

Alaska Native Organizations Board Seats Informational Package 2024



Overview of AOOS Structure

What is AOOs?

▪ Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS)

- NOAA-funded program, but NOT NOAA!
- 1 of 11 Regional Associations
- Operating since 2003

▪ AOOs organizational setup

- Mission is to increase observing and forecasting capacity in all regions of Alaska
- Board of federal and state agencies, academic institutions, research facilities, industry, non-profits, tribal
- Operates as a non-profit (with Alaska SeaLife Center as fiscal sponsor)
- 9 staff members

▪ AOOs observing activities are highly leveraged

- Partners are essential for successful for ocean observing in our region



State Agency

- **Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC):**
Megan Kohler
- **Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G):** Kathrine Howard
- **Department of Natural Resources (DNR):** John Crowther

Federal Agency

- **NOAA:** Amy Holman
- **US Coast Guard (USCG):** Jennifer Whitcomb
- **US Geological Survey (USGS):** Dee Williams
- **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM):** Sharon Randall

State/Federal

- **Alaska Sea Grant:** Ginny Eckert

Industry

- **Marine Exchange of Alaska (MXAK):** Steve White
- **North Pacific Management Council (NPFMC):** TBD
- **Hilcorp Alaska:** Chuck Wheat

Research Entities:

- **University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF):** Brad Moran
- **North Pacific Research Board (NPRB):** Lynn Palensky
- **Prince William Sound Science Center (PWSSC):** Katrina Hoffman
- **NOAA Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC):** Bob Foy
- **Alaska SeaLife Center (ASLC):** Wei Ying Wong

Environmental NGO:

- **Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS):** Martin Robards

Indigenous:

- **Indigenous Peoples Council on Marine Mammals (IPCoMM):** Mike Miller
- **Prospective For-Profit Alaska Native Organization:** TBD
- **Prospective Non-Profit Alaska Native Organization:** TBD
- **Prospective Tribal Authorized Government:** TBD

Examples of Current ANO Partnerships & Projects

Examples of Current ANO Partnerships

- **Backyard Buoys** (<https://backyardbuoys.org>) partnering with Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC)
- **Sea Ice for Walrus Outlook** (<https://www.arcus.org/siwo>) partnering with Eskimo Walrus Commission and Arctic Consortium of the US
- **Arctic Watch Program** (<https://arcticwatch.org/>) partnering with Marine Exchange of Alaska and Kawarek
- **Skipper Science** (<https://www.skipperscience.org/>) partnering with Aleut Community of St. Paul Island and National Weather Service
- **Alaskan Arctic Observatory & Knowledge Hub** (<https://arctic-aok.org/>) partnering with UAF and Alaskan Arctic coastal community residents
- **Nalaquq LLC**
 - Salmon counts using drones: <https://nalaquq.com/portfolio/salmon-fish-count/>
 - Buoy/drifters: <https://nalaquq.com/portfolio/sofar-buoy-project/>

Examples of Current ANO Partnerships

- **Community sampling** with Sitka, Kodiak, and Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute
 - Ocean acidification (OA): <https://aoan.aos.org/monitoring/community-sampling/>
 - Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs): <https://ahab.aos.org/how-we-monitor/>
- **Story Map of Data Needs for Coastal Resilience in Y-K Delta**
 - Led by UAF working with Y-K Delta environmental coordinators
- **Bering Science publication**
 - (<https://aos.org/project/bering-sea-ocean-data-sharing-initiative/>)
- **New project support using Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funds:**
 - Fisheries biologist for Yukon River Fisheries Drainage Association
 - Coastal resilience specialist in Bethel for Alaska Sea Grant
 - Coastal resilience specialist for Qawalangin Tribe

Other Ways to Support ANOs

▪ **Education**

- ANSEP Middle School Academy
- BARC Science Fair
- Purchase of microscopes for Nome High School

▪ **Travel Support**

- Sponsor registration and travel for conferences/meetings

▪ **Ocean Assets**

- Wave buoys near Cook Inlet and Nome
- Weather stations on AIS receivers
- Water level stations and webcams

▪ **Data Tools**

- AOOS data portal support
- Other support as needed

▪ **People/Project Connector & Convener**

Board Member Duties

Board Expectations

Board Meeting Logistics

- Spring meeting (~April/May)
- Fall meeting (~September/October)
- 1 day each
- Travel reimbursed (airfare, lodging, per diem)
- Stipend if your job does not cover your time

Tasks at Meetings

- Review & approve budgets
- Approve awards
- Input on priorities for AOOS programs & activities
- Approve Board members

Other Tasks

- Serve on committees
- Review & provide input on proposals
- You choose!

Executive Committee

- Chair: Katrina Hoffman, PWSSC
- Vice-Chair: Amy Holman, NOAA
- Treasurer: Dee Williams, USGS
- Secretary: Steve White, MXAK

ANO Board Seat Committee

- Mike Miller, IPCoMM
- Martin Robards, WCS
- Sheyna Wisdom, AOOS
- Alice Bailey, AOOS
- Joni Spiess, AOOS
- Darcy Dugan, AOOS

Other Committees

Data Advisory Group

Regional Ocean Partnership Steering Committee

Alaska Ocean Acidification Network Executive Committee

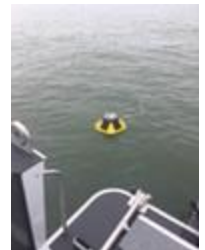
Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network Steering Committee

Alaska Water Level Watch Steering Committee

Overview of AOOS Approach

Overview of AOOs Approach

- **Sustained observations and assets**
 - Moorings
 - Gliders
 - High frequency radars (HFR)
 - Ship surveys
- **Fund/test new and innovative technologies**
 - Coastal hazards assets (water level sensors, Hydroballs)
 - Sofar wave spotter buoys
- **Collaborations and partnerships to find solutions**
 - Collaborative networks
 - Community sampling programs
 - Leverage funding
- **Work with ocean users to collect, use, and show information in a meaningful way**
 - Data portal
 - Incident Response Tools
 - Mariner's dashboards
 - Other products/services



Key Partner Needs

Improve Safety of Marine Operations

- Safety at sea
- Search & rescue
- Spill response & prevention
- Offshore energy

Mitigate Coastal Hazards

- Emergency response & coastal erosion
- Sea level rise & flooding

Track Climate & Ecosystem Trends

- Food security: subsistence, recreational & commercial fishing & hunting
- Commercial & subsistence fishing
- Impacts of climate change

Monitor Water Quality

- Ocean acidification (OA)
- Harmful algal blooms (HABs)
- Invasive species

Develop Data & Information Products to Support the Above

AOOS Data Certification

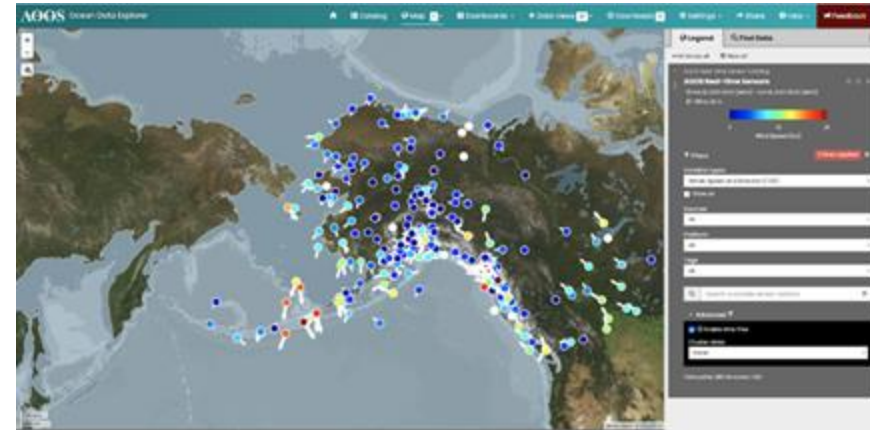
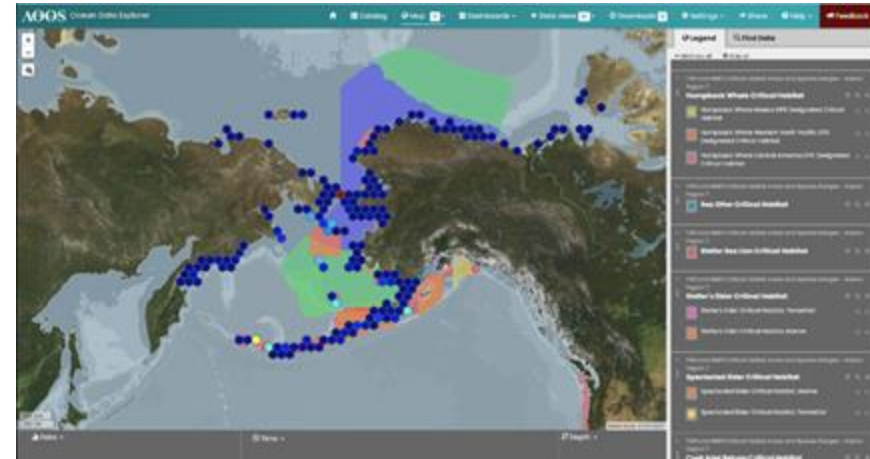


- Certified in 2017 and re-certified in 2023
- Meets federal standards for operations and data management
- 3 employees included under federal liability umbrella
- Public & private sectors can use AOOS data & know it is considered equivalent to federal data
- All 11 IOOS Regional Associations are now certified as regional Data Assembly Centers (DACs)

Making Data Accessible

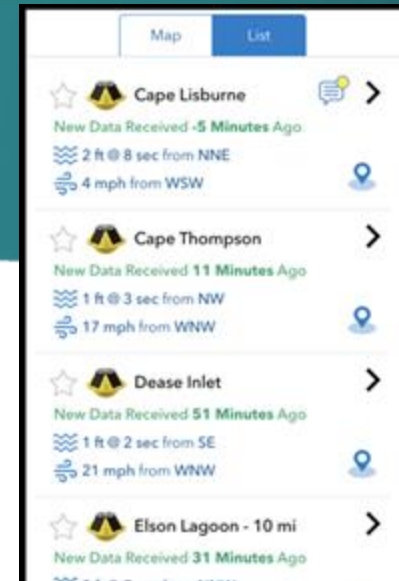
Ocean Data Explorer (<https://portal.aos.org/>)

- **Map View: Integrates & visualizes data**
 - AOS funded projects
 - Real-time sensors
 - Moving platforms
 - Data rescue projects
- **Catalog View: Search & data download**
 - 3000 + data layers
 - Search with keywords
- **Data View: Compare different data streams**



Other Data Resources

- Backyard Buoys Wave Buoy App
- Mariner's Dashboard
 - Portal (<https://aoss.org/portal-highlights-2/real-time-information-for-current-maritime-conditions/>)
 - Dashboard (<https://aoss-demo.thedigteam.tech/>)
- Sea Ice for Walrus Outlook sea ice movement predictions
- Arctic Watch – real time vessel coordination



Collaboration Networks

Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network (AHAB)

<https://ahab.aos.org/>



Alaska Water Level Watch (AWLW)

<https://awlw.aos.org/>



Alaska Ocean Acidification Network (AOAN)

<https://aoan.aos.org/>



Next Steps

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Informational webinar

Ask for nominations of the 4 seats

- Co-Management Organization
- For Profit ANO
- Non-Profit ANO
- Tribal government

Current Board would approve at Oct 23 Board meeting

Questions:

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