

HIGHLIGHTS

TSMRI 10th anniversary – Congratulations to our colleagues at NOAA’s Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute in Juneau as they celebrated their decadal anniversary August 19. NOAA Fisheries Chief Scientist Cisco Werner was one of the VIP attendees, as well as Catherine Stevens, the late Senator’s wife.



ADMINISTRATIVE

Office space – Much of this month has been spent on examining options for new (or old) lease space. After negotiations with our current landowner, and a potential new landowner, we have decided to remain in our current location.

H2300 Closeout – We submitted the final programmatic and financial reports for our 6-year NOAA cooperative agreement that ended May 31.

H2400 Year 2 – We have received our Year 2 funds and submitted a “descoped” budget and work plan. We are now developing Year 2 subawards.

IOOS ACTIVITIES

Fall IOOS meeting – Planning is underway for the fall meeting in Puerto Rico in late September. Molly is leading a session on ocean infrastructure planning.

MEETINGS & CONFERENCES

OCEANS’17 IEEE/MTS Anchorage – Carol is a technical co-Chair with Regional Director of BOEM and AOOS Board Member, Dr. James Kendall. Five plenary speeches, 375 papers including 20 student posters will be presented, in addition to 17 special sessions on various topics from NOAA fleet modernization and search and rescue operations to Alaska’s Blue Economy, starting September 19-21, 2017. The meeting is being held at the Dena’ina Convention Center, and the exhibition is open to the public with an exhibitor’s badge available at the Registration desk. For more information, please visit the conference website: <http://www.oceans17mtsieeeanchorage.org/>



Marine Debris with Senator Sullivan - Molly was invited by Alaska Senator Dan Sullivan’s staff to join the senator August 15 in a joint meeting with Nancy Wallace, director of NOAA’s marine debris program, Peter Murphy, head of Alaska’s program, and Chris Pallister, head of Gulf Keeper, one of the key organizations cleaning up marine debris on Alaska beaches.

CIRCAC EMC – As the Municipality of Anchorage’s appointed representative to the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council, Molly also chairs its Environmental Monitoring Committee. The committee met in Anchorage August 28 to update the council’s environmental monitoring work plan for the coming year.

Health Country Planning – AOOS was also invited to join a group of NGOs August 16 for a briefing by Stuart Cowell and Ian Dutton on an Australia planning initiative called Healthy Country Planning.

Alaska Ocean Acidification Network – The OA Network’s executive committee met Aug 23 to discuss moving forward on the development of a monitoring build-out plan and how to best use new funding from the US Arctic Research Commission for data synthesis and product development.

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

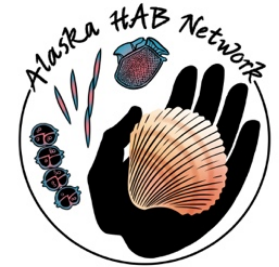
ONCIC Review – Molly was invited by Canada’s National Sciences and Engineering Research Council to serve on an expert panel in Ottawa August 20-21 reviewing the Oceans Network Canada Innovation Center’s renewal application as an Innovation Center of Excellence.

NOAA Office of Coast Survey Navigation Team - Molly and Carol briefed Matt Forney, former Alaska Region Navigation manager for Alaska and now staff to the national director Shep Smith, and new Alaska manager Bart Buessler on current AOOS activities when they stopped by our office August 11.

Udall Foundation collaboration – Molly met by phone with small group working with the Udall Foundation’s team that supports tribal engagement with regional ocean planning. Barbara Blake, a senior advisor to Lt Governor Byron Mallott and Governor Bill Walker, will be hosting a planning session during the Alaska Federation of Natives conference in October.

ALASKA AND REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

HABs monitoring expands to Arctic - The Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network (AHAB), co-led by AOOS, recently received funding from the U.S. Arctic Research Commission to expand its activities into the Arctic. The funding will support a pilot shellfish testing, opportunistic marine mammal sampling, and water monitoring programs, as well as community outreach.



Murdock Foundation Site Visit – Molly joined colleagues at UAF for the foundation’s site visit August 10 to review Seth Danielson’s proposal for funding to match AOOS and UAF support for the buildout of an ecosystem mooring in the Gulf of Alaska. The mooring would become part of both Gulf Watch Alaska

funded by the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council, and the new Long-term Ecological Reserve funded by NSF.

Adapt Alaska – Follow-up meetings, including a briefing of Institute of the North Staff, continue with the team in response to recommendations made by the 4 coastal resiliency workshops held in 2016-17.

AOOS/NGS collaboration - Molly met with Nic Kinsman August 7 to discuss plans for integrated water levels and coastal mapping.

Yi Chao visit – AOOS PI Dr. Yi Chao visited AOOS August 8 to discuss stakeholder needs for ROMS models in Alaska.

OUTREACH

Alaska Marine Science Symposium – It’s that time of year – we’re beginning to plan for the 2018 conference! Stay tuned.

DATA MANAGEMENT

Emerging Technologies workshop – Axiom’s Kyle Wilcox presented on behalf of IOOS, AOOS and partners CeNCOOS and SECOORA at NOAA’s second Emerging Technologies workshop August 22-23.

New Arctic Marine Atlas Released – Audubon Alaska’s massive update to this atlas, describing bird, fish, and marine mammal habitats and migration routes as well as human uses, was released at an event August 4. AOOS is working with Audubon to incorporate the database and a version of the map layers into the AOOS Ocean Data Explorer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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| September 18-21 | MTS and IEEE OES sponsored OCEANS’17 Conference, Anchorage at the Dena’ina Convention Center (Carol) http://www.oceans17mtsieeeanchorage.org/ |
| September 25-27 | IOOS national meeting, Puerto Rico |
| October 25 | Consortium for Ocean Leadership Industry Forum, WA DC |
| October 26-27 | COL Trustee meeting, WA DC |
| November 7-8 | AK Sea Grant Advisory Committee, Anchorage |
| November 13-15 | Gulf Watch AK PI meeting, Cordova or Anchorage |
| Nov 16-18 | Pacific Marine Expo, Seattle |
| December 5-6 | ATN Workshop, Anchorage |

NOTE: Molly will be on vacation Sept 1 – 16.

Molly, Carol, Holly, Darcy, and Rob