

HIGHLIGHTS

Alaska Marine Science Symposium – This year’s symposium was attended by nearly 700 marine scientists, educators and resource managers despite the hiccup provided by the three-day federal government shutdown. Alaskans were looking forward to Acting NOAA Administrator Admiral Tim Gallaudet’s visit with several side meetings planned and a keynote address, all of which were cancelled due to the shutdown. The AMSS organizing committee rose to the challenge and absorbed the disruption of a shutdown despite the loss of half of the keynote speeches, several poster presentations, and some oral presentations, with colleagues filling in for many of the federal participants. The Communicating Ocean Sciences workshop committee departed from previous years’ format in selecting Chris Linder, scientist/photographer as a key presenter. We had a record turnout with over 200 people registering for this workshop. Additionally, 23 Alaskans paid a registration fee of \$125 to attend a Communicating Science workshop given by the Sharing Sciences group of the American Geophysical Union (AGU).

AOOS Board Meeting – The AOOS board met on January 11 and was updated on IOOS Association activities by Association director Josie Quintrell and AOOS activities by Molly McCammon, with program briefings given by staff. The board reviewed the findings and recommendations of an external review of the AOOS data system, and directed Molly to negotiate a new contract with Axiom Data Science that takes into account those recommendations. The board also approved Katrina Hoffman, Executive Director of the Prince William Sound Science Center as board chair and Marine Exchange of Alaska Executive Director Ed Page as board vice-chair, until the fall elections. Hilcorp was approved as the oil and gas board member, with Bill Britt as its board representative.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Winter Newsletter – Staff prepared a four-page newsletter for distribution during AMSS. Articles included an update on the ocean acidification tracking system installed on the Alaska State Ferry M/V Columbia, an introduction to the Alaska Marine Conservation Council’s Fishing Fellow Clayton Hamilton, an announcement about the Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network, a brief summary about the Animal Telemetry Network Workshop held in Anchorage last December, and new data layers added to the AOOS Data Portal. The newsletter can be accessed on AOOS.org.

New Employee – Marta Kumle has been hired for a short-term position to develop an Alaska coastal mapping strategy and implementation plan. The position is jointly funded by NOAA, AOOS and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources. Marta can be reached at: marta.kumle@alaska.gov.

IOOS ACTIVITIES

IOOS meetings in DC – Molly joined other members of the IOOS Association in Washington DC Feb 1 and 2 to brief key NOAA administrators on the status of the IOOS program. Briefings were held with Acting NOAA Administrator Admiral Tim Gallaudet, chief of staff Stu Levenbach, deputy chief of staff for policy Kevin Wheeler, and National Ocean Service Director Russell Callender.

MEETINGS & CONFERENCES



Alaska Ocean Acidification Network executive committee – Darcy Dugan facilitated the in-person meeting which included reports from the network’s six working groups, and discussions about projects to tackle in the next year including a data catalogue, synthesis of OA hotspots around Alaska, and monitoring build-out plan.

NOAA CO-OPS GNSS Workshop/Webinar, Silver Spring, MD - Carol gave a web presentation on the use of GPS reflectometry techniques for water level observing activities in the State of Alaska. The workshop objectives were to Increase CO-OPS employees’ knowledge & understanding of GNSS efforts within divisions, demonstrate technology and techniques currently utilized by CO-OPS, discuss current projects to inform the GNSS Roadmap, and to develop unified goals and actions moving forward.

ALASKA AND REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

Governor's Climate Action Leadership Team –Molly joined other members of the team in attending the Adaptation Working Group meeting January 30. She was unable to attend the Mitigation Working Group meeting January 31. More information can be found at the team's website: <http://climatechange.gov.alaska.gov/>.

AMBON – Molly met with PIs of the Arctic Marine Biodiversity Observing Network project on January 29 to discuss ways to better integrate that project into the goals and work plan of AOOS.

IARPC Environmental Intelligence Team – Molly met at the new NSF headquarters in Alexandria with EI co-team leads Emily Osborne (NOAA) and Anjali Bamzai (NSF) to discuss the 2018 work plan for the team.

Arctic Domain Awareness Center, UAA, Anchorage - Carol presented at the ADAC Quarterly Review for the joint AOOS/AXIOM/Marine Exchange of Alaska project on using AIS vessel tracking data to help prioritize NOAA bathymetric survey efforts in the Arctic.

Central Beaufort Sea Wave & Hydrodynamic Modeling Study PI Meeting, Anchorage - Carol and Rob met with the project PIs and the BOEM Program Manager Warren Horowitz on January 23 to update the team on the project's 2nd quarterly status. Carol presented on the data management and outreach components of the project, and solicited input from the PIs on website content. Rob discussed the status of a historical spatial database they are helping develop for the project data portal/website that will be hosted on the AOOS portal system starting the summer of 2018.

OUTREACH

Ocean Acidification Stakeholder Survey – The Alaska OA Network completed a statewide survey to better understand the information needs of Alaskans to help inform future monitoring. 125 people took the survey, providing feedback on species of interest, forecasting, and the biggest questions they had relating to OA. A report summarizing the results will be released in March.

OA session with UAA students – Darcy and three other members of the Alaska Ocean Acidification Network met with students from UAA Professor Jackie Cason's science writing class on Jan 25 to engage with the next generation of science writers on a hot topic in Alaska.



Professor Cason and students meet with OA Network members.

AMSS Poster Session – Holly coordinated and hosted an information table during the AMSS evening poster sessions January 22-23. Darcy presented a poster during the conference on the OA Network.

Data Portals, Products, and Tools Survey - Over the past 3 months, AOOS hosted a survey to gather feedback on the data portal from end users. Results from the survey will be synthesized with the Axiom team this month to help inform future portal improvements.

DATA MANAGEMENT

The Axiom data management team released v2.5 of the Ocean Data Explorer this month in a beta testing environment. This version features the integration of biological datasets with physical and model-based data. These heterogeneous types can be compared with custom data views for users to quickly explore environmental drivers of biological change.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 9	Alaska Coastal Mapping Summit, Anchorage
Feb 12-16	Alaska Forum on the Environment, Anchorage (includes Alaska OA session on Feb 13)
Feb 12-16	American Geophysical Union Ocean Sciences Meeting, Portland OR (Carol)
Feb 16	Alaska OA Network Tribal Monitoring group tours Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery OA lab
March 6-8	IOOS Association, Washington DC (Molly and Katrina Hoffman)
March 7-9	Consortium for Ocean Leadership, Washington DC (Molly and Brad Moran)

Molly, Carol, Holly, Darcy, and Rob