

HIGHLIGHTS

Special message from Molly - Like many of you, I've been deeply horrified and saddened by the events of the past weeks and the continued loss of lives of Black Americans due to systemic racism and social injustice and inequality. We see the impacts of climate change every day in Alaska – and know that it affects marginalized communities more than others. Alaska is one of the most diverse states in the country, and if real change is going to happen, we have to include all voices in the conversation and the decisions. Clearly, this issue has sparked introspection and conversations among our staff and our partners and collaborators. We are looking for ways to deepen our connections and impacts and will be working with the AOOS board and partners in moving forward.

AOOS Executive Director position opening – This week we will be releasing the position announcement for the AOOS Executive Director. As mentioned in a previous monthly update, Molly will be stepping down as ED this fall to a part-time senior advisor status to work on special projects. The position announcement and application process will soon be posted on the AOOS website and widely circulated. We encourage you to circulate it as well to your contacts.

Welcome Nic! - AOOS welcomes Nicole (Nic) Kinsman starting July 6 on a temporary assignment to the U.S. IOOS Program Office as part of NOAA's Leadership Competency Development Program. Nic will be posted at AOOS for the next 3 months to learn more about the U.S. IOOS Enterprise and further strengthen relationships between AOOS and NOAA. In her regular role, Nic serves as the Alaska Regional Advisor for NOAA's National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and provides technical guidance on geospatial positioning topics in support of mapping and charting, navigation, flood risk determination, transportation, land use and ecosystem management. Prior to her work with NOAA, she managed the Coastal Hazards Program with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources and she has conducted research in conjunction with the California Division of Boating and Waterways and the Surfrider Foundation. Nic holds a PhD in Coastal Science from the University of California Santa Cruz, and is an affiliated faculty member at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She can be reached at kinsman@aoos.org or at 202-306-5763.

AOOS Partners Win Awards - Alaska's Navigation Manager (and AOOS partner) **LCDR Bart Buesseler** received one of three science awards from the Association of Commissioned Officers.

The citation reads: *In recognition of exceptional*

*Oskill in resolving regional charting and navigation questions by educating constituents on charting technologies and their uses and soliciting feedback on NOAA's navigation products and services from the Alaskan maritime community. For exemplifying the critical link between NOAA and Alaska's unique culture, blending science, maritime commerce, traditional subsistence lifestyles, homeland security, and environmental stewardship through charting, introducing and mastering new technologies, and outreach. Congratulations Bart! Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy staff and AOOS partner **Rick Thoman** was also recently honored. Rick was selected in the professional achievement category of the NOAA Distinguished Career award for his continued efforts to improve climate services in Alaska, and for outstanding outreach efforts working with the Alaska Native community. Congrats Rick!*



ADMINISTRATIVE

AOOS 5-Year Proposal Technical Review Round 1 – AOOS completed an initial technical review of over 80 new observing ideas and projects submitted for consideration in the next 5-year AOOS proposal to IOOS, due in December 2020. Five external panelists, with expertise in oceanography, fisheries biology, ocean acidification, and coastal/navigation hazards joined AOOS staff via webinar on June 24-25 to perform a formal evaluation of submitted ideas based on project benefits, risks and overall impact toward meeting the AOOS mission over the next five years (2021-2026). AOOS thanks all those who submitted project ideas and proposals to help develop our 5-year build-out, and also thanks the review panel for their attention and time in seamlessly completing this first stage review process. AOOS is organizing the review results for further stakeholder input prior to presentation to the Board September 2.

Year 5 award – We have just received our final award letter for Year 5 of our current cooperative agreement with NOAA. Our total funding for the year is \$4,581,370.66. Of that, \$708,604 is for NOAA projects that would typically go through a cooperative institute. The new UAF, UW, OSU Cooperative Institute will take over these projects next year. The AOOS Board already approved expenditures of the core IOOS funding of \$2,691,136 at its May meeting. The other funds are primarily for projects that either the NOAA IOOS Program Office or other NOAA line offices have tasked AOOS or our data contractor Axiom Data Science to conduct. New funding includes \$200,000 of the \$1million inserted by Congress into the national IOOS budget for pilot programs to enhance the nation’s capacity for monitoring and detecting harmful algal blooms. AOOS was also successful in receiving year 2 funds for the Regional Ocean Partnership Data Sharing Initiative.

IOOS

IOOS Association’s New Award – Molly joined other members of the IOOS family in inaugurating a new award – the Cariad award (for Scottish Gaelic word “Caraid,” meaning “care” or “love”) – and its first recipient former NERACOOS Director Ru Morrison, at an event June 10. This annual award will recognize those who have made outstanding contributions to observing and understanding our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes through vision, leadership, friendship and collaboration. Josie Quintrell, IOOS Association executive director, presented the award telling those assembled “Ru, you inspired us to learn about Caraid, not only as a Scottish word honoring your heritage, but also as the spirit you bring to all of your work. These are the attributes - caring and the courage to do what matters - that make the IOOS Program work and are what you brought to NERACOOS and IOOS.”

IOOS Advisory Committee – The IOOS AC (Molly is a member) held an administrative call June 11 to finalize preparations for the August virtual meeting.

CONFERENCES/MEETINGS/PRESENTATIONS

SAON Board meeting – Molly presented to the board June 10 on the current status of Arctic meetings for the UN Decade of the Ocean.

COLLABORATIONS

ACCAP Strategic Planning – As a member of its advisory committee, Molly participated in 3 strategic planning and visioning sessions in May. These are being used by ACCAP to help inform its upcoming 5-year renewal proposal.

Murdock Foundation Site visit – The foundation’s Moses Lee met June 12 with a team from UAF CFOS proposing “A towed instrument package for high-resolution multidisciplinary study of mesoscale coupling of physical and chemical oceanography to plankton distribution in Alaskan waters.” AOOS will provide some of the matching funds to the project if it is successfully funded.

Alaska Regional Collaborations Team mtg – The team met June 17 to discuss potential FY21 collaboration priorities, as well as discuss individual office responses to the systemic racial issues at the forefront across the nation.

WWF – Molly, Rob and Jill met with a team from World Wildlife Fund’s Arctic and Russian Programs on June 18 to discuss a potential collaboration for sharing data across the Bering Strait region as a tool for oil spill response and planning.

Alaska OA Network – The Alaska OA Network is working on a podcast series on carbon policy that can help inform Alaskans on the development of policies that address solutions to the root cause ocean acidification and climate change. The series should be ready in the fall. The network is also discussing ways to better visualize ocean acidification data and make it understandable and relevant to non-scientist audiences.

Alaska HAB Network – AHAB held a monthly call on June 11 during which HAB researchers and points of contact around the state reported on test results, conditions, and research plans in the face of COVID. Community members and AHAB members have been doing the best they can to collect samples, and labs have been running on a skeleton crew. Southeast Alaska and Kodiak both reported shellfish samples above the regulatory limit, and Southeast, Kodiak and Prince William Sound all reported signs of harmful species in at least some of the plankton tows.

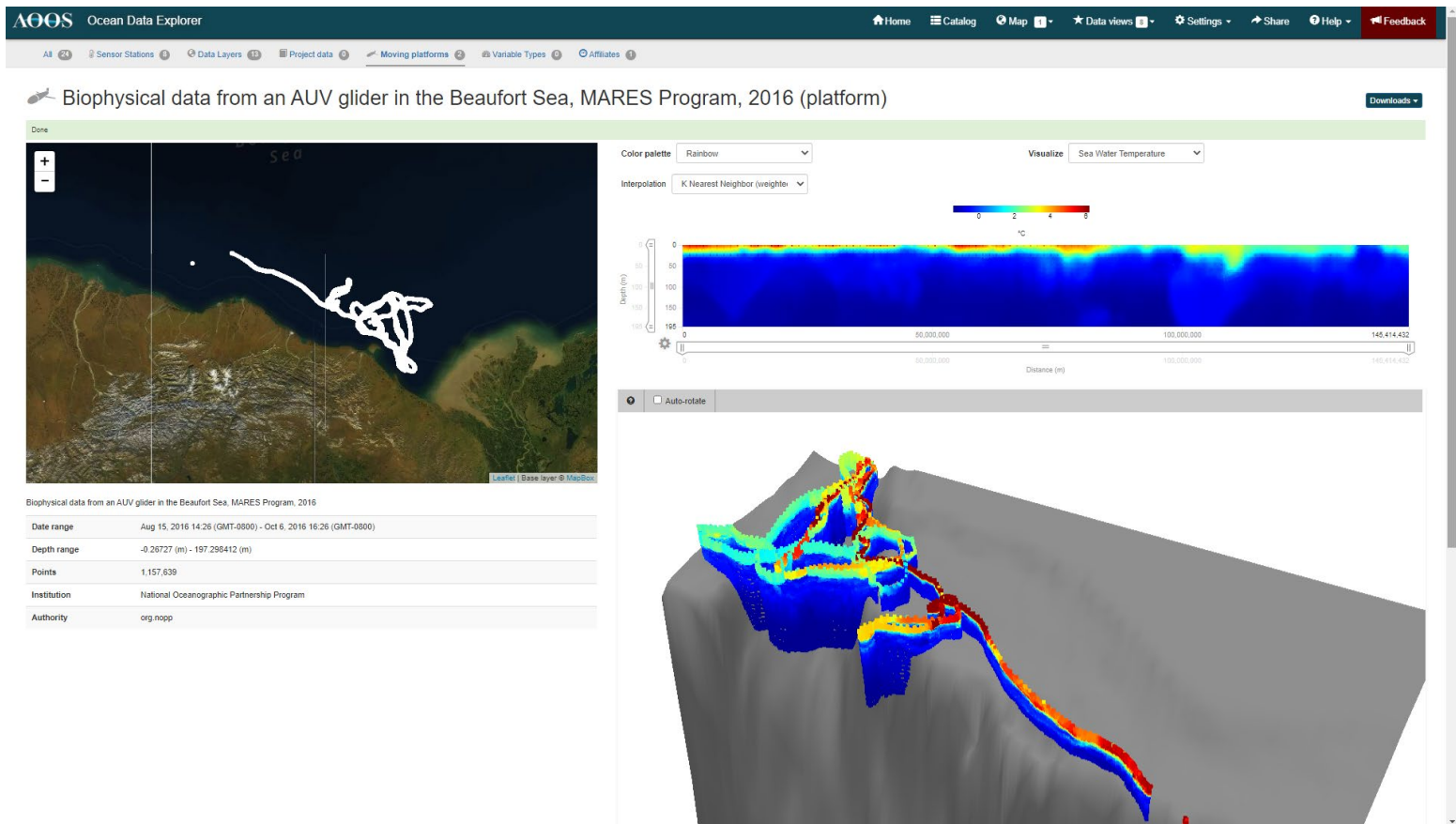
DATA MANAGEMENT

Bering Ocean Data Sharing Initiative – The “[Bering Science: Spring 2020 Bering Region Ocean Update](#)” report has now been released. The report was mailed to community boxholders from Shishmaref to Dillingham, emailed to a wide distribution group, and AOOS released a press release. So far we have received great feedback of how the information was useful, and what we can include in future reports. Molly gave an interview with Shady Grove from the Arctic Sounder, and Rick Thoman from ACCAP gave promos during his weekly radio “Climate Highlights” with KDLG, KNOM and

KYUK. Additionally, a longer-form radio show is scheduled for 8 July with KOTZ, where Rick, Molly, and a biologist from AFSC will give more information about the report. An ACCAP webinar has also been scheduled for 23 July at 10am. We continue to work with WWF on the development of the Bering Strait Oil Spill Response tool, Axiom on data products for the Bering Sea Data Integration Portal, and agencies (e.g., ADFG, NOAA) on datasets that they may be able to make available on the Data Portal.

AOOS/Axiom Quarterly Meeting – AOOS meet with the Axiom Data Science team on June 3 to review quarter three progress on DMAC deliverables and discuss data products priorities for the upcoming project year.

AUV glider in the Beaufort Sea: As part of the Marine Arctic Ecosystem Study (MARES) Biophysical and Chemical Program, biophysical oceanographic data was sampled in the Beaufort Sea from August 2016 to October 2016 using an underwater autonomous vehicle—Slocum G2 Glider. The glider was deployed to advance our understanding of the exchange processes between the Mackenzie River, the shelf, and the eastern Beaufort Sea, and the impact of these exchanges on the ecosystem. The glider was equipped with an extended buoyancy 200 m buoyancy pump and a hybrid thruster; both were designed to deal with freshwater lens penetration when the extreme buoyancy range of a river plume is encountered. The glider was deployed north of Kaktovik, Alaska, moved west towards the MARES mooring line, performed a cross-shelf transect near the US-Canada border, and then proceeded to the Mackenzie Trough. After repeating the sampling pattern in the trough two to three times, it ended with a cross-shelf transect along the mooring sites. This impressive glider track is available for 3D discovery and access in the AOOS Ocean Explorer at [this link](#). These data were collected on the 2016-13 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Beaufort Marine Hazards cruise to deploy the five MARES program moorings for the 2016-2017 season by PI Donglai Gong.



ENGAGEMENT METRICS

Audience Name	Type of Presentation	# of people
SAON Board	Presentation on Arctic UN Decade planning	12

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 14,15,16 Gulf Watch Alaska Program PI Meeting (final date TBD) (Carol, Stacey, Chris)
July 15-16 NOAA Ecosystem Science Management Working Group – virtual (Molly)
July 14-16 IARPC Team Leaders planning workshop – virtual (Molly)
Aug 4-6 IOOS Federal Advisory Committee - virtual (Molly)
Aug 25-26 IOOS-OAR/PMEL workshop – virtual (Molly & Carol)
Sept 2 AOOS Board Meeting
Sept 16-18 Sustaining Ocean Observations workshop - virtual (Molly)
Sept 29-30 NOAA Ocean Acidification Program review – virtual (Darcy)
Oct 5-30 MTS/OES/IEEE Global OCEANS 2020: Singapore – U.S. Gulf Coast: First-ever virtual OCEANS conference (Carol)

Molly McCammon, Carol Janzen, Holly Kent, Darcy Dugan, Jill Prewitt, Nic Kinsman and our data team at Axiom Data Science