



August 2022 Monthly Update

HIGHLIGHTS

NOAA Administrator Dr. Rick Spinrad - Our Board member, Amy Holman, successfully helped to shepherd a 10-day trip around Alaska for Dr. Rick Spinrad, the NOAA Administrator. Dr. Spinrad's travels included visits to Anchorage, Juneau, Crooked Creek, Kenai, Soldotna, Homer, Nome, and Fairbanks where he met with many AOOS partners. Molly met with Dr. Spinrad in Anchorage at the National Weather Service office and Sheyna met with him along with Dr. Seth Danielson at UAF in Fairbanks.



Photo: Dr. Rick Spinrad meeting with Alaska Marine Exchange in Juneau.



Backyard Buoys Workshop at the Inupiat Heritage Center in Utqiagvik, AK

Backyard Buoys Co-Production Workshop in Utqiagvik

Members of AOOS attended a two-day co-production workshop hosted by AOOS, Barrow Whaling Captains Association, and Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission. The workshop brought together the two other IOOS Regional Associations (NANOOS & PaCIOOS); Indigenous partners Gambell, Savoonga, Wales, Utqiagvik, Nuiqsut, La Push, and American Samoa; Sofar Ocean (buoy and sensor company); and education partners (ANSEP). We were also fortunate that the Honorable Mayor of the North Slope Borough, Harry Brower Jr. and BOEM Regional Director, Dr. James Kendall, also participated! Sheyna also gave an interview on KBRW ([Backyard Buoys KBRW Interview](#)).

2022 IOOS Caraid Award - The IOOS Association is pleased to announce that Molly is the 2022 recipient of the [Caraid Award](#). Molly is receiving this award in recognition of her outstanding contributions to observing, understanding and protection our oceans and coasts through vision, leadership, friendship, and collaboration.

ADMINISTRATIVE

AOOS Data Smack - We are constantly working to improve the experience of using the AOOS Data Portal. If you have any recommendations for improving the Data Portal experience for your agency, organization or community user needs, please contact Jill Prewitt (prewitt@aoos.org).

AOOS Board Meeting - AOOS' Fall Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 29 at the AOOS office. We will also host a small reception immediately following the Board meeting.

PROPOSALS/AWARDS

BOEM Cook Inlet Physical Oceanography Award - UAF (Dr. Tyler Hennon) teamed with AOOS, Axiom, CIRCAC, and OSRI on a project that will be awarded from BOEM to collate physical oceanographic data since 2000 in Cook Inlet and Shelikof Strait. Researchers will synthesize the data into a regional framework and identify information needs for sampling and improved data and modeling tools to support future oceanographic modeling efforts. The award will start in mid-September.

IOOS

IOOS Fall Meeting - Molly, Holly, and Sheyna plan to travel to Puerto Rico for the IOOS Fall meeting hosted by CARICOOS (Covid-19 pending). We are looking forward to meeting with our partners in person!

COLLABORATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

Alaska HAB Network - Thomas provided comments to the National HAB Observing Network Implementation Plan, which will be presented to Congress and lays out the vision for a national observing network for HABs to be implemented by IOOS regional associations. Through this, Alaska would see additional funding to establish a more robust statewide HAB monitoring system. A research cruise led by Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute is currently doing the first extensive HAB sampling in the northern Bering Sea, Chukchi Sea and Beaufort Sea. They have already encountered high levels of Alexandrium cells and Thomas has been helping with the communication to coastal communities and to the AHAB Network. Finally, Thomas has started an AHAB working group to discuss HAB toxin testing in Alaska and how to best use the current limited funds for toxin testing.

ENGAGEMENT METRICS

Audience Name	Type of Presentation	# of people
Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network	Facilitated monthly meeting and update	31
NCCOS Director Steve Thur	Discuss needs of the Alaska HAB community	3
AHAB working group on HAB toxin testing	Discussion and brainstorming session	12
Backyard Buoys workshop in Utqiagvik	Facilitated workshop on co-production	25
Alaska Marine Policy Forum	Bi-monthly workshop for marine policy stakeholders	15

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