

Latest news on AOS activities.

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## SPRING E-NEWS



### **AOS Director Molly McCammon Moderates Panel on U.S. Ocean Policy**

The Consortium for Ocean Leadership's Public Policy Forum in March focused on U.S. Ocean Policy: Past, Present and Future. Alaska Ocean Observing System (AOS) Executive Director Molly McCammon moderated the "Present" panel discussion on U.S. Ocean Policy Today, analyzing the current state of U.S. ocean policy. Panelists included Deerin Babb-Brott, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy; Tony MacDonald, Monmouth University; Alan Mix, Oregon State University; and Lora Snyder, U.S. House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee.

[Read more](#)





## Alaska OA Network presents to packed audience in Juneau

The Alaska Ocean Acidification Network hosted a public presentation in Juneau in February with the support of local partners. NOAA researchers Jessica Cross and Bob Foy covered topics ranging from expected geographic hotspots to lab response of individual species. Allison Bidlack from the University of Alaska's Coastal Rainforest Center reported on the partnership with the Alaska Marine Highway to sample for OA in Southeast Alaska using an Alaska state ferry. The event was facilitated by AOOS staff and network director Darcy Dugan, who discussed the role of the Alaska OA Network and resources that are currently available. An engaged audience asked questions for over 40 minutes. If you are interested in a presentation on OA to your community or organization, email [dugan@aoos.org](mailto:dugan@aoos.org).



## New High Frequency Radars in the Bering Strait Region

AOOS is moving forward from planning to implementation of the first trials of high frequency radar (HFR) deployments in the Bering Strait region. By using the Doppler shift of radio waves reflected off the ocean surface, HFR generates real-time maps of ocean surface currents. Equipment for the HFR power systems and the HFR instruments themselves were ordered this past winter and are now arriving and being assembled and tested at UAF's College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences. First data collections are scheduled to begin in May or early June in Shishmaref, depending on weather conditions. These instruments will assist in oil spill cleanup planning and responses, in search and rescue operations, and in scientific assessments of the currents that carry waters from the Bering Sea into the Arctic. They will be key assets for improving navigation safety in the Bering Strait region. For more info email [janzen@aoos.org](mailto:janzen@aoos.org).

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## Alaska Water Level Watch

Fluctuations of the tides as well as wind driven setup and coastal storm surge result in changes in water levels in the nearshore coastal zone. Tracking these changes and providing real-time water level data are necessary efforts for supporting local maritime activities, monitoring coastal storms that result in flooding and erosion and improving navigation

(AWLW) is a collaborative group working to improve the quality, coverage, and accessibility to water level observations in Alaska's coastal zone. AWLW recently held the third Alaska Water Level Meeting to discuss planned activities for 2019 and priorities for future deployments. Updates to these activities are available in an interactive ArcGIS Online Story Map (available at: <http://arcg.is/0qgjDm>).

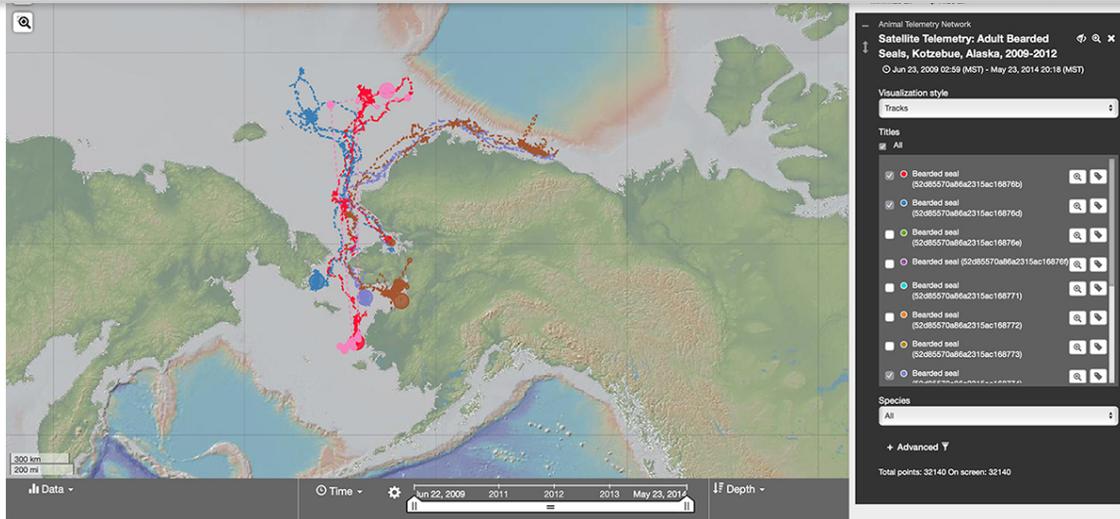


Carven Scott (Director, Alaska Region NWS) and Leona Grishkowsky (Mayor, City of Unalakleet) cut a ribbon to unveil the newest Alaska NWLON at Unalakleet (photo credit: Ed Plumb, 2017).

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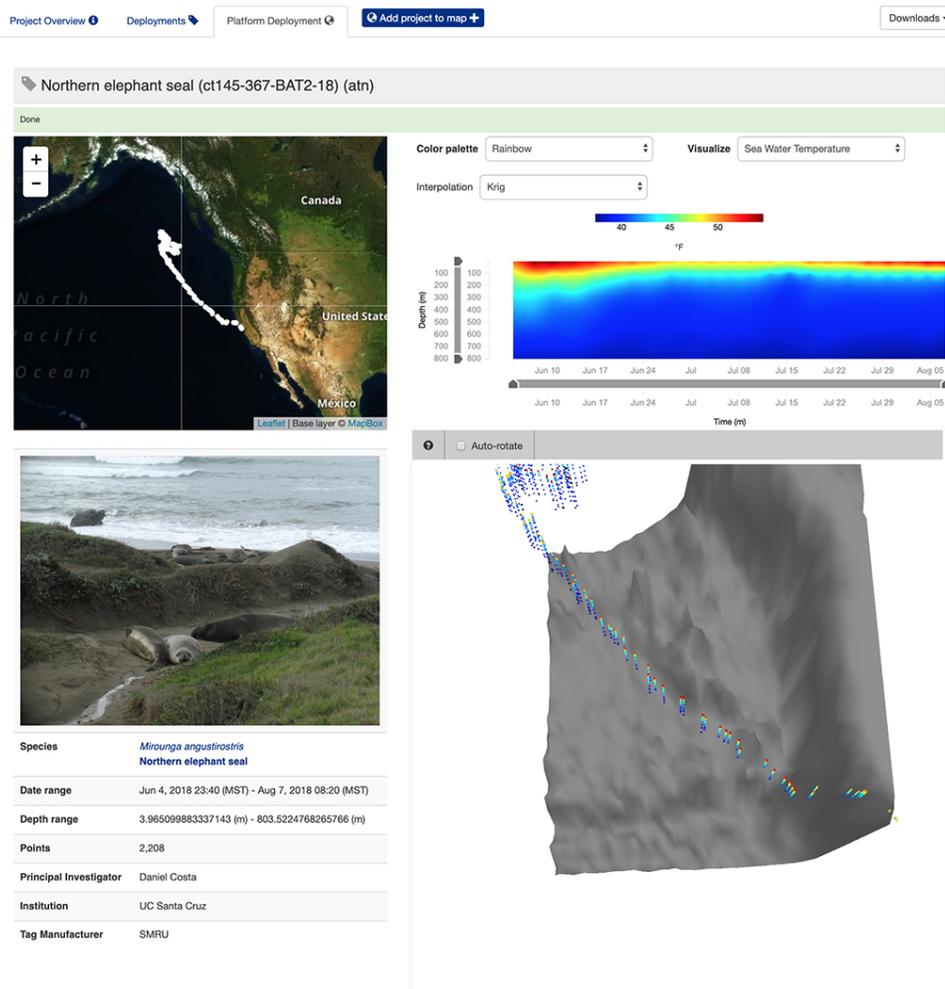
## New ATN Data Portal

Animal telemetry track data can now, as of May 1 2019, be viewed and accessed in the “new” ATN data portal: <https://portal.atn.ioos.us>. The U.S. Animal Telemetry Network (ATN) is an alliance among Federal and non - Federal partners to maximize collaborations and access to animal telemetry data and products to help inform decisions related to ecosystem-based management and marine planning. The core of the ATN data management system is its operational Data Assembly Center (DAC), managed by AOOS and its technical partner, Axiom Data Science. The role of the ATN DAC is to provide a central platform for access and sharing of telemetry data and products using IOOS DMAC data standards and services. Telemetry community researchers can become data contributing members of the ATN to share, visualize, and archive their data using these services. For more information on the ATN DAC or to register your tagged data visit: <https://atn.ioos.us/>.



**Figure 1.** The tracks of seven bearded seals tagged in the Chukchi Sea from July 2009 to 2012. [View these tracks in the ATN data portal.](#)

### Northern Elephant Seal Study, 2018



**Figure 2.** The track of an elephant seal outfitted with a satellite tag on the central California coast and traveling to the Gulf of Alaska to forage. This particular tag (designed by the Sea Mammal Research Unit) transmits location, depth, and temperature and salinity profiles. [Interact with these profile data in the ATN data portal.](#)

## Yukon River Chinook Run Timing

The early-look forecast of run timing for Yukon River Chinook salmon indicates an early to average run. This forecast, prepared and reviewed by Bryce Mecum, Jordan Watson, and Phil Mundy with data management and web page support by Will Koeppen at Axiom is the result of a collaboration between NOAA, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and AOS ongoing for more than five years. This information may be used by fishery managers, residents of Yukon River communities, and others to estimate when the Chinook salmon run will arrive on the delta and how it will develop through June and July. The forecast relies on the previously-published relationship between the timing of the run and April air temperatures at the Nome, AK airport. Years with warm April air temperatures typically co-occur with early to average run timing and years with cooler April air temperatures typically co-occur with later run timing. For more information visit: <https://tinyurl.com/y3a3ce34>.



## AOS Board Meeting May 22

AOS will hold its Spring Meeting on May 22 from 9am to 5pm in the Glenn Olds conference room, USGS, 4210 University Dr. on the APU campus, Anchorage, AK.



### About AOS

The mission of AOS 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@aos.org](mailto:kent@aos.org)  
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