



HIGHLIGHTS

PI meeting – On Feb 22, we held a PI meeting for all the researchers doing work under the IOOS 5-year grant. Because the number of subawardees, we held this speed-dating style with only 5 minutes per PI. Notes and presentations will be shared. The breadth and quality of the work going on is truly amazing!

ADMINISTRATIVE

IOOS grant extension – Staff requested a one-year extension due to covid-19 delays for our current IOOS grant, which would take us through May 31, 2022. We'll let all our subawardees know when this has been approved.

IOOS meet & greet w/IOOS office – On February 3 the IOOS Program Office met with Sheyna and Molly for a meet and greet with IOOS PO staff.

ASLC client meeting – Also on Feb 3, Sheyna met with all of the Alaska SeaLife Center staff who support AOOS, including CEO Tara Riemer and the grants/contracts and human resources staff.

AOOS DNR meet & greet – On Feb 4 Sheyna met with Jackie Overbeck for an overview of AOOS/Alaska Department of Natural Resources collaborative activities.

Molly & Nic – Molly met with Nic Kinsman Feb 8 for a closeout interview following Nic's 3 month leadership detail to AOOS last year. Overall, the detail was a positive experience for both AOOS and Nic, and we are grateful for the support from the IOOS Program Office for this effort. Nic was especially helpful in reframing the AOOS draft strategic document.

IOOS COMT PROPOSALS – AOOS is working on 2 proposals and supporting a third for submission under the Coastal Ocean Modeling Testbed funding opportunity. Proposals are due March 2.

NSGO/OAP Proposal – AOOS staff (Thomas and Darcy) are collaborators on a proposal being submitted by Amanda Kelley (UAF) and Jeff Hetrick (Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery) in response to the RFP "Addressing the Impacts of Multiple Stressors on Shellfish Aquaculture through Research/Industry Partnerships". Full proposals are due March 16.

AK Sea Grant – AOOS staff (Thomas and Darcy) are working on a pre-proposal being submitted to the AK Sea Grant 2022-2024 RFP by Aaron Poe (Alaska Conservation Foundation), Gwenn Hennon (UAF), Chandra Poe (Qawalangin Tribe), and Lauren Divine (Aleut Community of St Paul).

Axiom Lightning Talks – Axiom initiated a series of lightning talks as part of the weekly AOOS-Axiom check in meetings. The talks will help new AOOS staff get up to speed on the services and products provided by Axiom.

IOOS

IOOS Assoc – The IOOS Association is requesting \$56.5 M for filling gaps in our observing systems for HF radars, gliders and streamline for observations. This year the request includes, \$5.5m for regional base operations, which would mean \$500K per region to support stakeholder engagement, data management, and product development.

IOOS FAC – Molly met with the committee on February 5 to discuss proposed recommendations from the advisory committee to the incoming administration.

Coastal Climate Signal – Molly is serving on a small IOOS working group that is fleshing out some ideas for how IOOS can facilitate development of a coastal climate signal for the US EEZ, similar to the larger-scale global climate signal. The topic will be discussed at the IOOS Spring meeting.

IOOS Spring Meeting - We are prepping for the IOOS spring meeting to be held in early Mar.

CONFERENCES/MEETINGS/PRESENTATIONS

ESMWG – Molly was approved by NOAA for another 3-year stint on the Science Advisory Board's Ecosystem Sciences and Management Working Group. Molly joins Jan Newton, NANOOS ED, and Lisa Wainger, professor of environmental economics at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science as co-chairs of ESMWG. The working group is looking for additional members. Contact Molly if you're interested.

Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC) - Sheyna presented at the triannual AEWC meeting in Feb. She discussed opportunities for how AOOS can work with AEWC. Sheyna has been a long-standing partner of AEWC, so wanted to continue the relationship in her new role.

Cross Cultural Communication Training - Darcy, Jill and Thomas participated in a 3-day cross cultural communication training sponsored by the USFWS the week of February 8.

COLLABORATIONS

IARPC – The Environmental Intelligence Collaboration Team hosted a session on the 2020 Arctic Report Card on February 17. The report card has been in existence for 15 years, and authors are looking for feedback and recommendations for future directions.

UNDOS US Kickoff – The National Academy of Sciences’ Ocean Studies Board hosted a two-day virtual conference February 3-4 kicking off the US participation in the UN Decade of Ocean Science. AOOS is a recognized UNDOS NEXUS organization. Check out the website here: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/us-national-committee-on-ocean-science-for-sustainable-development-2021-203>

Alaska Marine Policy Forum – Feb 17 holly

Alaska Ocean Acidification Network – The OA Network steering committee met on Feb 26 to discuss issues including the transfer of OA science to fisheries management, data synthesis, and carbon dioxide removal. They also welcomed new members Jeff Hetrick from the Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery (APSH) and Kris Holderied of the NOAA Kasitsna Bay Lab. Curious about OA community sampling in Southcentral Alaska? APSH just came out with a new [9 minute video](#) illustrating the process and importance. You can also read the [OA Network February eNews](#). It highlights an interview with Kris!



Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network – Thomas has been working on two proposals (NSGO/OAP proposals and an Alaska Sea Grant pre-proposal) on which he will be a collaborator. The AHAB Network is steadily growing, having now over 120 members, and the monthly calls have been more participatory to the point that 1 hour is no longer enough time - we will now extend the calls to 1.5 hours. Thomas is continuing to work on the AHAB Action Plan, as well as on securing future funding from the National HAB Observation Network, and organizing working groups.

Bering Data Sharing Initiative – Work continues on the next Bering Science outreach publication, which is planned to be finalized in March. The publication will include recent research results and observations from the Bering region, from fall storms and weather, to salmon genetics, and updates on the gray whale and ice seal UMEs, and more.

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Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council (EVOSTC) – Carol and Stacey (Axiom) are preparing the FY20 Annual Report on the EVOTC funded Data Management Program for the Gulf Watch of Alaska (GWA) and Herring Research Monitoring (HRM) Programs, due March 1, 2021. There is one more year left on the existing 5-year program. Carol and Stacey are also working on the next EVOSTC proposal for servicing data management needs for the LTM (Long Term Monitoring) program (which combines projects from GWA and HRM plus other related EVOSTC projects). Proposals are due at the end of March 2021.

DATA MANAGEMENT

Fresh out of the field! Beginning in late January, researcher Seth Danielson and collaborators at the University of Alaska Fairbanks deployed a glider (named “Shackleton”) in Prince William Sound outfitted with a receiver to listen for tagged herring. This trial project, in collaboration with the GulfWatch Alaska and Herring Research & Monitoring program, is looking at the feasibility of using gliders to detect tagged herring as part of the AOOS Ecosystem Assessment for Fisheries Management glider project. Admittedly a potential long-shot for those skeptics out there, the PIs have tentatively reported that several tagged herring have been pinged by Shackleton. Well done! You can follow the location of the glider in real-time on the AOOS data portal at [this link \(Fig 1\)](#).

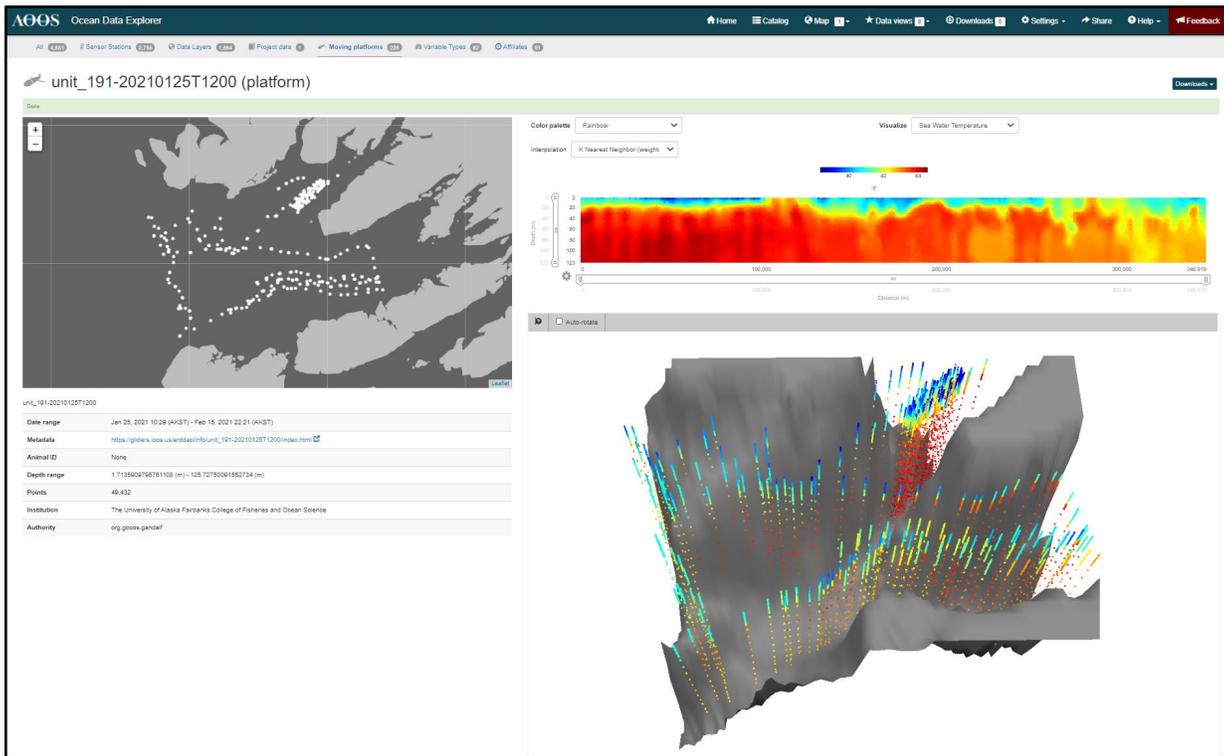


Figure 1. Screenshot of underwater glider (“Shackleton”) real-time data feed to the AOOS data portal.

Axiom Data Science is participating in the Seaweed Farm Start-Up Training Program, sponsored by Alaska Sea Grant and the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation, the week of February 22. The goal of this program is to provide the tools and training necessary for Alaskans to start their own seaweed farm, and is targeted towards commercial fishermen, Alaska Natives, and fishing communities. The new Mariculture Map (<https://mariculture.portal.aaos.org/>) will be demonstrated as an online mapping tool to help inform kelp and shellfish mariculture planning and permitting in Alaska.

ENGAGEMENT METRICS

Audience Name	Type of Presentation	# of people
IARPC Environmental Intelligence Collab Team	Panel	45
AK Marine Policy Forum	Forum	40
AEWC	Commissioners and public	50
Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network	Monthly meeting and update	51

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar 2, 5 & 9 IOOS Spring Meeting (Sheyna & Molly)
- Mar 10 NOAA Science Advisory Board’s Ecosystem Sciences & Management Working Group (Molly)
- Mar 15 & 17 NOAA SAB (Molly)
- Mar 15-18 Kachemak Bay Science Conference (Thomas presenting during the special HAB session)
- Mar 17-19 IOOS Federal Advisory Committee (Molly)
- Mar 16-17 ADAC Arctic C-ICE workshop
- Mar 24 UAF CFOS Advisory Committee (Molly)
- Mar 24-26 Arctic Science Summit Week
- Mar 29 & 31 IARPC Team Lead Workshop (Molly)

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