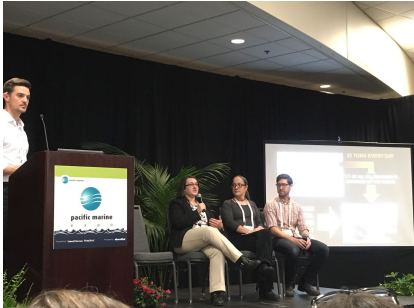
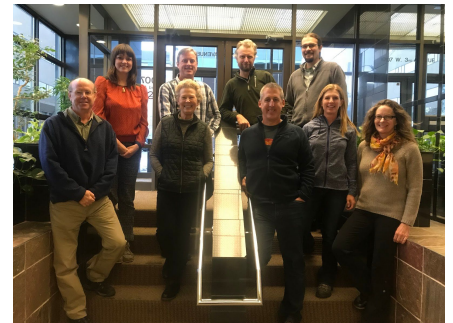


HIGHLIGHTS



Alaska OA Network at Pacific Marine Expo – For the first time, AOOS had a presence at the Pacific Marine Expo in Seattle – an annual event that draws thousands of fishermen and fishing industry members from across Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. Darcy Dugan, Alaska OA Network director, hosted a booth on the OA network, and had over 50 conversations with fishermen and fishing industry representatives looking for information on OA. The panel session about OA and salmon had the best attendance of any presentation at the Expo. [Watch the recorded panel](#). Thank you to our partners at AMCC for sharing their booth space!

Visiting Expert Committee Reviews AOOS Data System – A team of six data management experts visited Anchorage Nov. 28-30 to conduct an external review of the AOOS data system at the Executive Director’s request. The team was asked to review the data system as a whole, which is implemented through a contract with Axiom Data Science, including its usability and customer service model. The report, including findings and recommendations, will be given to the AOOS Board and AOOS Data Management Advisory Committee when complete.



AOOS Hosts ATN Workshop - With funding from the Office of Naval Research and BOEM, AOOS hosted a 2 day workshop Dec. 5-6 exploring Alaska priorities for the national Animal Telemetry Network (ATN). Day 1 featured expert panels of agency managers, private sector representatives, communities and tribes, and researchers and discussed current ATN efforts in the region, issues of concern including limitations of technologies, new applications and current data management, display and outreach protocols. On Day 2, smaller breakout sessions were convened to identify priorities for regional AT observations, data management, and user products.

McCammom named to state climate change team - Molly was appointed by Alaska Governor Bill Walker to a 15-person Climate Change for Alaska Leadership Team. The team is tasked with advising the governor on “critical and timely actions to address climate change challenges that will safeguard Alaska now and for future generations.” The team held its first meeting in Anchorage Dec. 18, and must develop an action plan by Sep. 2018.

MEETINGS & CONFERENCES

Meetings with NOAA OCM - Molly and AOOS Board member and NOAA Regional Collaboration Team Coordinator Amy Holman met for 2 days with staff at the Office of Coastal Management (OCM) in Charleston, SC. The focus of the meetings was how to develop better partnerships between OCM programs and AOOS and other Alaska coastal programs, given that Alaska no longer has its own Coastal Zone Management Program. A number of future collaborations were identified, with all participants pledging further follow-up.

American Geophysical Union (AGU) - Molly participated in a panel discussion at the AGU meeting in New Orleans Dec. 12 on translating Arctic research to policy.

NOAA National Data Buoy Center (NDBC) visit - Molly and AOOS Board member and Dean of UAF's College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences Brad Moran visited the National Data Buoy Center at Stennis, Mississippi Dec. 11 to explore potential options for staging weather buoy activities at the Seward Marine Center in Alaska. Conversations will continue.

ShoreZone Alaska – Holly Kent attended the ShoreZone annual meeting to learn about new implementations of shorezone and updates with general information. Following the annual meeting was the steering committee meeting where, among other things, a potential increase in effort for the AOOS data-visualization partnership was discussed.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council PI meetings – As the data management project lead, Carol provided the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council (EVOSTC) with an annual data management update for the Gulf Watch of Alaska (GWA) and Herring Research Monitoring (HRM) programs on Nov. 14. FY17 highlights were the launch of the Research Workspace to the GWA and HRM programs, and the Research Workspace becoming a DataONE member node. The majority of the 2012-2016 GWA and HRM program data are now publicly available via the AOOS Gulf of Alaska Portal and DataONE. Carol also participated in the GWA/HRM PI meeting with Axiom data coordinators Stacey Buckelew and Chris Turner in Cordova, Nov. 15-17.



Arctic Domain Awareness Center (ADAC) quarterly review and annual meeting – Carol, project lead on *Using Vessel Tracking Data to Prioritize Bathymetric Surveying in a Rapidly Changing Arctic*, met with ADAC Director Dr. Randy “Church” Kee at UAA for the ADAC quarterly review on Nov. 9. This report formed the basis of the presentation given at the ADAC Annual Meeting in Washington DC, Nov 29-30 by Kyle Wilcox from Axiom, with Carol joining the meeting remotely to address questions. Rob Bochenek and Ed Page are co-PIs on the project and contributed to the report. Stay tuned for the launch of an ADAC produced project video that will be posted on the ADAC website in the new year!

DOI Landscape Conservation Cooperative Visioning Workshop – Molly participated in 2 days of brainstorming meetings Nov. 1-2 regarding the future of the Department of Interior's four Landscape Conservation Cooperatives in Alaska. The LCC's advisory committees provide a valuable service in engaging with stakeholders in several coastal subregions of Alaska. AOOS has worked most closely with Western Alaska LCC and the Aleutian/Bering Sea Islands LCC on a number of projects related to coastal hazards and climate change vulnerability assessments.



ALASKA AND REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

Alaska Ocean Acidification Network – November was a busy month for OA outreach in Alaska where engagement between researchers and the public took place in two communities (Juneau and Cordova), Cordova High School, the Alaska Tribal Conference of Environmental Managers, and the Pacific Marine Expo in Seattle. The network is also currently circulating a stakeholder survey that will help inform future monitoring efforts. Help us [circulate the survey](#).

At left: Darcy (right) shares a booth at the Pacific Marine Expo with partners from the Alaska Marine Conservation Council, including AOOS board member Theresa Peterson (left).

Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network (AHAB) - Over the past year, Axiom has been working with the Sitka Tribe to create a real-time data portal showing HABS testing results. The portal is now live, and AHAB members met by phone on Nov. 30 to discuss plans for publicly launching the portal and [AHAB website](#) in January 2018. The group will display a network poster during AMSS, and will hold an in-person planning meeting. AOOS co-leads the network with Alaska Sea Grant.



Alaska Sea Grant Advisory Committee & staff – Molly participated in the Nov. 7-8 meeting of the Alaska Sea Grant Advisory Committee in Anchorage, which focused on emerging issues important to Alaska’s coastal communities. The committee also honored Alaska Sea Grant Director Paula Cullenberg, who will be retiring this spring. On Nov. 9 AOOS staff met with Sea Grant program staff and discussed future collaborations, especially with ocean acidification and harmful algal blooms.

ADMINISTRATIVE

FY17 funding received (finally!) – We are already into FY 18, but finally received formal approval of our FY17 budget and scope of work under our NOAA cooperative agreement. This is the longest it has ever taken to receive our federal funds, and hopefully won’t be a permanent trend!

NAS GRP Project year 2 funding approved – The first year report for the National Academy of Sciences’ Gulf Research Program project using AIS vessel tracking data along with subsistence data and oil spill scenarios was approved by the GRP, along with year 2 funding. You will be hearing a lot more about this project in the coming months.

Switch to Google Stream - AOOS computers were shut down for a day and not fully accessible for a few days as we switched over from Google Drive to Google Stream. The switch was not seamless; however, we are now up and running full speed! Thanks for your patience during this transition.

Office Painting - For those of you who visited us this past month, you may have noticed that with the beginning of our new lease, all of our offices have been freshly painted. The recycling bin saw heavy use during this time as we all took the opportunity to do some housekeeping of old files and outdated materials.

DATA MANAGEMENT

AOOS Data Management Committee Meets - The AOOS DMAC met by teleconference December 18 to review the draft recommendations from the External Data Management Review Committee and get the latest summaries of the data portal user survey and the data system usability exercises. Phil Mundy, the DMAC chair, was recognized for his service on the AOOS committee prior to his retirement in the New Year. Thanks Phil! The draft minutes will be posted in the New Year on the AOOS website.

IOOS ACTIVITIES

IOOS Association meetings in DC – As chair of the IOOS Association Public Policy Committee, Molly was called back to Washington DC Nov. 14-15 to meet with NOAA Administrator nominee Barry Myers and Department of Commerce Policy Director Earl Comstock, as well as the Ocean Studies Board release of their report “Sustaining Ocean Observations to Understand Future Changes in Earth’s Climate.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 11** AOOS Board meeting, Anchorage
- January 22-25** AK Marine Science Symposium
- January 22** Alaska OA Network executive committee meeting
- January 24** AHAB meeting
- February 11-16** AGU Ocean Sciences Meeting, Portland, OR

Best wishes to all of our friends, colleagues and partners for a wonderful 2018.

Molly, Carol, Holly, Darcy, and Rob