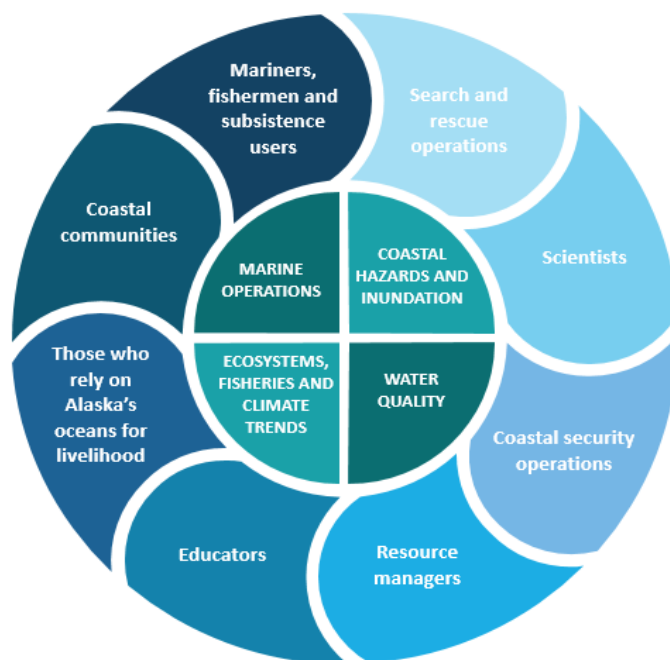


Appendix D. AOOS Engagement Summary: *Fall 2020*

AOOS Engagement Process

AOOS relies on a variety of avenues to engage stakeholders and solicit recommendations. This feedback allows AOOS to both identify gaps in ocean observing and enhance AOOS tools and products. Due to the enormous geographic size of Alaska and the diversity of coastal and marine issues, the AOOS board determined it would be more effective to use existing communication pathways and forums, as well as specific stakeholder engagement events, to provide input to AOOS rather than maintain a standing “stakeholder committee”. This method has allowed AOOS to effectively interact in a focused way with multiple interest groups and hear specific needs.



Facilitating Topic-based Groups

AOOS organizes and facilitates several topic-specific groups by convening relevant partners and discussing objectives, available resources, existing needs, and potential next steps to expand ocean monitoring and data access. These groups include the Alaska Ocean Acidification Network, Alaska Water Level Watch, Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network and Alaska Pacific Anomalies Working Group.

Hosting Meetings and Input Sessions

In preparation for the 5-year proposal, AOOS held meetings and listening sessions with key stakeholders to identify gaps in ocean observing and inform information product development. An overview of these meetings, some of which are geographically-focused, can be found in the provided [Engagement Detail spreadsheet](#). While not all the recommendations can be incorporated directly into the NOAA 5-year proposal, documenting these needs allows AOOS to continue to pursue and fill gaps through outside funding sources and collaborative partnerships.

2020 Call for Project Ideas

In March, AOOS invited input for new project ideas to include in the upcoming NOAA 5-year proposal. The announcement was circulated to the full AOOS email list (presently 2,100 addresses), posted online and shared through partner organizations. Over 100 project ideas were submitted over three months. AOOS held a 2-day technical review session in June 2020 with an external panel to assess the benefits, risks, leveraging, impact, cost, and overall fit for each project in the context of 5-year proposal planning.

2020 Public Request for Comments on AOOS Strategic Direction

In August, AOOS invited open public comments on the proposed strategic direction for the NOAA 5-year proposal. An overview document that included AOOS mission clarification, goals and objectives, new priorities and emphasis, observing build-out maps, product and service updates, and engagement commitments was circulated to the full AOOS email list, posted online and delivered to Regional Tribal Non-Profit partners. Input from this effort was compiled and added to the [Engagement Detail spreadsheet](#).

Other Avenues for Ongoing Engagement

AOOS continues to maintain stakeholder engagement efforts in a number of other capacities. These include:

Presentations – AOOS staff provide presentations and data portal demos to national, state, and local audiences on an ongoing basis. A recent list of these appears in the [Engagement Detail spreadsheet](#).

Scoping groups – AOOS organizes and runs ad-hoc scoping groups to assess and review new ideas and data tools (e.g. Research Assets Map, vessel track visualizations, hex-bin data techniques).

User Surveys – AOOS employs Survey Monkey several times a year to get feedback from broad audiences (e.g. obtaining recommendations for locating Snotel sites, establishing the location and timing of seasonal wave buoy deployments, identifying questions about ocean acidification, gathering feedback on workshops, and soliciting overall recommendations and ideas for the AOOS program).

Feedback Tab – Every page on the AOOS data portal includes a red feedback tab that allows users to submit comments and recommendations regarding specific data and the user interface as a whole. AOOS/Axiom staff responds to each submission within 24 hours, and the feedback is documented, analyzed and assessed for implementation on a systematic basis.

Website - AOOS maintains a website which includes both static and dynamic content - timely updates and stories, background information and entry to the data portal. AOOS is close to launching a website redesign to modernize the look and feel and as well as increase content about the projects AOOS leads or funds.

Facebook - AOOS and the Alaska OA Network both maintain Facebook pages where interesting stories and links are posted.

