



HIGHLIGHTS

I am very excited to have been selected as the new Executive Director of AOOS! I am also very grateful that Molly is sticking around to help me learn about all the amazing work she and the AOOS team have done. As you can see from my picture on the right, I am fully safety trained to jump in head first. It has definitely been an interesting time to start a new job, but the AOOS team has been very helpful in this transition! I look forward to working with all of you. *Sheyna*



ADMINISTRATIVE

Transition – Sheyna has been meeting with AOOS staff, Axiom and partners to get up to speed on the AOOS program and projects. Don't hesitate to call or email her at wisdom@aoos.org or 907-748-5864 if you have any questions or want to set up a briefing.

IOOS grant status – The latest report for our current IOOS grant was submitted in mid-January. The 5-year grant officially ends May 31, 2021, but we are now working on a request for a one-year extension due to multiple delays in field work from COVID-19 travel restrictions and other delays.

Upcoming PI meeting – We are hoping to have a virtual meeting with AOOS subaward investigators some time in February. Sheyna is reaching out to everyone to gauge some potential dates. Stay tuned for more.

AOOS Diversity and Inclusion Working Group – The working group met on January 14 to get input on identifying groups that AOOS should increase engagement with, ways to play a larger role in workforce development, and land and water acknowledgements. Based on the past three meetings, AOOS will be summarizing the recommendations of the group and sharing them with the AOOS Board and PIs for review and implementation. Special thanks to Waahlaal Giidaak from First Alaskans, Kaare Erickson from UIC and AOOS Board member Mike Miller from the Sitka Tribe/IPCoMM who provided perspectives from the Alaska Native community.

Fun fact: you can text (907) 312-5085 with your zip code and it will send you a message back with the traditional land you are on.

Unlearning Racism Course - Darcy organized a group of AOOS staff, AOOS Principal Investigators, and colleagues into a pod of 11 people who are participating in a semester long course on Unlearning Racism in Geoscience (URGE). The course includes structured biweekly readings and discussion with authors and thought leaders on the national stage, as well as pod deliverables.

IOOS

IOOS FAC – As a member of this federal advisory committee, Molly met with the committee on an administrative call to discuss a potential memo to the incoming NOAA transition team and review the agenda for the public meeting, slated for February 5.

CONFERENCES/MEETINGS/PRESENTATIONS

Alaska Marine Science Symposium – AOOS staff were heavily involved in planning and implementation of the 2021 AMSS, held virtually for the first time. More than 1,500 people registered for the 3-day event, which included a mix of live and pre-recorded events. Molly organized the daily keynote talks. Darcy organized a panel called “Multi-stressors in the marine environment: what do we know so far and how can it be used in management”. Jill co-organized a panel with WWF Arctic and Russia called “Looking Across the Border: US-Russia Science Corner” which was focused on increasing collaboration between researchers in the Bering Sea. Darcy and Thomas also served as judges for student presentations and posters.

ESMWG – NOAA Science Advisory Board's Ecosystem Sciences and Management Working Group met January 25 to begin discussion on future activities related to resilience. Molly will start as one of the co-chairs of the WG in February.

COLLABORATIONS

UNDOS – Molly’s work on the Arctic Task Force for the UN Decade of Ocean Science continues. Working Group 6, that she co-chairs with Nicole Biebow of the Alfred Wegner Institute in Germany, finished its recommendations for actions relating to data management. A draft plan is now being developed by the Danish Institute of Marine Science based on the input from 7 working groups and will be available for public review in late February.

IARPC – The Environmental Intelligence Collaboration Team co-leads (Molly, NOAA’s Candace Nachman, and NSF’s Roberto Delgado) met January 11 to map out activities for 2021, including a session on the 2020 Arctic Report Card in February, and a March meeting of the science leads for upcoming research cruises. Molly also participated in an Arctic Observing Systems Sub-Team meeting January 25 led by Sandy Starkweather that discussed ways to get greater input on cross-cutting topics for the UNDOS Arctic Plan, including observations/monitoring, data management, and Indigenous engagement.

Alaska Ocean Acidification Network – Darcy hosted a research update session at the end of the Alaska Marine Science Symposium on January 29 where 17 researchers gave updates on ocean acidification projects and activities. A testament to an expanding field! International OA Day of Action was January 8 (the date corresponding to 8.1, the current pH of the ocean) and the network created a top 10 action item list and infographic used by other OA networks across the country. The network also organized an ocean acidification presentation at the Alaska Shellfish Growers Association meeting on January 20.

Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network – The network had its first meeting of the new AHAB steering committee on January 15. Thomas led the discussion on the work he has been conducting and what the AHAB network should be focused on with the budget remaining from the Y1 HABON funds. Thomas has been developing the monthly AHAB calls to increase the participation list and encourage members to present slides with results, pictures and graphs during their updates. Thomas has also been finalizing the bulk of the listening sessions with AHAB network members: over 50 people from 30 organizations have participated in these sessions and Thomas is putting together a summary of the comments and suggestions. These will be included in the AHAB Action Plan that Thomas hopes to complete in the coming months.

Bering Data Sharing Initiative – Work is underway on the next Bering Science outreach publication. Jill and Heather McFarland from IARC are working with researchers to summarize their projects for the publication, which includes information from weather and sea ice, to plankton, fish, seabirds, and marine mammals. The newly formed Community Advisory Panel has provided input on the content of the report, and will review the publication before it is finalized (planned for this March).

Alaska Coastal Mapping Strategy - Materials from the 3rd Alaska Coastal Mapping Summit have been published on the Alaska Geospatial Council’s [Coastal Mapping webpage](#). Materials include agenda, registration contact list, PDF versions of presentations, video recordings, chat records, and some supplemental materials provided by participants. The coastal mapping strategist is continuing to collect feedback on the Coastal Mapping Implementation Plan from Alaska Mapping Executive Committee and is working with AMEC’s Coastal Subcommittee chairs to incorporate comments and prepare the document for public review.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council (EVOSTC) - Axiom and AOOS are preparing a 10-year proposal to sustain support for the data management of the EVOSTC funded Long-term Research and Monitoring (LTRM) Program 2022-2031. The data management program will be embedded into the LTRM Program going forward and will continue to support existing EVOSTC projects from the Gulf Watch Alaska and Herring Research and Monitoring Programs, as well as new projects added by the EVOSTC during the next 10-year period. We look forward to continuing our partnership with EVOSTC and the LTRM.

DATA MANAGEMENT

AOOS/Axiom quarterly meeting was held January 20. Axiom and AOOS staff went over all the milestones and deliverables in the annual work plan, which is mostly on track to date.

ENGAGEMENT METRICS

| Audience Name | Type of Presentation | # of people |
|---|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| AMSS Panel - "Looking Across the Border: US-Russia Science Corner" | Panel presentations and discussion | >200 |
| AMSS Panel - "Multi-stressors in the marine environment: what do we know so far and how can it be used in management" | Panel presentations and discussion | 245 |
| Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom network | Monthly meeting and update | 36 |
| Ocean Acidification Researcher Session | Presentations | 56 |

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 8-11 AK Forum on the Environment
Feb. 24 AK Marine Policy Forum
Feb. 8-11 Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission

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