

AOOS MONTHLY UPDATE

October 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

- We are pleased to announce our new hourly employee, Joni Kitmiiq Speiss. Joni is from Nome, Alaska, and is of Iñupiaq heritage. She practices and advocates for subsistence, and honors her ancestral traditions by keeping connections with people and the land. Joni will help ensure the inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge in her work with AOOS.
- AOOS attended the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) convention Oct 19-21. We had the opportunity to meet with many partners from communities for new projects and partnerships.
- AOOS is working with NPRB for planning of the 20204 Alaska Marine Science Symposium. Registration is now open!
<https://www.alaskamarinescience.org/>



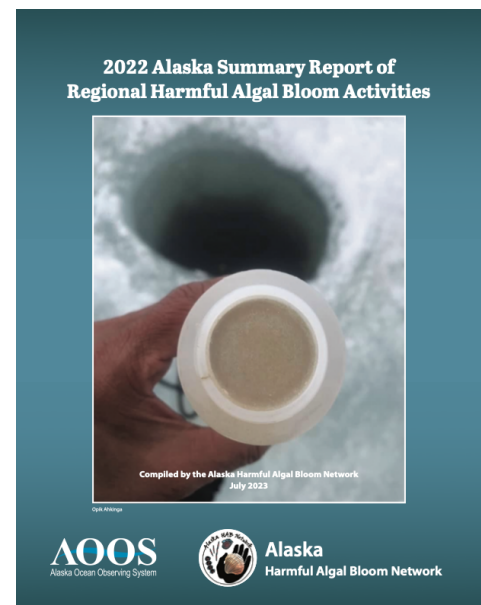
IOOS

- [Request for Inflation Reduction Act \(IRA\) Coastal Resilience Project Ideas](#): AOOS is asking for proposal project ideas by Nov 10 for the IRA funding for coastal resiliency projects.
- AOOS is working with the other Regional Associations for the IRA funding for pan-regional projects.

COLLABORATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network

- Members of the AHAB network contributed to the [2022 Summary report of HAB activities and results in Alaska](#). This report was aggregated to provide an overview of all the organizations that work on HABs in Alaska, highlight the great work done by AHAB members, and identify the progress being made in HAB monitoring and research. More AHAB network documents can be found [here](#).
- The AHAB network Steering Committee met in October and discussed the future of the AHAB network, upcoming outreach materials and the process of bringing more Imaging Flow CytoBots (IFCBs) to Alaska.
- AOOS is purchasing an IFCB to build the capacity in Alaska with the view of deploying several and managing the output information over the next 5 years.



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- Thomas presented on HABs at Cook Inlet Water Quality Summit and at the Annual Environmental Health Conference at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Backyard Buoys Project

- All of the wave buoys deployed by the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC) have been recovered due to incoming sea ice. Overall, it was a very successful season with 13 of the 18 planned buoys deployed. Hunters from around the region expressed their use of the data during the whaling season.
- AEWC and AOOS will host a buoy planning session at the December AEWC meeting to discuss lessons learned from the first season and plans for next season.

Alaska Ocean Acidification Network

- Darcy and an interdisciplinary team looking at salmon, ocean acidification, and management presented to the Board of Fish on Oct 12. Find more on the [Tipping Points project website](#) or the [Tipping Points brochure](#). Darcy also gave an ocean acidification presentation to the Southcentral Subsistence Advisory Board on Oct 4.
- The Alaska OA Network is continuing to co-host a webinar series on marine carbon dioxide removal with west coast partners. The Oct 20 session focused on ocean alkalinity enhancement. You can listen to the first three [recorded webinars](#).



Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program

- AOOS will continue sponsoring internships for ANSEP students in 2024. Principal Investigators have submitted their potential internship opportunities, and intern selection will begin in November.

Arctic Watch

- Tribes in the Bering Strait region have been asked to nominate delegates to represent their Tribe at the workshop in January.
- Three informational webinars were held for potential delegates and other community members to learn more about the project.
- 20 community members participated.

DATA NEWS

Axiom Data Science New Technical Project Manager

- AOOS is excited to begin working with our new Project Manager at Axiom - Kari Fenske. Kari holds a Ph.D. in Fisheries from UAF (she and Thomas know each other from their days at UAF!).
- She has over fifteen years of experience working for major scientific partners, including NOAA, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and two state departments of natural resources. She also worked with the NOAA AFSC's senior leadership team to execute strategic planning. Kari is well positioned to make an immediate impact at Axiom both as a scientific resource and a project manager, and we look forward to her joining the team!

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- We wish Stacey Buckelew well in her next journey with USFWS! We will miss her extensive knowledge and memory of AOOS' programs, but are happy for her working in a role that aligns perfectly with her professional goals and aspirations.

NEWS

Thomas Farrugia was featured in a [Cordova Times article](#) about NOAA funding for HABs research.

ENGAGEMENT METRICS

Audience Name	Type of Presentation	# of people
Arctic Watch - Bering Strait community members	Informational Webinars	20
PICES - Observing Committee Meeting	Oral Powerpoint	25
PICES - TCODE Committee Meeting	Oral Powerpoint	20
Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal webinar #3	Co-hosted webinar	230
Southcentral Subsistence Advisory Board	Ocean acidification presentation	40
Alaska Board of Fish	Ocean acidification presentation	70
Table top exercise with Chadux Alaska	Bering Science Incident Response Tool	8
IPCoMM Hunter's Summit	AOOS service to co-management	25
USCG Arctic and Western Area Committee Meeting	Brief intro to AOOS portal	50
Alaska Marine Policy Forum	Bi-monthly forum	35
Cook Inlet Water Quality Summit	Presentation and panel discussion	100
Environmental Health Conference (ANTHC)	Presentation on HABs	50

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