

**Executive Committee Meeting Summary**  
**Alaska Ocean Acidification Network**  
**Feb 16, 2017**

**Attendees:** Shallin Busch, Wiley Evans, Darcy Dugan, Jeremy Mathis, Davin Holen, Dorothy Childers  
Not present: Bob Foy

**Status update**

This was the first meeting of the new executive committee for the Alaska OA Network. The structure of the network now consists of a small executive committee and a number of topic-specific working groups that are in the process of getting off the ground. The main goal today was to discuss each working group's status and potential activities so they can be best positioned to support the network.

The network is a highly leveraged project. We have \$15K from NOAA OAP for the coming year for workshops, materials, travel, etc. and AOOS contributes 10-15hrs/week of Darcy's time. We will continue to look for other funding for the network and its activities.

**Working Groups**

The individuals listed below have all agreed to participate in the working groups, and several of the groups have identified a date for the first meeting. The ideas below are suggestions for topics they could work on, but prioritization will be decided by the working groups.

**1) Outreach/Communications**

Members: Davin Holen\* (Sea Grant), Darcy Dugan (AOOS), Tina Buxbaum (ACCAP), Jen Mintz (NOAA OAP), Maggie Mooney-Seuss (NOAA AFSC), Leanna Heffner (USFWS/LCC), Marilyn Sigman (Sea Grant Education)

Ideas for activities:

- Assess website, provide recommendations and content
- Discuss & design print materials for specific audiences
- Identify new audiences and make connections
- Help plan and implement community workshop(s)
- Help with stories for OA website/e-news/broader publications

Group discussion:

- Davin will be the organizer of this working group and Darcy will also be a member.
- A clear need right now is developing fact sheets for different stakeholder groups.

- It's difficult to keep the website current with new articles. Perhaps this group could help
- There is interest in the monthly list serve (that so far has not been monthly). The upcoming list serve announcement can highlight a new scientist interview, the recently posted report, and Nina's pteropod work.

## **2) Engaging the fishing community**

Members: Melissa Good\* (Sea Grant-Unalaska), Dorothy Childers (AMCC), Michael Kohan (ASMI), Ruth Christiansen (Bering Sea Crabbers), Jessica Cross (NOAA PMEL), Chip Treinen (UFA), Chris Long (NOAA AFSC)

Ideas for activities:

- 1-pagers for fishing stakeholders
- Organizing fisherman/researcher Q&A sessions
- Strengthening relationship with UFA & other fishing groups

Group discussion:

- Dorothy is working on a one-pager for fishing community
- An evening Q&A session on OA with fishermen in Sitka in January went really well and produced good conversation (researchers on the phone were: Jessica Cross, Mike Sigler, Tom Hurst, Chris Long). There is interest in doing that in other communities. Hannah Heimbuch from AMCC facilitated the event in person.
- There has been active engagement with UFA recently. The network sent them three action items for their board meeting next week: a formal request to join the Network, a request to develop a resolution supporting OA monitoring and planning, and a draft letter to the governor to include OA in his climate change initiative
- If UFA produces a resolution, it could be used to encourage other fishing groups to do the same (such as Petersburg's BPOA)
- Petersburg is interested in an OA speaker during their Rainforest Festival in September. Wiley offered to be the presenter, as he is working on the OA Ferry project, which stops in Petersburg.
- Ruth Christiansen from the Bering Sea Crabbers was a founding member of the OA Network but is leaving BSCA. Darcy will look for someone else from BSCA.

## **3) K-12 Education Group**

Members: Marilyn Sigman\* (Sea Grant), Amanda Kelley (OAF/OARC), Claudine Hauri (UAF-IARC), Chris Backstrum (South HS/ASD)

Ideas for activities

- Identify Alaska-relevant curriculum on OA we can add it to the website
- Connect teachers with researchers who can answer questions/help guide their intro to OA

- Identify or provide resources/activities for OA experts to use when visiting schools

Group discussion:

- Education materials are currently missing from the website
- Several high school teachers are interested in joining the group
- Researchers aren't necessarily the people that teachers and students should be engaging with. We need a cadre of people to be OA experts for the education community.
- Marilyn Sigman put together a proposal to convert some OA curriculum tailored to California to Alaska.

#### **4) Engaging Tribes**

- Members of this working group have not been identified yet. Chris Whitehead from the Sitka Tribe was going to be the lead but he is moving to Florida. He's still interested in being involved but may have limited time.
- Davin will step up to help with the Tribal working group
- Dorothy suggests connecting with the Eskimo Walrus Commission. Katya would be a good person.
- Davin will ask people in Bristol Bay, Unalaska, and other locations to try to get geographic representation
- We will also check to see what other Tribal members attended the November workshop.

#### **5) Policy group**

Members: Molly McCammon (AOOS), Jeremy Mathis (NOAA Arctic), Beth Kerttula (former Legislature, former NOC)

Ideas for activities

- Strategy for communicating OA message to policy makers
- Strategy for future funding
- Advise other working groups on getting their message/products up the chain

Group Discussion

- Jeremy suggested Molly or Beth to lead the group given his federal role and lobbying restrictions
- This group could see what could be done about getting Alaska to become a formal member of the PCC (we are a member of the OAH task force but not PCC)
- This group could also contact the Governor about adding OA to his climate change initiative

#### **6) Research and Monitoring Group**

- There are about 20 researchers engaged in OA in Alaska. How do we best harness this group?
- There was discussion about splitting the group in two or three: 1) monitoring (assets in the water), 2) species response, 3) human vulnerability. Pros and cons to this.
- As we think about developing a build-out plan for monitoring for Alaska, we should build off the PCC OAH Task Force work. The end goal of this effort is a gap analysis. Inventory -> maps -> synthesis to identify gaps. Is this latter activity a good role for AOAN.
- Those most invested in research and monitoring should develop the plan from the inventory, compile list of recs for the state, and get feedback from a smaller group from the research and monitoring subgroup. Wiley will lead this effort. This small group could be Wiley, Bob, Jessica, Jeremy, and perhaps someone to represent finfish-oriented biological oceanography.
- Darcy will continue to keep the large group of 20 researchers up to date on the latest with the Network, and reach out monthly for updates regarding public presentations, publications, or activities to share through the network website and list serve.

### **Other Committee Updates and Discussion**

- UAA Journalism School collaboration: Darcy is working with Jackie Cason, a UAF prof, so that students can interview researchers and help write stories.
- Legislative and UFA briefings Feb 22: Jessica Cross will be briefing the State House Resources and the United Fishermen of Alaska Board next week.
- The Governor is working on a new climate change initiative. The network will send a letter introducing the group and asking that OA be considered as part of this.
- Congressional funding letter - Dorothy has been working on a letter to our Congressional delegation to support research on OA. We could put this letter on the OA Network website for others to sign.
- Plans for ferry project data: Starting in April, the new OA data stream from the Columbia will be available on the AOOS portal. Wiley, Rob Bochenek, and Darcy are working on this.
- Darcy is working on the State of the Science Workshop report. It will be done by the end of February.
- Species impacts inventory – Amanda Kelley of OARC completed a list of species from AK that are expected to be susceptible to OA with checkboxes showing if they have

been studied inside or outside of Alaska. Darcy will work on formatting and posting. She will also circulate to the executive committee.

- Wiley will develop a 1-pager on protocol for contributing data to the network. This will go on the website.
- The committee would like an update from Jeremy on adaptations plan templates
- An 'Alaska HAB Network' is spinning up. Darcy is part of the steering committee and responsible for the website. The two networks have similarities.
- It would be great to have a calendar for this group. Maybe have on the website, but we don't want everything to be public (particularly unconfirmed events).
- Darcy sent out the first monthly query to researchers to get updates about scheduled talks and published papers. She got no response but the committee encouraged her to keep trying.
- Wiley recommended adding a column to the expertise database showing the geographic focus of each researcher. Darcy can do this.
- We need to add a link to NOAA OAP on the website. Darcy can do this too.

#### **Committee decisions:**

Should we amend our OAP budget? We have \$10K funding from OAP for 2 coastal community workshops, however we've heard feedback that communities are more interested in OA 101 talks and Q&A sessions and are not ready for full-blown day-long workshops. Darcy (with help from network) will look into potential venues for these types of events, run them by the steering committee, and submit a change of budget to NOAA OAP to get permission. If researchers were sent to present at key events, they could also hold brown bag lunches with agency folks and visit schools.

#### Do we revise the OA Network mission?

Yes. We need a 1-sentence statement of our mission and a list of bullets showing what we do. The first sentence of the first bullet can be the mission (adding the term 'and researchers'). The question arose about whether we are really doing mitigation. We will check with Jessica and Amanda before deleting that section. We will also seek to better fulfill the last bullet point about data by working with Axiom to imbed specific data sets on pages that include monitoring project descriptions.

#### How often do we meet?

Every other month. Our next meeting will be in April after the working groups start up. Darcy will send a doodle and we will block 1.5 hrs.