



## December/January 2023 Monthly Update

### HIGHLIGHTS

**Outreach Director** - Although it's now been two months, we would like to welcome Alice Bailey, our newest AOOS employee. Alice started December 6 as our new Director of Outreach. She will still be based in Fairbanks, where she previously managed communications for UAF's College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences.

**Visit with Santa** - The NPRB/AOOS office is being updated with new paint and carpet, so our office was closed in December. So instead of our suite holiday party, the AOOS staff met for some holiday cookie decorating and got to visit with Santa.

**Alaska Marine Science Symposium** - We were very excited to see many of our colleagues in person at the Alaska Marine Science Symposium in Anchorage January 23-27. We hosted workshops, coordinated the student judging, coordinated the posters, presented posters, hosted a booth, and assisted the NPRB in any way we could. Some of us were also witness to Thomas' first mechanical bull ride. And the answer is no, that will not be the next team building exercise. Have you seen many of our knees???

**Ocean Data Explorer Workshop** - AOOS and Axiom Data Science hosted an interactive workshop introducing the ODE to new users and providing demonstrations of new user features in the ODE. We had 20 participants ranging from marine mammal biologists, physical oceanographers, meteorologists, and grad students from various disciplines who all asked great questions and showed a lot of interest in how the ODE can help them with their research or decision-making. We plan to follow up with participants on how to continue to improve the ODE. We also had many AMSS participants throughout the week who were not able to attend the workshop but expressed interest in learning more about the ODE. We will plan for more ODE outreach, demonstrations, and user help sessions for the future.

### ADMINISTRATIVE

**2016-2021 Cooperative Agreement** - AOOS submitted our semiannual report for this extension period of the agreement in December. We are on track to complete this extension in June 2024.

**2021-2026 Cooperative Agreement** - AOOS received our funding numbers for the core portion of our FY23 budget and we are working on the development of a budget and supporting descope documentation. We submitted our semiannual report for this agreement in January.

### PROPOSALS/AWARDS

**Bipartisan Infrastructure Law** - AOOS received \$1,247,500 in funding in December for year one of this cooperative agreement (formerly known as the Infrastructure and Investment in Jobs Act [IIJA]). This funding will support salaries for the Outreach Director and Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program (ANSEP) students, regional data sharing initiatives, and the upgrade of aging assets for several of our key core observing programs.

**IOOS OTT Program** - AOOS submitted a proposal to the IOOS Ocean Technology Transfer (OTT) Program in January to develop particle tracking and data visualization tools using model outputs from the Cook Inlet Ocean Forecast System (CIOFS). Proposal partners included Axiom, OSRI (Oil Spill Research Institute), CIRCAC (Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council), and the NOAA Kasitsna Bay laboratory.

### IOOS

IOOS FAC - Molly attended the Federal Advisory Committee meeting December 1 (virtual), and 6 and 7 (in person in Washington, DC). The FAC completed its recommendations on climate change, the new blue economy, and diversity, and will now be working on some new issues, including Enterprise Excellence and offshore wind energy.



## COLLABORATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

**Alaska Ocean Acidification Network** - The network hosted its annual meeting at the Alaska Marine Science Symposium on Jan 26, where discussion focused on sensors, experimental setups and lab capacity, the field of marine carbon dioxide reduction (mCDR), and translating science for stakeholders. There were 3 OA talks and 12 posters at AMSS this year (the network had a poster). Harnessing interest from the fishing industry in helping collect oceanographic samples, Darcy hosted a pre-workshop meeting of Alaskans who were attending or tracking a January workshop on “Building a Cost-effective Coastal Biogeochemical Observing Network in Collaboration with the Commercial Fishing Community” in Woods Hole. We will be debriefing what we learned and opportunities for Alaska in February. The network is also revising the draft Strategic Plan and preparing for upcoming engagement with Legislators.

**Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network** - The AHAB network continues to grow and had monthly meetings in December and January that were well attended. In addition, we had a research-focused 3-hour meeting in person during AMSS to connect people and lay out all the great work being done on HABs in Alaska. The meeting started with an overview of the ongoing research, but it developed into a general monitoring discussion about how information about HABs could be collected and communicated most effectively. The importance of rapid communication during times of high *Alexandrium* count was emphasized, but it was also noted that the efforts from the previous summer (notably the HAB-specific cruise in the northern Bering, Chukchi and Beaufort) were not going to happen every year, and when they aren't happening, how do we monitor the state of the blooms? In addition, the importance of toxin testing was emphasized, and we discussed the difficulties of maintaining dedicated staff in remote areas. This is a long-term discussion that will continue and be expanded on during the 3-day Alaska HAB workshop being hosted by AOOS March 27-29 in Anchorage.

**Alaska Marine Ecosystem Network** - The first-ever meeting of the Alaska Marine Ecosystem network was held during AMSS. This was an opportunity to talk about the idea of having an Alaska Marine Ecosystem network and get input and feedback about how the network should be developed and what it should focus on. AOOS, as the coordinating body of this AME network, collected this input and will form an organizing committee to help develop the network and identify some early actions and activities of the network. The original idea of the network was to enhance coordination of marine ecosystem research and monitoring activities around Alaska, but after this discussion it seems that there is also a need to make the research community more accessible to Alaska native communities and have a space for input and discussion.

**US-Russia Collaborations** - Molly co-hosted with Margaret Williams a workshop at AMSS on January 23 focusing on how to continue scientific collaborations between US and Russian scientists given the war in Ukraine. A number of suggestions were made on how to move forward together, and these will be included in a summary report currently under development.

**Ocean Decade Collaborative Center NEP (Northeast Pacific) Advisory Committee** - Molly represented AOOS at a virtual meeting of the AP on January 9. The goal of the center is to provide target support to the UN Decade of Ocean Science through a coordination and catalysis role for Decade Actions at the regional or thematic level. Much of the discussion centered on improving coordination/collaboration among Northeast Pacific communities and research entities.

**Bering Strait Pollution Response** - Molly joined the Coast Guard-led planning team on January 25 as the team prepares for an in-water oil spill response exercise in the Bering Strait/Nome region on June 7. AOOS has been developing the Bering Strait Incident Response Tool (BSTIRT) as a potential tool for use, alongside Arctic ERMA (Emergency Response and Management Application). AOOS' High Frequency Radars in the Bering Strait will also be used for oil spill/ocean circulation modeling.

**Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program** - AOOS plans to support two [ANSEP University Success](#) internships during the summer. The interns will work with AOOS-funded Principal Investigators and their partners. We are currently conducting interviews with students and hope to announce the 2023 interns soon!

## ENGAGEMENT METRICS

Audience Name	Type of Presentation	# of people
OA community samplers	Coordination meeting	12
OA Researcher Discussion at AMSS	Annual meeting	25

Fishermen engagement in Biogeochemical Monitoring	Pre-workshop meeting for Alaskans	10
US-Russia Collaboration workshop at AMSS	Workshop	50
Ocean Data Explorer Workshop at AMSS	Workshop	20
Alaska Marine Policy Forum - December	Forum	30
Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom December monthly meeting	Meeting	30
Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom January monthly meeting	Meeting	35
Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Research Discussion (AMSS)	Workshop	60
Alaska Marine Ecosystem Network kick-off meeting (AMSS)	Meeting	50
Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission Triennial Meeting	Meeting	50

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