the regional line for this year was higher - about \$100K additional to each region, plus a dedicated \$4M line for marine sensor innovation - compared with FY12 funding levels. The outlook for FY14 is acceptable given the ongoing fiscal climate in DC.
- Certification continues to progress through the final rulemaking process, which is expected to be published in early January. It is not tied to funding.
- NOAA's National Ocean Service (where IOOS sits in NOAA organizationally) has three priorities for the coast: development of a coastal intelligence network; place-based conservation; and coastal preparedness for extreme events and hazards.
- National data management team will conduct a "systems integration" test next year.
- The IOOS office is completing a programmatic Environmental Assessment.
- The IOOS Association, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, Coastal States Organization and National Estuarine Research Reserve Association (NERRA)

are collaborating to hold roundtables on the hill to better coordinate and reinforce individual efforts to secure funding and provide greater input into legislative and policy decisions in DC.

Update on AOS activities – Molly McCammon, AOS executive director

McCammon reviewed the most recent AOS integrated budget and described recent proposal submission efforts. Since April, AOS has submitted 3 proposals and 4 Letters of Interest, and received 1 new grant. Other recent accomplishments include:

- Conducting a survey of AK Marine Policy Forum users;
- Expanded outreach (Dugan report);
- New data management products (Bochenek report);
- Co-chairing coastal and ocean track at Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) annual meeting in Anchorage;
- Successful deployments of Western AK & Cook Inlet buoys;
- Another year of hosting the Arctic Research Assets map; and
- Contributing to the AK chapter of the National Climate Assessment.

Some ongoing activities include:

- Planning with Alaska Sea Grant for a Community Based Monitoring Workshop to be held April 1-2 in Anchorage;
- Planning and associated activities for the AOS 10th Anniversary in 2014;
- Implementing recommendations from a recent Communications Audit;
- Participation in the EVOS Gulf Watch Alaska Program;
- Preparing for the next 5 year IOOS cooperative agreement;
- Tracking Alaska Arctic Policy Committee, especially research needs;
- Assessing results of our partnership with ADF&G; and
- Planning for an AOS Modeling Strategy workshop at AMSS.

National Activities include ongoing involvement with the national IOOS Association, the Polar Research Board, Ocean Research Advisory Panel (ORAP), Arctic Observing Network, and the NAS Gulf Research Program.

Margaret Williams noted the upcoming US chairmanship of the Arctic Council and said the CBM workshop and the AOS Arctic Buildout should be coordinated with Arctic Council efforts.

Outreach Report and 10th Anniversary Planning - Darcy Dugan, Program Manager

Last year the AOS Board asked staff to focus more on outreach efforts. Darcy Dugan is now working half time, with a primary focus on outreach, especially by demonstrating AOS data tools for various groups around the state. Ed Fogels, Ed Page, Phil Mundy and other board members and agency staff have been instrumental in setting these up. Since July presentations have been made to over 250 individuals.

2014 will be AOS's 10-year anniversary; we will be doing a number of targeted outreach activities to celebrate. Dugan has assembled a committee of creative minds that includes partners and stakeholders. The plan is to leverage other events and use this opportunity as a hook to increase AOS visibility as well as the efforts of partners and stakeholders, increase ocean literacy, and promote awareness of Alaska's oceans and coasts. As a first step, the Board agreed to establish a working group to help staff with planning efforts. (Castellini, Gill, Lloyd, Jones, Fields, Mundy).

Conductivity sensor on Cordova tide gauge – Scott Pegau, Science Director, Oil Spill Recovery Institute

Pegau shared his experience working with NOAA's Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) to add a conductivity sensor to measure salinity to the Cordova tide station (part of NWLON – National Water Level Observing Network). He shared his experience dealing with people at various levels of decision-making (ranging from field technicians to mid-level and upper-level managers), and having to address a variety of issues including provisions to ensure the instrument doesn't interfere with other instruments and other liability and data issues. He hopes this effort will provide a roadmap for others interested in adding sensors to NWLON stations in their regions. He mentioned that it is important to have a designated point of contact for physical cleaning, installation and maintenance of the sensor and that "it is not hard to meet the data standards; it's just a lot of work to show that you are!" McCammon commented that Pegau's perseverance was critical to the project's success. AOS staff will do more PR on this project in the upcoming months.

Chinook salmon run timing – Phil Mundy, Chair, AOS Data Management Advisory Committee

Mundy shared his experience working with AOS on a Chinook salmon run outlook and forecast. This year's 4-week advance forecast was right on target. He commented that this project shows that: "Yes, AOS has data that fisheries managers need & yes, it is possible to couple fisheries outcomes to climate drivers. "

Overview of new data products – Rob Bochenek, AOS Data Management Lead

Bochenek updated the Board on progress over the past 8 months since the last Board Meeting. He started by reviewing a diagram of data flows into the AOS data system, both for machine-generated data and for project/research generated data collections, which are a distinct pathway or type of data flow into the AOS system. The AOS Research Workspace provides a mechanism to ingest project data into the AOS data system and ocean portal. That process is not yet completely automated. The big accomplishment for the data system over the past 6 months has been exposing project-level data through the Gulf of Alaska Portal available at: <http://data.aos.org/maps/search/gulf-of-alaska.php>.

The transition to HTML5 – for running AOS products on iPads and iPhones is ongoing, with the Model Explorer and Real-time Sensor Map both being served on

HTML5 and demoed by Bochenek. The entire AOS data system will be transitioned to the new system early in 2014. AOS serves up the Shorezone HD video through YouTube; however, state employees aren't allowed to access YouTube unless they are granted a waiver.

AXIOM is now providing data management services to both the national IOOS office, as well as to the Central and Northern California regional observing system (CeNCOOS). This will benefit AOS by spreading out the maintenance costs and shared cyberinfrastructure. CeNCOOS is funding development of several new technologies this year, while the focus for AOS is on hardening our existing systems. AXIOM recently hired Kyle Wilcox of ASA and is now spinning up an East Coast data team.

Business issues – Molly McCammon

- **Acceptance of new grant** "Assessing the vulnerabilities of key resources and ecosystem services across future climate scenarios in the Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands region" from Aleutian Bering Sea Islands LCC (US Fish and Wildlife Service and USGS Climate Science Center) was approved (motion by Mundy, second by Margaret Williams).
- The **fiscal agent agreement** between AOS and the Alaska SeaLife Center is nearly complete. The current draft was shared with the Board. The Center has been providing administrative support to AOS since 2004. The original agreement was fairly casual, and over time, has evolved into a more formal letter of agreement. As AOS continues to mature, a more formalized document is now needed. McCammon pointed out that AOS could go out to bid for these services, but we have been happy with the relationship with the ASLC so far and see no reason to change it. Board member Williams noted that ASLC costs are reasonable with other entities charging 9-15% for similar services. Board approved motion to provide conceptual support for agreement, with final approval to be done by Executive Committee by February 15, 2014 (motion by Holman, second by Williams, Jones recused).
- Two-year officer terms expire at end of 2013. All officers are happy to continue to serve, but are also willing to change if requested. A motion to **extend terms of the existing officers** (Page as chair, Fogels as vice-chair, Holman as treasurer, Sheehan as secretary, and Jones as EXCOM ex officio) for 1 year was approved (motion by Duncan Fields, second by Denby Lloyd).
- Terms of current **Nominating Committee members** (Amy Holman, Nancy Bird & Ian Dutton) expired at end of 2013. A motion to appoint new nominating committee members (consisting of Doug Demaster, Tara Jones and Katrina Hoffman) for 2-year terms was approved (motion by Duncan Fields, second by Lloyd).

- A motion was approved to add Emilio Mayorga (NANOOS data manager) to the **AOOS Data Management Advisory Committee** (motion by Jones, second by Paula Cullenberg).

Observing Roundtable – Board Members & public

- Glenn Sheehan suggested discussing the fiber optic cable. McCammon has had discussions with a group currently pursuing a cable across the Arctic Ocean to Europe. They are willing to establish nodes for ocean observations, but would need funding to do so. The cable will be laid this spring/summer.
- McCammon shared that the Sea Ice Atlas is ready for beta-testing. Check it out here: <http://seaiceatlas.snap.uaf.edu/> and get additional context and provide input here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Sea_Ice_Atlas_Beta.

Upcoming events and dates:

The next board meeting will be in March in Fairbanks.

Dec 14: Lunch with NMFS Acting Director Sam Rauch

Jan 20-24: AMSS

Feb 3-7: AK Forum on Environment

Feb 11-13: NAS Gulf Program, Houston

Feb 15: Alaska Marine Gala

Feb 24-28: Ocean Sciences 2014, Honolulu

Mar 4-6: IOOS Association Spring Mtg, WA DC

Mar 14: AOOS DMAC

April 1-2: CBM Workshop, Anchorage

2014: AOOS 10th Anniversary Events