

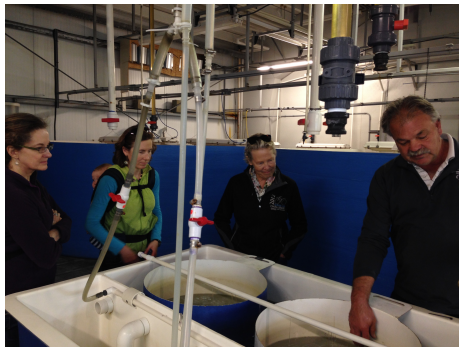
HIGHLIGHTS

Nome Coastal Resiliency

Workshop – AOOS executive director, Molly McCammon, attended this workshop on May 10-11 in Nome sponsored by the Alaska



Landscape Conservation Cooperatives and the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association. AOOS is assisting the project with developing a resiliency tool kit for western Alaska's rural communities. The workshop was well attended with a diverse group of 70 people including representatives from 15 Bering Strait tribal councils, non-profits and state and federal agencies.



AOOS Staff Visits Seward Facilities – On May 17 the entire AOOS staff, with special guest Kai Schworer (on Darcy's back in the photo), met with the Alaska SeaLife Center staff working on administrative issues for AOOS. The staff took a "behind the scenes" tour of the facility and viewed the care and feeding of rescued sea otters, resident sea lions, a spitting prowfish, and a whole host of other interesting creatures. A tour of the Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery in Seward was guided by hatchery manager Jeff Hetrick (see photo to left), which is home to the

AOOS-funded ocean acidification 'burkolator', and the UAF oceanographer and mooring technician Pete Shipton provided a tour of the UAF Mooring Facility.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Proposals Submitted – AOOS partnered with National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Auke Bay Lab in Juneau on a small proposal to NOAA's Big Earth Data Initiative (BEDI) to increase the usefulness of and access to NMFS fisheries oceanography data collected in Alaska. AOOS also submitted a proposal to the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) to provide community web access to modeling efforts and atmospheric and meteorological data collected by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) in the Beaufort and Chukchi Sea regions.

MEETINGS & CONFERENCES

Ocean Research Advisory Panel – Molly attended the first meeting of ORAP held since December 2013 in Arlington, VA May 31-June 1. The panel is a Federal Advisory Committee tasked with providing advice to the Federal ocean research agencies and the National Ocean Council. Panel members met with outgoing Council executive director Beth Kerttula and discussed upcoming tasks including developing recommendations for the incoming Administration next January.

3rd Sea-Level Rise Summit – AOOS PI Jacqueline Overbeck (Alaska Department of Natural Resources) attended this conference on AOOS' behalf in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida from May 3-5. The conference was organized by the Southeast Climate Consortium with a focus on "connected futures from Alaska to Florida".

BOEM Presentation – Molly and AOOS Operations Director Carol Janzen attended a presentation to BOEM May 26 by UAF PIs working on ocean circulation observations and models in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas.

IARPC 5-year plan – Martine Jeffries and Sandy Starkweather met with Molly and Carol May 9 to discuss priorities for inclusion in the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee’s next 5-year plan.

ERMA Quarterly Meeting – Molly, Carol and Rob met with Arctic ERMA staff from Seattle via teleconference May 19 for their quarterly meeting to update each other on recent activities and priorities for data ingestion into ERMA and the AOOS Ocean Data Explorer.

OTHER

Arctic IoNS – Molly has been participating in planning meetings for the Arctic Incident of National Significance Workshop scheduled for June 21-22 at UAA. The workshop is basically a tabletop planning exercise in response to a potential cruise ship grounding.

Alaska Marine Policy Forum – The AMPF conference call was hosted by Molly on May 18 and featured a slide presentation ‘Update on Coast Guard Operations in the Arctic’ by James Robinson, USCG Arctic lead. Barbara Blake of the Lt. Governor’s office reported that she is now sitting on the National Ocean Council Governance Coordinating Committee and working on a few ocean topic papers that will be of interest to Alaskans. The next call will be on July 20, 2016. [Meeting summary.](#)

Alaska Ocean Acidification Network – The first [email](#) of the new OA listserv was sent out on May 12. The listserv will present monthly updates on the latest monitoring, research findings, articles and events. Sign up [here](#) to join.



Alaska Blob Tracker – Two interesting stories regarding the “Blob” in the Gulf of Alaska were posted in May on the [Alaska Blob Tracker Blog](#). A small species of typically temperate jellyfish related to the portuguese man o’ war known as “sailors by the wind” were spotted south offshore of the Copper River Delta. Carol provided an interview for this story on ClimateWire.

DATA MANAGEMENT

Cook Inlet Beluga Ecosystem Portal – The portal, funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, was launched on May 4 with a press release and received earned media through a story in the [Peninsula Clarion](#) on May 9 and on [KBBI](#) May 19 and then subsequently picked up on several other media outlets throughout the state. The portal includes beluga sightings, prey and habitat data layers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 2-3 IOOS Data Management annual meeting, Silver Spring MD (Rob, Kyle & Molly)
- June 12-16 Association of American State Geologists Annual Meeting, Girdwood AK (Carol)
- June 21-22 Arctic Incidents of National Significance Workshop, UAA (Molly)

Molly, Carol, Holly, Darcy, and Rob