

## HIGHLIGHTS

**2018 Budget!** Congress approved the FY2018 IOOS budget, which includes an additional \$4.3million to be used for new high frequency (HF) radars and increased glider transects. AOOS' top priority is deployment of new HF radars for the Bering Strait region in preparation for increased use of the "Arctic Marine Highway". Needless to say, we are excited. The rest of our budget will likely be flat funding.



**Farewell to Doug and Paula** – AOOS loses 2 key board members due to retirement this month – Dr. Doug Demaster, Director of the Alaska Fisheries Science Center and one of the founding members of AOOS, and Paula Cullenberg, director of Alaska Sea Grant. We give them our best wishes and look forward to using them as "volunteers" in future endeavors. Doug, Lawson Brigham, Craig Dorman and former MMS director John Goll were all instrumental in hiring Molly in 2003 to serve as the first AOOS director, write the first grant, and get the organization started. It wouldn't have happened without Doug's support and efforts!



**2017 Annual Impact Report** – Staff produced this report the last week of February so that AOOS Executive Director Molly McCammon and AOOS Board Chair Katrina Hoffman could use it for the IOOS spring meetings in Washington D.C. The report highlights the impacts that AOOS has made in the last year to the ocean observing arena.

## ADMINISTRATIVE

**Cultural Awareness Training** – Carol Janzen and Holly Kent attended a cultural awareness workshop on February 7-8 at the Alaska Native Heritage Center. The training was very informative and beneficial to AOOS staff who work with the tribal communities across the state on marine issues.

## IOOS ACTIVITIES

**IOOS Spring Meeting** – Molly and Katrina participated in the IOOS Program and IOOS Association spring meetings in Washington DC March 6-8. Highlights of the meetings included a 2-hour session with Acting NOAA Administrator Admiral Tim Gallaudet, discussions with National Ocean Service director Russell Callender, and informational meetings with Senators Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, and their staff as well as Congressman Young's staff. We also celebrated the approval of certification for 3 additional regional observing systems – Gulf of Mexico, Northeast and the Northwest. 10 of the 11 IOOS regions are now "certified" to meet federal standards for organizational management and data quality and control.

## MEETINGS & CONFERENCES

**Climate Action for Alaska Leadership Team (CALT)** – As a member of Alaska Governor Walker's CALT, Molly attended meetings March 28 and 29 of the Adaptation and Mitigation Working Groups. The Adaptation WG focused on how to better use science entities in Alaska to help respond to climate change. The Mitigation WG focused on emission reduction activities in Alaska, as well as climate change communication and partnerships.

**National Climate Assessment 4 All-Authors Meeting** – As a member of the Alaska chapter writing team, Molly attended the meeting of all the authors of the 20-odd chapters of the NCA4 report in Bethesda, MD March 26-28. The workshop was held to finalize the 4<sup>th</sup> draft of the assessment, which is due for public release in December 2018.

**Consortium for Ocean Leadership Meeting** – Molly and AOOS Board member Brad Moran (Dean of UAF College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences) attended COL's spring member and trustee meetings in Washington DC March 7-9. Brad attended COL's public policy forum on public-private partnerships.

**Ecosystem Mooring Workshop** – Carol Janzen (AOOS) and Seth Danielson (UAF and AOOS PI) attended the National Ecosystem Mooring Workshop along with 30 community experts in Seattle March 20-21 to develop criteria for an

‘ecosystem mooring;’ specifically, the configuration of an ecosystem mooring relevant to various marine and coastal eco-regions and region-based needs and priorities. The workshop also explored ecosystem mooring use cases, current and emerging technologies, technical needs, deployment logistics, operations and maintenance, as well as integration with other observing systems.

**ADAC and Western Alaska Interdisciplinary Science Conference** – Carol attended and helped facilitate working groups as part of a workshop held by the UAA Arctic Domain Awareness Center (ADAC), Headquarters U.S. Coast Guard “Evergreen” and U.S. Coast Guard Arctic Policy Planners in Nome, Alaska March 26-27. The workshop was specifically oriented to “listen and learn” from Alaskan Arctic experts in local and place-based knowledge to enhance understanding of the region from a community of people who have a “PhD in Arctic living.” Challenges, expected changes, and opportunities that may present in the Arctic in the coming decades were part of this discussion.

**Kachemak Bay Regional Science Conference** – AOOS provided funding support to this regional conference, which is held every 3 years to highlight regional research and monitoring activities.

## OUTREACH

**New “Ask a Scientist” video series** – The Alaska Ocean Acidification Network launched a new monthly series where scientists from the network answer real questions from Alaskans in less than 5 minutes. The first question is “Are we seeing ocean acidification in Alaska right now” with Jessica Cross of NOAA. Watch the episode on the [Alaska OA Network website](#).



## DATA MANAGEMENT

**New version of Ocean Data Explorer (ODE)** - The Axiom data management team released v2.6 of the ODE this month in a beta testing environment. This version optimizes the portal search engine and reworks the catalog and metadata views. The catalog now includes icons for quick, visual identification of data types (e.g. layers, sensors, and mobile platforms). Enhancements were made to more easily manage layers and download or add interactive data to a map. Beginning in April, the current version of the AOOS Ocean Data Explorer will be replaced with an operational version of this beta map.

**IOOS Biological Data Training Workshop** – Axiom participated in this workshop held February 8-9 in Seattle, WA. The workshop was focused on expanding the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) and the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS-USA) network of collaborators, in addition to improving marine biogeographic data quality and increasing awareness of standards and best practices for marine biological data. Axiom demonstrated the latest version of the MBON Data Portal (developed on the AOOS cyber-infrastructure) that aims to increase the availability of marine biological data for science, species conservation and ecosystem-based management.

**AOOS/Axiom takes on ATN DAC** - Effective March 1, the Office of Naval Research (ONR) signed an interagency agreement with Axiom (via AOOS) to establish the operational capacity of the U.S. Animal Telemetry Network Data Assembly Center (ATN DAC). Work has begun on the transition of technology, capabilities and functions of the current DAC from Stanford University Hopkins Marine Station to Axiom Data Science, where it will be supported by enterprise-level cyberinfrastructure dedicated to operational execution, support and customer service. This will enable the ATN DAC to provide a much stronger and broader technical, administrative and customer service level in order to successfully and operationally serve the larger marine animal telemetry community by continuing to improve the ability of researchers to share and access data.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 3** – ACCAP webinar with Molly as keynote speaker

**April 12** - Climate Action for Alaska Leadership Team, in-person meeting, Fairbanks

**April 18** – Alaska Marine Policy Forum

**April 19** – Arctic Waterways Safety Committee, Anchorage

**April 19-20** - Arctic Encounters, Seattle, WA

**April 26-28** – North by North festival, Anchorage

**April 26** – Arctic Research Day, Anchorage

**April 26** – Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee

**May 1-4** – JPSS Arctic Satellite Needs Summit, Anchorage & Fairbanks

**May 8** – Ocean Tuesday webinar: Ocean Acidification in Alaska

**Molly, Carol, Holly, Darcy, and Rob**

## **ALASKA AND REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS**

**Governor's Climate Action Leadership Team** –Molly joined other members of the team in attending the Adaptation Working Group meeting January 30. She was unable to attend the Mitigation Working Group meeting January 31. More information can be found at the team's website: <http://climatechange.gov.alaska.gov/>.

**AMBON** – Molly met with PIs of the Arctic Marine Biodiversity Observing Network project on January 29 to discuss ways to better integrate that project into the goals and work plan of AOOS.

**IARPC Environmental Intelligence Team** – Molly met at the new NSF headquarters in Alexandria with EI co-team leads Emily Osborne (NOAA) and Anjali Bamzai (NSF) to discuss the 2018 work plan for the team.

**Arctic Domain Awareness Center, UAA, Anchorage** - Carol presented at the ADAC Quarterly Review for the joint AOOS/AXIOM/Marine Exchange of Alaska project on using AIS vessel tracking data to help prioritize NOAA bathymetric survey efforts in the Arctic.

**Central Beaufort Sea Wave & Hydrodynamic Modeling Study PI Meeting, Anchorage** - Carol and Rob met with the project PIs and the BOEM Program Manager Warren Horowitz on January 23 to update the team on the project's 2<sup>nd</sup> quarterly status. Carol presented on the data management and outreach components of the project, and solicited input from the PIs on website content. Rob discussed the status of a historical spatial database they are helping develop for the project data portal/website that will be hosted on the AOOS portal system starting the summer of 2018.

## **OUTREACH**

**Ocean Acidification Stakeholder Survey** – The Alaska OA Network completed a statewide survey to better understand the information needs of Alaskans to help inform future monitoring. 125 people took the survey, providing feedback on species of interest, forecasting, and the biggest questions they had relating to OA. A report summarizing the results will be released in March.

**OA session with UAA students** – Darcy and three other members of the Alaska Ocean Acidification Network met with students from UAA Professor Jackie Cason's science writing class on Jan 25 to engage with the next generation of science writers on a hot topic in Alaska.



*Professor Cason and students meet with OA Network members.*

**AMSS Poster Session** – Holly coordinated and hosted an information table during the AMSS evening poster sessions January 22-23. Darcy presented a poster during the conference on the OA Network.

**Data Portals, Products, and Tools Survey** - Over the past 3 months, AOOS hosted a survey to gather feedback on the data portal from end users. Results from the survey will be synthesized with the Axiom team this month to help inform future portal improvements.

## **DATA MANAGEMENT**

The Axiom data management team released v2.5 of the Ocean Data Explorer this month in a beta testing environment. This version features the integration of biological datasets with physical and model-based data. These heterogeneous types can be compared with custom data views for users to quickly explore environmental drivers of biological change.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Feb 9	Alaska Coastal Mapping Summit, Anchorage
Feb 12-16	Alaska Forum on the Environment, Anchorage (includes Alaska OA session on Feb 13)
Feb 12-16	American Geophysical Union Ocean Sciences Meeting, Portland OR (Carol)
Feb 16	Alaska OA Network Tribal Monitoring group tours Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery OA lab
March 6-8	IOOS Association, Washington DC (Molly and Katrina Hoffman)
March 7-9	Consortium for Ocean Leadership, Washington DC (Molly and Brad Moran)

**Molly, Carol, Holly, Darcy, and Rob**