

# **HIGHLIGHTS**

Alaska Ocean Acidification 'State of the Science' Workshop – The Alaska Ocean Acidification Network hosted a 2-day workshop on November 30 and December 1 to share the latest monitoring, research and findings on OA, and bring people together to discuss needs and plans for the future. Around 150 people attended in person with an additional 100 people joining from 9 satellite sites across the state or by webinar. PowerPoint and recorded presentations are available on the workshop webpage. Going forward, the Alaska OA Network will be working on a monitoring build-out plan, launching topic-specific

working groups, planning community workshops for 2017, and pursuing new outreach efforts. Contact Darcy Dugan if you would like to be involved.

Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Workshop – AOOS and Alaska Sea Grant co-sponsored a workshop on HABS, including Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) and domoic acid, in Anchorage on Dec 8-9 with the goal of creating an action plan for monitoring, event response, outreach and research. AOOS' Carol Janzen gave a presentation on relevant ocean observing activities across the state, and Darcy and Molly participated in a series of breakout groups. Stacey Buckelew of Axiom gave a demo of a pilot project to map HABS data on the AOOS data portal. Participants

encompassing complex consequence threatening problematic reality deplorable sour SCALY daunting sour SCALY daunting bad year real happening awesome uncertain atrocious underfunded misnomer

In a word, ocean acidification is...

are interested in starting a statewide HABS network and AOOS plans to be involved.

Alaska Marine Science Symposium – AOOS staff are all helping with planning for the 2017 AMSS, January 23-27 (see www.amss.nprb.org). Molly is coordinating keynote and plenary speakers and Holly is working with the Communicating Ocean Science Workshop committee to develop a series of breakout sessions for the workshop. Molly and Carol are both helping review abstract submissions. AOOS will convene an Alaska "Blob" Team Meeting during the conference to discuss status and impacts of the recent Pacific SST Anomalies.



Cook Inlet wave buoy (formerly known as Bandit) – The buoy has been steadily streaming real-time wave data for the past year, but faltering batteries and scheduled maintenance required its replacement. Thanks to Kris Holderied from the Kasitsna Bay Lab and Angie Doroff with the Kachemak Bay Reserve and a host of others for successfully and safely accomplishing this December 15 in spite of cold temperatures and lots of pan ice. Special thanks to the CDIP Program (located at SCRIPPS) for providing us with a replacement buoy that allows us to continue to provide valuable wave conditions for the region.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

**Grants Management** – Holly Kent worked with AOOS principal investigators to collect information for two semi-annual reports to NOAA, both due in late December, for our two cooperative agreements

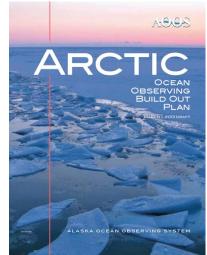
with the IOOS program. One of the awards is in its 6<sup>th</sup> year (with a no cost extension until May 31, 2017), the other 5-year award began June 1, 2016.

**IOOS Certification** – We received review comments back from the IOOS National office, and will be addressing them in the next few weeks.

**Updating the AOOS build-out plans** – Molly and Carol have begun meeting with Pls and other partners to discuss updates to the AOOS statewide and Arctic build-out plans. So far we've been to Fairbanks and to Juneau. We will be seeking additional input during the poster sessions at the Alaska Marine Science Symposium.

**AOOS-Arctic ERMA** – Staff from both programs held their quarterly meeting to share the latest in their activities and discuss future data sharing and collaborations.

**Water Levels Update** – Molly briefed the National Weather Service's Alaska regional office on the status of pilot projects for alternative water level observations in western Alaska. One of the projects would pilot the use of GPS reflectometry observations for water levels, and is being tested in Seward this winter.



# **PROPOSALS & NEW GRANTS**

**National Academy of Sciences** - AOOS received a \$530,000 grant from the National Academy of Sciences' Gulf Research Program for a proposal we submitted last summer to synthesize ship tracking data, oil spill model results and subsistence use information into an interactive tool.



**EVOS Trustee Council** – AOOS received a \$218k one-year award from the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council for Data Management services of the Gulf Watch Alaska and Herring Research and Monitoring programs. This program, just concluding its first five years, is anticipated to extend at least another 5 years, and potentially a total of 20 years.

**Saltonstall-Kennedy Program** - AOOS and partners submitted a proposal to NOAA's Saltonstall-Kennedy program for the placement of instruments on

commercial fishing vessels in the Bering Sea to collect important oceanographic data in places with few observations.

**Arctic Domain Awareness Center** - AOOS submitted a proposal in collaboration with Axiom and the Marine Exchange of Alaska to the ADAC's Arctic Incident of National Significance program for a joint AIS vessel tracking project.

#### **IOOS ACTIVITIES**

**D.C. meetings** – As a member of the IOOS Association Executive Committee, Molly spent 3 days in Washington DC November 14-17 with the IOOS Program Office planning for the transition and upcoming activities. She was also able to attend a portion of the Polar Research Board meeting and the Ocean Studies Board's committee on ocean observations, as well as brief staff from Senators Sullivan and Murkowski's office on the upcoming OA and HABS workshops.

**IOOS Association Executive Committee, Board and Outreach Committee** – Molly participated in several IOOS Association Board and Executive Committee meetings during this period, and Holly participated in the IOOS Association Education and Outreach Committee meeting.

# **MEETINGS & CONFERENCES**

Alaska Climate Thresholds – On November 10 AOOS held a meeting at the request of NOAA's National Ocean Service to collect information on how the concept of climate thresholds relates to coastal management. Molly hosted this online event and scheduled professionals in the field of ocean resource management to speak on five different topics. Read more and access the presentations.

**Alaska Sea Grant Advisory Committee** – As a member of the advisory committee, Molly participated in the committee's deliberations November 7-8 in Anchorage.

**Coastal Resiliency Workshop** – AOOS provided some financial support and helped with planning for a workshop in Kotzebue December 7-8. The workshop was the final one in a series of coastal resiliency and adaptation workshops hosted by USFWS Landscape Conservation Cooperatives and the Aleutian Pribilof Island Association.

**Chugach School District In-Service** – Holly and Axiom's Will Koeppen gave an AOOS 101 presentation for 25 teachers and staff highlighting potential uses of the AOOS data portal as a teaching tool.

**IMO Polar Code Workshop** – Molly presented on AOOS and participated in discussions at a 1-day workshop November 29 on the Polar Code sponsored by UAF's Lawson Brigham.

# **DATA MANAGEMENT**

Shell Data Rescue Proposal – AOOS worked with Axiom on a proposal to the North Pacific Research Board to store and curate 220 terabytes of acoustic data acquired by Shell over a 10-year period in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas. The data represents millions of dollars in investments by Shell, and if the proposal is funded, would become available to the greater scientific community.

**Next Generation Capabilities** – The AOOS data management team at Axiom continues to make progress on implementing the next generation AOOS data system. These new capabilities which will be exposed through the AOOS website over the next 3 to 6 months include the ability to visualize and interact with four-dimensional ocean data (gliders and water column cruise sampling) in addition to generate seasonal comparison and climatology tools for long term sensor time series.

# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Jan 4-5 NOAA Ocean Acidification Program meeting – Seattle (Darcy)

Jan 11 Consortium for Ocean Leadership meeting – Dallas (Molly)

Jan 12-13 International Arctic Observing Assessment Framework Workshop – Arlington (Molly)

Jan 23-27 Alaska Marine Science Symposium

Feb 6-19 Alaska Forum for the Environment (ocean acidification session included)

Molly, Carol, Holly, Darcy, and Rob