



Alaska Ocean Observing System  
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**AOS 5-YEAR IOOS PROGRAM 2021-2026  
REQUEST FOR NEW PROJECT IDEAS**  
**Please respond by April 10, 2020 to [janzen@aos.org](mailto:janzen@aos.org)**

The Alaska Ocean Observing System (AOS) is inviting new project ideas to include in our proposal for the next 5-Year cooperative agreement with NOAA's Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS).

**Background:** AOS will be submitting a proposal for \$5-6 million per year for 5 years (June 1, 2021 – May 31, 2026). The proposal will reflect our priorities for the coming years and form the basis of a new strategic operations plan. Funding is decided by Congress on an annual basis, and we are unlikely to receive the full amount included in the proposal for each year. AOS is working with IOOS to increase the program's annual funding level and seeking funding from other sources. Existing projects will be evaluated over the next few months for continuation and new projects will be added to our regional observing program plan. We would like your help.

**Soliciting new ideas:** AOS plans to increase in funding for the next five-year period for such items as new observation projects, ongoing AOS build-out initiatives (e.g., water level, wave and meteorological station installations in areas with data gaps), equipment purchases or upgrades, modeling, data rescue projects, and data product development (e.g., including phone apps for accessing real-time data). The use of funds needs to fall within the AOS mission described in the [AOS Strategic Operations Plan \(SOP\)](#).

**There are two ways you can provide feedback for new project ideas:** Individuals can submit multiple project ideas; either as a brief project description, or by using the Statement of Work and Budget Template that provides more details including cost estimates. Project descriptions for both approaches cannot exceed 4 pages.

1. **Provide a brief description of the project idea for the next 5-year AOS program** This format is best for ideas to be implemented by AOS or others, not the person proposing the project idea. Just provide as much information as you have or are considering. The project idea should be related to the [AOS SOP](#) focus areas.

Example 1: You would like to suggest that Bristol Bay and Kodiak Harbor need a real time wave buoys somewhere outside the harbor but near the approach to the harbor, but you do not know specifics (exact location, what type of system to utilize, exact costs). You also do not plan to be the one asking for funds to implement this. You just want to suggest more wave buoys in these two (or more) harbors. You can write this idea down and send this to AOS for consideration. We can fill in the blanks or contact you if we have questions.

Example 2: You know that AOS has some terrestrial based AIS vessel tracking information in the data portal that covers the nearshore waters, but you think it needs to be updated to include satellite data to cover offshore waters. This will provide a comprehensive view of how vessel traffic is changing in nearshore and offshore waters in the AK region.

Example: You think AOS should support increased community monitoring capability for Harmful Algal Bloom detection efforts. Priority communities are A, B and C. Perhaps provide

suggestions on how to do this, if anybody else is doing it, and/or how it might be done in A, B and C communities. Or you may want to request better information sharing in the form of online data tools that help communities assess their risk. What would that look like?

2. **Use the AOOs 5-Year IOOS Program 2021-2026 [Request for New Project Ideas Template](#)** Please use this format for a more formal project idea with details on how it would be implemented and approximate costs. Use this format if you are the one requesting funding for the project. Budgets can be estimates.

**Process for review and inclusion in the 5-year proposal:** This non-competitive proposal process is an opportunity for you to provide input as a regional ocean observing expert or community member, and propose new or expanded project idea(s) for consideration for the 2021-2026 IOOS cooperative agreement.

Project ideas will be reviewed by an independent panel of subject matter experts, who will assess the proposals based on their relevance to the current AOOs Strategic Plan, impact to the AOOs program, leveraging and partnerships associated with the proposed project, production of useful coastal ocean information/data/products for the region, and cost effectiveness. Proposers will have an opportunity to provide additional information or a revised project with more details upon request. Favorably reviewed project ideas will then be selected for inclusion in the 5-year program contingent upon funding.

The AOOs Board will review final recommendations made by the review panel and decide on the final proposed program prior to proposal submittal later this year.

Submitting a proposal or project idea does not guarantee the project will be included in the 5-year program. If it is included in the proposed 5-year program, this does not guarantee it will be funded, as year to year funding remains congressionally controlled and can vary annually. We hope you consider submitting your project ideas for this planning effort.

Please submit your brief project descriptions and/or proposal template to Carol Janzen, ([janzen@aos.org](mailto:janzen@aos.org)) no later than **COB Friday April 10, 2020.**