



HIGHLIGHTS

AOOS Board Meeting May 13 - Our spring Board meeting was held virtually on May 13, with in-person attendance with AOOS staff and one Board member (Jim Kendall). In the morning session, updates on our programs were given by AOOS staff as well as updates from IOOS and IOOS Association. In the afternoon session, spend plans for the Year 5 carryover funds and Year 1 FY21 budgets were presented.

AOOS City Cleanup - The AOOS staff participated in the Citywide Cleanup Month on May 14. We spent a few hours picking up trash along the Coastal Trail near our office. It was a gorgeous day and Finn the dog helped too!



ADMINISTRATIVE

NOAA FY21 Award - We received our award from NOAA for Year 1 of the FY21-25 grant! Although funding is generally flat from last year, we are excited to continue most of our existing projects as well as fund a few new ones. We will be reaching out to PIs over the next few weeks to start the descope process.

NSF Convergence Accelerator Proposal - Sheyna and Carol are preparing a proposal for the NSF Convergence Accelerator Funding Opportunity due June 14. The proposal team includes NANOOS (Pacific Northwest), PacIOOS (Pacific Islands), and Sofar Ocean.

IOOS

IOOS Coastal Climate Signal initiative - Molly is working with a small group organized by the IOOS Association in developing a white paper describing the IOOS RA role in documenting a coastal climate signal and its ecological impacts (HABs, OA, marine heat waves, etc.). This initiative will include a webinar series this summer, a CLIVAR workshop next winter, and a science session at Ocean Sciences (with Seth Danielson as one of the co-chairs).

CONFERENCES/MEETINGS/PRESENTATIONS

NOAA AFSC Preview of Ecological and Economic Conditions - Thomas presented at the 3-day conference on the recent HAB activity in the state and on the indicators of the upcoming HAB season. The audience was primarily NOAA Fisheries staff but also included researchers and managers from other organizations working in Alaska.

US Symposium on Harmful Algae - Thomas attended this virtual national conference that showcased talks from graduate students and early career scientists.

Unlearning Racism course - Five AOOS staff members and four AOOS colleagues recently finished a 16 week course called Unlearning Racism in the Geo Sciences (URGE). The course included lecture, readings, pod meetings, and deliverables. A combination of personal stories and research shared from the presenters, statistics through academic articles, and the chance to wrestle with these topics together as a small group was powerful in raising our awareness and revealing ways we could change both on a personal and organizational level. A major take home was that a lot of thought has been put into best practices to recruiting, hiring, supporting, and engaging with communities of color and the work on our end is figuring out how to implement it in our particular context. The course deliverables helped us get started and we'd like to thank the URGE team as well as our 4 colleagues outside AOOS who contributed in genuine and insightful ways to our pod. (Sue Saupe, Seth Danielson, Donna Aderhold and Scott Pegau).



COLLABORATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

State

ADAC Arctic Maritime - Sheyna has been participating in the Alaska and Arctic Maritime Communications and Connectivity Analysis Project (AAMCCA) core team and community outreach meetings.

CFOS Advisory Council - As chair, Molly met with the Council on May 11 to hear from the CFOS Diversity Committee, and the Tamanta Project, which centers on Indigenous Peoples and their knowledge systems, and NOAA's Quest Program (Quantitative Ecology and Socioeconomics Training).

Kawerak Knowledge and Research Sovereignty Workshop - Sheyna participated in this workshop on May 20-21. The purpose of this workshop was to bring together Tribal representatives and members of the Arctic research community to discuss and learn about Tribal and scientific perspectives on research activities, knowledge and research sovereignty, how to indigenize research processes, and how to co-create a positive future for research in the Bering Strait region of Alaska and beyond.

Alaska Ocean Acidification Network - The OA network co-hosted a mini symposium on ocean acidification and warming for crabbers on May 26. Speakers included four researchers from the OA network and after the presentations there was dialogue with questions from the industry and also ways crabbing vessels can contribute data. Co-organizers included the Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers and the Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundation. The network also hosted a community sampling coordination meeting that included assessing regional funding. Items of note: a recent radio article describes research findings that Kachemak Bay appears to be a refuge to shellfish in the face of ocean acidification. [Listen to the story.](#)



Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network - The Alaska Sea Grant proposal on which Thomas is a collaborator was finalized and submitted - decisions are expected in September 2021. If funded, the project will increase community sampling for HABs and OA in the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands. Thomas received comments on the AHAB Action Plan, as well as on the summary of HAB monitoring in 2020 and he is currently revising these two documents. In coordination with Rosie Masui (KBNERR), Thomas is putting together a HAB monitoring and response training which will focus on training in case of a HAB event, phytoplankton sampling, and phytoplankton identification under the microscope. Thomas is also working on the budget and spend plan for the AHAB network.

National

RODSI kick-off - On May 6 Jill and Molly participated in the annual kick-off for the national Regional Ocean Data sharing Initiative. RODSI funds to AOOS are used to support Bering Sea science publications, the Bering Sea data portal, and other information products. Additional funds are allowing these efforts to expand statewide.

ESMWG meeting - NOAA Science Advisory Board's Ecosystem Working Group continues to meet (May 17), examining coastal resilience and rapidly changing living marine resources.

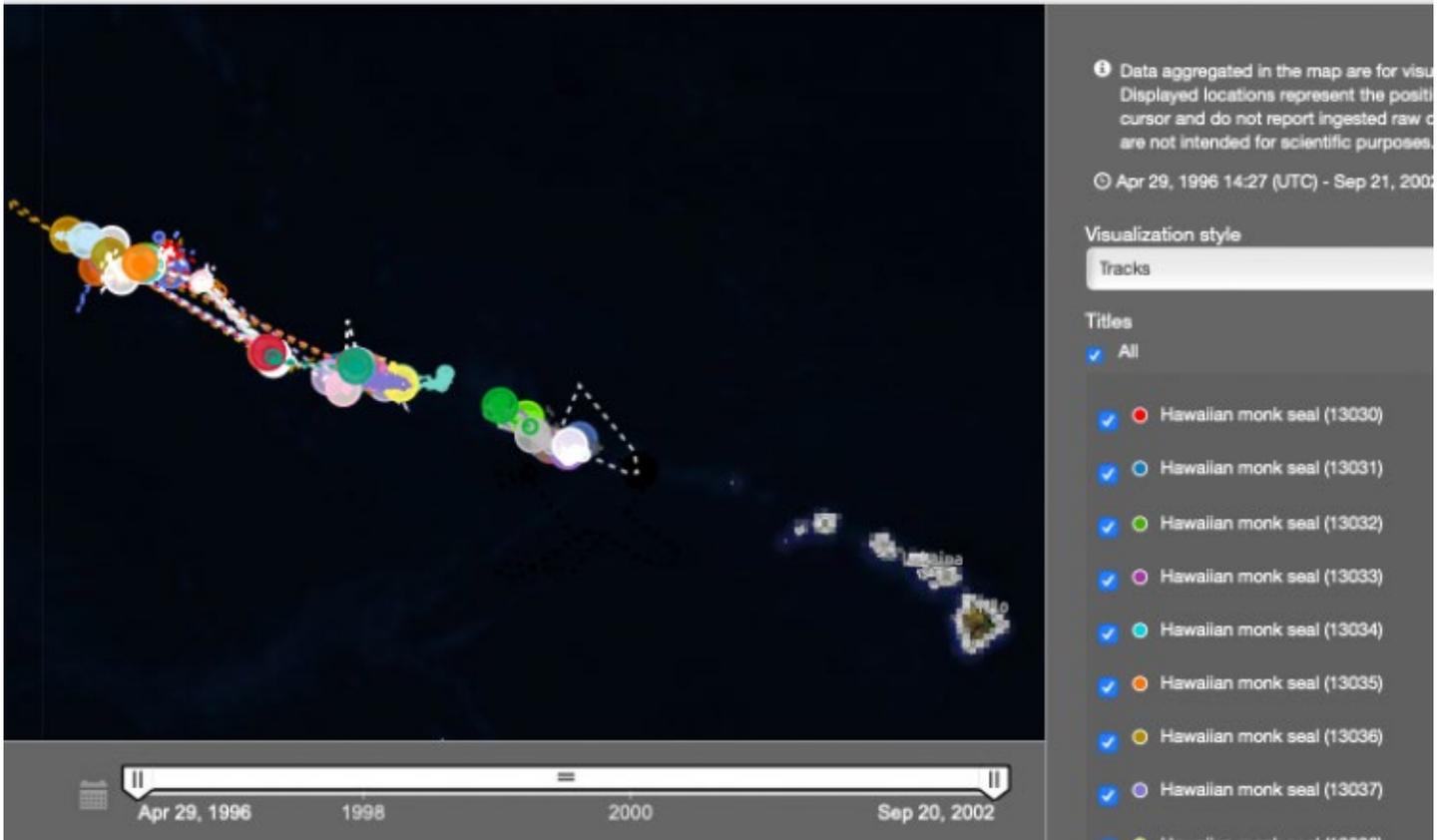
IARPC - Team leads met May 20 to discuss how the collaboration teams will support implementation of a new 5-year IARPC research plan. The Environmental Intelligence CT, which Molly co-leads, will likely disband. However, the research cruise tracking spreadsheet will remain as a product, but under whose auspices TBD.

DATA MANAGEMENT

Animal Telemetry Network, Data Assembly Center- The U.S. Animal Telemetry Network (ATN) is an alliance among Federal and non - Federal partners to maximize collaborations and access to animal telemetry data and products to help inform decisions related to ecosystem-based management and marine planning. Since 2019 the ATN data management system and its operational Data Assembly Center (DAC) have been developed and maintained by AOOS and its technical partner, Axiom Data Science. The role of the ATN DAC is to provide a central platform for access and sharing of telemetry data and products using IOOS DMAC data standards and services. For more than two decades, NOAA has been tracking monk seals throughout the Hawaiian Archipelago as part of their larger effort to study and protect this endangered seal. Beginning last month, all of those animal movement tracks can be seen online! NOAA has shared the entire archive of satellite telemetry locations through the ATN data portal. The public can view maps of seal travels and access data using this web portal. The NOAA's Hawaiian Monk Seal Research Program is looking forward to the collaborative research opportunities this opens up. To read the entire NOAA Fisheries feature story visit:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/hawaiian-monk-seals-join-animal-telemetry-network>

Click here for [Real Time Tracking of Hawaiian Monk Seals, 2020–2021](#)



Screen image of one dataset displayed in the ATN online portal. Each seal (different color) can be selected to see more detailed maps and information. Credit: NOAA Fisheries.

ENGAGEMENT METRICS

Audience Name	Type of Presentation	# of people
AFSC Preview of Ecological and Economic Conditions	HAB summary and forecast talk	70
Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network	Facilitated monthly meeting and update	38
OA Community Sampling Coordination	Facilitated monthly meeting	9
OA and Climate Mini Symposium for Crabbers	Co-organized and presented	49

UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 7 IOOS Association CARAID award presentation to Libby Jewett
- June 10-11 Alaska HAB monitoring and event training (in collaboration with KBNERR)
- June 14 IOOS Federal Advisory Committee
- June 15-17 National IOOS Data Management and Cyberinfrastructure annual meeting
- June 16 Alaska Marine Policy Forum
- June 24 AOOS EXCOM meeting

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