



February 2022 Monthly Update

Current Local Time In Anchorage, Alaska, USA
Reported by: AOOS

TimeServer Weather Time Zone DST Changes Sun & Moon

2:22:00 pm AKST Sunday, February 27, 2022



HIGHLIGHTS

The AOOS team celebrated TWOsday on 2/22/22 at 2:22pm. With Covid cases decreasing, we plan to start in-person staff meetings in March and slowly work our way back into more regular office hours. The staff has worked hard to keep connected remotely during this challenging time.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Annual audit - AOOS has once again passed our annual audit. Our financial team at the Alaska SeaLife Center has done an outstanding job of managing our finances.

2021-2026 Cooperative Agreement - The FY21 (year 1) descope documents were finally approved by the IOOS Program Office in February. The FY22 (year 2) descope documents for core funding were submitted to the IOOS Program Office in late February.

AOOS and Axiom Retreat - With the rising COVID-19 cases in early February, we postponed our retreat once again. We have tentatively scheduled the retreat for the end of March.

Spring Board Meeting - We will be reaching out to Board members to put a spring Board meeting on the calendar with the goal of an in-person meeting.

PROPOSALS/AWARDS

There were no new proposals or awards in February.

IOOS

DEI IOOS Association Fellow - Sheyna and Darcy met with the new IOOS Association DEI fellow, Ashley Peiffer, on Feb 7. Darcy and Sheyna gave an update to Ashley on DEI activities conducted by AOOS, including the discussion of adding new Board members from our Tribal partners.

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act - AOOS has responded to the IOOS request for a spend plan under the IIJA under three spend scenarios. Updates on the final amounts that will be given to each Regional Association will be provided in March or April.

CONFERENCES/MEETINGS/PRESENTATIONS

Alaska Forum on the Environment - Molly moderated a session on Feb 8 "Hands across the Bering Strait: Learning from Russian spill response and collaborating for the future" where Jill presented along with Alexey Knishnikov (WWF Russia) and Catherine Berg (NOAA) on the development of the incident response tool in the Bering Strait. Over 85 people attended.

Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission - Sheyna, Jill, and Carol worked with our partners at the AEWG for our NSF Convergence Accelerator project on Feb 4 at the Dena'ina Center in Anchorage. We worked with captains from the 11 whaling villages on how AOOS can help the villages steward their own wave buoy project.

Ocean Sciences Meeting 2022 - Carol and Sheyna participated in the 2022 AGU/ASLO/TOS biennial Ocean Sciences Meeting, that was supposed to be in Hawaii this year, but was reverted to a virtual event due to the fall onset of the COVID-19 Omicron Variant. Both Carol and Sheyna uploaded prerecorded oral presentations for their respective conference sections, and are participating in live virtual sessions for their sections. Carol spoke on February 28 on autonomous glider applications to inform timely marine resource management decisions in Alaska, with an emphasis on projects related to the Ecosystem Approach for Fisheries Management and the 2022 International Year of the Salmon Pan-Pacific Expedition (Session OT01); Sheyna will speak on March 4 on the role of an Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) regional association in detecting and responding to the coastal climate signal: the Alaska example. (session OC24). Those who are registered for this conference can view these presentations online. In addition to AOOS staff presentations, numerous PIs from AOOS funded projects are also presenting on their AOOS related activities at this conference and/or are presiding over sessions.

COLLABORATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

State

Skipper Science Workshop - Darcy and Thomas helped organize a meeting on Feb 8 with fishermen and scientists to review and further develop the Skipper Science Program, a collaborative initiative where fishermen record data and

observations in the marine environment through an app that can be used for research and fisheries management. During last year's pilot program, 50 observations were collected. The workshop conversation highlighted the need to hone in on some specific observations/data that would be most useful, and also further training on the app for fishermen. AOOS helped support stipends for fishermen to attend the meeting. Other partners include the Northern Latitudes Partnership, the Salmon Habitat Information Program and the Aleut Community of St. Paul.

Alaska Marine Policy Forum - Sheyna moderated the Alaska Marine Policy Forum on Feb 16 which highlighted USCG activities in the Arctic, the proposed Marine Sanctuary in the Pribilofs, and updates from Congressional and State Legislative staff.



Shared Axiom Users - We have re-energized the shared Axiom users group to include directors and staff from our other OOS partners: SECOORA, SCCOOS, and CeNCOOS. This team will meet monthly to continue to find ways to leverage the data infrastructure and products from our portals. We also plan to start a monthly data portal training webinar with each Regional Association rotating through each month.

Bering Strait Transboundary Incident Response Tool Listening Session - AOOS hosted a webinar on Feb 17 that was moderated by Molly and included presentations by Jill and Stacey (Axiom). There were 25 attendees including state and federal agencies, NGOs, and press.

Ocean Acidification Spring Discussion Series

This series is designed to provide a synthesis of the latest information on key topics within ocean acidification, answer questions, and facilitate dialogue between stakeholders and researchers to explore ideas and solutions.

TOPICS

- Regional Conditions
- Special Response #1
- OA and Local Communities: what does ocean acidification mean for mariculture and subsistence?
- Special Response #2
- OA and Commercial Species: what does ocean acidification mean for commercially harvested species including groundfish, salmon, and crab?
- MAP 4
- Adaptation and Mitigation

Each session will run from 1-3pm AK time and begin with a 30 minute presentation by topic area experts, followed by interactive discussion and break-outs. Contact Darcy Dugan with questions: dugan@aoos.org.

REGISTER

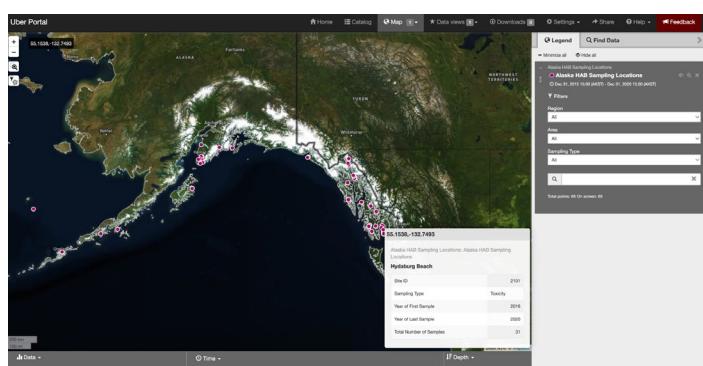
<https://tinyurl.com/leyed97>

Alaska Ocean Acidification Network - The OA Network executive committee met twice in February, to plan for the [OA Spring Dialogue Series](#) that will run March 23-May 4. The sessions will provide the latest information on regional conditions, species response, and adaptation and mitigation, and also create space for interdisciplinary discussions to address questions, key issues, and priorities. [Registration](#) for the March 23 session is open. During the month of February, the network highlighted "28 days of OA" on social media with 1-2 posts per day on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) (Twitter and Instagram are new!). Also, you can now access [10 video presentations and posters](#) from the Alaska Marine Science Symposium outside of the symposium firewall. Darcy gave presentations on OA to a UAA Oceans & Human Health class on Feb 15, and the Kodiak Area Native Association Water Quality Workshop on Feb 28, and also participated in the national coastal acidification network coordination call on Feb 7.



Alaska HAB Network - In February, Thomas Farrugia engaged in several outreach events and started preparing for the upcoming HAB sampling season. Several members of the AHAB Network took part in a session on HABs at the Alaska Forum on the Environment. Thomas also presented at the Interagency Arctic Research Policy

Committee (IARPC) Marine Ecosystem Team meeting and took part in a panel discussion during the Kodiak Area Native Association Water Quality Workshop. In addition, Thomas has been working on coordinating community sampling efforts for HABs and ordering equipment to distribute to the sampling locations. To continue building out the AHAB data portal, Thomas has been working with Axiom to produce a draft map of HAB sampling locations across Alaska (screenshot left), which Thomas will continue to fill in as additional network members provide information. Finally, with covid restrictions lifting and more in-person events taking place, Thomas is updating and producing new AHAB outreach materials to bring to conferences and symposia.



Alaska Water Level Watch (AWLW) - The AWLW Steering Committee met on Feb 4 to discuss existing water level sensors and installation plans for 2022. We were also looking for feedback on usability of sensor data, needs for new sites, suggestions for maintenance, and other comments within the AWLW. We will be reviewing and providing feedback to Axiom on the AWLW Data Portal later this spring as Axiom wraps up Phase III of the AWLW Data Portal development. Three potentially new Steering Committee members joined the call, including Jason Lehto and Steve Bassett who are

potential replacements for Laura Rear McLaughlin from the NOAA CO-OPS Program, and Timothy Steffen, who is replacing Rebecca Heim from the NWS Office in Alaska. We welcome these new partners in the AWLW program.

National

IOOS Advisory Committee - The IOOS AC held an administrative call Feb 17 and discussed topics for the coming year's work plan. Molly is on the climate working group.

Ecosystem Sciences and Management Working Group - The ESMWG met Feb 22 to further develop its white paper on how NOAA can better respond to a rapidly changing marine ecosystem. Molly is leading the section on co-production/co-design of knowledge.

International

Arctic GOOS Discussion - Molly, Sandy Starkweather (US Arctic Observing Network), and Craig Lee met Feb 16 with Carl Gouldman and Michelle Heupel, chair and vice-chair for the GOOS Regional Alliance Council, about options for organizing an Arctic GOOS (Global Ocean Observing System). This will also be discussed during the Arctic Observing Summit in late March.

UNDOS at ASSW - Molly is leading a planning group developing a discussion session during Arctic Science Summit Week on furthering the Arctic Action Plan for the UN Decade of Ocean Sciences. Contact her if you would like more information.

DATA MANAGEMENT

Effective February 28, Axiom Data Science has joined Tetra Tech, a leading provider of consulting and engineering services. This represents an exciting new chapter for Axiom to deepen and broaden its technical capabilities to better serve the data management needs of our partners, including AOOS. "Tetra Tech leverages digital technology using our Leading with Science® approach to provide clients with sustainable and resilient solutions and support decision-making on projects around the world", said Dan Batrack, Tetra Tech Chairman and CEO. "The addition of Axiom Data Science expands our high-end advanced analytics capabilities in water, oceans, and ecosystems to advance climate science for clients, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration". Rob Bochenek, Axiom Founder and CEO, said, "We are honored to join Tetra Tech and work with their exceptional team of scientists and engineers to provide best-in-class data analytics and cyberinfrastructure solutions for solving vexing data intensive problems. By joining Tetra Tech, we will further enhance our ability to provide highly specialized solutions to our clients, while offering new opportunities for our employees to work on water, ocean and terrestrial environment programs worldwide." While Axiom will be changing its name to 'Axiom Data Science, A Tetra Tech Company', there will be no change to our team, technology, or points of contact. We will continue business as usual with AOOS and others to develop data management and cyberinfrastructure solutions to meet end-user needs. Tetra Tech has 21,000 employees in more than 450 offices worldwide. Its technical expertise, a perfect complement to Axiom's, will provide opportunities for data services expansion, including one-stop integrated solutions and the ability to eventually provide services in new geographies. We look forward to our continued partnerships under this new banner!

ENGAGEMENT METRICS

Audience Name	Type of Presentation	# of people
Skipper Science Workshop	Led breakout sessions convening fishermen and scientists	41
UAA Oceans and Human Health Class	Presentation on Ocean Acidification	6
Alaska Ocean Acidification Network ex com	Two committee meetings	8
BSTIRT AFE session	Presentation and facilitation	85+
BSTIRT Listening session	Presentation, demo, facilitation	25
Kodiak Area Native Assoc. Water quality workshop	OA and HABs presentations	15
Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network	Facilitated monthly meeting and update	37
IARPC Marine Ecosystems Collaboration Team Meeting	Presentation to IARPC	23
Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission	Presentation on NSF convergence accelerator project.	50
Alaska Marine Policy Forum	Facilitation of bi-monthly workshop on marine policy issues.	48
Ocean Sciences Meeting 2022 (Conference)	Two oral presentations	50+

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 28-Mar 4 AGU/ASLO/TOS Ocean Sciences Meeting 2022
- Mar 8,10,15 IOOS Association Spring meeting (virtual)
- Mar 24 Ocean Acidification Discussion Series - session #1: Regional conditions
- Mar 17 Ocean Acidification Community Sampling coordination meeting
- Mar 24-26 ComFish Expo (Kodiak) - AOOS hosting booth
- Mar 26-Apr 1 Arctic Science Summit Week, Tromsø, Norway and virtual
- Mar 28 UN Decade of Ocean Science discussion session, in person and virtual at ASSW
- Mar 30-Apr 1 Arctic Observing Summit, Tromsø, Norway and virtual
- Apr 6-7 BIA Providers Conference - AOOS will host a session
- Apr 7-8 Arctic Encounters Symposium in Anchorage - AOOS hosting booth and workshop
- Apr 12-14 University of Alaska Mariculture Conference
- Apr 12-14 APIA 2022 Food Security and Climate Change Adaptation Symposium
- Apr 21-22 Western Alaska Interdisciplinary Science Conference (Virtual)
- Apr 20 Alaska Marine Policy Forum

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