

Latest news on AOS activities.

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Fall E-NEWS



20 Years of IOOS Celebrated at OceanObs'19

The Alaska Ocean Observing System (AOS) joined 10 other regional ocean observing systems around the US coast and Great Lakes in celebrating the 20th anniversary of the first concrete steps taken toward establishing the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) in 1999. A celebration of the anniversary was held in conjunction with the OceanObs'19 conference held in Honolulu, Hawaii in September.

AOS and IOOS had a major presence at the third OceanObs'19 decadal conference

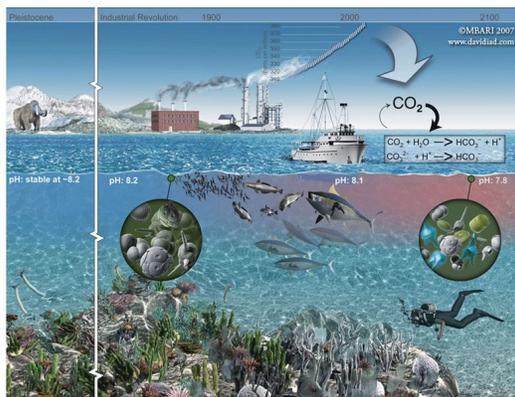
Geographic Scales. Molly also co-lead a breakout session on Arctic observing with US Arctic Observing Network Executive Director Sandy Starkweather. Key recommendations from that session included support for a fully developed and implemented Arctic ocean observing system, consideration of an Arctic Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) node or regional alliance, and support for the inclusion of Indigenous knowledge in Arctic observing and planning.

AOOS Director of Operations, Carol Janzen, was a lead on two peer-reviewed conference papers that are now published in *Frontiers in Marine Science*, available at the following links: <https://tinyurl.com/yxe8v9mh>, and <https://tinyurl.com/y5arjma8>.



AOOS to Review Current Projects and Update Strategic Plan

In preparation for its next five-year cooperative agreement with NOAA, AOOS has begun collecting input from stakeholders, reviewing its current suite of observing activities, and will soon be soliciting new project ideas for 2022-27. The cooperative agreement forms the framework for the next AOOS five-year strategic plan. AOOS will be interested in hearing from Alaskans about emerging ocean and coastal issues and concerns, new and potential projects that fill gaps in ocean observations, and needs for new data tools and products for management and decision support. Stay tuned for more details.



Board of Fish Considers Ocean Acidification



New Catalog added to Ocean Data Explorer

organized the first ever briefing on ocean acidification to the Alaska Board of Fish at their October 23 meeting in Anchorage. Bob Foy, NOAA's Alaska Fisheries Science Center Director and Toby Schwoerer of University of Alaska Anchorage's Institute for Social and Economic Research gave a compelling presentation on the current status of ocean acidification in Alaska. The network plans to ensure the latest OA information is conveyed to the board on a regular basis. Later that evening the network sponsored a public presentation and question and answer session facilitated by AOOs staff and network director Darcy Dugan, which expanded on the material covered during the day, including a new project on ocean acidification and Alaska salmon.

worked with Audubon on a project funded by the Moore Foundation to add the Audubon Ecological Atlas of the Bering, Chukchi, and Beaufort Seas, an online catalog of ecologically-relevant data covering the Bering, Chukchi, and Beaufort Seas to the Ocean Data Explorer. The atlas includes physical data; biological data including fish, birds, and mammals; and informational layers on human uses of these areas. The data can be accessed, mapped, and downloaded through a [searchable catalog](#).

White House Summit on Partnerships in Ocean Science & Technology



Executive Director Molly McCammon and Director of the US IOOS Program Office, Carl Gouldman.

14 to share ideas about increasing public-private partnerships to enhance ocean research and the blue economy. AOS Executive Director Molly McCammon and IOOS Program Director Carl Gouldman represented the IOOS ocean observing community. The gathering, hosted by the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Council on Environmental Quality, was a high-profile means to foster new partnerships, identify opportunities to build partnerships that advance marine science, promote new technologies, and explore the unknown ocean.

The summit was followed by the release on Tuesday, November 19 of a Presidential Memorandum on Ocean Mapping of the United States Exclusive Economic Zone and the Shoreline and Nearshore of Alaska. In the Presidential Memorandum, President Trump directed Federal agencies to develop a national strategy to map the United States Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and a strategy to map the Alaskan coastline to advance our understanding of our oceans and coastlines and to promote efficient permitting related to ocean exploration activities. For a fact sheet on the Presidential Memorandum, click [here](#).

UN Decade of Ocean Science

Ocean scientists and managers around the world, including from Alaska, are now making plans in preparation for the UN Decade of Ocean Science 2021-2030. The United Nations has proclaimed a Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) to support efforts to reverse the cycle of decline in ocean health and gather ocean stakeholders worldwide behind a common framework that will ensure ocean science can fully support countries in creating improved conditions for sustainable development of the Ocean.

Arctic planning sessions are scheduled for

- January 29, 2020: Arctic Ocean Decade Policy-Business-Science-Dialogue, Tromsø, Norway, hosted by Research Council of Norway and Arctic Frontiers; and
- April 29-May 1, 2020: Regional Arctic Ocean Decade Planning Workshop, Copenhagen, Denmark, hosted by Danish Centre for Marine Research.

As part of the planning process, AOS Executive Director Molly McCammon participated in the North Pacific planning session at the request of PICES (the North Pacific Marine Science Organization) in Tokyo, Japan in late July. Molly spoke about issues relating to sea ice, coastal erosion, rapid ecosystem changes, ocean acidification, and harmful algal blooms. Work groups developed research priorities for issues ranging from sea level rise and tsunamis, to harmful algal blooms and sustainable fishing. For more information about the UN Decade, see: <https://en.unesco.org/ocean-decade>.

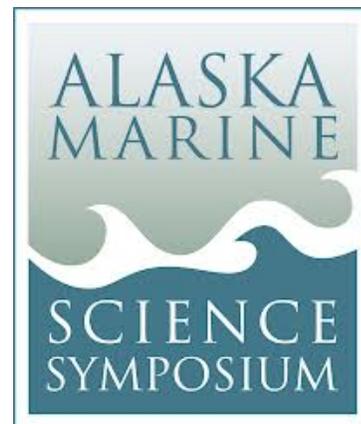


2021 United Nations Decade
2030 of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

AK Marine Science Symposium January 27-31

The 26th annual Alaska Marine Science Symposium (AMSS) begins in Anchorage, Alaska January 27, 2020. AOOS is one of the organizations helping organize the event, which is Alaska's premier marine research conference bringing together scientists, educators, resource managers, students, and interested public to discuss the latest marine research conducted in Alaska waters.

Many of this year's conference presentations will highlight the dramatic changes happening in the Alaska's marine ecosystems. Keynote presentations on Monday, January 27 include Dr. Francisco (Cisco) Werner, Chief Science Advisor for NOAA Fisheries, and Maija Lukin, Western Arctic Parklands Superintendent, and a native of Kotzebue, Alaska.



About AOOS

The mission of AOOS is to address regional and national needs for ocean information, gather specific data on key coastal and ocean variables, and ensure timely and sustained dissemination and availability of these data.

Questions? Email Communications Director Holly Kent, kent@aoos.org
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