

# IOOS MONTHLY UPDATE

## March 2025



IOOS Association 25th Celebration in Washington, DC.

Left: Non-contiguous Regional Associations (CARICOOS, PaCIOOS, AOO)  
Right: Canadian-border Regional Associations (NERACOOS, GLOS, NANOOS, AOO)

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **IOOS Spring Meeting & Congressional outreach:** Sheyna and Thomas traveled to DC for the annual IOOS Spring meeting to meet with the IOOS Program Office and other Regional Associations. There were lots of discussions about funding as well as collaboration on the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) national/pan-regional projects. We also met with the Congressional delegation - thanks to Senators Murkowski and Sullivan, and Representative Begich's offices, for taking the time to meet with us. Our timing was perfect to see the cherry blossoms!
- **Outreach:** Sheyna joined the NOAA Regional team to meet with Rear Admiral Chad M. Cary who serves as the 20th director of the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps and the NOAA Office of Marine and Aviation Operations. Thanks to Amy for making sure AOO is highlighted as a partner!



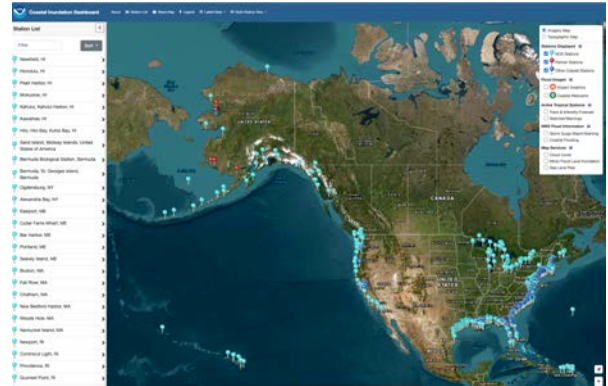
## IOOS

- We are working on the IRA semi-annual progress reports due in April. This is the first of the reports for this critical investment in IOOS.

## NETWORKS

### Alaska Water Level Watch

- Inundation is the total water level that occurs on normally dry ground as a result of flooding. Western Alaska is especially hit hard by inundation events throughout the year. The AWLW is helping lead national efforts to improve best practices for water level data collection and metadata standardization to make it possible for more IOOS partners' water level data to be acceptable to the [NOAA Coastal Inundation Dashboard](#), a publicly accessible data product that provides real-time and historic coastal flooding information at National Water Level Observing Network (NWLON) coastal water level stations operated by the National Ocean Service (NOS) Center for Operational Oceanographic Products & Services (CO-OPS) (S). *See image above for screenshot of the dashboard.*



### Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network

- Rosie Masui, the new AHAB Engagement Lead, hosted the March monthly meeting as Thomas was on leave for most of the month.
- The second AOOS Imaging Flow Cytobot (IFCB) was delivered and Thomas is working to get both IFCBs scheduled to be on research cruises for most of the summer. A final schedule will be developed in April.
- The IFCB at Kasitsna Bay labs is continuing to run bottle samples, and will be deployed on the dock at the lab for continuous sampling in April.

### Alaska Ocean Acidification Network

- Darcy is part of a project engaging with fishermen in the emerging field of marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR), and has been attending focus groups where fishermen provide input on what “fisheries friendly mCDR” could mean. View a 42 min [intro to mCDR for the fishing community](#) video.
- The network was just awarded funding from NOAA’s Ocean Acidification Program to work with videographer Bjorn Olson to develop a set of short videos on ocean acidification community sampling across Alaska. The project will begin this summer.

### Northeast Pacific Acoustic Telemetry (N-PACT) node

- A data sharing policy was developed for members of the N-PACT node. This policy outlines the data sharing requirements and benefits that N-PACT members will be subject to.
- Access to the Ocean Tracking Network VPN was established for the N-PACT Data Manager, allowing access to their database and uploading of data.
- Eight researchers have already signed up to join the N-PACT node, with many more expressing interest.

# AOOS MONTHLY UPDATE

## Sea Ice for Walrus Outlook (SIWO)

- The 2025 SIWO season began on Friday, March 21st with forecasts and local reports for communities with open water—currently Savoonga and Gambell. Other communities will be added as sea ice recedes and hunting begins.
- There is a [new SIWO Network Page](#) available where current season forecasts will be published each Friday. The full SIWO 2010–2024 archive is still available on the [ARCUS SIWO webpage](#), but is no longer being updated with weekly outlooks.

## PROJECTS

### Backyard Buoys

- With the help of Weston Solutions, Nalaquq, LLC has submitted permits to deploy three Spotter wave buoys and drifters this summer in Kuskokwim Bay. Planned deployment is in early June.
- Weston Solutions is also working with the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission to submit permits for the 2025 season.
- The app is now live and downloadable! For updates, check out the project website [Backyard Buoys](#).

### Bering Strait Marine Domain Awareness Discussion

- AOOS’s Lisa and Joni, Kaare Erickson with Ikaagun Engagement, and staff from Marine Exchange of Alaska organized a discussion for Bering Strait coastal community residents March 3-5 in Nome. The discussion built upon previous meetings led by [Arctic Watch](#) to provide resources and information to community leaders on topics of marine traffic, communications, and safety.
- The 24 discussion participants—both in-person and virtual— worked together to identify community information needs, best locations for VHF equipment to be installed to improve marine communications, and gaps in critical weather instrumentation.
- A report from the discussion will be available by 1 June 2025.

## EDUCATION

- Sheyna presented at Dimond High School’s marine biology classes with teacher of the year Ms. Catherine Walker on March 17. Students learned about marine mammal acoustics and careers in marine science.
- Sheyna is chairing a Capstone Committee for graduate student Alexandra “Sasha” Levy at the University of California San Diego. Sasha’s project is “Enhancing Maritime Security in Alaska: Leveraging Satellite Technology and Citizen Science to Improve Vessel Monitoring and Oil Spill Detection.”

## AOOS IN THE NEWS

- An AOOS-funded project where Yup’ik fishermen use place-based knowledge and drones to monitor salmon spawning runs was featured in a [Hampden-Sydney College news article](#), which details how students designed dashboards for the fish counts.

## ENGAGEMENT METRICS

Audience Name	Type of Presentation	# of people
Alaska Marine Policy Forum	Virtual forum	47

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IOOS Spring Meeting and Congressional delegation in Washington, DC	Sheyna and Thomas attended	50
IOOS OTT CIOFS Particle Tracking Tool Partners Meeting - Tool demonstration	Virtual forum - Carol	6
National WEBCOOS Partners Meeting	Virtual forum - Carol	30+
AHAB Network	Monthly meeting	25

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