



Alaska Ocean Observing System

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## AOOS May 11, 2018 Board Summary

(prepared by Holly Kent, 5/18/18)

**Board members present in person:** Katrina Hoffman, Larry Hartig, Cheryl Rosa, Betsy Baker, Dee Williams for Aimee Devaris, Amy Holman, Brad Moran, Bill Britt, and Jim Kendall. **By phone:** Dave Aplin for Margaret Williams, Theresa Peterson, Ed Page, Ginny Eckert for Alaska Sea Grant, Jeff Napp for Doug DeMaster, Paul Webb

**AOOS Staff:** Molly McCammon, Holly Kent, Carol Janzen

**By phone:** Kristi Elkins for Alaska SeaLife Center.

Board Chair Katrina Hoffman called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

### Agenda and meeting summaries

**ACTION:** The committee unanimously approved the agenda and previous board and executive committee meeting summaries with one change correcting the January 11, 2018 board meeting summary section regarding Shorezone (should say NMFS AK Region, not AFSC). *Motion by Amy Holman; second by Betsy Baker.*

**AOOS and IOOS Association activities update (Molly McCammon, AOOS Executive Director)** AK Climate Action Leadership Team – Molly is on this team, which is putting ideas together for an eventual consensus document to be delivered to the Governor in September. The team will integrate and engage with federal agencies through the Science Advisory Panel co-chaired by Molly and Larry Hinzman. They will look at opportunities for adaptation and not just focus on the downside of climate change. Ocean Acidification concerns are high on the state’s list.

- AK Coastal Mapping summit was held in February 2018 and organized by AOOS employee Marta Kumle, who is working at the Alaska Department of Natural Resources office in Anchorage. Marta is drafting an AK statewide mapping strategy and implementation plan for Fall 2018. Her position is funded through a grant for the first year but needs sustained funding to maintain.
- Operations Director Carol Janzen recently attended an Arctic Domain Awareness Center stakeholder meeting and the Western Alaska Interdisciplinary Science Conference, both in Nome.
- Molly is working with federal partners to develop a 3-prong strategy for addressing regional concerns of local residents in the Bering Strait region. This will include monitoring for Harmful Algal Blooms in the Bering Strait and Chukchi Sea regions, coordinating research cruises through the Arctic this summer for potential enhanced sampling for HABs, and communicating research results with local communities in a more timely fashion.
- AOOS will have an Alaska State Sea Grant Fellow this fall working on HABs issues.
- A new Nome wave buoy and current meter will be deployed this summer and is supported by AOOS, US Army Corps of Engineers, Port of Nome, and the Marine Exchange of Alaska.
- Ecosystem Mooring Workshop - Carol and Seth Danielson (UAF, an AOOS PI) attended this workshop in Seattle. Seth is one of the first in the nation to maintain a full ecosystem mooring array, which was the topic of discussion at this workshop.

- A group from the NOAA Office of Coastal Management will be visiting Alaska later this month, as a follow-up to a visit by Molly and NOAA Alaska Regional Coordination Team lead Amy Holman to the OCM offices in Charleston, SC last December. Molly and Amy will be touring them around the state to highlight Alaska coastal management activities with a “meet and greet” planned for them on May 23 at the AOOS office.
- The AOOS Fall board meeting will be held in Sitka in early November during Whalefest. Dates will soon be determined
- IOOS Association Spring Meeting – Molly and Board Chair Katrina Hoffman attended and also made educational hill visits. IOOS was successful this year in getting an additional \$4.3 million increase to the overall regional budget.
- Molly and AOOS Board member Brad Moran attended the Consortium for Ocean Leadership spring meeting.
- Carol presented at the Ocean Sciences Meeting in Portland, Oregon in Feb. 2018.
- Molly is a co-author on the Alaska chapter of the 4<sup>th</sup> National Climate Assessment, which is now in final review and will be publicly released in December.
- Molly, AOOS Board member and Marine Exchange of Alaska director Ed Page, US Arctic Research Commission director John Farrell, and University of Alaska senior Arctic advisor Lawson Brigham will give testimony on a panel for a June House Coast Guard subcommittee hearing.
- Molly was invited to give a keynote presentation in Davos, Switzerland in June, for the Arctic Observing Summit.
- The National Academy of Sciences’ Ocean Studies Board meeting will meet in Fairbanks September 10-12, 2018 with one day focused on Arctic Marine Infrastructure.

## Presentations

- Bering Strait: extreme winter events: storms & sea ice (Rick Thoman)
- HF Radars in the Bering Strait (Rachel Potter)
- New AOOS Ocean Data Explorer portal & features (Rob Bochenek)
- AOOS soon to host Animal Telemetry Network Data Assembly Center (Rob Bochenek)

## AOOS Budget

Molly gave an overview of the current budget & expenditures to date. AOOS has been given a budget number for our Year 3 (2018) core program. We saved \$30k a year on rent/parking with a new rental agreement signed in 2017, thanks to the efforts of Board member Betsy Baker.

**ACTION:** The board unanimously approved moving \$40K from personnel fringe benefits to pay for the Alaska Sea Grant fellow and \$3k from personnel fringe to program supplies for HABs sampling efforts in 2018. *Motion by Bill Britt; second by Brad Moran.*

**ACTION:** The board unanimously approved adoption of the proposed year 3 budget. *Motion by Cheryl Rosa; second by Jim Kendall.*

## Other AOOS Business Items

**ACTION:** The board unanimously approved acceptance of funding as part of the 2017 OTT project for Building coupled storm surge and wave operational forecasting capacity for Western Alaska. *Motion by Moran; second by Kendall.*

**ACTION:** Dee Williams, Brad Moran, and Betsy Baker volunteered to serve as a Nominating Committee for the fall 2018 AOOS Board elections.

**Ocean Observing Roundtable:** Board members shared recent actions and highlighted upcoming opportunities.

Cheryl Rosa noted that the US Arctic Research Commission is working to draw the Arctic into existing networks such as the Alaska Ocean Acidification Network and the Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network.

Amy Holman said that NOAA is working on strengthening integration in their work in Alaska, looking to address HABs, and has several VIP trips stacked up for the summer.

Dee Williams announced that the new director for USGS, James F. Reilly, is a petroleum geologist and former astronaut and will be visiting Alaska in July. The USGS is also hosting a Sea Grant fellow.

Larry Hartig shared that there is a state climate change working group at the cabinet level focused on short-term actions to get the best information possible in assessing communities most at risk.

Jim Kendall said that BOEM is finalizing the National Environmental Policy Act document for the Liberty Environmental Impact Statement. The Record of Decision for that will come this fall.

Brad Moran noted that UAF is looking to improve facilities at the Seward Marine Center, reorganize the leadership of the Ocean Acidification Research Center, and hire a new director for Alaska Sea Grant.

Ginny Eckert announced the Wakefield Fisheries Meeting scheduled for May 2019 in Anchorage.

Theresa Peterson mentioned that the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council held an Ecosystem Research workshop last February in Seattle with a full report available at the June meeting.

Katrina Hoffman announced that the Oil Spill Recovery Institute is looking for ideas for a \$100K project identifying new prevention and response capabilities in Arctic and sub-Arctic regions and that the Prince William Sound Science Center has a project on the lower Copper River operating a sonar fish counter.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00pm.