

March 2023 Monthly Update

HIGHLIGHTS

AOOS Board Meeting - The Spring Board meeting has been confirmed for April 7 at the AOOS conference room. We look forward to seeing you in person!

Arctic Encounter Symposium - The AOOS staff attended the Arctic Encounter Symposium in Anchorage March 29-31. Sheyna was on a panel discussing sustainable fisheries, policy, and the blue ocean economy. The AOOS staff had great discussions from attendees at our booth, where we were told our display was “on point.” We think it’s the candy!



IOOS

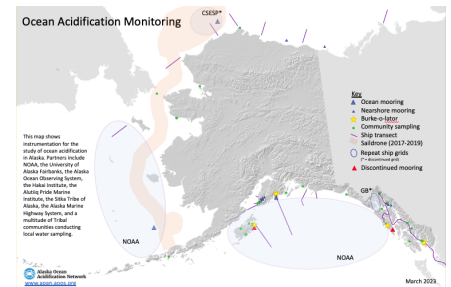
IOOS Spring Meeting - AOOS Board Chair Katrina Hoffman participated in the first in-person in several years IOOS spring meeting March 21-23. Topics of discussion at the meeting included marine carbon dioxide removal, water level observing, and funding opportunities. We also had an opportunity to meet with staffers of our Senators Murkowski and Sullivan to discuss the FY24 funding request. The cherry blossoms were in full bloom and the weather was fantastic. For those interested, Sheyna did NOT wear a hoodie or jeans to any of the meetings.



COLLABORATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

UAF Tsunami Bowl - AOOS helped to sponsor the UAF Alaska Ocean Science Bowl held in Seward March 3-5. Jill volunteered as a judge and Sheyna was able to watch her daughter, Kea, participate as a student. This is such a great event and we look forward to getting more involved in future years.

Alaska Ocean Acidification Network - Alaska’s longest ocean acidification mooring called GAKOA turned 10 this spring – check out the [story](#) and a [1-minute video](#) of the mooring. We also have a new map of [OA Instruments in Alaska](#) showing where baseline carbon chemistry data is being collected around the state. On the fisheries management front, OA was included in the Eastern Bering Sea “Ecosystem Status Report” for the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council for the third year as an emerging issue. Read a [summary of the OA section](#) on the OA network website. Another new resource: recently compiled “[Tips for Communicating About OA](#)” that were gleaned from conversations with Alaskans. All of this and more is in the [March edition](#) of the



Alaska OA Network eNews. If you're not on the list serve, you can [subscribe here](#).

Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network - Thomas presented a poster on the AHAB network at the One Health One Future Conference and was part of a panel discussion on HABs in Alaska. In addition to the monthly meeting of the AHAB poster, Thomas also organized and led a 3-day Alaska HAB Workshop (co-organized by NCCOS). The workshop took place in Anchorage and was attended in person and virtually by 60 network members who shared their perspectives and experiences about needs for HAB monitoring and sampling in Alaska. The workshop included discussions about the various approaches and tools for monitoring HABs, how HAB events are handled, the benefits and challenges of HAB forecasting, and communication and outreach regarding HABs. Participants included state and federal agencies, researchers, and community members representing the entire range of Alaska's coastline from Sitka to Utqiagvik. We were also able to tour the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation lab where HAB samples are sent and tested. Finally, a 2-pager on HABs in Alaska was developed and printed to provide basic information about HABs and the AHAB network to state and federal decision makers and the general public ([see PDF version here](#)).



Arctic GOOS RA - Molly has been selected to an international task team to develop a proposal for an Arctic GOOS RA that will be presented for community input at the 2024 Arctic Observing Summit.

CFOS Advisory Council - The council, chaired by Molly, met virtually March 8 and heard from all of the college's department chairs about priorities, activities, and issues of concern. The group meets in person in Fairbanks April 21.

NOAA SAB/ESMWG - The working group, chaired by Molly, is recruiting new members, especially those with fisheries and ecological expertise. Contact her if you're interested or want to recommend someone.

Regional Ocean Partnerships - The newly formed Regional Ocean Partnerships Steering Committee held its first meeting on March 22. The SC is composed of members from UAF/ACCAP, NOAA OCM, NOAA AFSC, SOA DNR, Native Village of Kotzebue, BOEM, Wildlife Conservation Society, and Ikaagun Engagement. As this was the first meeting of the SC, there were discussions on the terms of reference, working procedures, and roles and duties of the SC. The SC also discussed the overall direction of the ROP funding. We look forward to continuing the discussions and moving forward with this program with the help of our Steering Committee!

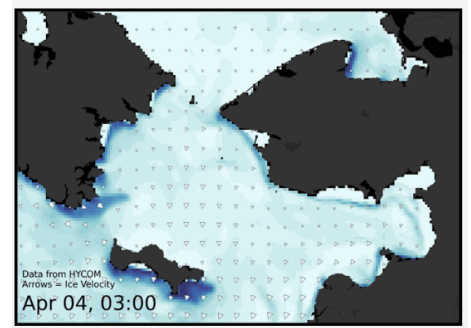
Sea Ice for Walrus Outlook - Jill attended the first ever in-person meeting of the Sea Ice for Walrus Partners and Observers held March 25-26 in Nome. The meeting brought together walrus hunters and sea ice observers from the Bering Strait region, the National Weather Service, Arctic Research Consortium of the United States, UAF/ACCAP, Sea Grant and AOOS. We discussed the upcoming SIWO season, and the future goals of the SIWO program. AOOS continues to participate in SIWO through providing weekly sea ice and surface current forecasts, and program support such as observing equipment and travel support for observers to meetings to present their work.



UA Arctic Steering Committee - Molly was asked to participate in a university initiative to develop a Rasmuson Foundation proposal to enhance the university's position as an Arctic leader. The committee will develop recommendations for the proposal by the fall.

DATA PORTAL

The Sea Ice for Walrus Outlook season has begun! Our first set of sea ice and surface current GIFs are now available on the [AOOS website](#) and on the [SIWO website](#) and [Facebook page](#). These animations show the predicted movement of ice predicted by the HYbrid Coordinate Ocean Model (HYCOM). Snapshots from the forecast show ice coverage from 0% (black) to 100% (white) and arrows show the relative speed and direction of the ice. A light boundary is drawn at 15% predicted ice cover to highlight the ice edge, but ice may be predicted to extend beyond it. (Image produced by the [Alaska Ocean Observing System](#) / [Axiom Data Science](#)).



NEWS ITEMS

An [Arctic Sounder](#) article described how funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will support AOOS observing programs in the Alaskan Arctic.

[Alaska Sea Grant](#) featured the Mariner's Dashboard on their website.

ENGAGEMENT METRICS

Audience Name	Type of Presentation	# of people
Sea Ice for Walrus Outlook Partners and Observers	Workshop participation	20
Arctic Encounter	Symposium	500
Ocean Acidification Experimental Research Discussion	Facilitated discussion	11
IOOS Spring meeting	Meeting	25
Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom network	Monthly meeting facilitation	36
One Health One Future Conference	Poster and session panelist	400
Alaska HAB Workshop	3-day statewide workshop	60
Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management	Session organizer and moderator	50

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