

AOOS Board Meeting
November 2, 2018
Meeting Summary prepared by Kayla Schommer
Finalized at board meeting May 22, 2019

Board members present: Tara Riemer (ASLC), Katrina Hoffman (PWSSC-OSRI), Paul Webb (USCG), Ed Page (MXAK), Dee Williams (USGS), Mike Miller (IPCoMM), Theresa Peterson (NPFMC), Cheryl Rosa (USARC), Heather Brandon (ASG)

Board members present by phone: Jim Kendall (BOEM), Betsy Baker (NPRB), Amy Holman (NOAA Region), Larry Hartig (ADEC), Margaret Williams (WWF)

AOOS staff present: Molly McCammon, Darcy Dugan, Carol Janzen, Holly Kent, Kayla Schommer

Others by phone: Josie Quintrell (IOOS Association)

Meeting called to order at 1:06 pm at the Sitka Sound Fine Arts Campus by AOOS Board Chair Katrina Hoffman.

Adoption of Agenda

Action Item: 110218 draft meeting agenda approved unanimously.

Adoption of Prior Meeting Minutes

Action Item: July 31, 2018 AOOS EX COM meeting summary was approved unanimously. *Motion by Dee Williams, second by Ed Page.*

UPDATE on AOOS Activities by Molly McCammon, Executive Director

Molly provided an overview of recent and upcoming AOOS activities and participation in state, national, and international level initiatives.

Alaska Activities

- The **AK Climate Leadership & Strategy Team**, of which Molly is a member, made their final recommendations to the governor in September. It is unclear what the future of the team will look like with a new governor in December.
- The **Nome wave and current buoy** was successfully deployed and retrieved; outreach and training on how to use the data is ongoing.
- Over a million dollars was received by the State of Alaska from the **NOAA Ocean Coastal Management Program** to do coastal mapping projects in Alaska.
- NOAA's **Hydrographic Services Review Panel and IOOS Advisory Committee meeting** was held in Juneau in August. It provided a great opportunity to have the hydrologic and IOOS communities talk about joint concerns.
- An ad-hoc effort to get ahead of **HABs events in the Bering Strait** was put into place this summer. AOOS helped coordinate and enhance research in the area both in the nearshore areas for Kotzebue, Nome and Barrow, and on ships that were already going through the Bering Strait. No major HAB outbreaks occurred but hotspots were found in the Chukchi Sea. Next steps include further coordinating and discussing how we get information back to the communities in a timely manner.

National Activities & Upcoming Events

- IOOS Association fall meeting was held in Annapolis.
- In June, Molly testified on Arctic marine infrastructure needs at the House of Representatives Coast Guard Subcommittee hearing.
- Molly gave a keynote address at the **Arctic Observation Summit** in Davos, Switzerland in June.
- Molly also gave a keynote address in October at the **Oceanology International Conference** in Qingdao, China.

- Molly will be attending and representing AOS at the **American Geophysical Union's** annual meeting in December in Washington DC.

UPDATE on IOOS activities by Josie Quintrell, Executive Director of IOOS Association

Josie provided updates on emerging issues, special projects, policy meetings, future funding, the reauthorization of the ICOOS Act, and progress on Regional Association certification (all 11 RAs are now certified!).

UPDATE on Alaska Ocean Acidification Network by Darcy Dugan, AOS staff and network director

Darcy Dugan provided an update on the network:

- The most extensive ferry carbon dioxide system in North America is in place on an Alaska Marine Highway System ferry due to key partnerships in the area.
- The Network is partnering across the state to provide support on community-based water sampling for OA.
- Bivalve research on the effects of OA on cockles and little neck clams is being completed in partnership with UAF and Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery.
- OA science kits will be distributed to local high schools this academic year.
- The Alaska Climate Integrated Model (ACLIM) is working on modeling and forecasting climate change in the Bering Sea from physics to fishing communities. They will be adding a carbon layer soon.
- Recent network outreach includes: a monthly newsletter, scientist interviews, new pop-up displays, Yakutat community roundtable and a booth and panel at the Pacific Marine Expo.
- A state of the science 8-pager on OA in Alaska was produced with the help of scientists and fishermen.

UPDATE on Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network by Kayla Schommer, AOS staff

Kayla Schommer an Alaska Sea Grant Fellow placed with AOS, has taken on the role of AHAB network coordinator for the state. She gave an update on the network:

- The AHAB network has grown to 63 members since starting in 2017.
- The network is applying for a \$3 million dollar MERHAB grant focused on increasing capacity and monitoring within the state.
- There will be a HABS poster at the Alaska Marine Science Symposium in January 2018.
- A full HABS presentation will be given at the Alaska Forum on the Environment in February 2018.
- An in-person AHAB Network workshop is planned for February 15 in Anchorage.
- AOS has been working with NOAA's Arctic Program and Alaska Sea Grant to help coordinate Arctic sampling efforts for HABS, thanks to funding from the US Arctic Research Commission and AOS.

UPDATE on Alaska Water Level Watch by Carol Janzen, AOS Operations Director

Carol Janzen gave an update on the Alaska Water Level Watch program:

- Progress is being made on both the ASTRA and UNAVCO GPS reflectometry pilot projects.
- Future GPS plans include remote installations and UNAVCO data distribution.
- The Alaska Water Level Watch Website does not have a data portal connection yet.
- The Alaska Water Level Watch data portal is being developed to serve a variety of data sources. It will be qualified with codes that indicate the quality level of the data and will provide tools and products similar to NOAA CO-OPS products but focused on Alaska.
- Carol feels Alaska should be ready to commit to additional use of GPS technology because it is unique and has a lot of advantages for people in remote places.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Officer Elections

The AOOS nominating committee, made up of Dee Williams, Betsy Baker and Brad Moran recommended renewing the current slate of existing and acting officers.

Action item: To renew all current officer positions for the next two years, until November 2020: Katrina Hoffman, Chair; Ed Page, Vice-Chair; Cheryl Rosa, Secretary; and Jim Kendall, BOEM. *Motion by Mike Miller, second by Dee Williams.*

Budget Revisions

HABs Sampling

Earlier this year at its May 11 meeting, the AOOS Board approved the use of \$3k from program supplies or other category (as available) in the H2400 Year 2 budget for Bering Strait HABs sample analysis and equipment. Based on more detailed work plans and budgets, the amount needed is actually \$12k.

Action item: To increase the amount of funds available for HABs sampling from \$3k to \$12k from the personnel fringe category in the H2400 year 2 budget. *Motion by Dee Williams, second by Cheryl Rosa.*

Funds for ASTRA contract for GPS data processing

Funds are needed from the NWS water level line item to ASTRA LLC for a contract to develop a data processing algorithm package for up to 5 UNAVCO GPS stations, including St. Michael. The St. Michael station was installed and is reporting GPS data in real-time, but an algorithm needs to be developed so Axiom can then report water level data in near-real time. At the same time, ASTRA will develop similar algorithms for the other UNAVCO stations that are coastal and of interest for water levels.

Actions item: To contract with ASTRA LLC for UNAVCO data processing algorithms, using \$15k of NWS water level funds. *Motion by Theresa Peterson, second by Ed Page.*

Budget Addition Options

The IOOS Regional Associations were all given \$15k in this years' budget to provide for incorporation of biological data, using new standards, to be incorporated into regional data portals. Most of the regional associations were also given \$75k in this year's IOOS budget to develop new or improve existing observing data streams.

Biology observations and data

Molly and Carol interviewed a number of agency representatives (BOEM, ADF&G, NOAA) and Alaska scientists regarding their need for more access to biological data. They also put out a Request for Ideas notice to solicit ideas for how to spend the \$15k.

Fill the Gaps observations and data

Molly reviewed the status of the current AOOS Strategic Operations Plan to look for recommendations for use of the \$75k add-on. She recommended that a portion of these funds go to Axiom Data Science to develop Phase I of a new AK Water Level Watch data portal that would incorporate Tier B and C data. Phase II and III (and additional \$50k) would hopefully be funded by NOAA CO-OPS and the national IOOS program office. She also recommended funds be potentially used for new wave buoys, AIS stations, or a new sea ice radar.

Action item: Approve using \$25,000 of the \$75,000 discretionary observing funds for a subaward with Axiom Data Science for Phase I development of the AK Water Level Watch Data Portal. *Motion by Holman, second by Baker.*

Action item: The Board directed staff to develop 2 options that would combine the biology data and observation funding, to be presented to the board in January for action. The options are

- 1) Assets & data to support Beaufort Sea offshore oil development and use of the new PARS Beaufort route that could include observing assets such as the sea ice radar, ADCPS, and wave buoys and biological data such as the long-term Arctic cisco study; and
- 2) Assets & data to support northern Bering Sea subsistence and safety concerns in the St. Lawrence Island region that could include observing assets such as AIS and weather stations and biological data such as the COASTT program seabird monitoring program.

Motion by Rosa, Second by Miller. Approved unanimously.

AOOS Organizational Structure

Molly brought up an issue regarding AOOS organizational structure for future board consideration. The AOOS Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was last amended in 2009 when the state joined. There are reasons now to modify that and for AOOS to become its own 501c3 non-profit. Due to AOOS becoming more complicated financially, it would also make sense to find a new financial structure to support the organization. Pending federal reauthorization of the ICOOS act would assist with this effort by ensuring that federal agencies could be active members on IOOS Regional Association Boards. This discussion was more of a “heads-up” for the board, with further action anticipated in the next year.

Ocean Observing Roundtable

- Margaret Williams gave updates on the new director of the Arctic Global Program (Peter Winsor from UAF) and requested an AOOS presence at the Arctic Circle Assembly next year.
- Betsy Baker spoke about the recent SASAP presentation to Senator Sullivan and believes AOOS has a role to play in answering the senator’s question about what research Alaska needs right now.
- Amy Holman announced Bob Foy as the new director for the Alaska Fisheries Science Center and posed the question of how the National Weather Service can support fisheries into the future.
- Dee Williams stated that Alaska is currently a pilot area to test out the current administration’s vision for a unified Department of the Interior. He also announced that Elizabeth Powers has been elected to be science coordinator.
- Heather Brandon spoke about an RFP out for applied research from Alaska Sea Grant.
- Tara Riemer reminded the board that Ocean Leadership Awards are approaching and that nomination deadlines are in a month.
- Theresa Peterson said that the NPFMC is in the process of adopting a Bering Sea Fisheries Ecosystem plan and that it may be beneficial for AOOS to present to the council during their meeting in Anchorage in April.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm. *Motion by D. Williams, second by Ed Page.*