

AOOS MONTHLY UPDATE

September 2023



AOOS staff attend the 2023 Belugas Count! event put on by NOAA. Photos by Alice Bailey.

HIGHLIGHTS

First Alaskans Institute Training - On Sep. 7-8, AOOS staff participated in training on native governance and protocols and advancing national dialogue on racial equity. We followed up the training with a team dinner.

Fall Board meeting - Our Fall Board meeting was held Sep. 21 at our AOOS office.

- We have two new Executive Committee members - Dee Williams (USGS) is the new Treasurer and Steve White (MXAK) is the new Secretary.
- We discussed funding from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).
- Our Board heard from Beth Spangler of the Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program (ANSEP); Aksii Storer, an ANSEP intern who participated in a field project this summer with Dr. Franz Meuter (UAF) lab; and Chelsea Kovalcsik, a UAF graduate student working with the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island.

Conference season has begun! With the changing of the leaves in Anchorage, our conference season is starting!

- AOOS participated in the NOAA Fisheries [2023 Belugas Count!](#) event on Sep. 23. We had a table highlighting our [Cook Inlet beluga whale sightings mapper](#) as well as beluga whale acoustics.
- AOOS had a table at the [Alaska Grant Symposium](#) held by the Alaska Congressional delegation.

IOOS

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) [Request for Coastal Resilience Project Ideas](#): After many months of hard work by the IOOS Program Office, the IRA Request for Applications (a non-competitive award) has been released. AOOS will be receiving up to \$5M for a 5-year period (Aug 2024-Jul 2028) for coastal resilience projects. We are

requesting proposal ideas and product/service ideas. [Please check our website for updated information on how to submit proposal ideas.](#)

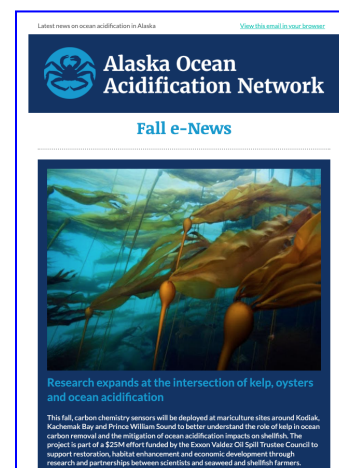
COLLABORATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

Backyard Buoys Project

- Our partners at the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC) continue to steward the Spotter wave buoys deployed at Point Hope, Wainwright, and Utqiagvik. The buoys will start to be recovered this month as the sea ice moves in.
- John Hopson Jr. of Wainwright shared that a bowhead whale was landed in between the two Wainwright wave buoys and that there was no disruption of whaling from the wave buoys. He also shared that having wave information at the 5 and 10 mile offshore locations has been really helpful this year in making decisions to take boats out.
- Weston Solutions (Stacey Aughe and Meghan Larson) continue to help all of our partners from the other regions (PacIOOS and NANOOS) work through the permitting process.

Alaska Ocean Acidification Network

- The network is continuing to partner on a marine carbon dioxide removal webinar (mCDR) series. The Sep. 15 episode highlighted 17 newly funded CDR projects. [Watch the webinar](#). The next webinar on ocean alkalinity enhancement is scheduled for October 20. [Register here](#).
- The network's executive committee met on Sep. 26 and welcomed two new members: Natalie Monacci, a chemical oceanographer at UAF's Ocean Acidification Research Center and Marysia Szymkowiak, a social scientist at NOAA's Alaska Fisheries Science Center. The network also hosted a conversation with science centers around the state to brainstorm the development of an OA exhibit.
- Read the [fall Alaska OA Network enews](#)! Stories cover new research on kelp, oysters and OA; Kodiak Area Native Association leading OA community outreach; an online OA learning game; recent papers published by OA Network researchers, and more!



Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network

- There are currently two funding calls for HAB-related projects that are open for letters of intent. Members of the AHAB network are working to put in proposals to these national funding opportunities and AOOS is available to partner with other organizations to help with the networking, data archiving and visualization, and community outreach:
 - NOAA NCCOS [Social, Cultural, and Economic Assessment of Harmful Algal Blooms \(SEAHABs\)](#)
 - NOAA NCCOS [Ecology & Oceanography of Harmful Algal Blooms \(ECO HAB\)](#)
- Thomas has been wrangling and compiling updates from network members about HAB-related events and activities in 2023 so far, and has submitted the report to the Alaska Fisheries Science Center. These HAB updates will be included in the next [Ecosystem Status Reports for the Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands](#).
- During the AHAB network monthly meeting in Sep., network members shared updates on ongoing work taking place in Alaska, including the HAB data being collected by instruments on R/V *Sikuliaq*, the levels of HABs and toxins being detected in Alaska, and upcoming conferences, proposals, and fieldwork. Notes from each AHAB monthly meeting can be found on the [AHAB website](#).

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Alaska Water Level Watch

The [Utqiagvik water level station](#) stopped reporting on June 11, 2023 due to a broken subsea fiber optic cable. The data stream was restored on Sep. 17, 2023, soon after the cable repair was completed, and is reporting again in real time on the AWLW Data Portal, just in time for the fall storm season. The GPS system stored all the raw satellite data, despite not being able to transmit the data across the cell modem while the cable was out of commission. Orion Space Solutions is in the process of downloading all the backlogged data and will soon populate the time series record back to June 11 for a continuous water level record.

ENGAGEMENT METRICS

Audience Name	Type of Presentation	# of people
Alaska OA Network Executive Committee	Committee meeting	6
Alaska OA exhibit collaboration meeting	Brainstorming session	9
Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal Webinar	Co-hosted webinar	77
AOOS Fall Board meeting	Board meeting	25
Belugas Count! Event (NOAA)	Vendor booth	100
Alaska Delegation Grants Symposium	Vendor booth	~250
Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network	Monthly meeting	34

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