

HIGHLIGHTS

Ambassador Brzezinski meeting – The Ambassador, Executive Director of the Arctic Executive Steering Committee at the White House, met with the AOOS board January 27 for an update on AOOS activities in the Arctic, as well as a follow-on discussion regarding issues and needs for observation activities in Alaska. The Ambassador said to “stay-tuned” for release of the President’s budget on February 9.

Alaska Marine Science Symposium – More than 800 scientists, managers and public attended the 2016 AMSS January 25-28. AOOS is a co-sponsor of the event and helps coordinate the keynote speakers, side meetings and workshops. Carol presented a poster during the Arctic session Monday night, highlighting aspects of the AOOS Arctic Integration Data Portal. AOOS and AXIOM staffed an exhibit table during both evening poster sessions to provide hands-on portal demonstrations. Many of the AOOS researchers presented results of their work.



Ambassador Brzezinski, AOOS Board member Margaret Williams, AOOS Director Molly McCammon and AOOS PI Jeremy Mathis. Left to right.

ADMINISTRATIVE

National Funding – AOOS received word that it is level funded for the coming year at \$2,105,136. The board will approve the work plan for this funding March 16.



Sea Grant Position Hired – Welcome to Davin Holen who began his new position as a Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program agent in the Anchorage office, with a focus on community coastal resiliency. AOOS is one of several entities providing funding to support this 2-year position.

IOOS Association meetings – Molly attended meetings in Washington DC January 12-14, focusing on planning for the upcoming spring IOOS meeting, strategy for FY 17 funding (we are seeking additional \$\$ for HF radars throughout the country, including 2 for the Bering Strait) and ICOOS Act reauthorization (Don Young is sponsor on House, Senators Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan are co-sponsors on Senate side). Molly also met with the National Academy of Science’s Gulf Research Program staff about potential projects for the Alaska Outer Continental Shelf, Beth Kerttula regarding National Ocean Policy priorities, NOAA Associate Administrator Holly Bamford about future collaborations with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation once she starts there, and Hernan Garcia about NOAA data archiving.

MEETINGS & CONFERENCES

Ocean Acidification Workshop – AOOS hosted a 2-day workshop January 29-30 with over 30 OA technical experts and Alaska-based organizations working on OA issues in attendance. The workshop focused on consolidating priorities for OA monitoring in Alaska. Subject experts presented and discussed acceptable



methodologies and expectations from existing technologies, and the group deliberated over the cost-benefit of various approaches to help guide an effective and collaborative OA monitoring strategy across the state. Carol and Holly coordinated the workshop and will produce a workshop report later this month. Going forward, AOOS will use education and outreach funds from a NOAA OA project to help kickstart a new Alaska Coastal Acidification Network. Darcy Dugan (dugan@aoos.org) is the point of contact for that effort.

Pacific Anomalies Workshop – AOOS was one of the 4 IOOS regional associations helping sponsor the PAW2 workshop in Seattle January 20-21. Atmospheric scientists, oceanographers and ecologists gathered to discuss the unusual ocean, weather and climate patterns across the North Pacific basin and the underlying mechanisms driving those patterns, including the Blob and El Niño. Molly and Carol participated in the workshop, and Carol continues to maintain the Alaska Blob Tracker blog, hosted on the AOOS website. Videos of the PAW2 presentations can be found at the [UW tv Channel](#), and are linked via the [Alaska Blob Tracker](#).

Arctic Encounters – Molly participated in a panel on Energy and the Economy and Environment at the University of Washington Law School-sponsored Arctic Encounters Workshop in Seattle January 15-16.

Arctic Matters – While attending IOOS Association meetings in Washington DC, Molly attended the January 14 Arctic Matters public forum sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences.

DATA MANAGEMENT

Shell data – Carol has been working with Shell staff to inventory legacy environmental data that they are hoping to turn over to AOOS for long-term storage, curation and eventual public access.

Hillcorp data – Molly met with members of Hillcorp's environmental studies section to discuss opportunities for sharing data from their recent Beaufort Sea acquisitions from BP.

OR&R/ERMA – Molly and Axiom's Rob Bochenek met in Seattle with ERMA and Office of Response and Restoration staff to discuss continued collaborations for providing emergency response data products.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 8-12 Alaska Forum on the Environment

Feb 13 The Alaska Marine Gala Fundraiser, Dena'ina Center, Anchorage, AK

Feb 21-26 AGU/TOS/ASLO Ocean Sciences Meeting, New Orleans, LA (Carol)

March 1-3 IOOS Program spring meeting, Washington DC (Molly & Carol)

March 11 AOOS Data Management Advisory Committee

March 12-18 Arctic Science Summit Week, Fairbanks (Molly & Carol)

March 16 AOOS Board Meeting, Fairbanks

March 23 Alaska Marine Policy Forum

Molly, Carol, Holly, Darcy, and Rob