

AOOS MONTHLY UPDATE

Dec '23 and Jan '24



How many photos does it take for AOOS staff to look/act professional?

Turns out at least six!

Photo by: Jo-Ann Mellish

HIGHLIGHTS

- In December, AOOS, NPRB, and Alaska Sea Grant joined together for a holiday-themed ocean suite collaboration meeting on Dec 12 at the Nave. It was a fun event to share the successes of the three ocean partners with each other and families! Team building activities included a cookie decorating station, a white-elephant gift exchange, and an ugly sweater contest. We think ugly sweaters should be part of our next Board meeting.
- AOOS staff took a much needed break from all AOOS activities for a whole week during the holidays to prepare for the expected chaos of 2024. Sheyna continued to work on her cyborg transition having an L4-S1 spinal fusion on Dec 20.
- **Alaska Marine Science Symposium:** January started off strong with the AMSS! In addition to being a sponsor, AOOS also:
 - Had a booth at the Poster Session Monday and Tuesday night
 - West High School gifted student A’Niyah Sheridan presented her poster on being mentored by Sheyna
 - Jill coordinated the poster sessions
 - Holly coordinated all the workshops
 - Sheyna lead the Alaska Marine Research Planning Night on Wednesday
 - AOOS provided refreshments for the Celebration of Life for Craig George and Steve Okkenon on Thursday
 - Thomas coordinated the Student Awards and facilitated a HABS workshop on Friday
 - Darcy facilitated an OA Data Synthesis workshop on Thursday
 - Carol facilitated one of the Arctic Plenary Session on Wednesday
 - Axiom hosted a workshop on FAIR data sharing principles

IOOS

- **IOOS Fall Meeting 2023:** Sheyna traveled to San Diego for the IOOS fall meeting Nov 29-Dec 2 hosted by SCCOOS. The primary topic was the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) proposal due Mar 5.
- **IOOS Fall Meeting 2024:** The 2024 fall meeting will be held in Juneau, AK Sep 3-6, 2024. It will be a great chance to highlight AOOS partners and activities!
- **IOOS Advisory Committee:** Molly participated in the AC meeting at the University of Maryland Dec 4-5. Topics included the IRA funds, biology priorities, and NOPP - the National Ocean Partnership Program.

COLLABORATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

Alaska Native Co-Management Organization Meetings: Joni and Sheyna attended several co-management meetings in Dec to listen for how AOOS can provide service. Meetings included the Eskimo Walrus Commission, Alaska Nannut Co-Management Council, and the Alaska Beluga Whale Committee.

NOAA Science Advisory Board’s (SAB’s) Ecosystem Sciences and Management Working Group (ESMWG): Molly chairs the working group and led sessions at the Dec 7-8 meeting in Silver Spring focusing on coastal resilience, HABS, and marine Carbon Dioxide Removal.

Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network

- In addition to the regular monthly AHAB meetings that took place in December and Jan, members of the AHAB network as well as other interested people met on the last day of AMSS for a discussion on upcoming HAB projects. Participants shared and learned about the range of HAB research and monitoring taking place this coming year in Alaska, formed connections and relationships, and discussed frontline community priorities for HABS in Alaska.

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- During AMSS, eight oral presentations and 11 poster presentations on HABs were presented by members of the AHAB network.
- The Imaging Flow CytoBot that is being purchased by AOOS for monitoring for HABs is being manufactured and should be ready to ship this Spring. Thomas is traveling to McLane Labs for training in Mar 2024.



Alaska Ocean Acidification Network

- 22 researchers involved in OA met at AOOS during AMSS to discuss messaging, synthesis and share other information. AMSS showcased three oral presentations and eight posters about OA. One of the posters highlighted the network.
- In observance of International “OA Day of Action”, the Alaska OA Network and partners launched a new storymap called “OA in Alaska. [Explore the map](#) and help circulate it!



Backyard Buoys Project

- The Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC) and AOOS hosted a buoy workshop at the AEWC meeting in Anchorage Dec 13. The team reviewed lessons learned from the 2023 season and made plans for the 2024 season. The photo shows Whaling Captain Michael Quuniq Donovan talking about the buoys deployed off Utqiagvik.
- The PI team (minus Sheyna) traveled to Washington, DC Jan 24-25 for the NSF PI meeting where they worked with other Convergence Accelerator Track E teams.
- The team prepared the agenda and materials for the February All-Hands meeting in Honolulu, HI Feb 6-7.



Alaska Water Level Watch (AWLW)

- The AWLW welcomes new [Steering Committee](#) members in addition to our long-standing, inaugural AWLW crew, providing expanded expertise in all areas related to water level and the AWLW coastal hazards focus. New members are:
 - Ed Plumb (Coastal Flood Program Manager, NOAA NWS)
 - Richard Buzzard (Mendenhall Postdoc, USGS Pacific Coastal and Marine Science Center)
 - Nora Nieminski (Program Manager, State of Alaska Coastal Hazards Program, AKDNR-DGGS),
 - Steven Dykstra (Physical Oceanographer, Assistant Professor, UAF-CFOS))
 - Summer Ohlendorf (Science and Operations Officer at NOAA’s National Tsunami Warning Center)
 - Reyce Bogardus (PhD Student, Geophysical Institute, UAF)
 - Lynda Bell (Alaska Regional Geodetic Advisor, NOAA National Geodetic Survey)

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Arctic Watch

- The [Marine Exchange of Alaska](#) (MXAK) hosted a Partners Workshop in Juneau from Jan 16-19, 2024.
- Delegates were invited from twenty Bering Strait Tribes.
- The workshop included a tour of the MXAK Operations Center, presentations on the MXAK Sea Traffic Management system, and focused discussions on how the Arctic Watch project can build off of MXAK's existing tools to support community needs.
- Despite weather delays and other logistical challenges, it was a wonderful opportunity to build relationships and get to know each other in Juneau. All of the partners are looking forward to continuing the work and excited to see how Arctic Watch, led by MXAK, will grow in the future.
- The workshop was funded and organized by MXAK, Kawerak, AOOS, Alaska Conservation Foundation, Ocean Conservancy, and World Wildlife Fund.

ENGAGEMENT METRICS

| Audience Name | Type of Presentation | # of people |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Arctic Watch Partners Workshop | workshop | 40 |
| Alaska Marine Science Symposium (AMSS) | conference | 770 |
| AOOS Data Portal PI Feedback Workshop-AMSS | Facilitated in-person | 13 |
| Fisheries Adaptation Planning Workshop | Data resources presentation | 15 |
| Alaska OA Network researcher meeting | Facilitated meeting | 22 |
| Alaska Marine Policy Forum - Dec | Co-hosted forum | 47 |
| Alaska Marine Policy Forum - Jan | Co-hosted forum | 52 |
| Alaska OA Cruise Planning Discussion | Co-hosted meeting | 15 |
| December Alaska HAB monthly meeting | Monthly virtual meeting | 25 |
| January Alaska HAB monthly meeting | Monthly virtual meeting | 30 |
| Harmful Algal Bloom Projects in Alaska Forum | Facilitated in-person/virtual forum | 55 |

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