

AOOS MONTHLY UPDATE

April & May 2024



In May, we had a great staff retreat hosted by the Prince William Sound Science Center in Cordova.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **News of Kenny Down** - We are very sad to pass along the news that Kenny Down, our AOOS Board member and Regional Ocean Partnership (ROP) Steering Committee member, passed away on May 5. He represented the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) in AOOS, and the NPFMC has a nice tribute to him: <https://www.npfmc.org/in-memoriam/>.
- **Spring Board meeting** - AOOS hosted the Spring Board meeting on April 25. Dr. Carl Gouldman (IOOS Program Office Director) and Kristin Yarincik (IOOS Association Executive Director) gave updates on the FY25 Presidential Budget outreach and upcoming IOOS activities. Hannah-Marie Garcia (Aleut Community of St. Paul Island) and Catherine Berchok (NOAA Marine Mammal Lab) gave updates on their AOOS-funded programs. Jill and Darcy gave updates on AOOS programs. Rob gave an Axiom update. The Fall Board meeting will be October 23 in Anchorage.
- **AOOS Staff Retreat** - AOOS staff traveled to Cordova, AK for our annual retreat May 7-8. Special thanks to the Prince William Sound Science Center (Katrina, Rob, and Scott) for the use of the new beautiful facility, older van, and fantastic ride on the R/V *New Wave*. Rob was generous enough to arrange a humpback whale to hang out around the vessel and plenty of sea otters.

IOOS

- Sheyna attended the MARACOOS 20th anniversary events in Washington, D.C. on May 23. We also took the opportunity to meet with Dr. Spinrad, NOAA Administrator, with directors from NANOOS, MERACOOS, NERACOOS, SECOORA, and CARICOOS.

AOOS MONTHLY UPDATE

- AOOS staff is working on reporting for the FY23-24 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) report due June 30 and the core award due July 30; as well as working on the final report to close out the FY16-20 award.
- AOOS staff is also working on the year 4 work plan for our core award, and the proposal for the FY24-27 BIL award due September 3.

COLLABORATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

Conferences

- **Western Alaska Interdisciplinary Science Conference** - Sheyna, Alice, and Jill attended the WAISC conference in Nome April 2-4. Sheyna, along with Martin Edwardson from UIC Science, gave an oral presentation on the Backyard Buoys project. Jill presented a poster on behalf of the Arctic Watch project, and helped organize an informal workshop/gathering for the Arctic Watch project along with Kaare Erickson (Ikaagun Engagement) and Steve White (Marine Exchange of Alaska). We also had many great discussions with other WAISC attendees!
- **Arctic Encounter Symposium** - The team had a booth at the [Arctic Encounter Symposium](#) and Sheyna was on two panels April 10-12 in Anchorage. It was great to connect with others and compare the differences in what AOOS schwag was preferred at the Alaska Marine Science Symposium versus this one!
- **ARCUS Community & Citizen Science in the Far North** - Sheyna presented the Backyard Buoys project at the virtual meeting April 17.
- **Cook Inlet Exercise** - Sheyna participated in the spring Cook Inlet Hilcorp Alaska spill exercise on April 18. Axiom provided details on rip currents in Cook Inlet using the Cook Inlet Incident Response Tool as part of the exercise.
- **Department of Interior Partnership Series Lecture** - Sheyna was joined by John Hopson, Jr. and Jenny Evans of the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission in Washington, DC May 23 to give a lecture on Partnering with Tribes.



In May, Sheyna, Jenny Evans and John Hopson Jr. of AEWC gave a lecture on partnering with Tribes to the Department of Interior.

Alaska Ocean Acidification Network

- Check out the new [Q&A page](#) on kelp and its role in mitigating ocean acidification and climate change. Kelp is ecologically beneficial but its role is nuanced.
- The network continues to co-sponsor a webinar series on marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR); the April webinar on gauging the effectiveness of mCDR, and the May webinar was on the role of kelp. [View the recordings.](#)
- Darcy and colleagues presented at the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Expo in April. Darcy also attended the annual water sampling training at the Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute in Seward.

AOOS MONTHLY UPDATE

Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network

- In addition to the monthly meeting, Thomas took part in an international webinar on HABs in the Northeast Pacific, which included folks from British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and California to share knowledge about HAB initiatives across regions.
- In May, AOOS received its first [Imaging FlowCytobot \(IFCB\)](#)! This instrument continuously samples the water and takes pictures of individual phytoplankton cells. Thomas will initially deploy this instrument aboard the USCG Healy in July to sample during the Arctic Observing Network research cruise. Future deployments will be decided on by the AHAB network.

NEWS

The latest episode of the Deep Dive podcast features Kristen Yarincik (IOOS Association), Debra Hernandez (SECOORA), and Sheyna Wisdom (AOOS) discussing how different regions use marine technology: [Video link](#), [Audio link](#)

Sheyna Wisdom and John Hopson were featured in [Anchorage Daily News](#) and [Arctic Sounder](#) stories about the [Backyard Buoys](#) program.

ENGAGEMENT METRICS

Audience Name	Type of Presentation	# of people
Western Alaska Interdisciplinary Science Conference - Nome	Oral presentation (Backyard Buoys), poster presentation (Arctic Watch) and informal workshop (Arctic Watch)	50
Arctic Encounter Symposium	Booth and participated in panels	900
Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network	Monthly meeting	33
mCDR webinar #5	Organized and moderated panel questions	150
mCDR webinar #6	Organized and facilitated the webinar	103
Alaska Longliners Fish Expo	Ocean acidification presentation	25
Alaska OA Network Exec.committee	Quarterly meeting	8
HABs in the Northeast Pacific webinar	Overview of HABs in Alaska	75
Emergency Management Conference	Overview of HABs in Alaska	250

Sheyna Wisdom, Molly McCammon, Carol Janzen, Holly Kent, Darcy Dugan, Jill Prewitt, Thomas Farrugia, Alice Bailey, Joni Speiss, and our data team at Axiom