



## October 2022 Monthly Update

### HIGHLIGHTS

**Alaska Ocean Leadership Awards** - Nominations are now open through December 12, 2022 for the Ocean Leadership awards. These awards were established as annual awards to encourage and give recognition to outstanding achievements related to ocean sciences, education, and resource management in Alaska. We encourage everyone to nominate your ocean leadership heroes! [https://www.alaskasealife.org/alaska\\_ocean\\_leadership\\_awards](https://www.alaskasealife.org/alaska_ocean_leadership_awards)

**AOOS Board Meeting** - The AOOS Board met on September 29 in Anchorage. We welcome our two new Board members - Chuck Wheat with Hilcorp Alaska as the new representative for the oil and gas seat and Martin Robards with the Wildlife Conservation Society as the new representative for the NGO seat. Thank you to Margaret Williams with the World Wildlife Fund, who has been the representative since the NGO seat was added in 2010. Our “new” Executive Committee was confirmed: Katrina Hoffman will continue as Chair, Amy Holman is the new Vice Chair, Cheryl Rosa will continue as Secretary, and Jim Kendall will continue as Treasurer. The Board also approved the award for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) that will be coming to AOOS in December, as well as the NSF Convergence Accelerator Phase II award.

**KNOM Ocean Knowledge Radio Show.** Megan Onders hosted a storm prep show, switching gears on September 23, to help listeners in Western Alaska prepare for typhoon Merbok’s arrival. She interviewed Frances Ozenna, tribal coordinator for the Native Village of Diomedes on community emergency preparedness and James Benzschawel, the program manager for Emergency Preparedness at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. The October 4th show features Senator Murkowski on her Comprehensive Arctic Bill and Carl Gouldman, Director of the US Integrated Ocean Observing System. The October 14 show was broadcast from the Harpa conference center in Reykjavik at the Arctic Circle Assembly featuring;

- Lisa Koperqualuk, President of ICC Canada on the environmental threats of Arctic shipping,
- Arsenio Dominguez, Director of the Marine Environment Division at the International Maritime Organization on IMO shipping jurisdiction,
- Becca Robbins Gisclare, Senior Director of Arctic Programs at the Ocean Conservancy on marine plastics,
- Kaare Erickson of Ikaagun Engagement on science and community engagement,
- Former Lt. Governor Mead Treadwell on Asian interests in the Arctic,
- Alice Rogoff, publisher of ArcticToday.com on the purpose of Arctic gatherings, and
- Dr. Alice Bradley, Co-Chair of the Committee on Observations and Networks of the Sustaining Arctic Observing Network of the Arctic Council.

While a podcast of the Ocean Knowledge Radio Show is in the works, listen to the shows on our AOOS website at <https://aoot.org/alaska-issues-2/ocean-knowledge-radio-show/>.

**ANSEP intern opportunity** - AOOS is excited to announce we have executed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP) as part of funding for both the BIL and the NSF Backyard Buoys projects. AOOS will sponsor two undergraduate interns for the Summer Bridge program, so please let us know if you have an interest in hosting an ANSEP intern June-July!

### ADMINISTRATIVE

**NPFMC Community Engagement Committee** - Megan Onders, Director of Ocean Engagement was selected to serve on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council Community Engagement Committee. The Community Engagement Committee is tasked with providing recommendations to the Council on how to improve engagement with Alaska Native and rural communities. She was also elected by the Bering Strait region’s tribes and native corporations to serve on the AFN Board of Directors as the Bering Strait region village representative.

### PROPOSALS/AWARDS

**IOOS Ocean Technical Transition (OTT) Letter of Intent** - The team of AOOS, Oil Spill Recovery Institute (OSRI), Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC), Axiom, and NOAA Kasitsna Bay Laboratory submitted a Letter of Intent

to IOOS for continued work on the Cook Inlet Ocean Forecast System (CIOFS). If this LOI is accepted, this team will put together a formal proposal.

**NSF Backyard Buoys Update** - We have received the Phase II award for the NSF Convergence Accelerator program [Backyard Buoys Awarded \\$4.98M Cooperative Agreement with National Science Foundation - Alaska Ocean Observing System](#). We held a kickoff meeting on October 26 with our partners from across all three regions and look forward to starting this work!!

**IOOS**

**Hurricane Supplemental** - AOOS worked with partners to respond to an IOOS/NOAA request for costs and details for needs for western Alaska as part of the NOAA Hurricane Supplemental. Fortunately, AOOS did not lose any assets due to the storms in September; but we learned a lot on what assets are needed in the region to better serve our communities and forecasters.

**IOOS Fall Meeting** - Molly, Sheyna, and Holly will be attending the IOOS Fall Meeting held at CARICOOS in Puerto Rico November 8-11.

**COLLABORATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS**

**UN Ocean Decade Northeast Pacific Collaborative** - Molly is a member of the NEP’s advisory council, which met virtually October 11 and 12. Stay tuned for more information about this initiative.

**CIRCAC EMC** - The Environmental Monitoring Committee met October 21 to update members on the status of CIRCAC’s efforts in Cook Inlet and review and comment on draft revisions to the strategic plan. Molly attended as vice-chair.

**Alaska Sea Grant Advisory Committee** - Sheyna participated in her first meeting as a member of the Alaska Sea Grant Advisory Committee on October 25. Sheyna and Ginny will be working to identify more ways for collaboration!

**Alaska Marine Policy Forum** - AOOS and Alaska Sea Grant hosted the Alaska Marine Policy Forum on October 19. Updates were given by the US Congressional delegation. Nic Kinsman, the Alaska Regional Advisor, NOAA/NOA/National Geodetic Survey gave an update on the 2022 Bering Sea Storms: High Water Mark, Flooding, and Erosion Response. We also introduced the new NOAA Office of Coastal Management Regional Spatial Coordinator, Jaci Overbeck. The next forum is December 21, 2022 at 1-2pm. Please let us know if you have any ideas for presenters!

**Indigenous Peoples Council on Marine Mammals (IPCoMM)** - Sheyna and Megan gave an update to the IPCoMM Board meeting on October 19. Based on the feedback at that meeting, Sheyna and Megan will be putting together an AOOS report to IPCoMM and other marine mammal co-management organizations on how AOOS can provide support.

**ENGAGEMENT METRICS**

<b>Audience Name</b>	<b>Type of Presentation</b>	<b># of people</b>
Eskimo Walrus Commission Young Hunters Summit	Speech	45
Arctic Circle Assembly -Ocean Knowledge Radio Show	Radio Interviews	2000
Alaska Federation of Natives - KNOM	Radio Interviews	4000
Alaska Marine Policy Forum	Facilitation	32
Indigenous Peoples Council on Marine Mammals (IPCoMM) Board meeting	Presentation	25

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