

## HIGHLIGHTS

**AOOS Film Contest Films Showcase** – Each week, a new short film from AOOS’ 2014 contest is being highlighted on the homepage, [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org). Learn more about the filmmakers and watch the films! Recent highlights include *Renda’s Journey to Nome* by Peter Garay (photo at right) and *Gyre: Art from a Plastic Ocean* by JJ Kelley.



## MEETINGS/CONFERENCES/TRAVEL

**IOOS Association Meetings** – Molly traveled to Washington DC January 13-15, joining IOOS Association Executive Director Josie Quintrell and association board chair Ru Morrison in briefing new Congressional staffers on the IOOS Program, as well as AOOS and Arctic issues. Molly also met with Simon Stephenson at OSTP, the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative’s Laura Cantral, IOOS staff, and Gerry Meyers from Stantec.

**CeNCOOS Meeting** – Rob attended the CenCOOS (Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System) annual meeting in Santa Cruz, CA and the West Coast Marine Biodiversity Observation Network in Moss Landing, CA. During these meetings Rob met with Dave Anderson, the new executive director for CeNCOOS, and discussed strategies and approaches for collaboratively developing new data management capabilities for AOOS and CeNCOOS.

## 2015 ALASKA MARINE SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM

**Communicating Ocean Sciences Workshop** – Darcy co-hosted the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Communicating Ocean Sciences Workshop, which is the traditional kick-off to AMSS. The theme this year was “Upping your Game” and included breakouts ranging from filmmaking with go-pros to addressing K-12 audiences, to sharing your research with local communities. Over 100 people attended.



**AOOS Exhibit** – Chris Turner from the AOOS data team joined Darcy to host an AOOS exhibit at the AMSS poster session. They looped a video of the data portal and answered questions from researchers and the public.

**Gulf Watch AK** - Molly joined PIs for a short lunch meeting on January 19 in preparation for the February synthesis workshops. This was followed by a plenary presentation by Kris Holderied on January 20.

**Arctic Animal Telemetry** – Former AOOS staff Rosa Meehan organized a meeting January 20 with managers and scientists interested in pursuing development of an Arctic Animal Telemetry Network in collaboration with the national ATN initiative. Proposals have been submitted to both NOAA Arctic Program and to NPRB for future follow-up activities. Molly serves on the national ATN Task Team.

**AOOS Film Night** – Darcy hosted a screening of 12 of the 32 AOOS Short Film Contest films to a standing room-only audience on January 21. Film topics ranged from diving under 10 feet of sea ice in Barrow to the importance of salmon in Southeast Alaska, to the importance of the ocean to kids in Kotzebue.

**Arctic Observing Workshop** – AOOS hosted a lunch work session on January 22 to gather recommendations from AMSS participants on priorities for sustainable observations in the Arctic, as part of a continuing effort to garner input into the next AOOS 5-year proposal.

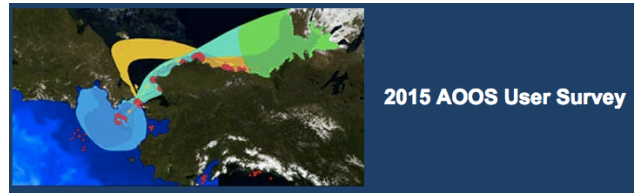


## **PRESENTATIONS**

**Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council** – Molly briefed the PWSRCAC board in Anchorage January 23 on AOOS in general and on PWS observing activities in particular. She asked them for their input on future plans for PWS to be included in the next 5-year proposal.

## **UPDATES & HIGHLIGHTS**

**2015 AOOS User Survey** – in January, AOOS circulated a 17-question user survey to provide guidance in drafting our cyclical 5-year funding proposal to NOAA. The survey asked whether current AOOS resources were meeting user needs and sought input for new ideas for projects and tools. The survey will close in early February. If you haven't already done so, please take the survey: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/AOOS\\_Stakeholder\\_Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/AOOS_Stakeholder_Survey)



**AOOS Interviewing for two Positions** – Two job descriptions were circulated in December and January for a program coordinator and new operations director. The deadline was Jan 26<sup>th</sup>, and interviews are being conducted this month.

## **GOING FORWARD – Some Key Upcoming 2015 Activities**

Feb 4-6	EVOS Trustee Council synthesis workshops - Anchorage
Feb 9-13	Alaska Forum on the Environment - Anchorage
Feb 18-19	Northwest Arctic Borough Science Advisory Committee – Kotzebue
Feb 21	AK SeaLife Center Marine Gala - Anchorage
Feb 25	AOOS Data Management Advisory Committee – Anchorage
Mar 1-4	IOOS Association spring meeting – Washington DC
March 4	Cook Inlet Response Tool (CIRT) training for resource managers – Homer
March 28	AOOS Ocean Films at the Beartooth - Anchorage

**Molly McCammon, Darcy Dugan, Emily Hutchinson and Rob Bochenek**