

CONFERENCES/MEETINGS/PRESENTATIONS

Alaska Water Level Watch (AWLW) workshop – Carol participated in the AWLW 2019 Annual Meeting April 24 at the Geological Material Center in Anchorage. 30 stakeholders attended the meeting including representatives from academic institutions (US Naval Academy, UAF, OSU, and Notre Dame), NGOs (AK Institute for Justice), state agencies (AKDNR, AKDOT), federal agencies (NOAA, USGS, FEMA) and private companies (ASTRA, LLC, HDR and JOA Surveys). A special presentation was provided by James Rizzo, Assistant Director of Operations for TCOON (Texas Coastal Ocean Observation Network), on how they increased high quality water level observing along the under-sampled Texas Gulf coast. Topics discussed during the meeting included real-time data and tidal datum priorities and plans for the upcoming 1-2 years. This information is being used to update the water level buildout plan, with focus on western and northern Alaska. The group voted to formalize by establishing an executive committee that will guide the group and provide potential for working groups who can help guide future water level planning and research activities. For more information, please visit: <https://aoos.org/alaska-water-level-watch/meetings/2019-meeting/>

Sea Grant site review – Molly presented in Fairbanks April 9 on the wide variety of collaborations between AOOS and AK Sea Grant. The review is held every 5 years by the national Sea Grant office.

ADAC (Arctic Domain Awareness Center) annual meeting – Carol provided a final report presentation to the Department of Homeland Security at the US Coast Guard HQ during the annual ADAC meeting in Washington, DC, April 11-12. Her presentation was on the AIS PAC (AIS for Prioritizing Arctic Charting) which was led by AOOS with partners Axiom and Marine Exchange of Alaska. Several distinguished speakers attended, including Admiral Ray, Vice Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, Assistant Secretary of Commerce and NOAA Deputy Administrator, RDML (Ret) Dr Tim Gallaudet, Acting Deputy DHS S&T Andre Hentz, and DHS S&T Office of Innovation and Collaboration Robert Burns, and provided insights to the need for critical and relevant science, technology, and innovative programs in support of U.S. Coast Guard and other Arctic operators. The AIS PAC project outcomes were well received and many interested parties approached Carol for more information on how to move forward with updating data annually and developing additional data products. For more information on the AIS PAC Project, please visit: <https://aoos.org/ais-4-bathy/>

OA at Bartlett Club and APU – Darcy gave presentations on ocean acidification to an APU climate change course on April 3 and to a meeting of the Bartlett Club on April 11. Both audiences were interactive with lots of questions.

Climate Change and the Seafood Industry – Alaska Ocean Acidification Network co-hosted a discussion with fishing industry representatives in partnership with the Nature Conservancy on April 1 in Anchorage. One of the take-home messages was that fishermen want more certainty and they support the scientific research and monitoring (surveys, species data, etc.) that provides information to fisheries. They also noted that consumers demand sustainability and the industry is taking steps to become more energy efficient. With regard to carbon policy, Alaskans generally need more information on carbon pricing options and what it would mean for Alaska.

ADMINISTRATIVE

AOOS EXCOM – The AOOS Executive Committee met April 10 to conduct Molly’s annual review, which included a report-out on progress with her work plan and performance objectives for the past year. The next year’s work plan will be presented by Molly to the full board at the board’s meeting on May 22.

Briefing for new AOOS Board members – AOOS staff briefed new board member Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, on April 11. Briefings of two other new board members: Jason Brune, Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, and Sara Longan, Deputy Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, will occur in May.



Doug Vincent-Lang



Sara Longan



Jason Brune

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

2019 NOME CDIP Wave Buoy Planning – In July 2018, the Army Corp-funded Coastal Data Information Program (CDIP), AOOS and the Port of Nome successfully deployed a new operational wave and surface current buoy just outside the Port of Nome. This buoy reported real-time wave and current information throughout the summer and fall months before being removed prior to freeze-up. Plans are underway to redeploy this asset as soon as the ice allows, and the buoy is expected to be wet by June. Stay tuned! For more information on this asset, please visit: <https://aoos.org/new-buoy-deployed-near-nome/>

Bering Sea HF Radar Installation Planning – UAF is moving forward from planning to implementation of the first trials of high frequency radar (HFR) deployments in the Bering Strait region. 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 provide spatially extensive surface current observations, and will assist with oil spill cleanup planning and responses and search and rescue operations, and will provide critical scientific information on the currents that transport waters from the Bering Sea into the Arctic.

Coastal mapping strategist – Molly was briefed by Marta Kumle, an AOOS employee at AK Dept of Natural Resources, on the results of a recent survey she conducted to help develop priorities for coastal mapping in Alaska. The results will be used to develop an Alaska coastal mapping strategy for use by federal and state agencies. This is a joint effort of NOAA and ADNR, facilitated by AOOS.

DATA MANAGEMENT

Axiom data review – AOOS and Axiom staff met April 3 for a review of Quarter 3 DMAC activities. Some highlights of the past quarter included:

- Implementation of a v1 dashboard for AOOS sensor station status tracking;
- Release of v2.10 AOOS ODE portal featuring data quality flag display, map layer opacity controls, and updates to the visualization and data handling for mobile platforms;
- Updates to the AOOS data catalog to enhance search and group station parameter and provider result results; and
- Progress on the Tiered Water Level data portal prototype (below).

Tiered water level data portal monthly review – AOOS and Axiom staff are meeting monthly (most recently April 8) with representatives of NOAA CO-OPS (Laura Rear McLaughlin), NOAA NGS (Nic Kinsman), ADNR (Jaci Overbeck), and IOOS Program Office (Tiffany Vance) to review progress of a new prototype Alaska Water Level Watch data portal that AOOS is funded by IOOS and CO-OPs to develop. The portal will incorporate Tier B and C water level data into information products similar to those for Tier A data (from national NWLON tide gauges). Station home pages will be modeled after the CO-OPS Tides & Currents pages for display of real-time and historic water level data (Figure 1). This prototype will also ingest a wide variety of water level data for Alaska from iGages and GPS reflectometry sites, and serve as a model for use elsewhere in the U.S.

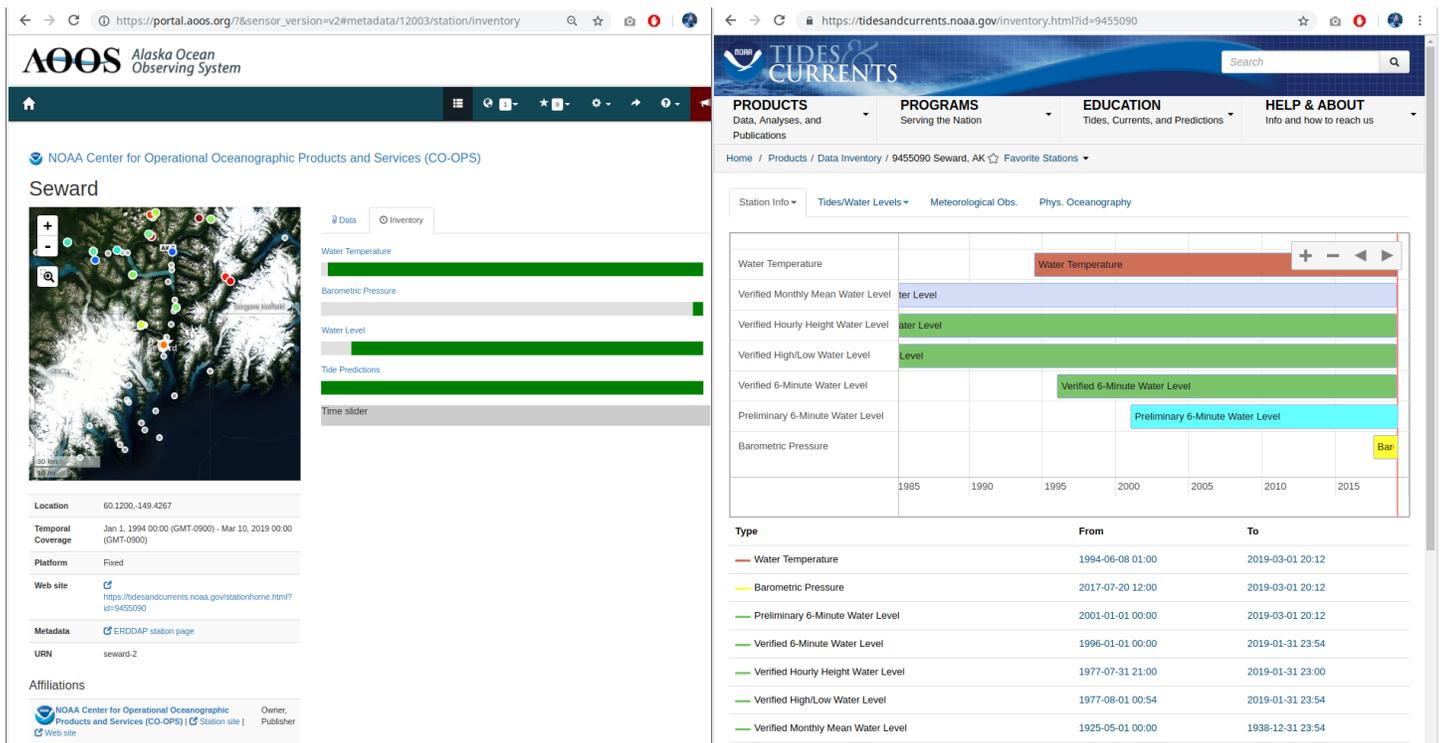


Figure 1. A prototype of the Alaska Water Level Watch that displays inventories of quality-controlled water level data in a similar style to the NOAA CO-OPS Tides & Currents pages.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 6-7 Marine Biodiversity Observing Network Planning Workshop
- May 6-10 SEATOR Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring Workshop
- May 7-10 Wakefield Symposium, Anchorage
- May 8 House Subcommittee hearing on ICOOS Act reauthorization (Molly testify)
- May 8 US Arctic Research Commission meeting, Anchorage
- May 16 BOEM Central Beaufort Sea Wave and Hydrodynamic Modeling Study PI Meeting, Anchorage (Carol, Rob)
- May 16 Alaska OA Network Steering Committee meeting
- May 14-16 NOAA Science Advisory Board's Ecosystem Management Services WG, WA DC (Molly)
- May 22 AOOS Board meeting, Anchorage

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