

HIGHLIGHTS

National IOOS Program Fall Meeting in Alaska –

Representatives of all 11 IOOS Regional Associations (RAs) as well as members of the national IOOS Program Office met in Alaska Sept 25-30. The week began with an RA Director retreat at the Knik River Lodge, followed by two days of meetings at the AOOS offices, a reception at former Governor Bill Sheffield’s house, and field trips to Seward (Alaska SeaLife Center, Alutiiq Pride Hatchery and UAF Marine Center) and Homer (Kasitsna Bay Lab and Seldovia). The meetings focused on collaborative planning with other NOAA line offices on ecological forecasting and the IOOS Association’s “Closing the Gaps” campaign to fill in national ocean observing gaps. A separate report on the suite of meetings will be circulated later.



Council on Foreign Relations Arctic Strategy Task Force –

AOOS hosted a climate science briefing for the co-chairs of the task force – retired Coast Guard Admiral Thad Allen and former New Jersey Governor Christie Todd Whitman – on August 22. Fourteen scientists gave the two, as well as 2 CFR staff members, 5-minute briefings on current research in Alaska. Presentations can be found [here](#). In closing remarks, Admiral Allen noted how impressed he was by the way the Alaska research community was working together.

Appropriations Staff Visit – AOOS also hosted a lunch meeting August 29 for 4 Senate and House Appropriations staff touring Alaska during the Congressional recess. Carol Janzen updated the staff on current AOOS activities, including the new Alaska Ocean Acidification Network, and needs for additional glider and high frequency radar observations.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Board Meeting and Strategic Planning – The AOOS Board will meet October 25 to further delve into long-term strategic planning, as well as vote on a slate of new officers for the next 2 years. A small working group of the AOOS Board met August 12 to begin those discussions.

ADAC – Discussions continue with Church Key, Executive Director of the Department of Homeland Security’s Arctic Domain Awareness Center, about the role of AOOS and our data contractor Axiom in the Arctic Information Fusion Capability project.

NOAA Cooperative Agreement Subawards – New contracts are being finalized for the subawards that are part of the 5 year NOAA cooperative agreement.

PROPOSALS

Saltonstall-Kennedy funds – Working with partners, AOOS collaborated with partners on 2 letters of intent for proposals to NOAA’s SK program. One would support community and commercial fishing operations in collecting ocean acidification samples to improve regional and temporal baseline data on this increasing threat to Alaska’s coastal fishing community resources. The other would put high accuracy instruments in the hands of members of the Alaska fishing fleets near Cold Bay or King Salmon, to have them assist with hard-to-get water column temperature and salinity data during their year-

round time on the water. The latter program augments an already successful coastal community observing effort in the region C2O2, and would extend much needed measurements offshore out to the shelf break.

MEETINGS & CONFERENCES

Oceans 16, MTS – Carol Janzen attended the conference in Monterey, California September 19-22 on behalf of AOOS. She gave a talk on AOOS activities in the Arctic in a special session on Polar Observing Systems, and participated in several town halls. With AOOS Board member Jim Kendall (BOEM), Carol joined the steering committee planning discussions for next year’s Oceans ‘ 17 conference, which will be held in Anchorage in 2017. Carol and Jim are technical chairs for that event.

Aleutian Life Forum and Unalaska Coastal Resiliency Workshop – The forum, held from August 16-20, was attended by Holly Kent as a member of the steering committee and Darcy Dugan as chair of the Ocean Acidification session. The forum was well attended by local community residents and agency personnel despite difficult weather and flight delays.



Climate Adaptation Workshop – Molly participated in a 2-day workshop Sept 20-21 on Climate Change Adaptation and Resiliency sponsored by the Alaska Institute of Justice and the Alaska Native Science Commission.

Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy Steering Committee – The committee met in Anchorage Sept 15 to discuss future plans. As a member of the committee, Molly participated in discussions. ACCAP and AOOS collaborate on a number of initiatives, including ocean acidification and diminished sea ice.

Dave Kennedy visit – Molly met August 22 with NOAA’s Arctic lead David Kennedy during his week-long visit to Alaska.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 4 AOOS & NERACOOS-hosted science symposium for Arctic Council, Portland Maine (Molly)

October 19 AOOS Data Management Advisory Committee, Anchorage

October 25 AOOS Board meeting, Anchorage

October 26-28 Gulf Watch Alaska PI meeting, Cordova (Carol)

October 27-28 Consortium for Ocean Leadership, Washington DC (Molly)

November 7-8 Alaska Sea Grant Advisory Committee, Anchorage (Molly)

Nov 30-Dec 1 Alaska Ocean Acidification Network State of Science Workshop, Anchorage

December 7-8 Coastal Resiliency Workshop, Kotzebue (Molly)

Dec 8-9 – Harmful Algal Bloom workshop, Anchorage

Molly, Carol, Holly, Darcy, and Rob