

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**Staff Retreats** - AOOS held a series of staff retreat sessions on April 9, 14, 20, and 27 with the goals of: team building, revamping project management procedures, developing an outreach plan, and improving product and service delivery. The highlight was participating in the Raven’s Eye story at Alaska Escape Rooms. Our team was successful in saving the girl and escaping within 1:02 hours! With the beautiful sunny weather, we topped off the successful escape with a drink on the deck of the 49th State Brewery.



AOOS Staff left to right: Thomas Farrugia, Sheyna Wisdom, Jill Prewitt, Holly Kent, Darcy Dugan, and Carol Janzen.

**New Addition** - AOOS staff Marta Kumle welcomed a new addition to the family on April 3. Alexandra Eileen and mom are doing well!



Alexandra Eileen Kumle

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

**EVOSTC Data Management Proposal** - Carol and Stacey Buckelew (Axiom) submitted the Data Management Project proposal for the next 10-year Long Term Research and Monitoring (LTRM) Program proposed to the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustees Council (EVOSTC). AOOS/AXIOM has been providing data management for the Gulf Watch Alaska and Herring Research and Monitoring Programs (now LTRM) since 2012. AOOS/Axiom has also been asked to support other EVOSTC funded projects that are not part of the LTRM Program going forward. Proposals are currently in review.

**IOOS**

**IOOS requests**- Sheyna and Molly responded to several IOOS requests over the month of April, specifically on ideas for FY21 fill the gap funds and Alaska Native engagement.

**IOOS FY21-26 Funding** - Sheyna and Molly have met with Oriana at IOOS to discuss funding for FY21. We expect the core funding letter in early May, which will be on the agenda for the May 13 AOOS Board meeting.

**Dear Colleague Letter** - Sheyna reached out to Congressman Don Young’s staff to sign the FY21 IOOS Regional Association Funding Dear Colleague letter. As usual, Alaska’s delegation is very supportive of the AOOS and IOOS mission.

**CONFERENCES/MEETINGS/PRESENTATIONS**

**One Health One Future Conference** - Thomas attended this conference to better understand the One Health approach and how AHAB can work within a One Health framework in Alaska.

**Kodiak Area Marine Science Symposium** - Thomas attended the HAB session of the symposium and participated in the panel discussion.

**HAB Preparedness and Response Workshop** - Thomas attended this virtual webinar about the capabilities and responsibilities across the federal government and state agencies during a HAB event.

**ADAC Alaska and Arctic Maritime Communications & Connectivity Analysis (AAMC&CA) Engaging the Community** - Sheyna participated in the monthly core team meeting as well as several community listening sessions.

**COLLABORATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS**

**State**

**2019 Alaska Coastal Mapping Prioritization Survey Report** - AOOS and DNR have finalized the 2019 report. The report will be reviewed by members of the Alaska Mapping Executive Committee Coastal Subcommittee over the next few weeks and will be posted online and sent out to stakeholders.

**Pacific Environment** - Jill and Will Koeppen (Axiom) presented at a Pacific Environment meeting held where they were discussing their plans for the emerging ocean protection efforts. Jill gave an overview of AOOS, and Will demonstrated

the Ocean Data Explorer, focusing on what types of data and information AOOS has in the data system and how to access them.

**Bering Ocean Data Sharing Initiative** - The "[Bering Science, Winter 2020/2021: Communicating science in and around the Bering Sea](#)" was released. This publication aims to share recent research results and observations and is being mailed to boxholders from Shishmaref to Unalaska. The second US-Russia Science corner webinar was held April 7. This webinar featured presentations on seabird research and observations from US and Russian researchers around the Bering & Chukchi Seas and Arctic Ocean. It was attended by around 70 participants. Watch the recording of the webinar [here](#). Future webinars are being planned to focus on fish and marine mammals. Jill submitted a proposal to the NPS Shared Beringia Heritage Program.

**Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network** - The Alaska Sea Grant pre-proposal on which Thomas is a collaborator was invited to be submitted as a full proposal. If funded, the project will increase community sampling for HABs and OA in the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands. Thomas is finalizing the AHAB Action Plan, as well as the summary of HAB monitoring in 2020. Thomas is also reforming the HAB Event Planning working group in preparation for the HAB season which is ramping up as water temperatures and sunlight increase. The AHAB Steering Committee met for its quarterly meeting, at which the role of AHAB during HAB events and the messaging around the HAB event were discussed.

**Alaska Ocean Acidification Network** - An experiment looking at the response of pink salmon to ocean acidification is underway at the Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute in Seward. Stay tuned for more on that project! On April 6, the network steering committee met to discuss a work plan for new funding from NOAA's Ocean Acidification Program. Darcy also facilitated a meeting on community sampling coordination on April 14. This month's OA eNews included stories about the Dimond National Ocean Science Bowl team's winning paper on OA, satellites being used to track OA, a video tour of the NOAA Kodiak Lab, an interview with Bering Sea researcher Hongjie Wang, a Q&A on carbonic acid in seawater, a good news corner, and a highlight of Sitka researcher Lauren Bell's Instagram. [Read the Alaska OA Network April eNews](#).

### **National**

**IARPC Environmental Intelligence Collaboration Team** - The EICT, which Molly co-leads, held a session April 7 to foster continued collaborations among research cruises heading to the Arctic this field season. Many of those cruises were cancelled last year due to covid-19, but most are still on schedule for this year. The CT and AOOS support a research cruise report that tracks planned cruises.

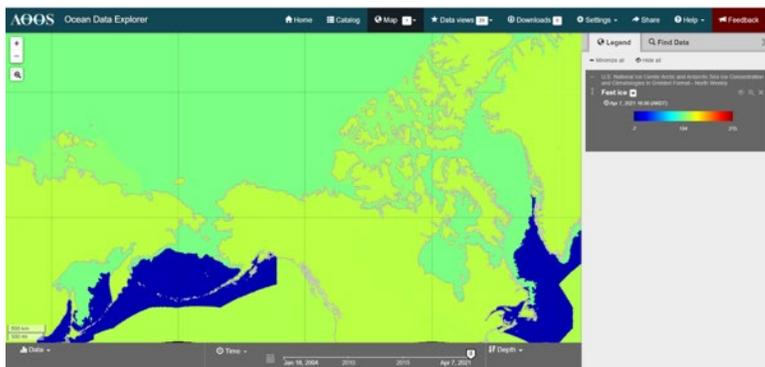
### **DATA MANAGEMENT**

AOOS is pleased to host NOAA National Snow & Ice Data Center's (NSIDC) latest sea ice chart data called the U.S. National Ice Center Arctic and Antarctic Sea Ice Concentration and Climatologies in Gridded Format. On a weekly basis, the U.S. National Ice Center (USNIC) produces analyst-drawn Arctic- and Antarctic-wide charts that have information on sea ice concentration, stage of development, and form. These charts characterize ice with a level of detail and accuracy that is unmatched by satellite data-derived products. NSIDC extracts and condenses information contained in these ice charts and converts them from their vector shapefile format to 10 km NetCDF and GeoTIFF gridded formats. The resulting fields of ice concentration by type are suitable for research uses such as validating algorithms for satellite data and corroborating ice forecast model predictions. The time series of gridded total ice concentration, multiyear ice concentration, first-year ice concentration, thin ice concentration, and fast ice extent begins in January 2003 and continues into the present. Shapefiles and period-of-record, 5-year, and 10-year climatological averages for these fields are provided as well.

To access this new data set, visit the [U.S. National Ice Center Arctic and Antarctic Sea Ice Concentration and Climatologies in Gridded Format](#) data set landing page. Interactive visualizations of the data are also available in the [AOOS Ocean Data Explorer](#).



The graphic is a vertical banner for the Alaska Ocean Acidification Network's April e-News. At the top is the network's logo, a blue circle with a white wave and a fish. Below the logo is the text "Alaska Ocean Acidification Network" in white. Underneath is "April e-News" in a smaller font. The main part of the graphic features a large photo of a diverse group of people, identified as the Alaska high school team that won a competition. Below the photo is a caption: "Alaska high school team wins competition with ocean acidification paper". A short paragraph follows, explaining that the team won the National Ocean Science Bowl, a regional competition called the Tsunami Bowl, where students compete on a Quiz Bowl and through a research project and paper. Below this are two smaller images: one of a woman, Hongjie Wang, with the caption "Interview: Hongjie Wang" and "Hongjie Wang is a post doctoral researcher at NOAA's Pacific Marine Environmental", and another of a globe with the caption "Satellites help track OA" and "Satellite and surface observations are being combined to generate global monthly".



A screenshot of interactive U.S. National Ice Center Arctic and Antarctic Sea Ice Concentration and Climatologies maps in the AOOS Ocean Data Explorer.

## **ENGAGEMENT METRICS**

<b>Audience Name</b>	<b>Type of Presentation</b>	<b># of people</b>
Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network	Monthly meeting and update	41
US-Russia Science Corner - Seabirds	Host/facilitation of public webinar	70
Chugach Regional Resources Commission IGAP monthly call	Presented on ocean acidification	8
Ocean Acidification Community Sampling Coordination meeting	Facilitated meeting	13
Ocean Acidification Network steering committee	Facilitated meeting to develop work plan submission	7
Pacific Environment - Ocean protections meeting	Presented on ODE	15
Alaska Marine Policy Forum	Presented on HABs	25
Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network Steering Committee	Quarterly meeting of the AHAB Steering Committee	9

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- May 13 AOOS Board meeting
- May 18 Alaska Fisheries Science Center 2021 Preview of Ecological and Economic Conditions (HAB section)
- May 26 Climate change/ocean acidification mini symposium for Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers

**Sheyna Wisdom, Molly McCammon, Carol Janzen, Holly Kent, Darcy Dugan, Jill Prewitt, Thomas Farrugia, Marta Kumle and our data team at Axiom**