

HIGHLIGHTS

AOOS 2014 Film Contest Showcase – Each week, a new short film from AOOS’ 2014 contest is being highlighted on the AOOS homepage. This week’s film, *Alaska’s Yellow Billed Loons*, was produced by the NPS and Alaska Geographic and explores the life of yellow billed loons in the Seward Peninsula and North Slope.



ADMINISTRATION

Proposal submitted – AOOS/Axiom and UAF/International Arctic Research Center submitted a proposal to the National Science Foundation to provide data management archive and access services for NSF’s Arctic programs. We should hear by the end of the summer about this proposal.

Axiom expands OOS range – Axiom Data Science successfully competed for the data management contract for SECOORA - the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing System.

Stakeholder meetings - Molly McCammon and Darcy Dugan have been hosting stakeholder engagement meetings to help inform the AOOS 5 year proposal to NOAA. On May 18 and 19, they met in Juneau with representatives of the navigation community and the NOAA team working on ecosystem report cards and integrated ecosystem assessments. On May 26, they convened members of the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council and Prince William Sound Science Center/Oil Spill Recovery Institute to discuss PWS needs.

MEETINGS/CONFERENCES/TRAVEL

Pacific Anomalies Workshop – Molly attended the May 5-6 session at Scripps Institute of Oceanography in San Diego along with five other Alaskans. The meeting was used to exchange information about the unusually warm ocean temperatures in the Pacific this past year – from Baja to the Bering Sea – and potential biological impacts. Stay tuned for more follow-up.



ACCAP Steering Committee – Molly and Holly Kent participated in the Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy’s Steering Committee in Anchorage May 12.

ACCER – Molly attended the May 27 meeting of the Alaska Climate Change Executive Roundtable and facilitated a discussion about the group’s mission and goals. ACCER continues to sponsor the Alaska Data Integration Working Group, originally initiated by AOOS and USGS.

Water levels workshop – AOOS hosted a workshop in Anchorage May 27-28 with the lofty goal of “Exploring Options for an Integrated Water Level Observation Network in Alaska”. Steve Gill and Laura Rear McLaughlin attended from NOAA CO-OPS in Silver Spring. Technical experts discussed needs for water level observations and how those might be met without relying on expensive NWLON tide stations. A report will be forthcoming.



Arctic/climate change transition team – As a member of Alaska Governor Bill Walker’s Arctic/Climate Change transition team, Molly participated in a May 29 conference call with Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Larry Hartig and Alaska Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Mark Myers (both of whom are AOOS Board members) regarding future state priorities for Arctic and climate change issues.

PRESENTATIONS

AK LNG Project – AOOS partner Caryn Rea invited AOOS (Molly and Darcy) to participate in discussions on May 11 about data collection and data sharing with members of the Alaska LNG Project team from Anchorage and Houston. As a key initiator of the NOAA-Industry Data Sharing Agreement on behalf of ConocoPhillips, Caryn is eager to encourage AK LNG partners to share data with AOOS.

Norway/Alaska Arctic Collaboration – Axiom’s Will Koeppen represented AOOS at the Experts Group Roundtable May 27 and discussed data sharing and monitoring systems for Safety and Preparedness in the Arctic. Will also attended the luncheon honoring the King of Norway during his visit to Alaska.

UPDATES

Anchorage Museum Sea Ice Exhibit – A new exhibit launched on May 1 at the Anchorage Museum highlights Arctic Sea ice, and will be up through the summer. The exhibit showcases several animations of historic and predicted sea ice concentration in the AOOS data portal, and also streams two Arctic-related films from the 2014 AOOS Short Film Contest.



GOING FORWARD – Some Key Upcoming 2015 Activities

- June 9 Meet & greet with NOS Director Russell Callender and NOAA Deputy Under Secretary for Operations, Vice Adm. Michael Devany - Anchorage
- June 29 AOOS Board – Anchorage
- July 15 Alaska Marine Policy Forum – by phone

Molly McCammon, Darcy Dugan, Holly Kent and Rob Bochenek



Special Note: the 2015 Film Contest is Underway – For the second year, AOOS is welcoming films under 10 minutes relating to Alaska’s oceans or coasts. Submission deadline is Sept 15, and the grand prize is \$1,000. [Learn more.](#)