



March 2022 Monthly Update

HIGHLIGHTS

AOOS-Axiom Retreat: After much delay due to COVID-19, AOOS and Axiom finally held an in-person 2-day retreat on Mar 30-31. We enjoyed hearing where both organizations started (1-person shops) and how they've grown to where we are today. We talked a lot about where we are going and how we can continue this important partnership in the future. We did, however, forget to get a group shot.

AOOS staff would like to express our sincere condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of the late Representative Don Young. Don was a strong supporter of Alaska's coasts and oceans and we will miss his leadership.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Board meeting - We are announcing our spring Board meeting to be held in person for most on Fri April 29 at the Captain Cook Hotel. Agenda will be forthcoming very soon!

Board reception - With the exciting prospect of meeting in person for the Board meeting, we decided it was time to get people together in a more relaxed setting. We are hosting a Friends of AOOS reception on Thursday April 28 at the Quarter Deck of the Captain Cook Hotel 6:00-8:00 pm. We also plan to recognize Molly's retirement at this reception.

Year 2 Budget - AOOS and ASLC staff are working with the subawards to submit the scope and cost for year 2 of our core funding. We are still waiting on the year 2 budget for other funding lines, including the Infrastructure investment and Jobs Act.

New AOOS staff position - AOOS will be posting a position (or two) in the near future with an emphasis on outreach and program management. Please be looking for this!

PROPOSALS/AWARDS

No new proposals or awards in March. However, we are starting on the proposal for Phase II of the NSF Convergence Accelerator project. It is due to NSF on May 25.

IOOS

IOOS Spring meeting - Sheyna attended the IOOS spring meeting on March 8, 10 and 15. meeting was originally planned to be in person, but it was changed to a virtual meeting at minute. This meeting included: a discussion and breakouts on improving collaboration the Regional Associations; a conversation with Nicole LeaBoeuf, the Assistant Administrator of the NOAA's National Ocean Service; a great discussion with the new DEIA Ashley Peiffer; and, of course, several budget discussions. We are hoping the fall meeting person!

IOOS Association Executive Director - The IOOS Association's long-time Executive Josie Quintrell, is retiring this fall, starting a leadership transition over the next few Josie's decision to retire will bring to a close a remarkable career of 20 years in service to the IOOS Association and advancing national ocean observing strategies. The IOOS Association Board of Directors is leading a search for a new Executive Director. This is a tremendous opportunity to grow the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System. The Executive Director position is now open. To learn more about the position and how to apply, [click here](#).



This
the last
among
Fellow,
will be in
Director,
months.

CONFERENCES/MEETINGS/PRESENTATIONS

ASSW/UNDOS Arctic - Molly organized a community workshop on the UN Decade of Ocean Science Arctic Action Plan March 28 held virtually and in person in Tromsø, Norway as part of the Arctic Science Summit Week. The session was attended by about 35 people, and focused on follow-up actions to last year's Arctic Action Plan, including a proposal for an Arctic Regional Program and discussions on developing an Arctic Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS).

ComFish Alaska - Thomas traveled to Kodiak for the [ComFish Alaska 2022](#) conference, which brings together every aspect of commercial fishing. Thomas presented in person to a live and online audience of about 30 people, and talked about HABs and OA as threats to seafood resources in Alaska. He also talked about the role AOOS plays in aggregating and disseminating ocean observing data. During the conference, Thomas hosted an AOOS booth where he engaged with stakeholders, increased the awareness of AOOS and the AHAB and OA networks, and collected input from attendees about additional activities AOOS and the networks could be involved in.

Arctic Vessel Traffic group - Molly and Jill attended the Arctic Vessel Traffic call on March 30 and presented the Bering Strait Transboundary Incident Response Tool. The group had excellent comments and suggestions for data and information that should be included in the tool.

COLLABORATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

State

Alaska HAB Network - In March, Thomas Farrugia engaged in several outreach events and started preparing for the upcoming HAB sampling season. Thomas attended the ComFish Alaska conference, gave a talk and hosted an AOOS booth. He was also a guest speaker at a UAA Ocean and Human Health seminar where he had a discussion about the impacts of HABs. In addition, Thomas is continuing to work on coordinating community sampling efforts for HABs and he has received most of the equipment which he will start to distribute to the sampling locations.

Alaska OA Network - Darcy and the OA Network executive committee kicked off a 4-part OA discussion series on March 23 with a session focused on regional conditions. After overview presentations from three presenters, participants split into groups to further discuss and document ideas and suggestions for the network. Sessions #2 and #3 are on species response (April 5 on mariculture and subsistence species and April 20 on commercial species). Darcy also worked with researchers and fishing industry members on two new outreach products: [OA & Bering Sea Crab](#) (a tri-fold) and [OA and Alaska Salmon](#) (a 2-pager). She facilitated a community sampling coordination meeting on March 17, and hosted a conversation about identifying relevant OA data for shellfish growers in Southeast on March 18.

National

NOAA ESMWG/SAB - Molly led a mini-workshop March 30 on co-production and co-design as part of the NOAA Science Advisory Board's Ecosystem Science and Management Working Group's scoping sessions on ecological forecasting in a rapidly changing marine environment.

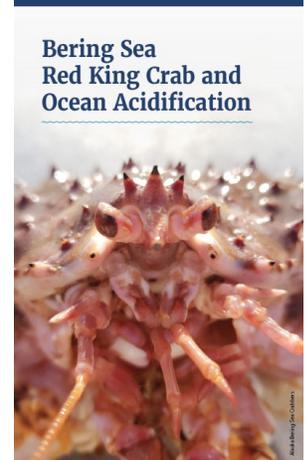
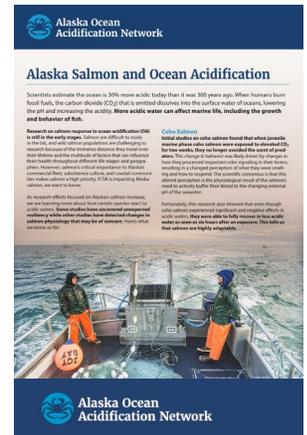
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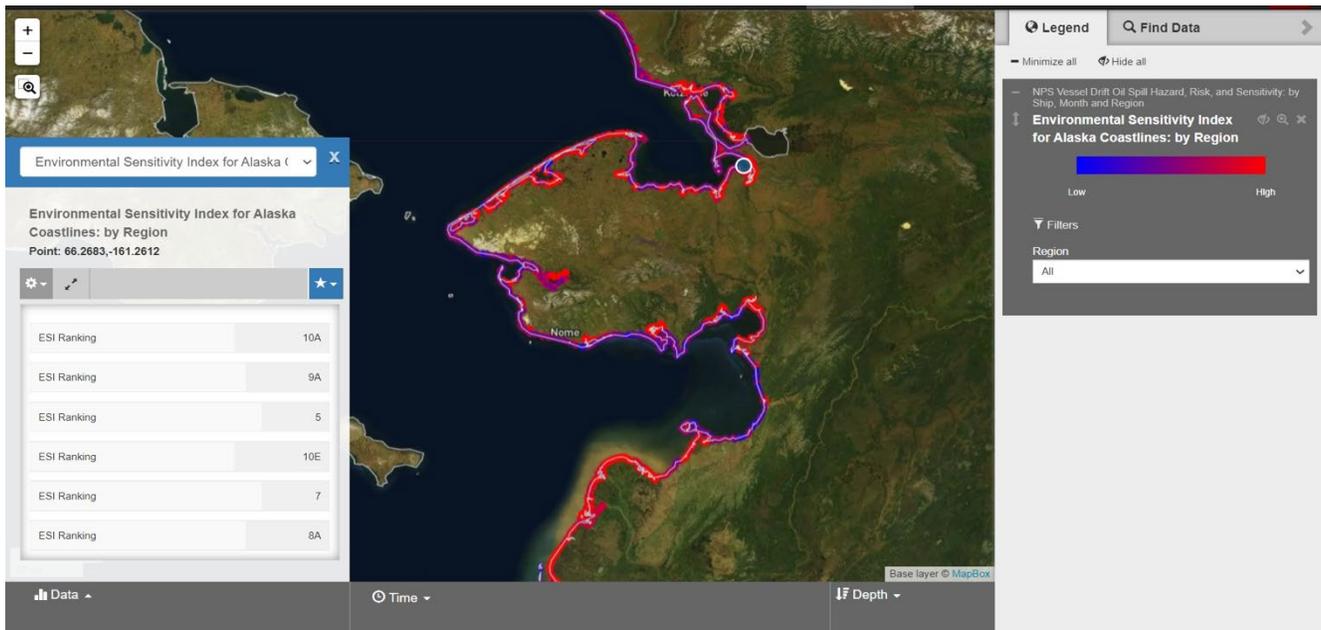
With support from the National Park Service, Axiom partnered with the Aleutian Bering Sea Initiative to estimate oil spill risk to Alaskan shores from grounded vessels. The goal of the project was to better understand the risks associated with vessel traffic in the Bering and Chukchi Seas to the Alaskan shoreline. This included estimating the probability of vessels drifting and running aground, estimating the likelihood of a grounded vessel spilling oil, and risk posed to coastal areas from oil spilled from such a vessel.

The project incorporated data from an industry database of 3000+ vessel incidents from Alaskan waters, a NOAA incident database, and a State of Alaska incident database to develop realistic parameters for the likelihood and duration of vessel drift events into drift simulation models. Hundreds of thousands of simulated vessel drift events along traffic routes in the Bering, Chukchi and Beaufort were simulated identifying areas at high risk of groundings. Tens of thousands of simulated oil spills were initiated from grounding locations to estimate how spilled oil will disperse and pose risk to the coastline summarized by region and month. The methods can be found on the project website:

<https://spillanddrift.srv.axds.co/>

The final products of this work include spatial data layers, simulations, and monthly summaries, available through interactive visualizations and for download through AOOS's web-based data portal.





A map layer in the AOOS data portal showing the Environmental Sensitivity Index, which is used to rate the sensitivity of an area of shoreline to a possible oil spill on a scale of 1 to 10 (1 being low sensitivity and 10 being high sensitivity).

ENGAGEMENT METRICS

Audience Name	Type of Presentation	# of people
Arctic Vessel Traffic Call	Presented the BSTIRT project	18
Arctic Science Summit Week	Community workshop on UNDOS	35
NOAA SAB/ESMWG	Mini-workshop	15
Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network	Facilitated monthly meeting and update	31
Alaska ComFish (Kodiak, AK)	Presented about AOOS and HAB/OA	30
OA Spring Discussion Series Session #1	Presentations and group discussion	50
KANA water quality workshop	Panel presentation on OA and HABS	40

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 6-7 BIA Providers Conference - AOOS will host a session
- April 7-8 Arctic Encounters Symposium in Anchorage - AOOS hosting booth and Sheyna is on a panel
- April 12-14 University of Alaska Mariculture Conference
- April 12-14 APIA 2022 Food Security and Climate Change Adaptation Symposium
- April 21-22 Western Alaska Interdisciplinary Science Conference (Virtual)
- April 20 Alaska Marine Policy Forum
- April 28 AOOS Board reception
- April 29 AOOS Board meeting

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