

HIGHLIGHTS

AOOS Spring Board Meeting – The AOOS Board met March 16, 2016 in Fairbanks during Arctic Science Summit Week. The Board approved use of FY 11-15 project carryover funds and the budget and work plan for FY 16. The Board also reviewed and commented on the draft Strategic Operations Plan and the Executive Director’s FY 16 work plan. The Executive Committee conducted the Executive Director’s annual performance review.

COL Trustee – AOOS Executive Director Molly McCammon was recently elected as one of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership’s trustees representing the Associate Members of COL. COL is a Washington, DC-based nonprofit organization that represents more than 100 of the leading public and private ocean research and education institutions, aquaria and industry with the mission to advance research, education and sound ocean policy. AOOS has been a member of COL (formerly CORE) for more than a decade. New UAF SFOS Dean and AOOS Board Member Brad Moran was also elected as a new COL Trustee, representing the Voting Members.



ADMINISTRATIVE

Alaska Coastal Acidification Network – AOOS received word on March 29, 2016 that we were awarded \$15K per year for the next two years from the NOAA Ocean Acidification Program to support developing an OA Network in Alaska. The network’s Interim Steering Committee, which is coordinated by AOOS staff Darcy Dugan, will hold its first meeting in Anchorage April 12. The networks goals are to foster stakeholder engagement and increase awareness of OA in Alaska.

Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Network Planning – AOOS is supporting Alaska Sea Grant’s efforts to host a workshop next winter on how to better coordinate, integrate and increase existing HAB research and monitoring efforts.

SAON Review – Molly has been asked to serve on an external review panel of the international Sustained Arctic Observing Network. Molly had originally served on the National Academy of Science’s committee to develop an Arctic Observing Network, which led to the development of SAON. The review panel is short term, with a final report due in September.

MEETINGS & CONFERENCES



IOOS Program Spring Meeting, Washington, D.C.

IOOS Program Spring Meeting - AOOS Executive Director Molly McCammon and Operations Director Carol Janzen attended this meeting in Washington, D.C. from March 1-2, 2016, which focused on collaborations with other National Ocean Service programs. The IOOS Association also held a business meeting on March 3. That day Carol and Molly briefed the Alaska Delegation (Senator Murkowski, Congressman Young, and Senator Sullivan’s staff) on AOOS activities and the gaps in ocean observations in Alaska.

Arctic Observing Summit & Arctic Summit Science Week - Molly and

Carol attended these meetings in Fairbanks from

March 15-18, 2016. Carol presented a poster detailing the AOOS Arctic Data Portal, and gathered interest from both local and international participants at the meeting. Molly participated in the AOS breakout sessions.

PacIOOS Governing Council Executive Committee Meeting – Molly

was invited by our Pacific Island colleagues to join them as well as IOOS Program Executive Director Zdenka Willis and IOOS Association Chair Ru Morrison (from the Northeast regional OOS) at a strategic planning session with their Executive Committee in Pohnpei, Micronesia from March 22-25. The meetings included site visits to the local National Weather Service office, as well as the water quality monitoring station at the Australian Embassy.

Micronesia and other South Pacific Islands face many of the same challenges as Alaska in terms of remoteness, long distances, sparse observing assets, and low internet bandwidth. Many of the issues are also similar: ocean acidification, climate change and rising ocean temperatures, sea level rise, and impacts on fishery resources and habitats.



Caribbean Coastal Ocean Observing System – AOOS Administrative and Outreach Director Holly Kent met with the CariCOOS staff at their office on the Mayaguez campus of University of Puerto Rico while traveling on March 11, 2016 while traveling. CariCOOS is beginning preparations for IOOS certification and Holly shared information on AOOS progress towards certification this summer.

Alaska Marine Policy Forum Conference Call – Paula Cullenberg of Alaska Sea Grant hosted this month's conference call on March 23, 2016.

DATA MANAGEMENT

Data Management Advisory Committee Meeting – The AOOS DMAC met on March 11, 2016 and reviewed the latest data visualizations and the FY16 workplan.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 5-7 National Moored Data Buoy Plan Meeting, Stennis Space Center, MS (Carol)

April 8 Alaska Climate Change Executive Roundtable (Molly)

April 12 First meeting of Ocean Acidification Interim Steering Committee, Anchorage

April 12 Gulf Watch Alaska Spring PI meeting

April 14 AOOS staff planning session

April 15 ACCAP Steering Committee

April 15 Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory council, Kenai (Molly)

April 26-28 Ecological Forecasting Roadmap mtg, Maryland (Molly tentative)

May 3-5 Florida to the Arctic Sea Level Rise Summit, St. Pete, FL

May 10-11 Nome Coastal Resiliency workshop

May 18 Alaska Marine Policy Forum

Molly, Carol, Holly, Darcy, and Rob