



AOOS 10th anniversary - AOOS would like to thank everyone who came to the Anchorage Museum on November 19 to celebrate our 10th Anniversary. The evening was highlighted by several award-winning films from the 2014 AOOS Short Film Contest and a presentation on orca predation by Gulf Watch Alaska scientist Craig Matkin. AOOS Director Molly McCammon reflected on change over the past 10 years and Zdenka Willis, director of NOAA's Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS), relayed a message from NOAA Administrator Kathy Sullivan acknowledging AOOS' accomplishments.



The 10th anniversary also marked the 10th year of Molly's leadership as the AOOS executive director. The AOOS staff and board presented her with a Copper River jacket sporting the AOOS logo to show their appreciation.

The AOOS team looks forward to the next 10 years of partnering in Alaska to expand ocean observing!



Farewell to Ellen – After 2 years, we say farewell to Ellen Tyler in late January. Ellen is on vacation now, but will return for one last week with AOOS during the Alaska Marine Science Symposium. Ellen has done a great job shepherding the Norton Sound buoy, coordinating the Community Based Monitoring and Ocean Acidification workshops, and leading the Aleutian and Bering Sea Climate Vulnerability Assessment, among other accomplishments. We wish her well in her next adventures.

ADMINISTRATIVE

IOOS budget news – Good news for the IOOS budget in the CROMNIBUS. The regional program received a slight increase, with a \$1 million addition to the Marine Technology Transfer program. This means AOOS will likely receive the same funding as last year.



AOOS job postings – AOOS has two job announcements out on the street. Please circulate broadly. One is for Ellen Tyler's replacement as Program Coordinator. The other is for a new Operations Director position, a senior level person who will serve as a deputy director of AOOS, focusing on the operations and administrative side.



AOOS-ERMA quarterly meeting – AOOS and Arctic ERMA staff met December 18 to update each other on recent activities, including data ingestion and upgrades. The quarterly meetings are the result of a Memorandum of Agreement between the 2 programs aimed to increase collaboration and reduce redundant efforts.

MARES project – The AOOS/Axiom data is part of the Stantec group that was recently awarded the contract by BOEM to conduct the Marine Arctic Research Ecosystem Study in the Beaufort Sea. AOOS will provide data management services for the project.

NFWF Beluga Data Portal – We just received word of approval for a proposal we submitted to enhance the Beluga Sightings Database (funded by NOAA) with additional data layers to create a Cook Inlet Beluga Data Portal.

MEETINGS/CONFERENCES/TRAVEL

Gulf Watch AK PI meeting – More than 40 scientists attended the GWA PI meeting held in the AOOS conference room Nov. 18-20. The focus this year was on synthesizing past monitoring results in preparation for a major synthesis workshop in February. McCammon is on the Program Management Team, and AOOS provides the data management services.



EVOSTC Meeting – Molly spoke to the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council Nov. 19 in support of continued funding for the Gulf Watch Alaska program, as well as enhanced funding for data management by the AOOS/Axiom team. Funding for both projects was approved by the Council.

Ocean Acidification Workshop – On December 2, about 100 scientists, concerned citizens and resource



managers in Anchorage, and 70 remote attendees across the state, came together to hear the latest research, policy implications, community perspectives, and potential impacts from OA along Alaska’s coast and oceans. A smaller group of 30 convened the following day to define statewide needs for OA monitoring, research, education and outreach. This led to the development of a draft *Call to Action* and a strategy to engage federal, state, regional and industry partners. This event was jointly sponsored and organized by AOOS, ACCAP, Alaska Sea Grant, the Alaska Marine Conservation Council, and UAF's Ocean Acidification Research Center. [Read more.](#)

ABSCVA Capstone Workshop – On Dec 10-11, representatives and project partners from the Aleutian and Bering Sea Climate Vulnerability Assessment met in Anchorage to integrate draft research priorities for the region through a Structured Decision Making (SDM) facilitated process. This integrated thinking on regional conservation and information needs will help to inform ABSI LCC, AOOS and AK CSC research investments and help stakeholders to quickly understand, identify and meet individual or project specific needs. [Read more.](#)



PRESENTATIONS

IPCOMM – Molly briefed the Indigenous People’s Council on Marine Mammals on December 1 and asked for IPCOMM to designate a representative to the AOOS Board.

UPDATES & HIGHLIGHTS

AOOS has been working with the Bering Sea Sub-Network ([BSSN](#)) to add spatial data on subsistence to the AOOS Ocean Data Explorer. The first wave of data is in, and users can explore interactive data layers for Gambell and Savoonga on St. Lawrence Island. [Read more.](#)

The screenshot at right shows hunting effort for Pacific Halibut for the village of Savoonga.



GOING FORWARD – Some Key Upcoming 2015 Activities

- Jan 14 Alaska Marine Policy Forum – by telecon
- Jan 19-22 Alaska Marine Science Symposium (AMSS) - Anchorage
- Jan 19 Communicating Ocean Sciences Workshop - Anchorage
- Jan 21 AOOS Film Night at AMSS - Anchorage
- Jan 22 Arctic Obs Workshop - Anchorage

Happy Holidays from AOOS!

Molly McCammon, Darcy Dugan, Ellen Tyler and Rob Bochenek