

HIGHLIGHTS

AOOS Board Member Receives NOAA's Highest Award – Congratulations to AOOS Board member Amy Holman, NOAA Alaska Regional Coordinator, who just received the 2018 Bronze Medal and Distinguished Career Award from NOAA for "fostering boundary-breaking partnerships among tribes, agencies, and researchers to promote coastal resilience in Alaska." This is the highest honor awarded by the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, the Bronze Medal recognizes federal employees for superior performance and are awarded to individuals, groups (or teams), and organizations.



2018 Alaska Coastal Water Level Observations Meetings – AOOS, AK Department of Natural Resources, and NOAA hosted two half-day workshops May 22-23 focusing on technologies and user needs for water level observations in Alaska. Day 1 included presentations on the variety of technologies used in Alaska for collecting water level data. These technologies are not as exacting in terms of quality control and duplication as the Tier A National Water Level Observing Network (NWLON) tide gauges operated by NOAA CO-OPS. However, they were shown to offer high quality and affordable alternatives for gathering water level information to fill gaps in NWLON coverage. Day 2 included presentations by various representatives of stakeholder communities (e.g., harbors, NOAA hydrography and charting, tsunami warning, and flood warning and management)

regarding their geographic needs, data frequency, and resolution requirements. The input from these sessions will be used to update the joint Water Level Observing Network report that was published in 2016.

NOAA Office of Coastal Management Listening Tour – 7 members of NOAA's OCM, from Silver Spring, MD, Charleston, SC, Honolulu, HI and Oakland, CA, converged on Alaska May 22-25 for stakeholder meetings and site visits in Anchorage, Nome and Homer. In Anchorage, the visitors met with state, federal, NGO and private sector representatives discussing National Weather Service Alaska services, climate resilience and adaptation, conservation issues, coastal management planning and permitting, coastal mapping, water level observations, data management, and the Blue Economy. In Nome, the visitors met with the mayor, harbor master and port director, as well as representatives from Kawerak and the Nome village tribe. They also gave a presentation at the University of Alaska's Nome campus about coastal management planning and activities.



ADMINISTRATIVE

AOOS Board Meeting – The Spring AOOS board meeting was held in Anchorage on May 11. The board approved the 2018 budget and the acceptance of additional IOOS grant funding for a modeling project. Presentations were given on Bering Sea extreme weather events, HF Radars in the Bering Strait, new features in the AOOS Ocean Data Explorer, and plans for AOOS development of the new Animal Telemetry Network Data Assembly Center, to be funded by the US Navy and BOEM.

FY18 Subawards – AOOS received the Year 3 FY18 funding level for our five-year cooperative agreement and determined subaward funding levels. We are preparing to finalize agreements for the upcoming project year.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

Climate Action Leadership Team – Governor Walker’s CALT met throughout the month of May to gather more input on a draft policy that is now out for public review. Molly and UAF’s Larry Hinzman are co-leading a new Science Advisory Committee that will also be involved in the policy’s development. The Governor’s Climate Change Strategy Administrative Order and the recently released for public comment draft climate policy can be accessed here: <https://tinyurl.com/y96t6wb6> and <https://tinyurl.com/yd4dn6ua>. The Governor’s climate change website is <http://climatechange.gov.alaska.gov/>.

Bering Strait Research Coordination - Molly, other members of the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee’s Environmental Intelligence Team (including NOAA’s Emily Osborne and NSF’s Anjuli Bamzai), NOAA’s Alaska Regional Coordinator Amy Holman, Darcy Dugan and the Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network, and Alaska Sea Grant’s Gay Sheffield are all working together to facilitate a more coordinated response to increased concerns by Bering Strait residents for impacts of warm ocean waters and reduced sea ice. The changes residents are experiencing are more dramatic than expected. The team is working on 3 fronts, to 1) increase food safety and water quality sampling in the region; 2) facilitate more coordination among the 2018 research cruises and enhance data collection when possible; and 3) increase communication among researchers, and between the research community, agency managers, and local residents. If you’re interested in being on the team working on this effort, contact Molly.

Esther Island SNOTEL Station – The SNOTEL station on Esther Island is supported by AOOS, managed through the Prince William Sound Science Center in Cordova, and streams data to the AOOS data portal. Managers at the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Association’s Esther Island hatchery, as well as boaters and pilots in the region, depend on the data provided by this station for local weather. When the data stream was interrupted earlier in May, hatchery manager Dale Lords went out to check on it. He made some field repairs to the solar panel and got the station up and running. Great work Dale! It’s partnerships like these that help AOOS provide ocean and coastal observations at a lower cost.

IOOS ACTIVITIES

IOOS FAC – The IOOS Federal Advisory Committee will meet in Juneau August 28-29. One day will be held jointly with NOAA’s Hydrographic Services Review Panel, with a focus on marine navigation safety services. Molly is helping with logistics and the agenda.

IOOS Certification Engagement – Molly is working with other IOOS Regional Association directors on a coordinated strategy for branding and promoting NOAA’s certification of all 11 RAs.

MEETINGS & CONFERENCES

ESMWG meeting – Molly attended the Ecosystem Sciences and Management Working Group of NOAA’s Science Advisory Board May 7-8 in Baton Rouge, LA. The working group is chaired by former AOOS board member Mike Castellini of University of Alaska Fairbanks. Much of the meeting was spent discussing ecosystem science to support the Blue Economy.

OUTREACH

Communications plan finalized – Holly Kent, Director of Outreach and Administration, finalized the communications plan for the next year and has begun implementation, including a major refresh of the AOOS website, and more targeted communications with our stakeholder groups. Development of the plan was aided by a survey of AOOS website and data portal users.

“Ask a Scientist” – The latest episode of the Alaska Ocean Acidification Network’s video series addresses the question of whether ocean acidification influences harmful algal blooms (HABS) with Angie Doroff and Darcy Dugan. Check out the 6-minute video on the [Alaska OA Network](#) homepage.





New OA page for Fishermen – The network also launched a page for fishermen which includes frequently asked questions about ocean acidification and helpful links. [Visit the page.](#)

DATA MANAGEMENT

IOOS Data Management meeting – Two AOOS/Axiom data managers, Rob Bochenek and Stacey Buckelew, and two software engineers, Kyle Wilcox and Jessica Austin, attended the May 21-23 meeting in Silver Spring, MD.

The Axiom data management team held a DevOps Summit last week in Wickford, RI to scope out enhancements to the data infrastructure to ensure data systems are healthy, secure, and keep pace with the latest technology. The latest generation of data portals built on the AOOS data system were presented at the CeNCOOS Governing Council meeting at the Exploratorium in San Francisco, CA and during a half-day data portal workshop to the SECOORA Members in Charleston, SC. Feedback and input received from those meetings were valuable to improve the ease-of-use and feature enhancements that benefit the AOOS stakeholder and broader science communities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 5-7** Capitol Hill Ocean Week, Washington DC (Molly)
- June 6-7** IOOS Association Executive Committee meetings (Molly)
- June 7** House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Coast Guard (testimony by Molly, Ed Page & Lawson Brigham)
- June 7** Arctic Domain Awareness Center Quarterly Review
- June 8** World Ocean Day
- June 14** Arctic Domain Awareness Center Customer & Partner Roundtable
- June 19** Kachemak Bay and Lower Cook Inlet Circulation Workgroup Meeting
- June 19-22** AK visit by Nicole LeBoeuf, Deputy Assistant Administrator National Ocean Service, NOAA
- June 20-27** Arctic Science Summit Week and Arctic Observing Summit, Davos, Switzerland (Molly)

Molly, Carol, Holly, Darcy, and Rob