

HIGHLIGHTS

2019 AMSS – This year’s AK Marine Science Symposium, Jan 28-31 was both a logistical challenge – and a huge success. The entire AOOS team was involved in planning and hosting the annual meeting along with NPRB and other partners. The shutdown required us non-feds to do more.....and to find alternate speakers and volunteers for our federal colleagues who were not able to participate. There were 650 people registered to attend but those numbers were affected by the shut-down and final numbers are still being calculated. Despite the reduced numbers there was still a lot of great science sharing and researcher interactions. This is always such a great time to network with Alaska’s marine research and monitoring community. Some highlights from our perspectives:

Molly: I chair the keynote committee and was grateful to Suzanne Strom for stepping in to replace one of the USGS keynotes who was not able to be here in time. The keynotes were excellent, highlighting the new Gulf of Alaska Long Term Ecological Reserve, the legacy of science following the 1989 *Exxon Valdez* oil spill, an update on Alaska weather and climate – what we had and what we can experience, and a description of how to tell a science story to a public audience. We also hosted a town hall on the results of our coordination efforts last year to increase monitoring for a potential Harmful Algal Bloom event.

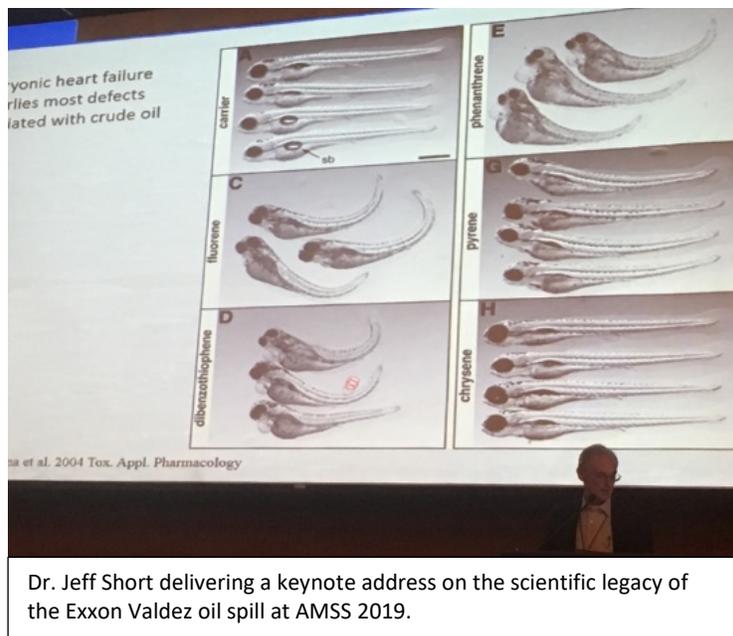
Darcy: There were five ocean acidification talks and five posters at AMSS this year. Since many people couldn’t come, I recorded the talks and will be posting both the talks and the posters on the Alaska OA Network website. We held two meetings for a new NOAA-funded project on ocean acidification and salmon. The interdisciplinary group of PIs met for the first time in person and firmed up plans to look at the implications of OA and potential management regimes on pink salmon in the Gulf of Alaska. Our Alaska OA Network steering committee meeting scheduled for Monday was cancelled as most of our members were unable to travel.

Holly: I worked with the Communicating Ocean Sciences Committee to bring the American Geophysical Union’s Sharing Sciences presenter Shane Hanlon to Anchorage to deliver a one-day workshop on science communication on the Sunday before AMSS. The committee also brought Jude Isabella, Author and Chief Editor of Hakai Magazine, to Anchorage to deliver the Communicating Ocean Sciences Workshop. Jude gave the audience of 78 participants a brief training on writing science for a non-scientist audience. AOOS partnered with Axiom Data Science to host an exhibit table at the two poster sessions. The exhibit table featured live demonstration of the AOOS Ocean Data Explorer portal and data products.

Carol presented a poster on repurposing AIS vessel tracking data into a valuable data asset for decision support. The original purpose of the AIS was collision avoidance, but many other information applications have since developed including recent interest in using historical AIS data records for resource management and oil spill response planning and identifying changing patterns in vessel traffic in an emerging ice-free Arctic.

CONFERENCES/MEETINGS

All AMSS – see above!



ADMINISTRATIVE

Impacts of shutdown – AOOS is not a federal agency, and therefore, we were not furloughed or shut down. We were able to access all of our 2018 funding. We had a few grant management issues and weren't able to get these fixed by our NOAA grants office. However, we all experienced loss of contact with our federal colleagues, cancellation of meetings, delayed work on proposals and projects, etc. Our national IOOS office was completely shut down, and their staff are behind schedule on a number of issues. We are so happy that the government has re-opened and hope this doesn't happen again!

Staff Retreat – AOOS staff met Jan 15-16 to start preparing for our next 5-year cooperative agreement with NOAA. Discussion focused on: how to assess current projects and develop recommendations for what continues; how to solicit new project ideas; and how to engage stakeholders in new initiatives such as plastics in marine environment and greater connections between ecosystem time series.

Proposal Development – AOOS is helping facilitate development of a statewide proposal to enhance the AK Harmful Algal Bloom Network. The proposal deadline has been delayed until Feb. 28. AOOS is also working with a few other investigators on NSF Navigating the New Arctic proposals.

FY 2019 AOOS budget – We still don't have our budget numbers yet, but anticipating a possible small increase, or some carryover funds from this year, we will soon be circulating a narrowly focused RFP to garner ideas for small projects or equipment purchases (\$10K-\$40Kish). These will then be compiled and given to the AOOS board when they meet later this spring to finalize our June 1, 2019 – May 31, 2020 work plan.

IOOS

Nothing to report due to govt shutdown.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

COL Public Policy Forum Planning – Molly is a Consortium for Ocean Leadership trustee and serves on the planning committee for the COL 2019 Public Policy Forum entitled: *U.S. Ocean Policy: Past, Present, and Future*, which will look back at the recommendations of the US Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Ocean Commission, and trace implementation and evolution over the past 15 years.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

NAS project – This project used AIS vessel tracking data and subsistence harvest area data for 3 North Slope communities to input into an Arctic Oil Spill Risk Assessment product and is now completed. The final report was submitted to the National Academy of Sciences on January 30. You can find out more about the project and results on the AOOS website: <https://aoot.org/ais-oil-spill-support/>

OUTREACH

New ocean acidification resources – The Alaska OA Network launched a page on "[What you can do](#)". Also new: a hands-on kit for ocean acidification experiments which is now available for high school teachers in the Anchorage School District.

DATA MANAGEMENT

In addition to the AOOS Ocean Data Explorer, AOOS provides access to data subsets through regional or thematic portals (available at: <https://aoot.org/aoot-data-resources/>). With the exception of the Arctic Portal, the portals have been migrated to the version 2.9 to improve data search, access and visualization. Detailed information and an interactive guide can be found in the Help menu in the portal tool bar. Release notes detailing the features updates are available at: <https://axiomdatascience.com/portal-updates/>

Axiom Data Science attended the Alaska Marine Science Symposium to host three workshops focused on data tools leveraging the AOOS data system. New this year was the JUPYTER NOTEBOOK BOOTCAMP, which provided hands-on experience for creating reproducible analysis and data visualizations for AOOS data accessed through the Research Workspace. The Metadata 411 workshop provided an overview on how to write metadata to describe scientific datasets. Last, Axiom held Metadata Office Hours which offered one-on-one data management assistance for researchers working on storing, documenting, and sharing their project data. All three workshops were held concurrent to AMSS science talks, which limited the participation by conference attendees. Axiom plans to offer these workshops again in 2020 and not overlap with presentations to increase participation.

Axiom, in collaboration with IOOS, ONR, and AOOS, has developed a prototype of the Animal Telemetry Network portal to provide access to real-time and delayed mode animal movement data. The prototype is undergoing internal testing and bug fixes and is planned for public release in March 2019. The data portal will be available at: <https://atn.ioos.us/>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 11-15** **AK Forum on the Environment (Holly, Darcy, Kayla, Molly)**
- Feb 15** **AK Harmful Algal Bloom Network workshop (Darcy, Kayla, Molly)**
- Feb 16** **AK Marine Gala, Ocean Leadership Awards**
- Feb 18-20** **United Fishermen of AK, Juneau (Darcy and Molly)**
- Feb 20-21** **AK Sea Grant Oil Spill conference (Molly)**
- Feb 22-24** **Tsunami Bowl, Seward**
- March 4-6** **Japan - U.S. Arctic Science Collaboration: Reflections on the Past Two Decades and Future Opportunities (Carol)**
- March 13-15** **Consortium for Ocean Leadership public policy forum & spring meeting, WA DC (Molly)**
- March 19-21** **IOOS Program spring meeting WA DC (Molly & Katrina Hoffman)**
- March 21-22** **IOOS Federal Advisory Committee, WA DC (Molly)**

Molly, Carol, Holly, Darcy, Kayla, and Stacey