

HIGHLIGHTS: WE ARE NOW OFFICIALLY CERTIFIED!

AOOS Certification – US Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Director Carl Gouldman officially announced AOOS as a certified Regional Information Coordination Entity (RICE) of the US IOOS program during the plenary sessions for the Oceans '17 conference in Anchorage on September 19, 2017. A formal signing ceremony followed at the IOOS booth in the main exhibition hall later that morning. Eight of the 11 IOOS regional associations are now certified, meaning their programs and data assembly centers have been reviewed and meet federal standards.



IOOS ACTIVITIES

Fall IOOS meeting – The IOOS Program’s fall meeting was held September 25-27, relocating to Seattle WA instead of Puerto Rico, due to the extensive destruction from hurricane Maria in the Caribbean. We have heard that our colleagues in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands survived the devastation and are waiting to hear about their assets and infrastructure. The IOOS meeting focused on discussions on hurricane supplemental appropriations, modeling priorities, and the new National Data Buoy Center (NDBC) buoys, slated to replace the existing buoys over the next four years. These are designed to be smaller, more powerful, have greater capacity, and be easier to service.



IOOS Association Hill Visit – The IOOS Association hosted Washington D.C. Hill events on September 18 including a noon briefing sponsored by the Senate Oceans Caucus (Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski is co-chair) and an evening reception on the House side. Mark Wiegardt from Whiskey Creek Shellfish Hatchery based in Tillamook, Oregon is such a supporter of IOOS that he provided the fresh oysters for a reception on the House side. Delicious! Congressman Young (R-AK) enjoyed the oysters and, despite having laryngitis, made remarks about the importance of oceans and data. We had a record turnout for both events.



MEETINGS & CONFERENCES

OCEANS'17 IEEE/MTS Anchorage – In addition to the months of work AOOS Operations Director Carol Janzen and board member Jim Kendall devoted to organizing the conference’s technical program, AOOS also participated in the conference in these ways: Molly served as the emcee for the Tuesday plenary session; Darcy Dugan gave a presentation on the Alaska Ocean Acidification Network; AOOS helped to sponsor Dr. George Divoky as a plenary speaker; AOOS provided an information booth for the entire conference organized and staffed by Holly Kent; AOOS and Axiom hosted a reception at the Axiom office celebrating IOOS certification; AOOS hosted a luncheon for Craig McClean, NOAA’s Deputy Assistant Administrator for Research, to meet with AOOS PIs, partners and board members; Molly participated in a special session on the Alaska Blue Economy; AOOS’ data manager Rob Bochenek of Axiom Data Science presented on cyberinfrastructure to support data management; and Axiom’s Will Koeppen and Chris Turner led a workshop on data management processes (for more information, see <http://axiomdatascience.com/blog/>).



ALASKA AND REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

Alaska Ocean Acidification Network – The state ferry *M/V Columbia* will begin collecting data on ocean acidification during its weekly round trip between Bellingham, WA and Skagway, AK starting October 3. Darcy will give a talk with author Nancy Lord at a book signing event at the UAA bookstore on October 4. For more on OA, see the network's [September e-News](#).



Clayton Hamilton, a new Alaska Marine Conservation Council (AMCC) fishing fellow from Juneau, will be working 5-10 hours per week with the Alaska OA Network over the next six months. On Sept 28, Clayton met with AOOS staffer and Alaska OA Network Director Darcy Dugan, as well network steering committee member Dorothy Childers in Anchorage for an all-day, in-depth briefing on Alaska OA issues. Clayton will be assisting the network with engagement with the fishing community.

OUTREACH

Alaska Marine Science Symposium – The 2018 symposium plans are shaping up, with abstracts due Friday, October 6. The Communicating Ocean Sciences Workshop steering committee has secured photographer/scientist Chris Linder to present a workshop to start the symposium off on Monday morning, January 22.

DATA MANAGEMENT

Data Management System Review – AOOS staff is planning an external review of our data management system for late November. A new version of the AOOS Ocean Data Explorer will be released for review and comment on Friday, Oct 6.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 4	Ocean Acidification talk at UAA Bookstore, Anchorage
October 6	Release of Ocean Data Explorer V. 2.3
October 25	Consortium for Ocean Leadership Industry Forum, WA DC
October 26-27	COL Trustee meeting, WA DC
November 7-8	AK Sea Grant Advisory Committee, Anchorage
November 10	Fishermen's ocean acidification roundtable, Cordova
November 13-15	Gulf Watch AK PI meeting, Cordova or Anchorage
November 15	Alaska Tribal Council on Environmental Management (OA talk), Anchorage
Nov 16-18	Pacific Marine Expo, Seattle
December 5-6	ATN Workshop, Anchorage

Molly, Carol, Holly, Darcy, and Rob