

HIGHLIGHTS

ED Search – After 17 years at the helm, AOOS Executive Director Molly McCammon informed the AOOS Board at its December 2019 meeting that she would like to reduce her work load in the coming year by stepping down as Executive Director, and going to a half-time position as Senior Advisor. The Board has organized a search committee, and a position announcement will be released in the coming weeks. Molly wants everyone to know that “she is not retiring,” but is hoping to help facilitate a smooth transition to the next era of AOOS and provide her more time to pursue some other interests.

AOOS Seeking Project Ideas to Add to Our 5-Year 2021-26 IOOS Proposal – AOOS is soliciting our stakeholders for project ideas to include in our upcoming 5-Year proposal to the Integrated Ocean Observing System. This proposal will determine how we proceed with our observing program from 2021-2026 and is an important opportunity to provide your input. We will be evaluating all of our existing projects over the next few months and assume we will be able to continue most of them, as well as hopefully add new projects to our regional observing program system. We invite your ideas on how we might expand our observing activities to address Alaska ocean and coastal issues and concerns. We hope to have an increase in funding for our next five-year period for such items as new observation projects, ongoing AOOS build-out initiatives (e.g., water level, wave and meteorological station installations in areas with data gaps), equipment purchases or upgrades, modeling and forecasting, and data rescue projects and data product development (e.g., including phone apps for accessing real-time data). If interested in providing some input, please send us an [email](#).

CONFERENCES/MEETINGS/PRESENTATIONS

IOOS Federal Advisory Committee – Molly attended the FAC meeting in Washington DC February 11-12. The meeting, chaired by Scott Rayder, was the first in-person meeting of the new group of advisors, of which Molly is one. We heard from Carl Gouldman at the IOOS program office; Admiral Tim Gallaudet about new NOAA strategies for UxS, AI, ‘Omics, Cloud Computing, and Ocean Mapping; David Legler and Laura Lorenzoni about Global Observing; Federal support for IOOS from OSTP, NOAA and USGS perspectives; and NOAA’s approach to observing system requirements management. Committee working groups presented some preliminary thoughts on Vision and Strategy, Alignment of Messaging and Communications, Partnerships, and Requirements.

Alaska Forum for the Environment (AFE) - AOOS had a major presence at this year’s Alaska Forum on the Environment February 10-14. Sessions on Bering Sea Changes, OA, HABs, and microplastics were all lead or co-lead by AOOS staff. The Bering Sea changes topic had two sessions – one to present “the state of the science,” during with Carol presented on the current AOOS activities in the region, and another to garner input from coastal community residents through “story circles.” The microplastics session was held as part of a Marine Debris Summit along with EPA, who focused on marine debris disposal. Darcy helped coordinate a session on Harmful Algal Blooms that included breakout groups on research and outreach, and a session on community-based monitoring for ocean acidification – both of which were well attended.

AGU/TOS/ASLO Ocean Sciences Meeting – AOOS, Axiom Data Science, and IOOS were present at the Ocean Sciences 2020 meeting in San Diego February 17-21. Carol delivered a talk on “Coordinating Observations of Arctic Change: a Model for the Greater Arctic Region” and a poster on the Alaska Water Level Watch data portal project, “Building Data Access for Sharing Non-NWLON Water Level Information in Alaska.” Molly gave a talk on Arctic data tools and moderated a town hall on Bering Sea changes and how the scientific community can make the most of our collective efforts. Jesse Lopez, Axiom Data Science, delivered a presentation entitled “OrcaCNN: Detecting Killer Whales in Northern Gulf of Alaska from Passive Acoustic Data”, which focused on applying machine-learning methods to estimate orca populations from acoustic data collected by Gulf Watch Alaska



Chelsea Kovalcsik from Chugach Regional Resources Commission presents on community OA sampling at the Alaska Forum on the Environment.

researchers. Brian Stone, Axiom, co-presented on a new hurricane tool developed with the Southeast Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA), in addition to demoing a proof-of-concept data discovery portal for the NSF-funded [Ocean Observatories Initiative \(OOI\)](#).

Alaska Common Ground – Darcy gave a brief presentation and hosted a table on the Alaska Ocean Acidification Network during an Alaska Common Ground event focused on climate change action at the 49th State Brewery on February 4. The event drew 200 people and provided an opportunity for Anchorage residents to learn about and connect with organizations taking action on climate change.

COLLABORATIONS

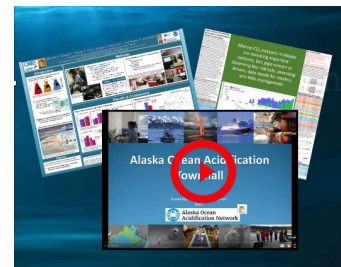
Roundtable on Putting Ocean data to use – Molly participated on behalf of AOOS in a roundtable, hosted by the Center for Open Data Enterprise February 10 “to identify emerging opportunities to improve data collection, sharing, and analysis across key ocean data stakeholders to support the Blue Economy.” The session included an overview and panel on NOAA’s Big Data initiative with Amazon, Microsoft and Google, followed by breakout sessions on emerging strategies and technologies, partner collaboration and data integration, and solutions and recommendations for “Reimagining the Ocean Data Ecosystem.”

National Academy of Sciences’ Committee on Offshore Science and Assessment – Molly was asked to give a presentation during the committee’s visit to Anchorage on February 13 on how AOOS interfaces with BOEM. The committee provides ongoing assistance to BOEM in its efforts to “manage development of the nation’s offshore energy resources in an environmentally and economically responsible way.”

Alaska OA Network Highlights – the February monthly eNews included a video recording of nine Alaska OA researchers providing 5 minute updates, recent OA science posters, an interview with Sitka Tribe OA Lab manager Will Peterson, a video on how to take a community water sample, a primer on ocean alkalinity enhancement, and a new post-doc position at UAF. [Read the eNews.](#)

DATA MANAGEMENT

EVOSTC Science Overview Workshop – Carol and Stacey Buckelew (Axiom) provided presentations on the Data Management Program, including data portal overviews and hands-on demonstrations/training for the Public Advisory Committee members and Science Panel during a workshop February 25 – 27. The workshop, held in Anchorage at the USGS offices on the APU campus, included individual project syntheses presentations from the Herring Research Monitoring and Gulf Watch of Alaska Program PIs. Additionally, Axiom hosted workstations during the lunch hour to demonstrate the various capabilities of the EVOS Data Management Program, including the Gulf of Alaska data portal, Ocean Data Explorer, Research Workspace and its DataONE Member Node, and Jupyter Notebooks.



Ocean acidification posters and updates from the Alaska Marine Science Symposium

Satellite Data Course coming to AK – The NOAA CoastWatch Ocean Satellite Course will be offered in Anchorage, Alaska, April 7-9, 2020. This course introduces participants to the ocean satellite data products and data services offered through NOAA’s CoastWatch program. The course consists of both lectures and labs. Participants are required to bring their own laptop to work on. In the labs participants will use tools developed by the Environmental Research Division to locate online satellite data at the spatial and temporal coverage appropriate to their needs and download the data into the software of their choice. More information and a registration form are available online: https://coastwatch.pfeg.noaa.gov/courses/satellite_course_reg.html

Advancing FAIR and GO FAIR in the U.S. – Axiom Data Science’s Data Librarian, Chris Turner, participated in a workshop on February 25-27 in Atlanta, GA focused on the development of a community of practice for FAIR awareness and capacity-building in the U.S. Axiom in its partnership with AOOS, strives to follow the guiding principles of FAIR to improve the findability (F), accessibility (A), interoperability (I), and reuse (R) of digital assets.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar 4-5 IOOS Spring Meeting, Washington DC (Molly)
- Mar 31-Apr2 Arctic Observing Summit, Iceland (Molly)
- April 1-4 Western Alaska Science Symposium, Dillingham (Darcy)
- Apr 29-May 1 Arctic Planning Session: UN Decade of the Ocean, Copenhagen (Molly)

Molly McCammon, Carol Janzen, Holly Kent, and Darcy Dugan, and our data team at Axiom Data Science