

HIGHLIGHTS

AOOS 2015 Film Contest – A panel of five judges and AOOS staff selected four films for five awards in the categories of Judges Choice, Adult Creative, Adult Educational, Youth Creative and Youth Educational. The categories were selected based on the twelve entries received. Hannah Baird’s film “Home” was a delightful look at fun, frolicking, and adventure in Prince William Sound and won in both the Judges Choice and Youth Creative categories for which she received a \$1,000 cash prize. The other winners received GoPro cameras to help them continue making films.

Winners of the contest are announced on the AOOS website under Special Projects. All film entries are also presented for download with bios of each of the filmmakers. The films are now available for showings at events in Alaska. Contact Holly Kent at kent@aoos.org if you’re interested.



ADMINISTRATIVE

National Funding – The IOOS Program is level funded in the 2016 federal budget that was just approved.

AOOS Board – The AOOS Board met November 3 for the regular fall board meeting. The board accepted \$160K in new grants, Carol Janzen shared her 5-minute Ignite talk on Blue Technologies that she had given at the Marine Technology Society meeting, and two prospective new board members (Mike Miller of IPCOMM and Buddy Custard of MXAK) attended the meeting. There were discussions on IOOS certification requirements, the newly formed Arctic Domain Awareness Center (ADAC) at UAA, and the implications of Shell’s withdrawal from Alaska. Molly McCammon presented a framework for strategic planning of the next five years under the new NOAA proposal.

AOOS Data Management Advisory Committee – The AOOS DMAC met November 4. Rob Bochenek presented the work AXIOM developed for the Arctic Domain Awareness Center’s Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, based on the AOOS Ocean Data Explorer. The committee reviewed the AOOS data management work plan for 2015-2016.

Ocean acidification workshop in planning stage – AOOS is hosting an OA technology workshop in Anchorage January 29-30 following the Alaska Marine Science Symposium. The goal is to work with the national OA program and Alaska OA monitoring technical experts to discuss appropriate methods for making OA measurements and develop a coordinated vision for OA monitoring in Alaska waters. Contact Carol Janzen at janzen@aoos.org for more details.

Sea Grant Position Interviews – Molly has been participating in the interview process for a two-year Coastal Resiliency marine advisory position that is being funded by AOOS, National Weather Service, and Alaska and national Sea Grant Programs. The new position, based in Anchorage, will begin early in 2016.

AOOS-Arctic ERMA quarterly meeting – AOOS staff met with Arctic ERMA staff November 6 to share current and planned work for the two organizations. Both AOOS and ERMA agreed to quarterly meetings to ensure that resources are leveraged and duplication is avoided.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council meeting – Molly briefed the EVOSTC November 12 on the status of the Gulf Watch Alaska Program. The Council approved funding for the 5th year of the 20-year program. Molly is the overall program lead and AOOS provides data management services for both Gulf Watch and the Herring Research and Monitoring Program.

MEETINGS & CONFERENCES

Arctic Marine Protected Areas Working Group Meeting – Carol Janzen attended Day 1 of the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee’s (MPA FAC) Arctic Marine Protected Areas (MPA) working group meeting November 9-10, 2015 in Anchorage. The working group was tasked with developing draft recommendations for consideration by the MPA FAC (which in turn advises NOAA and the Department of the Interior) including guidelines and principles for U.S. actions to strengthen and connect MPAs and MPA programs in the U.S. Arctic and internationally. They also provided stakeholder input that will help inform U.S. leadership on MPA issues during its chairmanship of the Arctic Council.

Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation (CERF) – Molly and Holly attended the 23rd Biennial Conference from November 8-12 in Portland, OR. The keynote address was given by Beth Kerttula, Director of the National Ocean Council, and former member of the Alaska House of Representatives. Most of the presentations focused on the science surrounding climate change including ocean acidification and coastal resiliency.

Alaska Sea Grant Advisory Committee – Holly attended this two day meeting from November 16-17 at UAA. Emerging issues in Alaska, new initiatives in coastal resiliency, and administrative issues in support of ASG were discussed. Presentations included updates on Sea Grant’s research projects, the Alaska Rivers and Seas educational program, and the new FishBiz app.

Arctic Observing Open Science Meeting (AOOSM) – Molly and Carol attended and presented at the AOOSM meeting held in Seattle Nov 17-19. The meeting was sponsored the Arctic Research Consortium of the United States (ARCUS), and hosted talks spanning the most cutting edge science occurring in the Arctic to socioeconomic issues facing communities in the region. Three primary questions were open for discussion following each session, addressing what scientific or operational advances have been facilitated by the network of Arctic observations; what opportunities exist to address new science questions, operational challenges, or questions of Arctic communities through enhanced collaboration and a robust interagency observing system; and how observing activities contributed to the science needs of mission agencies or stakeholders. Molly presented on AOOS’ Arctic activities and mission, and Carol presented on accessing data in the Arctic and across the state using the Integrated Arctic Data Portal. For more information about this meeting and to access abstracts and view the presentations from all contributors once they are posted, you can visit: <https://www.arcus.org/search-program/meetings/2015/aoosm>.

U.S.-Canada Shared Interests and Opportunities in the North American Arctic Workshop – Molly attended this workshop, hosted by the Arctic Domain Awareness Center, December 14-15 in Anchorage. The focus was primarily on marine safety issues.

Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council – As the Municipality of Anchorage representative on CIRCAC, Molly briefed new mayor Ethan Berkowitz and attended the December 3-4 meeting in Anchorage.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 14 Arctic Matters, Washington DC, hosted by National Research Council (Molly)

Jan 15-16 Arctic Encounters Workshop, Seattle WA (Molly)

Jan 20-21 [Pacific Sea Surface Temperature Anomalies Workshop, UW, Seattle, WA](#) (Carol)

Jan 25-29 [Alaska Marine Science Symposium, Anchorage, AK](#)

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

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

Suite 100 staff wish you all a Happy Holidays and Happy 2016!

Molly, Carol, Holly, Darcy, and Rob.....and all of our colleagues at Alaska Sea Grant and North Pacific Research Board

