

HIGHLIGHTS

House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Coast Guard – AOOS Director Molly McCammon was asked to testify in Washington DC June 7 by Alaska Congressman Don Young on the need for ocean and coastal observing infrastructure to support new transportation activities in Alaska’s Arctic. Molly talked about the need for additional assets such as wave buoys, shore-based high frequency and sea ice radars, and AIS and weather stations to support navigation safety and planning and emergency response for increased ship traffic.

Capitol Hill Ocean Week – While in DC, Molly attended several sessions of CHOW, sponsored by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation June 5-7. Sessions focused on NOAA’s vision and priorities and ocean acidification.



ADMINISTRATIVE

Alaska OCM follow-up – Molly and Amy Holman are working with NOAA’s Office of Coastal Management to follow up on action items identified during the OCM leadership team’s visit to Alaska in May.

AK visit by Nicole LeBoeuf – Molly and Rob Bochenek had lunch June 19 with Nicole, Deputy Assistant Administrator for NOAA’s National Ocean Service, at the start of her 3 day visit to Alaska, which included trips to Homer and Juneau.

NAS Project PI meeting - PIs with the AOOS project funded by the National Academy of Sciences to integrate AIS data, subsistence use areas, and oil spill scenarios met June 19 to discuss the project status to date and lay out a work plan for the coming months.

NOAA Semi-Annual Report – Staff completed and submitted this report covering all AOOS activities from December 1, 2017 through May 31, 2018.

FY18 Descope – Staff has collected statements of work and budgets from PIs for projects approved to fund by the board at the May board meeting. The descope document required by NOAA is in development and will be submitted in July.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

The ADAC Partners’ and Customers’ Roundtable – Operations Director Carol Janzen presented an update at the roundtable June 14 on the status of the AOOS project with Axiom Data Science and Marine Exchange of Alaska on using historical AIS vessel tracking data for prioritizing where NOAA performs new and updated bathymetric surveys in the Arctic. Carol also presented at the ADAC project Quarterly Review June 7.

Kachemak Bay and Lower Cook Inlet Circulation Workgroup – Carol attended this meeting by teleconference June 19.

BOEM Central Beaufort Sea Wave and Hydrodynamic Modeling Study – AOOS/AXIOM hosted and participated in a day-long PI meeting for this project June 22.

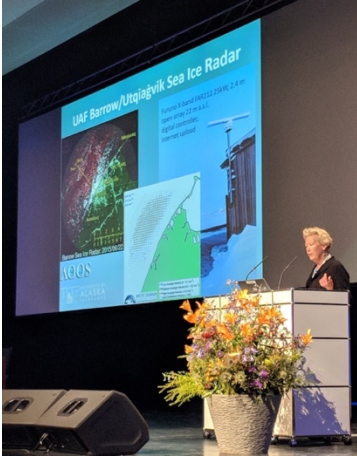


Cook Inlet Wave Buoy Re-deployed –A big thank you to Kasitsna Bay Lab Director Kris Holderied and Jim Schloemer, a Research Technician with the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, both pictured here, as well as to Yumi Arimitsu from USGS who took the photo, for successful re-deployment June 28 of the AOOS wave buoy off Anchor Point. The buoy provides real-time wave data critical to safe boating and recreational fishing in lower Cook Inlet, and was out of commission while waiting for a replacement buoy with fresh batteries. NOAA KBL, KBNERR and USGS staff all collaborated on this effort using KBL and USGS boats. A special thanks to Paul Tate, captain of the USGS R/V Gyre.

IOOS ACTIVITIES

IOOS Association Executive Committee – While in Washington DC, Molly joined the IA EXCOM in meetings June 6-7 with the IOOS director and deputy director. We discussed the current IOOS budget, planning for the Fill the Gaps campaign, and other activities including branding certification and development of metrics.

IOOS Outreach Committee – Holly presented the results and the process of the AOOS Data Portal User Survey conducted November 2017 through January 2018 on the June outreach call.



MEETINGS & CONFERENCES

Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) and Arctic Observing Summit (AOS) (June 20-27) –

At the invitation of the organizing committee, Molly gave a keynote talk at the AOS meeting in Davos, Switzerland June 25 about the AOOS approach to meeting stakeholder needs for Arctic observing. Molly participated actively in the 3-day summit meeting and developed some new relationships with EUROGOOS, INTAROS (Integrated Arctic Observing System), and several Canadian community-based monitoring initiatives. Molly was also able to attend several days of the Arctic Science Summit Week, which had more than 2200 presenters from around the world presenting results of recent efforts in Arctic and Antarctic research.

OUTREACH

Data Portal Next Gen – We rolled out the next generation user interface for the Ocean Data Explorer (detailed below) with a press release on World Oceans Day, June 8, a webinar on June 11, and a website homepage post that includes a [link to the recorded webinar](#).

Alaska Marine Policy Forum – This month's call on June 20 included presentations from Mike Litzow on the Pacific cod crash in the Gulf of Alaska and Bryce Mecum on the Yukon Chinook Run Timing project.

DATA MANAGEMENT

Building on many years of stakeholder feedback, AOOS and our data partner, Axiom Data Science, have been working on a significant overhaul to the Ocean Data Explorer (<http://portal.aos.org/>). The updated version of the portal (v2.7) has recently been released to give access to new features and a revamped design to get more out of the AOOS data services. The new portal exists on a platform that is more responsive to long time series observations, and has been updated with more advanced discovery and sharing capabilities. The portal offers sophisticated charting abilities, including comparisons between data sources, binning by time, and plotting of climatologies and anomalies. Users can create custom compilations of sensor, model, and biological outputs, which can be shared to spotlight environmental events or geographic locations. Ocean profiling sensors, such as moorings, have been enhanced to display depth charts, interpolation via kriging, and 4D interactive charts.

With these many new features, the AOOS Ocean Data Explorer will serve as a more powerful tool for users to explore relationships and trends in the physical, chemical, and biological data collected from the waters surrounding the Alaska coast. To help orient users to the new portal, Axiom hosted an informational webinar on June 11 to the AOOS user community.

If you would like training for your agency or program, contact Stacey Buckelew: stacey@axiomdatascience.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 6** Delivery of the new Nome CDIP buoy by the NOAA ship Fairweather, with deployment expected mid-July.
- July 9-13** Astra LLC installation of GPS water level system in Homer scheduled, to include training of local AK technical personnel

July 11 Briefing on Blue Economy activities to Senate Oceans Caucus , Washington DC (McCammon & Joy Baker, Port of Nome Director)
July 20 CIRCAC tour of Kasitsna Bay Lab, Homer (McCammon)
July 25 Ocean acidification presentation in Yakutat (Esther Kennedy/OA Network)
July 26 Interagency Working Group on Biodiversity, teleconference
Aug 2 Climate Action Leadership Team, Anchorage (McCammon)
Sept 12-14 NOAA Ocean Acidification Program Data Synthesis Product Workshop (Dugan)
Nov 1 AOOS Board meeting, Sitka

Congratulations to Darcy Dugan for her awesome 5th place finish in the Alaska Run for Women June 9 in Anchorage!

Molly, Carol, Holly, Darcy, and Rob