

HIGHLIGHTS

March for Science – AOOS staff participated in the Anchorage March for Science, held on Earth Day, April 22, and staffed a table with educational materials highlighting the Alaska Ocean Acidification Network and the value of ocean observing in Alaska.

DMAC Meeting – The AOOS Data Management Advisory Committee met in Anchorage at the Axiom Data Science offices on Friday, April 21. The committee reviewed new procedures for tracking the AOOS data submissions and new product development, and commented on the proposed statement of work for the upcoming external AOOS Data Management System review. New features of the AOOS Ocean Data Explorer and Research Workspace were demonstrated. AOOS welcomed new member Dayne Broderson.



ADMINISTRATIVE

Catching Up – On the heels of a very busy spring quarter, AOOS staff have been able to take some deep breaths and catch up on 2017 initiatives and follow-up from the Alaska Marine Science Symposium and the AOOS Board meeting in Juneau. We continue to work on standardizing various procedures and policies, including an updated Employee Personnel Manual.

AOOS Executive Committee Meets – The EXCOM met April 27 to review and adopt an updated AOOS Employee Manual and conduct Molly’s annual review. The Committee also voted to extend McCammon’s employment contract up to an additional 3 years.

Meeting with Udall Foundation – Molly met with Dana Goodson, a senior program manager with the Udall Foundation, and Beth Kerttula, former director of the National Ocean Council, in Juneau on April 11. The Udall Foundation manages the NOC’s Governance Coordinating Committee, on which Barbara Blake, a senior advisor to Lt. Governor Byron Mallott, sits.

Alaska Climate Assessment – Molly continues to work with the team on the Alaska chapter for the national assessment, which is required under the law establishing the U.S. Global Change Research Program. The Alaska chapter is guided by Steve Gray, Director of the Alaska Climate Science Center at USGS, and Carl Markon, retired USGS Alaska Deputy Director.



NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

IOOS – Molly is working with the IOOS Office and other RA directors on follow-up activities from the spring March meeting. These include budgets, coordination with other programs, and planning for future Congressional meetings.

PARTNERSHIPS & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Trial Water Level Sensing Devices Installed - In early April two dual-frequency GPS receivers were installed in Seward near the Alaska SeaLife Center by ASTRA LLC. This AOOS project, funded by the Alaska region of the National Weather Service, will evaluate this system’s suitability for land-based water level measurements prior to extending the technology to a broader monitoring network in remote locations. Immediately following installation this eagle decided it was a good lookout platform.

AK Ocean Acidification Network – The OA Network’s fishing working group met on April 17 to debrief recent Q&A sessions with fishermen and discuss ways to engage the fishing community in ocean acidification. The Network is working on an OA brochure tailored for fishermen, a fishermen page on the website, and information on OA that can be included in the United Fishermen of Alaska’s spring correspondence to permit holders.

MEETINGS & CONFERENCES

Cook Inlet Regional Citizens’ Advisory Council – As the Municipality of Anchorage representative, Molly attended the CIRCAC annual meeting on April 7 in Kenai. Much of the meeting was devoted to briefings and discussions related to recent leaks and spills in oil and gas lines in Cook Inlet.

DATA MANAGEMENT

The DMAC team at Axiom spent the month putting the finishing touches on several new capabilities. The Arctic Assets map, an interactive display of planned and deployed Arctic research instrumentation, vessel tracks and aerial transects, will be made available for public use early in May. The new Research Workspace platform will be undergoing intense testing during May for a planned release date of June 1. In addition, the Harmful Algal Bloom Dashboard is coming online mid-May. Stay tuned for release announcements. We’d appreciate it if you could give these new tools a test drive and provide us feedback.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 1 – Alaska Ocean Acidification Network K-12 Education working group (Darcy)

May 1-4 – North Pacific Research Board - Anchorage

May 2-4 – Climate Predictions Applications Science Workshop – Anchorage (all staff)

May 8-11 – Week of the Arctic – Fairbanks (Molly)

May 9 – Alaska Ocean Acidification Network Policy Group (Darcy)

May 9-11 – Wakefield Symposium – Anchorage (Carol)

May 16 – Alaska Ocean Acidification Network Executive Committee (Darcy)

June 12-15 – Capital Hill Ocean Week and IOOS RA Director retreat – WA DC (Molly)

Molly, Carol, Holly, Darcy, and Rob