

AOOS MONTHLY UPDATE

August 2023



Sheyna attended the NANOOS 20th Anniversary and RA Director's Retreat in Astoria, Oregon. While there, Henry Ruhl (CeNCOOS Director), Melissa Iwamoto (PacIOOS Director), Susan Fox (IOOS Regional Coordinator), and Sheyna (AOOS Director) visited the house from the *Goonies* movie.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **First aid training** - AOOS and NPRB staff completed training on adult first aid, CPR, and use of our office's automated external defibrillator.
- **Fall board meeting** - The AOOS fall board meeting will be held Thursday, Sept. 21, at the AOOS office.

IOOS

- **Regional Association Directors Retreat** - Most of the directors from IOOS Regional Associations (RAs) attended the NANOOS 20th Anniversary Celebration and RA Director's Retreat in Astoria, Oregon. Much of the discussion was on the upcoming Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding.
- **Inflation Reduction Act: Funding opportunities**: NOAA continues to release funding opportunities under the IRA, and AOOS continues to notify partners. AOOS submitted a Letter of Intent for HABs/OA community sampling and teamed with UAF on another submission.

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- **Year 3 Non-Core descope:** AOOS is working on the submission of the Year 3 non-core descope to IOOS by November.

COLLABORATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

Backyard Buoys Project -

- **BARC Science Fair** - Jill, Holly, and Sheyna attended the UIC Science Fair in Utqiagvik, Alaska, Aug 2-4 where they had the opportunity to teach kids and adults about the project and how to tie knots!
- **13 buoys deployed so far!** We now have 2 buoys near Point Hope, 1 on walkabout (currently north of Cape Lisburne), 3 near Wainwright, and 7 near Barrow.
- Take a look at the prototype app: [Backyard Buoy App](#)



Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network -

- The AHAB Network Steering Committee met in August to share updates on the direction of the network and discuss the acquisition of an Imaging Flow Cytobot (IFCB). IFCBs have been used on vessels to detect harmful algal blooms in the Bering and Chukchi Seas, but these instruments weren't dedicated to monitoring HABs in Alaska. AOOS acquiring an IFCB (and potentially more in the future) will increase the in-state capacity for HAB detection.
- The first draft of an annual report on the HAB events in Alaska in 2022 was approved by the AHAB network members that contributed to the report, which will be released publicly next month!

Alaska Ocean Acidification Network

- Alaska OA Network intern and volunteer Edie Mari came to Alaska from her home in Chicago to meet AOOS staff and OA partners. Edie has been an asset to the network for the past two years and is now involved in both OA and HABS through contract work.
- The OA Network is continuing to work with partners to look for funding for community sampling data synthesis and statewide Burke-o-Lator oversight to support community sample analysis. The OA Network convened a community sampling coordination meeting on Aug 25 to share updates from across regions and discuss challenges and opportunities.



Alaska Water Level Watch

- Jacquelyn Overbeck (NOAA) presented updates on the Alaska Water Level Watch at the National Weather Service Alaska Region *Pre-Fall Coastal Storm Refresher Workshop*. The focus of this year's workshop was coastal flooding. Presentations featured forecasting methods to consider, data sources, and work by other agencies that expands resources for forecasters across the state.

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OTHER UPDATES

A special session at Ocean Sciences 2024 will commemorate Steven Okkenen. - Okkonen, a UAF researcher who died in a tragic accident in April 2023, committed his entire professional career to addressing the challenges of climate change in Alaska's marine environment. Conveners of a special session at the 2024 Ocean Sciences Meeting in February invite contributions as a tribute to him and his work. The session number will be [HE008 - Oceanography of Alaskan Waters: From Ocean Currents to Whales](#). The abstract submission deadline is Sept. 13. For more information, go to: [2024 Ocean Sciences Meeting webpage](#).

NEWS ITEMS

Hank Statscewich, who is involved in the AOOS/UAF glider program, was interviewed by the *Teledyne Marine Tech Talk* podcast about [how underwater gliders to support Alaska fisheries management](#).

ENGAGEMENT METRICS

Audience Name	Type of Presentation	# of people
Community Sampling Coordination	Coordination meeting	10
Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network	Monthly meeting	32
Bering Science webinar	Public informational session	90
Alaska Marine Policy Forum	Bi-monthly meeting	55
BARC Science Fair	Public information & educational session	110

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