

AOOS MONTHLY UPDATE

May 2023



AOOS and UAF staff prepare for cleanup day in Anchorage.

HIGHLIGHTS

May Spring Clean Up

The Suite 100 team participated in the annual neighborhood cleanup on May 19. Staff from AOOS, Alaska Sea Grant, and UAF were joined by Jasper (team mascot). We had a contest of who picked up the weirdest item as well as the grossest. No need to share what these items were! Thanks to Thomas for organizing.

NOAA funds - We have received approval of the Year 3 core funding, as well as for Year 2 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding. The ASLC accounting team is working hard to get subawards out for both of these funding lines.

COLLABORATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

Bering Strait Exercise - In partnership with the US Coast Guard, AOOS and Axiom have participated in planning the USCG Bering Strait Exercise on June 7.

- The in-water exercise was initially planned as part of the US-Russia Joint Contingency Planning program, but for obvious reasons, has had some changes.
- Axiom and AOOS met with USCG personnel on May 4 to review the data portal and Bering Strait Transboundary Incident Response Tool.

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- Axiom and AOOS joined the Incident Command Post (ICP) on May 15 on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.
- Axiom and AOOS will join the ICP on June 7 during the in-water exercise.

Prince William Sound Shippers Drill

- Sheyna participated in the Prince William Sound Shippers Drill on May 17-18 in concert with Hilcorp Alaska, LLC.
- This was the largest shippers drill in 20 years with over 300 participants from industry, agencies, and stakeholders.

Backyard Buoys

- Permits have been submitted for buoys to be deployed near Little Diomed, Point Hope, Wainwright, Utqiaġvik, and Kaktovik. Our goal is deployment in July as soon as permits are received.
- AOOS hosted a buoy workshop with village facilitators from Point Hope, Little Diomed, and Utqiaġvik on May 23.
- The first buoy of the project has been deployed off La Push, Washington, by the Quileute Tribe. Read more [here](#).



Alaska Ocean Acidification Network

- The Alaska OA Network executive committee met on May 10 and discussed CDR (carbon dioxide removal), organizing another discussion series for fall or spring, increasing coordination capacity for the network, and funding.
- Darcy is wrapping up her last week in Germany and will be back in Alaska this month.
- Edie Mari, former OA Network intern, is starting another internship with us this month while she completes her masters degree.

Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network

- At the May 2023 monthly meeting of the AHAB network, network members discussed upcoming plans for HAB research and monitoring this summer. One highlight is that researchers from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution will be deploying an Imaging Flow Cytobot (IFCB) on R/V *Sikuliaq* for the summer. This instrument will detect potential harmful algal blooms, and if one is detected, advisories will be sent to coastal communities.
- We are preparing for the HAB season. HAB species become more prevalent as ocean temperatures warm. Thomas is currently finalizing a HAB event coordination contact sheet, and he will be updating the [AHAB website](#) with any alerts of HAB events.
- Thomas participated in and presented at a HAB analytical workshop in Seward, organized by the Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute. This workshop brought together HAB researchers and lab personnel to discuss the pros and cons of HAB analytical techniques and how to advance the lab capacity for toxin testing in Alaska.

Alaska Water Level Watch (AWLW)

- Carol Janzen, Thomas Farrugia, and members of the AWLW Steering Committee met with Rear Admiral Ben Evans, director of NOAA's Office of Coast Survey, and his team on May 17. Carol provided an overview of how AWLW is increasing regional water level and coastal hazards observation capacity in Alaska. They also discussed making all water level information and related coastal hazard products more accessible through the Data Portal.

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AOOS IN THE NEWS

The Data Portal and numerous AOOS projects were featured in the most recent edition of the Prince William Sound Science Center's [Delta Sound Connections](#).

The KTNA radio program and podcast [Liquid Assets](#) featured the Alaska Water Level Watch.

[Hakai Magazine](#) and [Yale Climate Connections](#) quoted Thomas Farrugia in a story about harmful cyanobacteria in Kotzebue.

ENGAGEMENT METRICS

Audience Name	Type of Presentation	# of people
Offshore Technology Conference - Arctic Research Needs	Oral	30
Offshore Technology Conference - IOOS RA Booth in the Wind Lounge staffed by AOOS, GCOOS and NERACOOS	IOOS RA hosted booth in the Wind Energy arena of the OTC exhibit hall	100
USCG Bering Strait Exercise meetings (May 4, May 15, May 23)	Axiom & AOOS presented the Incident Response Tool to USCG	25
Prince William Sound Shippers Drill	Participated in Exercise Control for PWS Shippers Drill with other agencies	300
AEWC Buoy Workshop	Facilitated buoy workshop with AEWB and Sofar Ocean	7
ANTHC-NOAA Partnership Workshop	Slides presented by Jaci Overbeck as Sheyna was ill that day.	15
Alaska OA Network executive committee	Facilitated meeting	8
Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network	Monthly meeting	36
Harmful algal bloom analytical workshop	Presented on HABs and lab capacity in Alaska	20

UPCOMING

- Sheyna, Jill, and Axiom will participate in the Bering Strait drill June 7.
- Darcy and family are returning back to Alaska June 8!
- The Alaska OA Network and west coast partners are co-hosting a webinar on marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR) on June 23. Keep an eye out for details.
- Jill, Alice, and Carol will participate in the ANSEP middle school academy in Juneau June 26-29.

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