

February 2023 Monthly Update

HIGHLIGHTS

Welcome to the newest member of the AOOS/ASLC team - Carley Swartz, our Grants and Contracts Manager, welcomed Baby Girl Teagan born on Feb 20, 2023. Congrats to the family!

Year 3 Core Funding - The AOOS and ASLC grants team has been working with subawards/contracts to develop the spend/work plan for year 3 of our core funding under the 2021-2026 cooperative agreement. The documents are due to NOAA/IOOS by March 3.

Integrated Coaching Women in Leadership - Sheyna participated in a 6-week group coaching class with Integrated Coaching, LLC along with five other women in leadership throughout Anchorage.

Conference Season - We continued the AOOS 2023 conference season with a booth at the Alaska Forum on the Environment the week of February 6.

We also participated in the Juneau Mariculture Conference, UAF's OneHealth conference and are preparing for the Arctic Encounter Symposium at the end of March.

Outreach materials - Alice continues to hit the ground running with the preparation of more outreach materials. Alice is working hard on the June edition of the Bering Sea Science Report, the 2023 Delta Sound Connections newsletter (partner with the Prince William Sound Science Center), and the 2022 Annual Report to be used primarily for Congressional outreach. The team really appreciates Alice's ability to distill the information into more readable bytes!



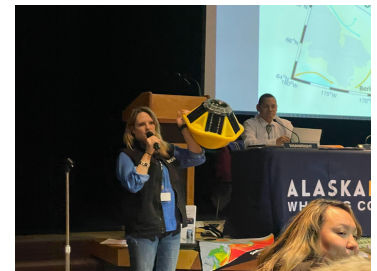
IOOS

IOOS Federal Advisory Committee (FAC) - The Advisory Committee held an administrative virtual meeting on February 2 to receive ethics training and talk about the work in the coming year. The Enterprise Excellence Working Group, co-chaired by Molly, met February 24 to discuss plans for the in person meeting in June at MBARI.

IOOS Spring Meeting - Sheyna met with the IOOS Association Finance Committee and the Meeting Planning Committee for the upcoming spring meeting March 21-23 in Washington, DC. This will be Sheyna's first trip to DC as the Director! We are soliciting a personal shopper to help Sheyna not wear a hoodie and jeans - please let us know if you have any strong leads.

COLLABORATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

Backyard Buoys Project - Sheyna and Alice traveled to the AEWC mini-convention in Utqiagvik January 30-February 2 to give an update on the Backyard Buoys project, as well as to help hire a buoy coordinator and village facilitators. Jill is working with the ANSEP program to develop a curriculum using the wave buoys for the middle school and high school academies. We continue to make progress on new data tools, stewardship plans, and permitting.



Alaska Ocean Acidification Network - In collaboration with shellfish growers, the OA Network produced a 1-pager on ocean acidification for Southeast shellfish growers that was circulated at the Alaska Mariculture Symposium. Darcy also hosted a February 1 discussion on fishermen engagement in ocean data collection. This was a follow-up to a January conference exploring methods and ideas from across the country for fishermen to participate in biogeochemical observing networks. Going forward, AOOS will host quarterly collaboration meetings for folks in Alaska pursuing fishermen/data collection initiatives.

Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network - The AHAB network met for our monthly meeting again this month and shared news and updates. In addition, many network members have been able to meet in person at conferences over the last few months which has helped with connection and collaboration. Thomas is preparing for a 3-day Alaska HAB workshop in March, where we will discuss how the current tools and research can be applied to address the needs of coastal communities. AOOS and NCCOS are providing travel support for members of coastal communities to attend the workshop in person in Anchorage. Thomas also attended the Mariculture Conference of Alaska where he engaged with the mariculture industry about HABs and how farms play an important role in HAB monitoring. At the same time, Thomas was able to meet with 9 state legislative offices to discuss AOOS and the AHAB and OA networks.

Alaska Water Level Watch - AOOS and JOA Surveys are working with the NOAA Office of Coastal Management to purchase equipment and test and certify sensors in order to increase the number of NOAA CO-OPs-approved equipment types available to collect water levels. These efforts will expand the availability of NOAA sanctioned water level technologies available for use in Alaska for both short-term and long-term Alaska Water Level Watch observing initiatives.

Arctic Observing Network/Sustained Arctic Observing Network - Sheyna and Molly met with Sandy Starkweather and Hazel Shapiro to discuss future collaborations between AOOS and AON/SAON.

Arctic GOOS RA - Molly participated in a work session on February 18 as part of Arctic Science Summit Week to discuss next steps in planning for an Arctic Global Ocean Observing System Regional Alliance. Two major concerns emerged: one is to avoid duplicating or confusing the existing world of networks and the other is to ensure Indigenous participation from the beginning. It's still unclear the value of this alliance given the lack of participation by Russia.

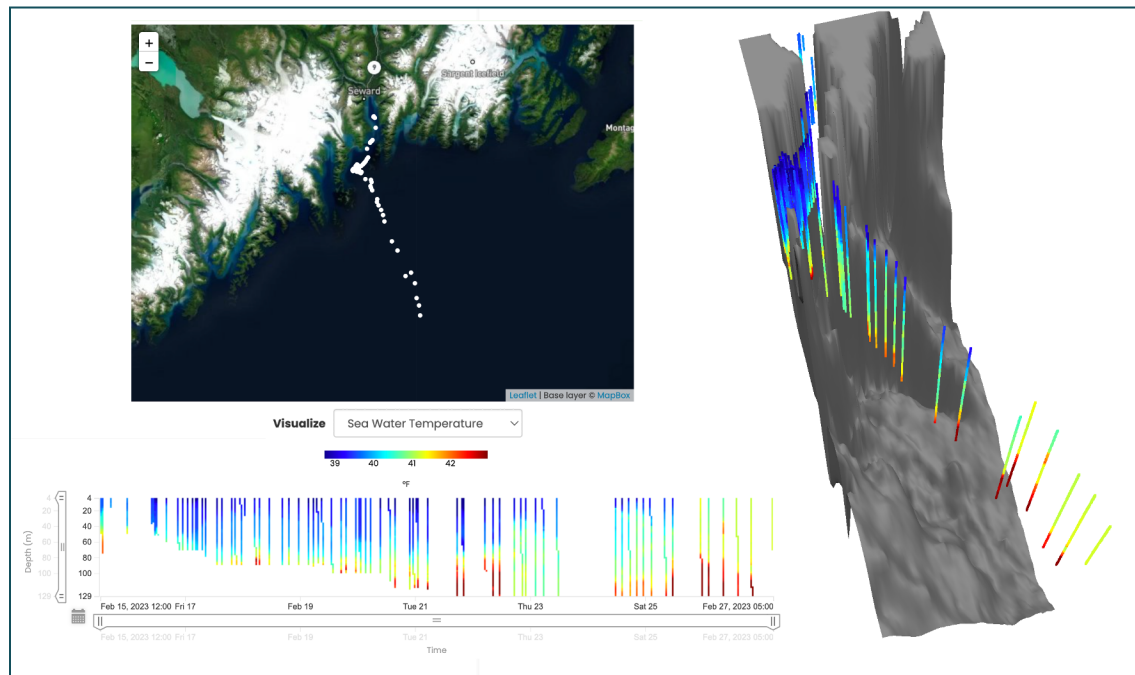
NOAA SAB/ESMWG - Molly chairs the Ecosystem Sciences and Management Working Group for the NOAA Science Advisory Board, which met in Seattle February 27-28 to hear from line office liaisons and other invited speakers on priority topics for the coming year.

DATA PORTAL

Seward Line Glider Mission - The [February Seward Line Glider mission is currently underway!](#) The glider was deployed on February 15 and is expected to continue for 60 days. The first February mission was flown in 2022, in conjunction with the International Year of the Salmon surveys. With planned annual repeats of this winter-to-spring mission, scientists will be able to better understand the spring phytoplankton bloom timing, magnitude, and importance for Gulf of Alaska fisheries.



Also - a fun real-time result! Right after the glider was deployed in Seward, it detected two acoustic tags that were attached to Pacific sleeper sharks in 2019 under an NPRB-funded project with co-PIs Dr. Markus Horning (Wildlife Technology Frontiers), Dr. Amy Bishop (UAA) and Dr. Julie Nielsen (Kingfisher Marine Research). These detections will help add information on these shark's movements and fate, and the oceanographic data collected by the glider (especially temperature) will help bolster the habitat-use and movement models being developed for sleeper sharks for this project.



UAF G191 Glider deployment in the North Pacific Ocean (February 2023)

New Marine Exchange of Alaska Weather Stations - Check out the three new weather stations from MXAK that have recently been installed and the data feeds added to the AOOS Ocean Data Explorer:

- [Kotzebue Sound, AK](#)
- [Statter Harbor, AK](#)
- [Wrangel Harbor \(D Float\), AK](#)

NEWS ITEMS

[Alaska Native News](#) mentioned a project funded by AOOS and Alaska Sea Grant that provides fishermen tools to measure conductivity, temperature, and depth throughout the water column.

The [Arctic Sounder](#) ran a feature story about how the Backyard Buoys project will make whaling safer.

The March IOOS [Eyes on the Ocean newsletter](#) mentioned the Ocean Data Explorer workshop, the Alaska Marine Ecosystem Network, the Bering Strait Incident Response Tool, and the Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network.

ENGAGEMENT METRICS

Audience Name	Type of Presentation	# of people
Alaska Marine Policy Forum	Facilitation of meeting	35
Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission in Utqiagvik	Presentation	60
Alaska Forum on the Environment	Booth and meeting attendance	300
Fishermen & Data collection - collaborations in AK	Facilitation of meeting	12
Mariculture Conference of Alaska	Poster	200
Alaska Mariculture Alliance annual meeting	Membership meeting attendance	50
Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom network	Monthly meeting facilitation	31
Meetings with individual AK state legislators	Presentation on AOOS, HABs, OA	9

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