

AOOS MONTHLY UPDATE

June 2023



Thomas, Alice, and Carol traveled to Juneau to spend a day with 40 middle school students participating in the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program's (ANSEP) Marine Science Career Explorations summer middle school academy. ANSEP intern Sarah Grigsby (pictured on the right) helped, as well.

HIGHLIGHTS

AOOS and Axiom participated in the USCG Bering Strait In-Water Exercise held on July 7.

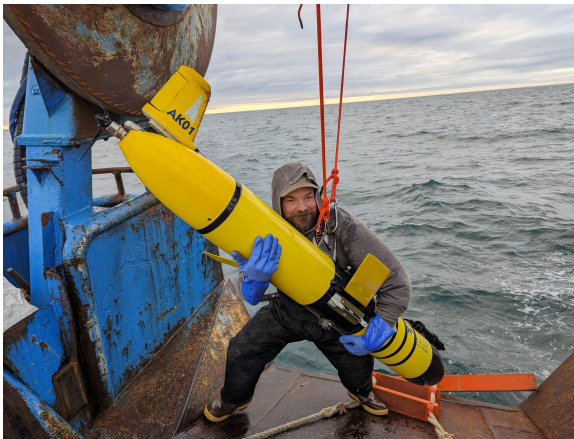
Although this wasn't the large-scale exercise initially planned, AOOS and Axiom were able to showcase the value of the data portal for support during an event.

Sheyna, Jill, and Alice traveled to Fairbanks to meet with IARC to discuss the next steps for the Bering Science Outreach. We were able to meet in person with Drs. Hajo Eicken, John Walsh, and Nathan Kettle to discuss the AOOS/IARC partnership.

Molly McCammon was appointed to the **Advisory Committee of the Ocean Decade**

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Collaborative Center for the Northeast Pacific. This United Nations initiative aims to solve some of the ocean's biggest issues by 2030.



EAFM Gliders- UAF successfully completed its first AOOS Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) glider sea-trial in the southeastern Bering Sea in July. The primary mission was to assess how well the glider operates in the shallow water and strong tide environment of the region (spoiler: quite well!). A secondary mission was to detect tagged crabs from an ADFG study. CTD and EAFM ecometrics dashboard data from the 19-day June deployment can be found [here](#).

Captain Chris Allinson (pictured here) and the crew from R/V Miss Leona recovered the EAFM glider on July 28, 2023.

IOOS

IOOS Federal Advisory Committee - As a FAC member, Molly represented AOOS at the recent meeting hosted by CeNCOOS at MBARI in Moss Landing June 27-29. The committee heard from a number of West Coast IOOS partners with a focus on industry engagement, marine life, and changing marine ecosystems.

AOOS has been working on submitting reports for the **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and 5-year Cooperative Agreement**, as well as for the **non-core Year 3 descope submission**. It's been a busy administrative season working through all these exciting awards!

COLLABORATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network

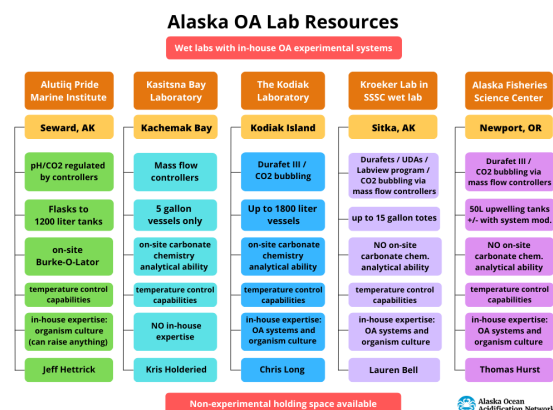
- The budget for AOOS' harmful algal bloom program was submitted by Thomas Farrugia to the IOOS Nation HAB Observing Network. It has now been accepted and Thomas is working on the descope of the budget. One outstanding item from this budget will be the purchase of an [Imaging Flow Cytobot \(IFCB\)](#), which can continuously analyze water samples for the presence of HABs. Once purchased, Thomas will work with the AHAB network members to find the best location for its deployment.
- Thomas also worked with ADFG in preparation for their opening of the recreational razor clam fishery along Cook Inlet. This is the first opening in years, and ADFG sent samples collected in April, May and June that were tested with AOOS' support through the DEC Environmental Health Lab.
- AHAB network members have started seeing HAB species in water samples and certain shellfish samples have tested with elevated levels of toxins. In particular, mussels and razor clams collected at Sand Point and Chignik were elevated, indicating that a HAB event likely occurred. Surrounding communities were alerted to this situation.

Backyard Buoys Project

- As part of the Education and Outreach components of the BYB project, Carol, Alice and Thomas traveled to Juneau to spend a day with 40 middle school students participating in the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program's (ANSEP) Marine Science Career Explorations summer middle school academy. We discussed the BYB project, wave dynamics, and how moorings work. Hands-on activities including knot-tying, rope splicing, learning the BYB Phone App, wave and temperature sensors, and building mini-moorings. A special thanks to Sarah Grigsby, an ANSEP summer intern and soon to be freshman at UAF.
- All of the equipment have been ordered and are on their way to Utqiagvik for deployment this summer! We are really close to getting all the permits.

Alaska Ocean Acidification Network

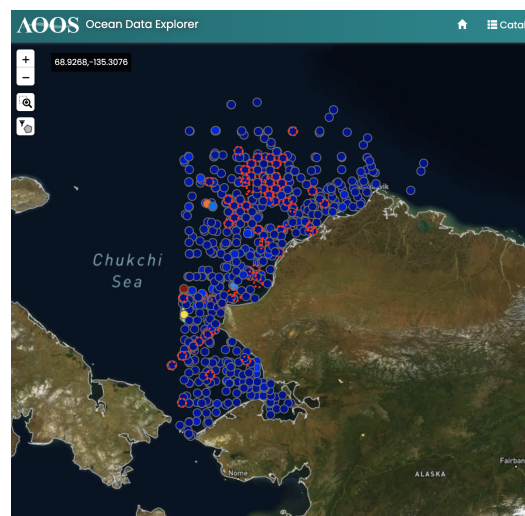
- The OA Network produced stories on Senator Murkowski's OA legislation, an interview with OA Network Director Darcy Dugan, how ocean warming influences OA, community samplers meeting in Sitka, and more. These can be found in the [Alaska OA summer eNews](#).
- There are four research labs in Alaska equipped to conduct studies on the response of Alaska species to ocean acidification, as well as one in Oregon. The network put together a breakdown of what's available at each lab to help researchers connect with resources. [View the sheet](#).
- The network also co-hosted a webinar on marine carbon dioxide removal on June 23 with west coast regions. This topic is growing in interest and another CDR webinar through ACCAP and co-organized by the Alaska OA Network will be on July 18. [Register here](#).



Arctic Watch - AOOS hosted a hybrid meeting of the Arctic Watch working group headed by Marine Exchange of Alaska. The group focused on an action plan for engagement with eleven Bering Strait villages this summer and fall, leading up to a Community Planning meeting tentatively scheduled for January in Nome. Contact Jill for more info on this project: prewitt@aoos.org

DATA PORTAL

New Dataset Available on the Ocean Data Explorer: Check out the [Chukchi Sea Trawl Data from trawls during 1976-2019](#). This was a data rescue project funded by the Regional Ocean Data Sharing Initiative.



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NEWS ITEMS

[UAF News](#) and [KINY](#) news ran stories on the glider program.

[CTV News](#) featured a photo from the AOOS Nome weather camera.

UAF's [Cornerstone](#) newsletter featured the 2023 edition of Bering Science.

[KTOO](#) news featured Principal Investigator Tyler Hennon and the Southeast troll fishermen citizen science program.

ENGAGEMENT METRICS

Audience Name	Type of Presentation	# of people
Arctic Watch (MXAK, WWF, ACF, TNC, WCS, Little Diomedes, Ikaagun Engagement)	Hosted and participated in planning meeting	15
Alaska Marine Policy Forum	Facilitated Bi-monthly meeting	55
Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) webinar	Co-hosted webinar	150
OA Monitoring Needs	Facilitated meeting	8
AHAB monthly meeting	Hosted and facilitated the meeting	34
ANSEP Marine Science Career Explorations	Middle school wave buoy class	45

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