

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

**Staff Retreat June 6-7** - After many delays, we finally were able to hold our AOOS staff retreat in the exotic location of Eagle River, AK! We found a beautiful cabin out of town for a full day and night where we were able to talk about who we want to be and where we want to go, while we learned that Darcy is a master at Boggle and that Sheyna doesn't know the difference between pen and pin.



## **ADMINISTRATIVE**

**NOAA Cooperative Agreements** - May and June have been busy months for administrative tasks under our two current agreements. We submitted the semi-annual progress report at the end of June for the "old" agreement, while still working to close it out. We submitted the descope budget and narrative for Year 2 of the "new" agreement and will be submitting the semi-annual report at the end of July.

**AOOS Data Smack** - As the number of projects and data streams increases, AOOS has decided to start an internal group with the goal of discussing, tracking and managing data-related activities at AOOS. We have called this the AOOS Data Smack ('smack' being the aggregate name for jellyfish, i.e. a smack of jellyfish), and is currently composed of Jill, Carol and Thomas.

**New AOOS Staff** - AOOS posted a position announcement for up to two personnel for OA Network support, Outreach, and Engagement. We had 19 applicants, all with impressive experience. We interviewed 11 candidates initially with four of those candidates being asked for a second interview. We would be lucky to work with all of these people, but could only pick two for the positions. We are excited to announce the hiring of Megan Suksraq Onders as Director of Ocean Engagement and Alice Bailey as Director of Outreach. Welcome to our team!!!

**Darcy Dugan Change of Status** - As of Jul 1, Darcy will be on leave for 2 months while she travels for a few weeks in Madagascar with her older son to fulfill a dream come true with a school partnership, and then her family will be settling for a year in the Black Forest in Germany. At the beginning of September, she will continue her role as Alaska OA Network Director from Lenzkirch, Germany at a reduced schedule. We wish Darcy and family the best of luck and look forward to hearing about their adventures! We also want to say thanks to the ASLC staff for helping to make sure she could stay on as an employee during this time.

## **PROPOSALS/AWARDS**

**Arctic proposal** - Staff developed recommendations for new and replacement infrastructure for the Arctic at the request of the IOOS office and NOAA Administrator Rick Spinrad. These were based on AOOS buildout plans, the current IOOS 5 year cooperative agreement plan, and additional plans from the Alaska OA and HAB Networks. The information may be used in a new request from NOAA for additional support for the Arctic.

**NSF Convergence Accelerator/Backyard Buoys** - It has been a busy two months on the Backyard Buoys project. We submitted our application for Phase II funding at the end of May and gave our pitch to the NSF panel at the end of June. We will find out if we were selected in August! If we are selected, our team will be able to move forward with purchasing over 60 Sofar Ocean wave buoys with our Indigenous partners across the three regions (Alaska, Pacific Northwest, and Pacific Islands).

We are excited to announce two important dates for followers of this project.

- The NSF Convergence Accelerator Expo 2022 is open to the public. Researchers, innovators, technology and business practitioners and media from academia, industry, government, nonprofit, and other communities are encouraged to attend. To register for Expo 2022 visit, [nsf-ca-expo2022.vfairs.com](https://nsf-ca-expo2022.vfairs.com). The event is free. Our booth number is E13! Our booth times are 9:30 am and 10:30 am AKDT on July 27, 2022 and 7:00 am, 10:00 am, and 11:00 am AKDT on July 28, 2022.

- In collaboration with the Barrow Whaling Captains Association, AOOS & AEWIC will be hosting a Backyard Buoys Co-production Workshop in Utqiagvik on Aug 16 and 17. Please let Sheyna know if you are interested in learning more about this event!

**Cook Inlet Response Tool proposal to BOEM** - AOOS and Axiom teamed with researchers from UAF, CIRCAC, PWSSC, and NOAA on a proposal submitted to BOEM to continue to enhance the Cook Inlet Response Tool (CIRT). Dr. Tyler Hennon of UAF will be the PI on this award if selected.

**Infrastructure and Investment in Jobs Act (IIJA)** - AOOS will be responding to a NOAA Request for Award under the IIJA for ocean observing. Proposals are due by the end of Sept, but we are working to submit in early Aug.

## **IOOS**

**IOOS Federal Advisory Committee** - Molly met with the AC May 11 and 13 and June 27. Molly is working with a small group making recommendations for developing a national coastal climate signal. The AC is also reviewing the draft IOOS Program Office Strategic Plan and making recommendations on some changes.

## **CONFERENCES/MEETINGS/PRESENTATIONS**

**Alaskan Command Arctic Symposium** - Sheyna was on a panel on May 3 discussing the changing Arctic environment and research in support of DoD's Arctic Mission. This panel was moderated by Dr. Mike Sfragfa of the US Arctic Research Commission and other panel members included Dr. Brendan Kelly, Dr. Hajo Eicken, Dr. John Farrell, and Dr. Larry Hinzman.

**ArcticX Summit** - Sheyna attended the Department of Energy's ArcticX Committing to a Sustainable Arctic conference on May 23.

## **COLLABORATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS**

### **State**

**Arctic Watch** - AOOS is participating in a collaborative effort with the Marine Exchange of Alaska, World Wildlife Fund, Alaska Conservation Foundation, Ocean Conservancy, and the Wildlife Conservation Society to develop a new program called Arctic Watch. The planning group met in Juneau and virtually June 2 and 3 to kick off the project. The draft Mission Statement is to "Employ dynamic real time information technology to aid safe and environmentally sound maritime operations in the Arctic through collaboration with regional and maritime experts." The group is meeting bi-weekly and working on the technical details of the project and developing outreach and engagement strategies and materials. More to come in the coming months!

**Alaska HAB Network** - In May and April, Thomas made two trips to regional hubs of HAB sampling and data collection. He went to Homer to present on the AHAB network to the group of HAB samplers at the Kachemak Bay National Ecological Research Reserve - this provided a chance for Thomas to meet KBNERR staff and people that will sample HABs in outlying communities during summer 2022. In June, Thomas traveled to Seward to meet with the Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute staff and talk about the sampling and lab work they are planning for this season as well as for the long term. Thomas also provided APMI with a set-up of the [HABscope system](#), and went through training (along with the APMI staff) from GCOOS on how to use and fine tune the setup. HABscope uses an internet-connected camera on a microscope to automatically identify potential HAB species. APMI will test out and help refine the identification algorithm with the hope that this will become a useful tool for future HAB samplers in Alaska. Thomas has also been working to get a contractor to produce a video about HABs in Alaska to use as an outreach tool, and the new AHAB website is getting very close to being ready for launch. Finally, the pilot project to help communities start sampling for HABs is up and running with all participating communities having received the equipment and training and are now working on getting their samples analyzed and the data entered. Waters around Alaska are warming, and people across the state have found HAB species in our waters in increased densities, and shellfish samples are starting to have elevated toxicity levels. The AHAB network is staying vigilant and lines of communication are open and ready to quickly share HAB alerts.

**Alaska Ocean Acidification Network** - The OA Network redesigned their [website](#)! In addition to an updated look and feel, a new "impacts" section includes pages for each region and each Alaska species that has been studied.

The network developed two new brochures, "[Bering Sea Red King Crab and Ocean Acidification](#)" that looks at the sensitivity of red king crab to ocean acidification at each life stage and how it relates to conditions in the Bering Sea and "[Alaska Salmon and Ocean Acidification](#)" providing the latest science on salmon response to ocean acidification. Alaska has a new tool for tracking ocean acidification — a 7-foot-long, bright pink Seaglider. The University of Alaska Fairbanks and its commercial partners are the first U.S. team to measure carbon dioxide, the driving factor in ocean acidification, with an unoccupied underwater vehicle. Read the [UAF glider story](#).

**Alaska Water Level Watch (AWLW)** - The AWLW held its annual meeting (virtual) on May 11 from 9-noon. Speakers presented on several topics including the status of a coupled storm surge and wave operational forecasting model for western Alaska, and a new initiative called WebCOOS: Webcams for Coastal Observations and Operational Support, which is being led by Greg Dusek from NOAA CO-OPs. WebCOOS is intended to increase use of low-cost web cameras for coastal change observing throughout the U.S. Updates on Alaska water level projects, including implementation of GNSS-R (satellite GPS receiver reflectometry) for making water level observations in Alaska, were also provided.

**Regional Ocean Partnerships** - The Spring 2022 Bering Science publication was released online and mailed to boxholders from Shishmaref to Unalaska. This edition covered six important themes in the Bering Sea that were identified by our Community Advisory Panel: salmon, walrus, crab, halibut, seabirds and climate. You can read an accessible version [here](#) or the full report [here](#).

### **Federal**

**NOAA Science Advisory Board's Ecosystem Sciences & Management Working Group** - The ESMWG is developing a white paper on NOAA's preparedness in responding to rapidly changing marine ecosystems and met virtually June 22 and 23. Carolina Behe of ICC Alaska gave a very thought-provoking presentation on co-production.

### **International**

**UNDOS Arctic** - Molly has been asked to continue working on the UN DOS Arctic Action Plan on behalf of SAON. The effort is now being led by the IASC Marine Working Group, which plans a workshop in Copenhagen in November.

### **Data Management**

**New Data Application** - The new Mariner's Dashboards for [Prince William Sound](#), [Cook Inlet](#) and [Kodiak](#) are now available on the [AOOS website](#). These dashboards, funded and managed by the AOOS Regional Ocean Partnership program, were created to help provide the real-time weather and other information relevant to mariners in a simple and fast display. The portal was started with these three regions with new regions planned for the future, as well as improving the mobile experience. One new user said "the portal...seems pretty user friendly. As of now I have a bookmark on my phone to each individual NOAA buoy and that is how I get my info. I like this dashboard because it allows me to see them on a single site."

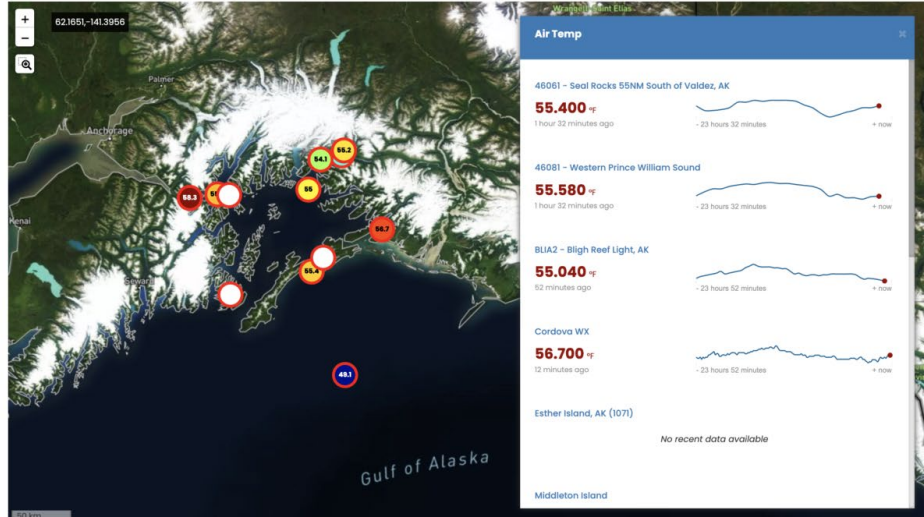


# AOOS Mariner's Dashboard: Prince William Sound

Parameters Stations Grid Marine Forecast **0.3**

Click on the list below to see latest data.

- Air Temp
- B Press
- Waves
- Waves: Height and Direction
- Waves: Maximum Height
- Waves: Swell Height and Direction
- Waves: Swell Period
- Wind
- Wind Gust



## ENGAGEMENT METRICS

| Audience Name                             | Type of Presentation                             | # of people |
|---|--|-------------|
| Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network (May)  | Facilitated monthly meeting and update           | 33          |
| Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network (June) | Facilitated monthly meeting and update           | 27          |
| Alaska Marine Policy Forum June 15        | Facilitated bi-monthly meeting                   | 35          |
| Alaska Command Arctic Symposium           | Sheyna was on a panel related to Arctic research | 150         |

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