

AOOS MONTHLY UPDATE

November 2023



Thomas represented AOOS at the Pacific Arctic Group (PAG) meeting in Tokyo. While in Japan, he also attended the International Conference on Harmful Algae in Hiroshima.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Thomas attended the [Pacific Arctic Group](#) fall meeting in Tokyo. The meeting brought together international researchers that work in the Pacific Arctic Ocean to facilitate collaboration and coordination of efforts. Thomas presented on AOOS' role in meeting the observation needs of ocean and coastal users.

IOOS

- We have been working hard on the [IOOS Inflation Reduction Act \(IRA\) request for applications](#). We received over 88 project ideas totalling over \$37 million in funding requests. Thank you to members of our Board for helping us review and select applicants that will be included in our final proposal.
- We have also been working with the other Regional Associations (RAs) to put together the plans for Topic Area 2 under this IRA funding. It has been an interesting process and MANY video calls to come up with national and pan-regional projects for the IOOS Program Office!
- Sheyna attended the IOOS fall meeting in San Diego hosted by the Southern California Coastal and Ocean Observing System ([SCCOOS](#)) from Nov 28 to Dec 1. Two AOOS partners also joined for a technical session on wave buoys and water levels. Thank you to Nathan Wardwell of JOA Surveys and Duncan Mactavish of Sofar Ocean Technologies for attending!

COLLABORATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network

- Thomas attended the [20th International Conference on Harmful Algae](#) and presented on the AHAB network's activities and needs. The conference presented an important venue for nurturing relationships with current collaborators and building new connections for future work.
- The process of purchasing an [Imaging Flow CytoBot](#) (IFCB) was initiated. IFCB are valuable instruments for studying phytoplankton and have been used in Alaska to detect the presence of harmful algal species. This will be the first IFCB dedicated to the AHAB network, and it will be run by AOOS. Decisions as to how and where the IFCB is deployed will be discussed among the AHAB network members.
- Thomas will be presenting a poster at AMSS on the current and future work of the AHAB network. A discussion among AHAB network members will also be organized during AMSS (date/time TBD) to help with coordination between research and monitoring projects on HABs in Alaska.

Alaska Ocean Acidification Network

- Darcy attended the [Pacific Marine Expo](#) in Seattle, the largest annual congregation of fishermen on the west coast, to share information on ocean acidification. Thank you, Alaska Sea Grant, for sharing your booth space!
- Network members have been discussing messaging around ocean acidification - what we can say with certainty, what main points to hit early when speaking with audiences, and how to frame what we know in context. There will be further discussion around these topics during an OA Research Session at the Alaska Marine Science Symposium.
- There is currently a short survey out to provide input into topics for an OA and Climate Discussion Series in early 2024. [Take the survey.](#)



- *PHOTO: Darcy and colleagues tour a prototype electric boat at the Pacific Marine Expo in Seattle*

Backyard Buoys Project

- Sheyna convened a session about coastal community resilience at the [Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation](#) conference in Portland, Oregon. She presented a summary of the Backyard Buoys project in the session.
- Ten of the 13 wave buoys deployed this summer are now housed in the UIC Science warehouse in Utqiagvik for the winter. The buoy that went on a walkabout from Cape Lisburne stopped transmitting from the northwestern Chukchi Sea in early November. The other two buoys deployed off Point Barrow were pulled underwater by strong currents, so they were not recovered before the ice came in.
- Our other regional partners from the Pacific Northwest and Pacific Islands are also getting buoys in the water! The Quinault Indian Nation and Quileute Tribe in Washington each have deployed a test wave buoy. The Marshall Islands Conservation Society also deployed a buoy near Majuro in mid-November.

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- AOOS and the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission will be hosting a buoy session at the upcoming AEWC meeting in Anchorage on Dec 13. They will discuss lessons learned and make plans for 2024!

Alaska Water Level Watch (AWLW)

- The AWLW has grown significantly since its inception in 2015. By 2023, the AWLW increased existing coastal water level observations by 50% in Alaska, augmenting the NOAA National Water Level Network (NWLON) array in Alaska. New investments promise to continue to fill critical data gaps in water level, datum, and other coastal hazard observations in Alaska.
- A specialized [AWLW Data Portal](#) has been developed to host NWLON data, NOAA Tidal Predictions, and AWLW non-federal water level data resources.
- The network has a new and improved logo, an upgraded [website](#), and the addition of several key water level and coastal hazard partners to the AWLW Steering Committee.
- The first meeting of the newly expanded steering committee is scheduled for December 4, 2023.

ENGAGEMENT METRICS

Audience Name	Type of Presentation	# of people
International Conference on Harmful Algae	Scientific presentation/networking	500
Pacific Arctic Group fall meeting	Presentation on AOOS/networking	50
AHAB monthly meeting	AHAB network members discussion	28
Alaska Marine Policy Forum	Co-hosted by AOOS and Alaska Sea Grant	45
Coastal & Estuarine Research Foundation 2023 conference	Convened session and presented on Backyard Buoy project	600
Marine Mammal Commission	Provided slides	40
Chugach Regional Resources Commission	Ocean Acidification presentation	15
Pacific Marine Expo	Booth and conversations	hundreds!
Global Ocean Acidification Network	Presentation and panel	20

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