

AOOS MONTHLY UPDATE

December 2025/ January 2026



A full AOOS staff and AOOS Board Chair, Steve White, enjoyed some appetizers at Orso's Restaurant during the Alaska Marine Science Symposium.

HIGHLIGHTS

- This monthly update is late but we want to share the most exciting news for AOOS! We just received the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for our FY26-31 cooperative agreement. We've been waiting for this since last summer. Thanks to the IOOS Program Office and especially to Senator Sullivan's office for continuing to advocate for us. With the approval of the FY26 minibus, we are looking good for funding for FY26.
- The Ocean Suite partners (NPRB, Sea Grant, AOOS) enjoyed a holiday potluck afternoon in December. Festivities included a white elephant gift exchange, Darcy's famous ocean mad-lib, and tasty potluck treats.
- AOOS closed our office for a week to recharge and prep for a busy 2026!
- AOOS staff were very busy with the Alaska Marine Science Symposium the last week of January. AOOS is a sponsor, part of the organizing committee, reviews abstracts, coordinates workshops, leads the student

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judging, hosts workshops, hosts a booth, has been a keynote the last two years, and presents our work in posters. We are so proud to see the AOOS logo throughout the symposium!

IOOS

- We submitted our semi-annual progress reports for the FY21-26 core award as well as for the Ocean Technology Transition (OTT) award.
- We have been preparing for the FY26-31 proposal and will be able to submit by the April 13 deadline!
- Sheyna, Thomas, and Steve White have been preparing for the IOOS Spring meeting in March, where we will also meet with our Congressional delegation.

NETWORKS

Alaska Water Level Watch

- A [data view](#) was created to compare water level sensors in Dillingham. Both data sets are available on the [Dillingham station page](#), but the data sets are plotted on individual pages. In the data view, you can see the bubbler and radar coplotted as well as in their individual plots. As discussed in the 'More Information' tab of the station page, there are two gauges installed in Dillingham for redundancy in observations in order to reduce the potential for data gaps.

Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network

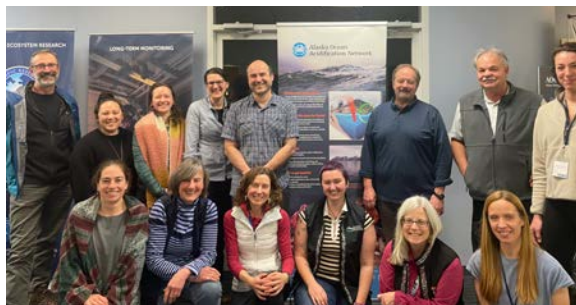
- HABs researchers and members of the AHAB network met for a 3-hour workshop during the Alaska Marine Science Symposium. This annual gathering covered a debrief of the 2025 HAB season, presentations on some new research, and discussions about HABs outreach and communication.
- One of the three [keynotes at the Alaska Marine Science Symposium](#) was given by Thomas Farrugia (AOOS) and Rosie Masui (KBNERR). It explored the good, bad, and uncertainty of the HAB event response in Kachemak Bay in 2025, and how a community of responders was shaped.
- AOOS's third [Imaging FlowCytobot \(IFCB\)](#) was delivered in January! This will increase our ability to monitor Alaska's oceans for HABs. The 2026 IFCB deployment schedule is being developed by Thomas.



Alaska Ocean Acidification Network

This period was busy for the OA Network!

- Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal (mCDR): Darcy was part of a team hosting mCDR workshops in Cordova and Kodiak in December ([summaries here](#)). She also presented at a West Coast/BC/Alaska webinar focused [webinar on regional perspectives of mCDR](#), continues to convene the mCDR monthly journal club, and is part



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of a team drafting guidance memos from the fishing industry for mCDR practitioners.

- OA Network researchers met in person during the Alaska Marine Science Symposium to share updates and discuss mCDR. Also check out the [January OA eNews](#) highlighting OA Day of Action, a summary [website explaining U.S. OA indicators](#) with graphs including Alaska waters, and a recorded webinar of [OA in the Bering Strait](#) presented at the Strait Science series by UAF's Natalie Monacci.

Northeast Pacific Acoustic Telemetry (N-PACT) node

- The N-PACT team provided an update on the progress of the node to the directors of the west coast regional associations (AOOS, CenCOOS, NANOOS, SCCOOS).
- The development of the node membership and cyberinfrastructure continues. N-PACT now has a Plone instance for online file sharing and management, and both GeoServer and ERDDAP access points.

PROJECTS

Backyard Buoys

- Martin and Sheyna presented at the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC) meeting in January. The plans for 2026 deployments are coming together.

DATA

AWLW Portal Tutorial by Taylor Borgfeldt

- The first Alaska Water Level Watch (AWLW) Portal [tutorial video](#) is now live on the AOOS YouTube channel. This short video walks users through the AWLW Portal homepage and demonstrates how to find and view real-time water level observations. It's the first in a series of brief (under five minutes) tutorials that will progressively highlight the tools and features available in the portal. As a reminder, you can always find additional information on navigating the portal by clicking 'Help' in the top navigation bar and then selecting 'Documentation'.

EDUCATION

Bartlett High School Ocean Tech Demo Day

- The AOOS team had a blast participating in Bartlett High School's Ocean Tech Demo Day. A big thanks to everyone who participated! We worked with science teacher Samantha Matsuoka and AOOS partners at JOA Surveys and UAF to put together these demonstrations in and around their swimming pool:
 - Thomas & Jen Questel (UAF): microscopes with zooplankton and phytoplankton
 - Taylor and Jay Scrimshaw (JOA): water level demo with a bubbler and radar, and AWLW portal
 - Alice and Sheyna: waves and wave buoys
 - Peter Shipton and Lydia Sgouros (UAF): operating a ROV
 - Hank Statscewich (UAF): operating a glider
- Watch the video put together by the Anchorage School District:
<https://www.facebook.com/reel/724704947348085>

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AOOS IN THE NEWS

[KTUU](#) featured AOOS teaching high school students about ocean technology using their swimming pool.

[Alaska Public Media](#) wrote a feature story about how the Backyard Buoys program makes fishing safer in Western Alaska and helps hunters land whales.

[Must Read Alaska](#) published an article about what Alaska gets from appropriations passed by the Senate, including a \$1 million increase for IOOS.

The [National Fisherman](#) wrote about 2026 AMSS keynotes, including Thomas Farrugia's about harmful algal blooms.

The [National Fisherman](#) explained how Alaska waterfronts see funding gains in 2026, including IOOS.

[Inside Climate News](#) featured Libby Jewett, the founding director of NOAA's ocean acidification program, who retired last year amid widespread layoffs across government agencies.

[Dan Sullivan](#) and [Lisa Murkowski's](#) offices published press releases about the passage of appropriations for Alaska, including \$43.5 million nationwide for the Integrated Ocean Observing System, a \$1 million increase from the previous year.

ENGAGEMENT METRICS

Audience Name	Type of Presentation	# of people
Bartlett High School Ocean Technology Day	AOOS staff and partners facilitated hands-on demonstrations of equipment	100
mCDR webinar: Regional perspectives	Darcy co-organized and presented	109
mCDR Journal Club	Darcy facilitated meeting	10
Kodiak community mCDR Workshop	Darcy helped organize workshop	27
Cordova community mCDR Workshop	Darcy helped organize workshop	28
Alaska OA Executive Committee	Darcy facilitated quarterly meeting	8
Alaska OA Researcher Meeting	Darcy facilitated in-person meeting at AMSS	22
Alaska Marine Research Planning Night	Sheyna facilitated the workshop	85
Alaska Marine Policy Forum	Co-hosted bi-monthly forum	47
Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network	Monthly meeting	25
Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network	Annual workshop at AMSS	88
Alaska Marine Science Symposium	Keynote presentation on HABs in Kachemak Bay	400
Alaska Marine Science Symposium	Poster presentation on the IFCB work at AOOS	50

Sheyna Wisdom, Carol Janzen, Holly Kent, Darcy Dugan, Thomas Farrugia, Alice Bailey, Lisa Sheffield-Guy, and Taylor Borgfeldt.