

HIGHLIGHTS

AOOS Film Contest Showcase – Each week, a new short film from AOOS’ 2014 contest is being highlighted on the homepage, www.aoots.org. This week’s film, *Siblings at Sea*, was the grand prize winner, and tells the story of two brothers in Cook Inlet during an eventful commercial fishing season.



AOOS Films Screened at the Beartooth - AOOS partnered with Alaska Geographic to put on an Ocean Film Fest at the Beartooth on March 28. The festival highlighted 13 short films from the AOOS film contest and drew a crowd of 230 people.

Welcome Holly Kent – AOOS welcomes new Program Coordinator Holly Kent. Holly is a long-time Alaskan, former executive director of the Anchorage Waterways Council, and was most recently with the Alaska Community Action on Toxics. She has strong skills in fundraising, grant writing and stakeholder outreach and communications. Holly’s focus areas will include maintaining the AOOS website and other communications as well as special projects, including ocean acidification and coastal hazards.



Welcome Dan White and Farewell Mike Castellini – With Mike’s move from Dean of the UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences to Associate Dean of UAF’s Graduate School, UA President Pat Gamble has appointed Dan White as the new university representative on the AOOS Board. Dan is the UA Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research. We greatly appreciated all of the hard work Mike did for the AOOS board during his tenure, and wish him well with his new university endeavors.

Sikuliaq Commissioning – A number of AOOS board members attended the recent commissioning ceremonies and open houses in Juneau and Seward for the new UAF research vessel *Sikuliaq* in February and March. The *Sikuliaq* is now in the Bering Sea undergoing further sea trials and conducting ocean research.



MEETINGS/CONFERENCES/TRAVEL

IOOS Association Spring meeting – Molly braved Arctic conditions in Washington DC on March 2-5 for meetings with the IOOS Association, the IOOS national program office, the Consortium for Ocean Leadership’s Arctic Policy Forum, and Alaska’s Congressional offices.

PRESENTATIONS



Cook Inlet Response Tool Training – On March 4, Will Koeppen of the AOOS data team and Sue Saupe of the Cook Inlet RCAC provided a 1-day hands-on workshop for resource managers on the Cook Inlet Response Tool (CIRT) in Homer. The workshop was funded with a grant to AOOS from the Kenai

Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership and helped familiarize people with AOOS resources, while also collecting important feedback.

AK Sea Grant Review – As a member of Alaska Sea Grant’s Advisory Committee, Molly participated in portions of the 2-day site review of Alaska Sea Grant conducted by Sea Grant’s national program office. AOOS and Sea Grant’s Marine Advisory Program not only share office space in Anchorage, but also share mutual interests in projects such as community-based monitoring, ocean acidification and coastal resiliency.

UPDATES

Candidates interviewing for AOOS/Axiom positions – AOOS is still interviewing candidates for the new operations director position. A finalist will be visiting Anchorage in April and board members will be invited to meet with her. In the meantime, Axiom will begin the interview process for a new data coordinator position to support the EVOSTC-funded programs, as well as several new AOOS programs including AMBON and MARES.

New Data Portal Features – This month, Axiom released new upgrades to the AOOS data portal, including the ability to change the color and resolution on legends, and search for data using geography, time period, or access method. At right, note the option of a bounding box to limit data queries to a specific region. This feature can be found under “advanced search options”



GOING FORWARD – Some Key Upcoming 2015 Activities

- April 3 AOOS Board Meeting – Anchorage & by teleconference
- April 7-10 GOAIERP PI Meeting - Fairbanks
- April 9-10 NWAB/NSB Science advisory Board Joint Meeting – Anchorage
- April 17 Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council – Kenai
- April 27-28 Joint Ocean Commission Initiative’s Arctic Ocean Leadership Roundtable - Fairbanks
- May 5-6 Pacific Anomalies Workshop – Scripps, San Diego

Molly McCammon, Darcy Dugan, Holly Kent and Rob Bochenek