

## April 2022 Monthly Update

### HIGHLIGHTS

**Board Meeting** - AOS held our first in-person Board meeting since December 2019! We hosted a small reception Thursday evening (April 28th) at the Quarter Deck to welcome AOS friends back in person and a full-day Board meeting on April 29th at the Captain Cook Hotel. It was great to see everyone and we look forward to more in-person events.



**Molly McCammon retirement** - We continue to benefit from Molly remaining on as a Senior Advisor and hope that will remain as long as it works for her. With the addition of her new grandson on April 13, 2022 and a new puppy, the timing of this is uncertain! To celebrate her lifetime of achievements, we are planning a BIG retirement party this September in Anchorage for family, friends, and colleagues. If you are interested in helping to plan this party, please contact Sheyna at [wisdom@aos.org](mailto:wisdom@aos.org). For her retirement gift, Molly has asked for support to travel to the Galapagos Islands. If you would like to help support this dream, please consider donating to a GoFundMe site: <https://gofund.me/46193652>.

### ADMINISTRATIVE

**“Old Agreement” Extension** - Our FY16-20 NOAA Cooperative Agreement (or “old agreement”) was approved for a No Cost Extension for three projects that were affected by COVID-19. All the remaining projects will be closed out at the end of May.

**“New Agreement” update** - Year 1 of the FY21-26 NOAA Cooperative Agreement (or “new agreement”) continues to go well. We received approval for Year 2 core projects this month, which will result in the first time we will have received funding prior to the start of the agreement period! Huge thanks to the IOOS office and ASCL grants team for their work on this. The non-core funding for Year 2 will be submitted in May.

**Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)** - The timing and amount of funding to AOS under the IIJA is still unclear, but we are preparing to be able to submit as soon as the request is released.

**AOS retreat** - We have picked the dates for a 2-day AOS staff retreat - June 6 and 7, 2022. We are now working on the location and agenda.

### PROPOSALS/AWARDS

**Collaborative Research: Community Based Phytoplankton Observatory For Northwestern Alaska Coastal Waters** - Thomas is working on a proposal with Columbia University to be submitted to NSF in May.

**Skipper Science: Expanding Systematic Observation Capacity in collaboration with Alaska’s Fishing Industry as an Effective Way to Understand Environmental Change** - Thomas and Darcy are working on a proposal with the Aleut Community of St. Paul to be submitted as a Congressionally directed spending request.

**NSF Convergence Phase II: Backyard Buoys** - AOS is working on the Phase II proposal for the NSF Convergence Accelerator program with NANOOS, PacIOOS, and the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission. For more information on Phase I of the program, please visit our website for a video and description: <https://aos.org/backyard-buoys-bringing-wave-buoys-to-indigenous-communities/>

### IOOS

**IOOS Program Office Deputy Director Krisa Arzayus** - Krisa traveled from the IOOS Program Office to Anchorage for the April 29th Board meeting. AOS staff was able to spend some time with Krisa before the Board meeting. The Board members met Krisa at the reception and Board meeting. Thanks to Krisa for traveling!

## CONFERENCES/MEETINGS/PRESENTATIONS

**Alaska Mariculture Symposium** - Darcy attended the Alaska Mariculture Symposium in Juneau, a three day event hosted by Alaska Sea Grant that convened kelp farmers (or aspiring kelp farmers), members of the shellfish growing community, regulators, researchers, and participants from outside Alaska with insights and lessons learned. AOOS is trying to better understand the information needs of the growing mariculture community and how we can be helpful.



**Arctic Encounter 2022** - The Arctic Encounter Symposium was held in person this year and will be held in Anchorage for all future meetings. Sheyna was on a panel entitled “Frontiers Of Opportunity: 21st Century Policy & Technology Innovation for the North” with other leaders on innovative technologies in the Arctic. We also had a booth with our new display materials and it was all hands on deck for the booth.

**BIA Provider’s Conference** - Jill presented an overview of the AOOS Data Portal and resources to the Bureau of Indian Affairs Provider’s Conference during a GIS session on April 7th. The conference was once again hybrid this year, and although there were not many attendees in the session, the presentation will be circulated to registered conference participants.

**Western Alaska Interdisciplinary Science Conference** - Jill gave a presentation at the WAISC virtual conference on the Bering Strait Transboundary Incident Response Tool on April 22nd. The presentation was well received and the session was attended by 25 people.

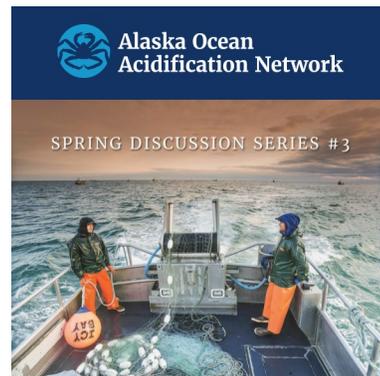
## COLLABORATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

### State

**Alaska HAB Network** - In April, Thomas Farrugia took part in the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands Association (APIA) conference on Food Security and Climate Change Adaptation. This was a community led meeting where Thomas engaged in discussion with environmental coordinators and members of coastal communities across the APIA region. In addition to the monthly AHAB meeting, Thomas also led the quarterly AHAB Network Steering Committee meeting in April, where the committee discussed the roles and dynamics of the AHAB coordinator and steering committee. Thomas is also continuing to work on coordinating community sampling efforts for HABs and he has received and repackaged the microscopes to be sent out to the sampling communities. Thomas took some time off in April as well to visit family in Colorado.

**Alaska Ocean Acidification Network** - The OA Network hosted sessions #2 and #3 of the Spring Discussion series, focusing on species response. The April 5 session was about what OA means for subsistence and mariculture, and the April 20 session was on the response of commercial species.

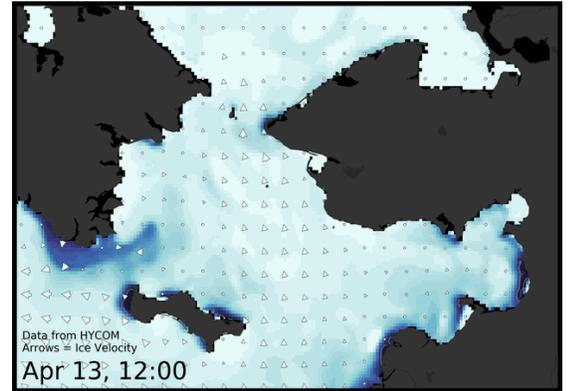
Darcy traveled to Juneau April 12-14 where she had one-on-one meetings with coastal legislators. She also set up a multi-speaker presentation to the House Fisheries committee which was postponed til May. The legislative meetings were productive and members of both parties were receptive with a lot of questions. On the horizon: Darcy is leaving in July for a year in the Black Forest in Germany where her family will live in the home town of her husband and immerse the kids. She will be leaving the OA Network director position but plans to working part time on OA projects and collaborate with the new OA Network coordinator (position [posted](#) on the AOOS website).



**Alaska Water Level Watch (AWLW)** - [The AWLW](#) is preparing to hold its annual meeting (virtual) on May 11 from 9-noon. This meeting will be via ZOOM conferencing and will be open to anybody interested in water level observing and modeling activities in Alaska. If interested in attending the meeting, please contact [Jacquelyn Overbeck](#) for more details and access information.

**Alaska Sea Grant** - Jill and Leigh Lubin, Marine Education Specialist with Alaska Sea Grant, organized a “Portal Training/Demonstration” for Alaska Sea Grant MAP agents and AOOS staff. Leigh and Jill will use the feedback from that session to develop materials for MAP agents, educators and other stakeholders based on the data and user features in the portal, such as Data Views and dashboards to display information quickly and easily.

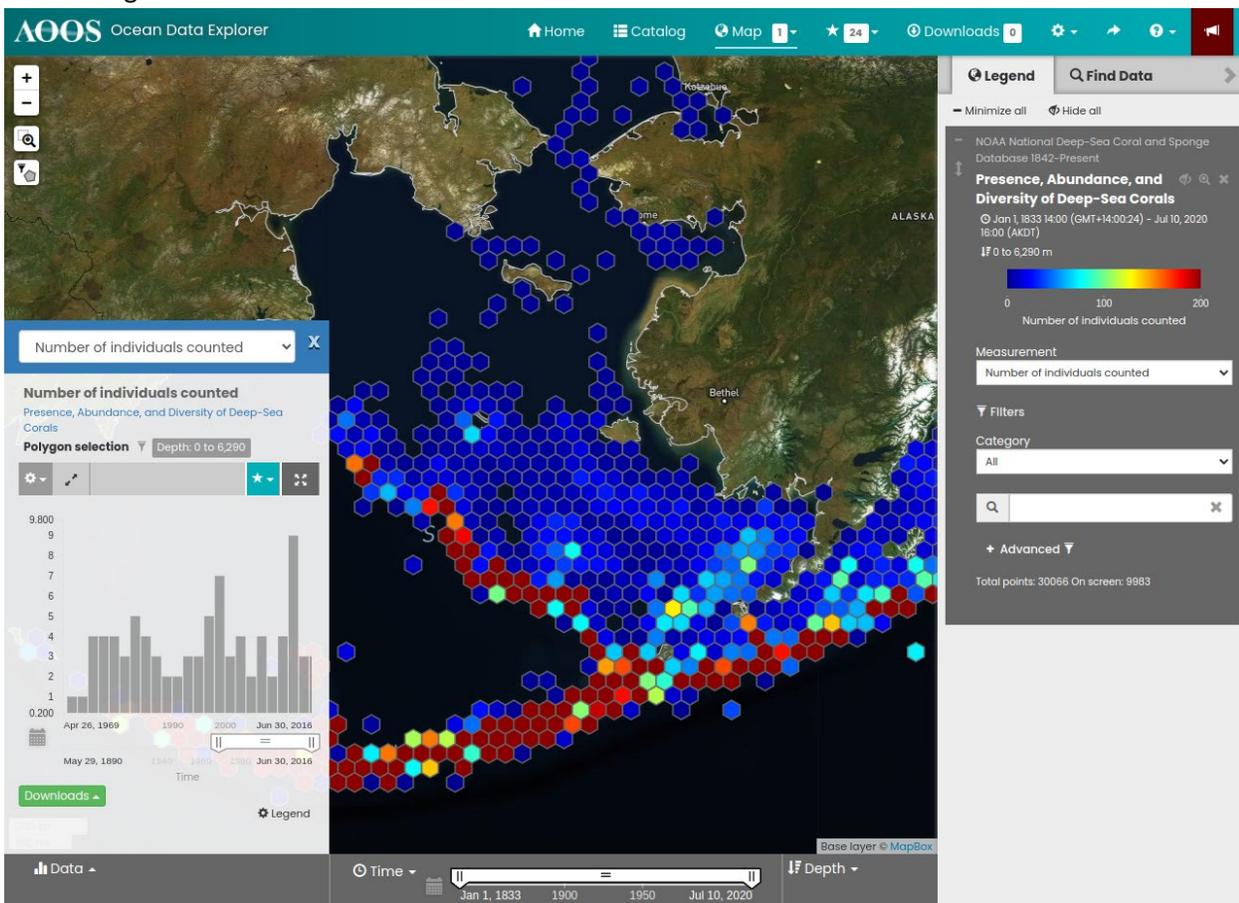
**ARCUS** - Starting this year, AOOS is contributing sea ice forecast animations to the [Sea Ice for Walrus Outlook \(SIWO\)](#) project run by the Arctic Research Consortium of the US. SIWO is a resource for Alaska Native subsistence hunters, coastal communities, and others interested in sea ice and walrus. The SIWO provides weekly reports through their website and [Facebook](#) during the spring sea ice season with information on weather and sea ice conditions relevant to walrus in the northern Bering Sea and southern Chukchi Sea regions of Alaska.



**Regional Ocean Partnerships** - Jill and Sheyna met with Timi Vann (NOAA Office of Coastal Management), and IOOS Program Office staff Oriana Villar, Dave Stein and Megan Trembl to discuss plans for FY22 ROP and ROP-IIJA funds. Jill and Sheyna also met with potential partners for these funds and will work on completing the spend plans as the award letters are received from IOOS. Jill also met with IARPC staff and members of the re-established IARPC Field Operations Working Group to discuss this year's plans for creating and disseminating the 2022 Research Vessel spreadsheet, which will be released in May on both the IARPC and AOOS websites and social media.

### DATA MANAGEMENT

Funded by the IOOS Marine Biodiversity Observation Network, Axiom worked with Robert McGuinn and his team at the NOAA Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program to ingest and synthesize NOAA's [National Deep-Sea Coral and Sponge Database](#). The database aggregates presence data from a number of data providers, spans 1842 to the present, and has excellent coverage across the Aleutians and Bering Sea. Given the diversity of the data providers and collection methods, these data could not be fully normalized by effort. However, [visualizing the presence and number of collection events through the AOOS Ocean Data Explorer](#) allow data users to see where and what type of corals have been observed throughout Alaskan waters.



A map layer in the AOOS Ocean Data Explorer showing the number of corals included in the National Deep-Sea Coral and Sponge Database (1842–present).

**ENGAGEMENT METRICS**

<b>Audience Name</b>	<b>Type of Presentation</b>	<b># of people</b>
OA Spring Discussion Series #2: mariculture & subsistence	Presentations and breakout sessions	40
OA Spring Discussion Series #3: commercial species	Presentations and breakout sessions	50
Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network	Facilitated monthly meeting and update	30
APIA Food Security and Climate Change Adaptation	Community meeting in Anchorage	25
BIA Providers Conference	Presentation and live portal demo	6
Alaska Sea Grant MAP and education staff	Presentation and live portal demo	7
Alaska Command Arctic Symposium	Panel presentation	300
Arctic Encounter Symposium	Panel presentation & booth in Anchorage	600

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- May 3 Alaska Command Arctic Symposium (Sheyna)
- May 3 Ocean Acidification presentation to House Fisheries Committee (Darcy)
- May 4 Ocean Acidification spring discussion series #4: adaptation & mitigation (Darcy)
- May 4 KBNERR HAB sampling training in Homer
- May 10 AOOS staff trash cleanup downtown
- May 11 Alaska Water Level Watch Annual Meeting, virtual (Carol)
- May 11 WebCOOS (Webcams for Coastal Observations and Operational Support) Meeting (Carol)

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