



## HIGHLIGHTS

**New observing assets arrive at UAF** - Two new assets are now in Fairbanks being tested and readied for deployment this coming winter and spring. A new Remote Power Module lite will be used to support High Frequency Radars in the Bering Strait and can be easily deployed with just 2 helicopter sling loads or towed behind a snowmachine. It weighs half as much as the older RPM. The new EAFM (Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management) glider has a state-of-the-art echosounder that will be used in February during the International Year of the Salmon field project.



Molly McCammon, Hank Statscewich, and Jordy Maisch with the new remote power module lite to be used for High Frequency Radars in the Bering Strait.



**New Carbon Policy Podcast** - The Alaska Ocean Acidification Network launched a new podcast called "The Future Ocean: what can carbon policy do for the ocean and our fisheries?" This six-part series features local marine scientists, economists, and leaders in Alaska's clean energy transition as they introduce ocean acidification and discuss different carbon policy options, how they work, what the terms mean, and what action is currently happening regionally and nationally. This podcast was developed in response to interest from the Alaska fishing industry in becoming more informed on carbon policy and what it can do for the ocean they depend on. The podcast aims to engage more Alaskans in conversation about the changes happening in the marine ecosystem, and potential solutions that are on the table in Congress. Visit: [www.thefutureoceanpodcast.com](http://www.thefutureoceanpodcast.com) or listen on Spotify or Apple Podcasts.

**Kodiak Wave Buoy CDIP 236 Retired** - The Kodiak Wave Buoy deployed in 2017 by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) for a wave to energy project, was recovered on Sept 21 by Support Vessels of Alaska (SVA) [R/V Woldstad](#). The buoy, which was located approximately 17 nautical miles southeast of Chiniak Island, was on loan from NREL and operated and maintained by AOOS since July 2019. CDIP continued to provide data management and logistical support for this asset. Though the buoy is on loan from NREL through 2022, with batteries set to expire mid-winter, AOOS identified potential opportunities with existing vessel operations to recover the buoy sooner to avoid the pitfalls of trying to coordinate a recovery during the Alaska winter. There are no plans to replace the wave buoy at this time. AOOS will be returning the buoy to NREL once it returns to Homer in October. A shout out to SVA for helping organize this recovery on short notice. To learn more about this buoy and links to the data, please visit the Kodiak CDIP Wave Buoy [project page](#) on the AOOS Website.



NREL Kodiak CDIP Wave Buoy 236 Recovered onboard the SVA R/V Woldstad September 2021. Photo courtesy: Support Vessels of Alaska.

## ADMINISTRATIVE

**FY21 Carryover Funds from 2016-2020 Agreement** - AOOS and ASLC continue to work with all subawards to ensure our funds are spent by the end of our period of performance (May 31, 2022). When one subawardee notified AOOS that they were unable to spend the full amount by that time due to COVID restrictions, we were able to reallocate funds to Dr. Maria Kavanaugh of Oregon State University (OSU) for the AMBON Seascapes project.

**FY21 Descope for 2021-2025 Agreement** - AOOS and ASLC staff have been working to pull together the FY21 descope for NOAA and are pleased to announce AOOS was the first regional association to submit! This has been truly a group effort from all staff members, with a huge push from Holly, Tara M., and Carley S. to get all the budget documents correct to NOAA's satisfaction. Subawards are being issued as we speak with a start date of July 1, 2021. We expect funds within the next month.

**Process Updates** - AOOS staff have also been working to streamline our processes and extract as much information from Molly as we can! Everyone might be getting tired of Sheyna's spreadsheets, but we are making progress.

## **PROPOSALS/AWARDS**

**NSF Convergence Accelerator Award** - Our NSF award for "Equipping Underserved Communities with Ocean Intelligence Platforms" has been awarded. The kickoff meeting with the Phase I Cohort (all other winners of this award) occurred on Sept 30. The weekly curriculum for the core team members will start Oct 13 and will go through April 2022. We will be working to set up our subawards with our indigenous partners: AEWC, Marshall Islands Conservation Society, and National Park of American Samoa. We are excited to get started on this new project!

## **IOOS**

**IOOS Fall meeting** - Sheyna and Molly have been preparing for the IOOS Fall meeting to be held virtually Oct 6, 7, and 13th. IOOS has had numerous requests related to the FY22 spend plan and the infrastructure bill currently in Congress.

**IOOS 5-year Cooperative Agreements:** A public notice from NOAA was released this month for awards to AOOS and the other 10 regional associations. <https://www.noaa.gov/news-release/noaa-awards-41-million-for-ocean-observing>

## **CONFERENCES/MEETINGS/PRESENTATIONS**

**NOAA Ocean Acidification Program Vulnerability Assessment Workshop** - Darcy led a 1-hour tutorial/discussion session on disseminating results to interested communities on Sept 23.

**Global Ocean Acidification Network "OA Week 2021"** - Darcy was part of a panel on stakeholder engagement during a week that highlighted monitoring and research efforts around the world through 50 presentations and forums. OA week was Sept 13-17.

**Polar Data Forum** - Jill attended and presented at the Polar Data Forum on Sept 24, an international conference, which was held virtually. Molly was on the forum's Steering Committee. The PDF is "where polar data holders get together and make more use of data." Jill's presentation was on the Bering Strait Transboundary Incident Response Tool which is under development to provide data and information to U.S. and Russian incident responders in the event of an international maritime incident such as an oil spill or disabled vessel in the Bering Strait region.

## **COLLABORATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS**

### **State**

**Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network** - Thomas and Darcy led a discussion and brainstorming session with AHAB and OA network members to develop ideas for the NOAA funding opportunity "[Integrated Research on Coastal and Ocean Acidification and Harmful Algal Blooms](#)". This session created connections and collaboration opportunities between the two networks, and led to two potential proposal ideas. Thomas has also been working as a member of the planning committee for the Water Resources track of the Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management, and will present a session on HABs as well as help with a training on water quality monitoring. Along with Darcy, Thomas has been getting more familiar with the [Mariculture Map](#) tool to ensure the appropriate outreach and development of the tool is conducted. Thomas has also been gathering information from AHAB network members to put together a summary of HAB monitoring activities so far in 2021 - this summary will be shared with the Alaska Fisheries Science Center to be included in their annual Ecosystem Status Report. Finally, Thomas has been working on consolidating the data entry form used by various network members in preparation for the revamping of the AHAB data portal.

**Alaska Ocean Acidification Network** - In addition to the podcast launch (which has been a big focus), the Alaska OA Network has been tracking the Bering Sea crab closures and joined the science symposium at the end of the Crab Plan Team meeting on Sept 17 to hear more about hypothesis behind the crashes in red king crab and snow crab stocks and how crabbers are thinking about these changes. (Right now we cannot point to ocean acidification as a smoking gun). On

the positive news front, the network got a windfall with Edie Mari, a student at UAF, who is working part time with Darcy this fall and winter to implement projects in the network work plan. Welcome Edie!

**UAF College of Fisheries & Ocean Sciences (CFOS) Advisory Council** - Molly chaired the council meeting in Fairbanks Sept 28 to discuss upcoming priorities for CFOS, including expansion of the AOOS-funded glider, mooring and radar labs.

**ARCUS Meeting 21st Century Maritime Challenges in the U.S. Arctic** - Sheyna attended the webinar facilitated by ARCUS in which maritime industry and arctic policy experts presented information on new technologies, operational advances, and strategic goals to advance the collective strategic goals in the Arctic.

**National/International**

**US-Russia Joint Planning Group Meeting tabletop exercise** - Molly & Sheyna attended the tabletop exercise meeting on Sept 1 and 2, where the USCG and Russian Marine Rescue Service discussed potential responses to a hypothetical oil spill incident in the Bering Strait. Molly presented on the “Bering Strait Transboundary Incident Response Tool”, a web-based tool being developed by AOOS, with funding from WWF. This tool will use both US and Russian data, for planning, prevention, response, and restoration in the event of an incident (e.g., oil spills, disabled vessel, etc.) in the Bering Strait. Molly, Sheyna, and Jill along with Stacey and Will from Axiom also attended side meetings with WWF Russia and other Russian colleagues to discuss the work on the tool. We will be setting up meetings with stakeholders for input!

**North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) Technical Committee on Data Exchange (TCODE)** - Jill attended the PICES TCODE meeting on Sept 28th as a guest. The TCODE works to better understand and facilitate international data exchanges between the PICES member countries (U.S., Canada, Korea, Japan, China & Russia).

**USCG Maritime Oil Response Plan Advisory Group (MORPAG) Stakeholder Engagement Meeting** - Sheyna & Jill attended the meeting facilitated by the USCG for soliciting input of information from non-governmental organizations. The series of meetings on Sept 21 and 22 were held in Anchorage, AK. Representatives from the Coast Guard’s Office of Marine Environmental Response Preparedness (MER), National Strike Force Coordination Center, Pacific Area, District 17, and Sector Anchorage discussed Alternative Planning Criteria (APC) as they relate to vessel response plan requirements with maritime industry, non-government agencies, and other government agencies. In addition, the group will discuss planning for oil spills and preparing adequate response strategies that meet National Planning Criteria in remote areas.

**ENGAGEMENT METRICS**

<b>Audience Name</b>	<b>Type of Presentation</b>	<b># of people</b>
Polar Data Forum	conference presentation	35
Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network	Facilitated monthly meeting and update	40
Carbon policy podcast stakeholder outreach plan mtg	Facilitated meeting	8
NOAA OAP Regional Vulnerability Assessment wkshp	Led tutorial on outreach	12
Global Ocean Acidification Network “OA Week”	Participated on panel	45
US-Russia Joint Planning Group Meeting	Meeting presentation	30
Meeting 21st Century Maritime Challenges in the U.S. Arctic	Attended event	45
ACCAP Advisory Board Meeting	Participated as Board member	10
USCG MORPAG Stakeholder Engagement Meeting	Invited as NGO participant	25
UAF CFOS Advisory Council	Chaired meeting	14

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Oct 5** OA Community sampling coordination meeting (Darcy)
- Oct 5-7, 13** IOOS Association fall mtg, virtual (Sheyna, Molly & Katrina)
- Oct 5-7** ARCUS Community & Citizen Science in the Far North conference, virtual (Sheyna, Jill)
- Oct 6** PICES Monitor Committee Meeting, virtual (Carol)
- Oct 13** EVOSTC Annual Meeting (Carol)

**Oct 19** AOS Fall Board meeting

**Oct 19-21** IOOS Community Modeling Workshop, virtual

**Oct 18-29** PICES-2021 Annual Meeting

**Oct 25-29** EVOSTC GWA and HRM Fall PI Meeting (Carol, Stacey (Axiom))

**Nov 1-4 & 8-11** Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation Conference 2021 (virtual) (Molly)

**Nov 2-4** 2021 Maritime Risk Symposium, University of Houston College of Technology (virtual)

**Nov 15-19** Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management (virtual) (Thomas, Darcy, Jill)

**Dec 13-17** AGU Fall Meeting 2021, New Orleans, LA (in person/virtual) (2 Abstracts, Sheyna, Carol, Molly)

**Feb 27-Mar 4, 2022** Ocean Sciences Meeting, Honolulu, HI (in person/virtual) (2 Abstracts, Sheyna, Carol, Molly)

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