

HIGHLIGHTS

Certification – Yay! NOAA has approved AOOS’ application to be certified as a Regional Information Coordination Entity (RICE). Signing of the documents and formal recognition will take place during the MTS Oceans’ 17 conference in September.

ADMINISTRATIVE

AOOS Data Management Review – Molly and Carol are working on the statement of work and potential panel members for the upcoming review of the AOOS data system.

Proposals and Awards – Carol has been working on the *Central Beaufort Sea Wave and Hydrodynamic Modeling Study*, a proposal AOOS and Axiom are collaborating with UAF on for BOEM. She also prepared revised budgets and final workplans for our recent Department of Homeland Security award - *Using Vessel Tracking Data to Prioritize Bathymetric Surveying in a Rapidly Changing Arctic* – administered by the Arctic Domain Awareness Center.

UNAVCO contract – Molly and Carol met with representatives of UNAVCO to discuss the results of their scoping project aimed at identifying potential locations in western Alaska for deployment of GPS reflectometry sensing devices. These systems that can be used for measuring water levels in remote regions. Potential recommended sites include St. Michael, Hooper Bay and Toksook Bay. The first site for installation will be selected soon, and with the goal to instrument all three locations over the next two years.

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

IOOS – Molly has been working with the IOOS Association following up on discussions of the IOOS data management program, and preparing for the RA Director retreat June 13-14 in Washington DC.

National Climate Assessment – Molly is working with Carl Markon (retired USGS) and Steve Gray (AK Climate Science Center) on the Alaska chapter of the National Climate Assessment.

US-AON – Molly met with Executive Director Sandy Starkweather about upcoming collaborations. As a result of their discussions, the US AON office has initiated a working group of all the partners working on AIS vessel tracking databases and data products (there are at least 4: Arctic Council PAME by US Coast Guard; US Army Corps; NOAA fisheries; AOOS).

Animal Telemetry Network Workshop – Molly and Carol met with national ATN Coordinator Bill Woodward and Office of Naval Research Michael Wiese on May 31 to discuss plans for an ATN workshop next winter. AOOS has received \$25k to hold this workshop.

PARTNERSHIPS & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

North Pacific Research Board briefing – Molly briefed NPRB on recent AOOS activities on May 3.

Kachemak Bay and Lower Cook Inlet Marine Working Group – Holly attended this meeting by phone and participated in the general discussion of issues facing this region, such as the Sea Star Wasting Disease and harmful algal blooms.

AK Ocean Acidification Network – The executive committee of the Alaska OA Network met on May 26 to review progress on topics ranging from fishing engagement to funding opportunities and a new monitoring inventory. The committee is planning an in-person meeting to develop a statewide buildout plan this fall. The network’s K-12 education working group also met earlier in the month to hear from high school teachers about their approach to teaching OA in the classroom and what resources they need. The policy working group met on May 9 to discuss avenues for advancing OA awareness and engagement in Alaska.

AOOS & USARC – Molly & Darcy met with Cheryl Rosa to discuss potential collaborative activities with USARC relating to OA and HABs.

Coastal Resilience Planning – Molly attended a workshop May 24-25 hosted by the Western AK and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Landscape Conservation Cooperatives to prioritize follow-up activities to the 4 coastal resilience workshops held in the past year.

Alaska Marine Policy Forum – Molly hosted the forum on May 24 with updates from Senators Sullivan and Murkowski's offices and the Lt. Governor's office. A presentation was given on Marine Debris: Microplastics by Amy V. Uhrin, Chief Scientist at the NOAA Marine Debris Division. A summary of the call and the slides provided by the presenter are available on the [AOOS website](#).

MEETINGS & CONFERENCES

Climate Prediction Applications Science Workshop (CPASW) – AOOS staff were active participants in this workshop held May 2-4 in Anchorage. Holly served on the steering committee and reviewed abstracts. Carol gave a presentation on XXXXXX. Darcy presented a poster on the Alaska Ocean Acidification Network. And Molly moderated a panel on observations and monitoring.

Week of the Arctic – As a member of the Alaska Host Committee, Molly attended several of the sessions held in Fairbanks May 9-11 concurrent with the Arctic Council meetings. She also attended Day 1 of ADAC's Arctic 2030: Projecting Challenges and Capability Gaps "Needs of the North" workshop.

Wakefield Symposium – Carol gave an invited presentation on *Making Ecosystem Model Data Accessible for Rapid Assessment and Visualization Through the Alaska Ocean Observing System Model Explorer Data Portal*

DATA MANAGEMENT

During the Month of May the AOOS data management team made several revisions to existing data layers and prepared several new capabilities for launch in June. The NWS Alaska Sea Ice Program contacted Axiom concerning changes to the forecast maps: newly-introduced sea ice form (e.g., 'shorefast'), providing forecast maps that were missing in the archive, and changing the map colors to match WMO standards. Axiom also overhauled the map caching system, which improved screen render time by a factor of 5 (from 2.5 to 0.5 seconds). The updated caching system was also applied to the Shell SIWAC forecast maps. AOOS will be launching the Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom (AHAB) portal in mid June along with the next generation Research Workspace.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 5-13 – North Pacific Fisheries Management Council Meeting, Juneau

June 12-14 – Capital Hill Ocean Week and IOOS RA Director retreat – WA DC (Molly)

September 18-31, 2017 – IEEE/MTS/OES sponsored OCEANS'17 Conference, Anchorage at the Dena'ina Convention Center (Carol) <http://www.oceans17mtsieeeanchorage.org/>

Molly, Carol, Holly, Darcy, and Rob