



October 2021 Monthly Update

HIGHLIGHTS

Food Bank Team Event – Three members of the AOOS staff and AOOS board member Lynn Palensky (NPRB) spent the afternoon of Oct 21 assembling 300 30lb food boxes for distribution to Alaska Seniors statewide.

GPS Satellite Receiver Installed in Utqiāġvik – With assistance from the North Slope Borough-Department of Public Works and the Marine Exchange of Alaska, AOOS project leads ASTRA, LLC and JOA



ASTRA GPS Receiver,
Utqiāġvik, AK. Photo courtesy:
Marine Exchange of Alaska.

Surveys completed the GPS receiver installation in Utqiāġvik for making water level measurements. The method known as GPS/GNSS-reflectometry (GPS/GNSS-R) uses satellite signals reflected off the water's surface to resolve tidal and subtidal water level fluctuations in real time. If successful, this will be the only permanent water level station in the Arctic community of Utqiāġvik (formerly known as Barrow). Preliminary data are promising, resolving even the small-amplitude tides (< 25 cm) that occur in the region. Measuring the potentially larger, wind-induced water level variations, including storm surge events, is one of the primary missions of this installation. Data will be made available on the AOOS hosted [Alaska Water Level Watch Data Portal](#) following completion of the data processing protocols and quality control for this site.



Darcy Dugan, Holly Kent, Carole Janzen, and Lynn Palensky at the Food Bank of Alaska warehouse.

ADMINISTRATIVE

AOOS Board meeting – Our AOOS Fall Board meeting was held virtually on October 19, 2021. We had updates from Josie Quintrell from the IOOS Association and Krisa Arzayus from the IOOS Program Office on the FY21 and FY22 funding, as well as, other potential appropriations that could benefit IOOS/AOOS. In addition to updates from the AOOS staff on all the various collaborations and projects, two of our PIs presented on their AOOS-funded projects: Dr. Russ Hopcroft from UAF discussed the long-term Seward line project and Aaron Poe from the Alaska Conservation Foundation discussed the newly funded project for community sampling. We welcomed two new Board members: Megan Kohler with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Steve White of the Alaska Marine Exchange (MXAK) while saying goodbye to Ed Page who retired from MXAK this year. Our Board also had a great discussion on new Board membership and seats; we will be following up with the Board on this important topic in the upcoming months.

PROPOSALS/AWARDS

There are no new proposals or awards this month, but the team is in discussions for some potential collaborations.

IOOS

IOOS Program & Association fall meeting – Katrina (Board Chair), Sheyna, and Molly attended the virtual IOOS fall meeting held October 6, 7, and 13. We were disappointed to not be able to meet in person, but had some great conversations. Sheyna will be on the IOOS Association Finance Committee moving forward. Molly's outstanding service on the IOOS Association as a founding member was highlighted by Josie and all Executive Directors.

CONFERENCES/MEETINGS/PRESENTATIONS

AK Marine Policy Forum – AOOS and Sea Grant hosted the bi-monthly forum and Sheyna served as moderator. Topics included Congressional and Legislative updates, salmon returns statewide, the crash of crab stocks in the Bering Sea, the Tamamta program at UAF, and the new Ocean Acidification Network podcast on carbon policy. [Read the notes](#).

Gulf Watch Alaska (GWA) and Herring Research Monitoring (HRM) Programs Fall PI Meeting – Carol along with Stacey Buckelew and Chris Turner (Axiom Data Science) attended the [GWA](#) and [HRM](#) fall PI Meetings the week of October 25. This is the final year of the current 5-year (2016-2021) GWA long-term ecosystem monitoring and HRM herring recovery research and monitoring projects funded by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council (EVOSTC) for the marine ecosystem affected by the 1989 oil spill. AOOS and Axiom oversee the data management for these two long-term, multidisciplinary and integrated ecosystem programs.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council Meeting – Carol and Stacey (Axiom) both attended the daylong Trustees Council meeting on October 13. During this meeting, public testimonies and Trustee Council decisions were made regarding what projects to fund over the next 10 years (2022-2031).

ARCUS Community and Citizen Science in the Far North – Jill and Sheyna attended the [Community & Citizen Science in the Far North conference](#) which was organized by ARCUS and had participants from across the Arctic. The focus of the conference was on sharing, networking, and discussing the various aspects of conducting community and citizen science research in the Arctic. Sheyna presented on the new NSF project involving community led wave monitoring. The presentation was recorded and can be viewed [here](#).

COLLABORATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

State

CEO/DBO/AMBON workshop – Molly & Sheyna joined Seth Danielson, Jackie Grebmeier, Katrin Iken and other scientists in Anchorage October 26-28 at a small work session funded by the UAF Coastal Marine Institute to discuss synthesis results from 3 programs: the Chukchi Ecological Observatory (CEO), the Distributed Biological Observatory (DBO), and the Arctic Marine Biological Observing Network (AMBON). AOOS provides partial funding to each of these programs. The group will be developing scientific papers as well as outreach/information products.

Alaska Ocean Acidification Network – Darcy briefed the board of the United Fishermen of Alaska on October 28 and organized a suite of speakers to provide updates on latest research. She also convened the OA Community Sampling Coordination Group on October 5 to assess the status of samples cross sites and discuss community reporting. The network's executive committee met on October 17 and is moving forward on the idea of an OA discussion series for the spring. In other outreach, Darcy discussed ocean science and careers with a class at South Anchorage High School, and is continuing to circulate the network's new podcast on carbon policy *Our Future Ocean: what can carbon policy do for the ocean and our fisheries* ([podcast website](#)).

Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network – Thomas has completed the summary of HAB monitoring activities so far in 2021 from AHAB members - this summary will be shared with the Alaska Fisheries Science Center to be included in their annual Ecosystem Status Report. Thomas has also continued working on consolidating information from various network members in preparation for the revamping of the AHAB data portal, including the forms and data formats used by the major data collecting organizations in Alaska. Finally, Thomas has continued his outreach efforts, presenting at the Arctic Community and Citizen Science meeting and attending the International Conference on Harmful Algae.

Bering Region Ocean Data Sharing Initiative – Jill facilitated a meeting of the *Bering Science* Community Advisory Panel (CAP). The CAP gave their input on the most important topics, including community-led projects, to be included in the next *Bering Science* publication (scheduled to be released in spring 2022). Jill and Heather McFarland (UAF/IARC) will also be meeting with scientists over the next few weeks to share the CAP's advice and gather input on other important information that should be included. Work continues on the Bering Strait Transboundary Incident Response Tool (BSTIRT) including ingesting datasets provided by WWF Russia, and setting up meetings with potential users of the BSTIRT.

National/International

AOOS & OCM – Molly, Sheyna and Jill met October 25 with several NOAA Office of Coastal Management staff (Timi Vann, David Stein, and TJ Moore) to update each other on current and planned projects using regional ocean data sharing funds provided through the IOOS grant.

SAB LCR Team – Molly continued participation October 26 in a small working group helping NOAA identify its leadership role in coastal resilience. The group hosted a series of focus group discussions this past summer, and next month will

meet with NOAA staff to receive their input. The group will identify top priorities to present to the NOAA Science Advisory Board early next year.

PICES Monitoring Committee Meeting – Carol presented an AOOS 2021 observing activities update to the PICES Technical Committee on Monitoring during their annual meeting held virtually on October 6. PICES is an intergovernmental science organization established in 1992 to promote and coordinate marine research in the North Pacific and its adjacent seas. Its present members are Canada, Japan, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America.

PICES TCODE – Jill attended the PICES Technical Committee on Data Exchange (TCODE) working group meeting as a guest with the intention of officially joining the working group. Jill participated in preparing a workshop proposal to the PICES Science Board for the 2022 meeting. The “Openly Discoverable, Accessible, and Reusable Data and Information in the U.N. Decade” was accepted by the Science Board and will take place next year in Busan, Korea in 2022 with AOOS as one of the convenors.

PICES Annual Meeting – Jill attended the PICES 2021 Annual Meeting hosted by China (virtual). This year’s theme was “Towards a shared vision of sustainable marine ecosystems” and much of the focus was on strengthening collaborations to enhance PICES’ contribution to “the science we need for the ocean we want” for the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

ENGAGEMENT METRICS

Audience Name	Type of Presentation	# of people
Bering Science Community Advisory Panel	Facilitated meeting	6
PICES TCODE working group meeting	Participated in working group	8
ARCUS Community & Citizen Science	Presented	many
Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network	Facilitated monthly meeting and update	43
PICES Technical Committee on Monitoring	Presented	24
United Fishermen of Alaska board	Presented and organized OA speakers	49
Ocean Acidification Community Sampling coordination	Facilitated meeting	12
Alaska Ocean Acidification Network executive committee	Facilitated meeting	9
South High School class	Presented on science and careers	14
Alaska Marine Policy Forum	Hosted forum	42

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 9	Launch of the Climate Change in Arctic Environments massive open online course
Nov 15-19	Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management (virtual) (Thomas, Darcy, Jill)
Dec 1-4	Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, Anchorage, AK (in person) (Sheyna, Jill)
Dec 13-17	AGU Fall Meeting 2021, New Orleans, LA (virtual) (2 posters, Sheyna, Carol, Molly)
Feb 27-Mar 4, 2022	Ocean Sciences Meeting, Honolulu, HI (virtual) (2 Abstracts, Sheyna, Carol, Molly)

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