

## HIGHLIGHTS

**Oceanology International** – Molly gave 3 talks at the annual Asian trade conference held in Qingdao, China October 23-25. An invited keynote presentation was on “Ocean Observing in Alaska’s Arctic: Challenges and Opportunities”. Another talk focused on AOOS as a model program for stakeholder engagement, and a third talk focused on IOOS programs working with aquaculture (primarily shellfish growers).

**Ocean Leadership awards** – The Alaska SeaLife Center’s annual Ocean Leadership awards are now open for nominations through December 3, 2018. See [www.alaskasealife.org](http://www.alaskasealife.org). ASLC established the Awards to recognize those who have made significant contributions to ocean sciences, education, and resource management in Alaska. Awards will be presented at the Alaska Marine Gala on February 16, 2019. Molly is once again on the awards committee.

## ADMINISTRATIVE

**Descscope submitted** – Each year AOOS requests more funds than actually approved by NOAA in our final budget. We have to submit a “descoped” budget for final approval. This year’s descoped deadline was extremely late (October 31) – which is very unusual, and even past the fiscal year end. This year we received \$4,450,245 through our NOAA cooperative agreement. This included a one-time \$900,000 grant to place HF radars in the Bering Strait. We also have begun a long-term agreement with NOAA and Navy to support the Animal Telemetry Network Data Assembly Center. Additionally, due to some temporary issues with the Cooperative Institute for Alaska Research at UAF, we were used as the funding vehicle for four UAF/NOAA collaborative projects.

## PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS



*Alaska contingent at Women and Climate Change conference.*

**Women in Climate Change** – Molly participated in a 2-day conference sponsored by The Nature Conservancy in Seattle October 11-12. A large contingent of Alaska women participated, including US Arctic Research Commission Chair Fran Ulmer and State of Alaska Climate Change senior advisor Nikoosh Carlo. The conference focused on how to engage the public regarding climate change impacts.

**Bering strait response** – NOAA Regional Collaboration Team coordinator Amy Holman organized an afternoon session during the Alaska Federation of Natives conference in Anchorage October 18 that brought agency and university scientists together with AFN attendees to discuss recent findings regarding seabird die-offs, marine mammal strandings, and ocean acidification and harmful algal blooms in the Bering Sea/Bering Strait region. About 20 scientists were available to share handouts and answer questions. The session was a good start at pulling together information from this past season in anticipation of sessions at AGU in December.



*Former national IOOS program director Zdenka Willis moderated the Oceanology International science program. Photo Credit: Molly McCammon.*

**ACCAP Steering committee** – Darcy Dugan participated in an in-person meeting of the Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy’s advisory group on October 24 to hear the latest activities, discuss a potential climate change economics workshop, and brainstorm projects for new ACCAP staff Rick Thoman (formerly of the NWS). Rick will likely begin producing monthly ocean updates to be distributed by AOOS!

**Marine Policy Forum** – Darcy hosted the November edition of the Alaska Marine Policy Forum which focused on Ballot Measure 1. The audience received informational briefings from both sides (Stephanie Quinn-Davidson from Stand for Salmon and Bob Loeffler from Stand for Alaska) and asked questions.

## **PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS**

**Nome Wave Buoy Pulled for Winter** – The Nome CDIP wave and surface current buoy, which was deployed for its first open water season off the Port of Nome in early July, was removed for the winter on Oct 18 by Harbormaster Lucas Stotts and staff from the Port of Nome. AOOS would like to thank Joy Baker, Lucas Stotts and staff with the Port of Nome along with Andrew Gray, Julie Thomas and James Behrens with the CDIP program and the crew from the NOAA ship Fairweather for all their help making this deployment a success in 2018.



*Towing the Nome CDIP Buoy back to the Port of Nome.*

**ADAC AIS PAC Project:** Carol presented a project update during the ADAC quarterly review for the joint AOOS, AXIOM and Marine Exchange of Alaska AIS PAC project (AIS for Prioritizing Arctic Charting) at the UAA-ADAC office in Anchorage on Oct 4. She presented highlights from the review at the Oct 11 ADAC Customer’s and Partner’s Roundtable. Two workshops will be held to demonstrate data products using AIS: one in Anchorage on Nov 9 and the other in Juneau Nov 15. If interested in attending a demonstration, contact Carol ([janzen@aos.org](mailto:janzen@aos.org)). Carol and Ed Page from the Marine Exchange are planning to present at the ADAC Annual Meeting in Washington DC at the Department of Homeland Security Headquarters Dec 5-6.

**EVOSTC Data Management Project:** Carol (project lead) attended the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council (EVOSTC) Meeting in Anchorage Oct 17, providing a short data management update for the Herring Research Monitoring and the Gulf Watch Alaska programs, both of which received an additional year of funding by the EVOSTC.

**National Academy of Sciences (NAS) AIS project:** Molly presented results from the project at both the Arctic Waterways Safety Committee on October 18 and the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission on October 17, on integrated data products describing vessel traffic patterns, estimated oil spill impacts, and subsistence use data from the communities of Barrow (Utqiagvik), Nuiqsut, and Kaktovik along the Beaufort Sea coast. Data are now available for use with the advanced visualization tools provided by the AOOS data portal for planners and subsistence community members. Molly and Will Koeppen from Axiom Data Science demonstrated how to use the planning tool using these data to the Alaska Regional Response Team on October 29. There is a lot of interest in the planning tool and online datasets generated by the project. If you would like a briefing/demo, contact Molly.

## **OUTREACH**

**AIS PAC (AIS for Prioritizing Arctic Charting) Project Website and Data Portal Launch:** AOOS, the Marine Exchange of Alaska (MXAK) and Axiom Data Science (Axiom) created ship tracking and information data products to support the NOAA Office of Coast Survey (NOAA OCS) on prioritizing where modern bathymetric surveys are needed in the U.S. Arctic. These data products will also inform decision-making about vessel traffic and safety in a rapidly changing Arctic environment. A project webpage and data portal have been launched and are available for comment through Dec 2018. For more information please visit the website (<https://www.aos.org/ais-4-bathy/>) or contact Carol. The project data portal can be viewed at the following Link: [https://portal.aos.org/?portal\\_id=112](https://portal.aos.org/?portal_id=112) .

## **DATA MANAGEMENT**

**Central Beaufort Sea Wave and Hydrodynamic Modeling Study (BOEM):** Axiom has ingested and converted 15 priority historical data sets for use in a spatial data synthesis. Data will be used for input and validation during modeling efforts

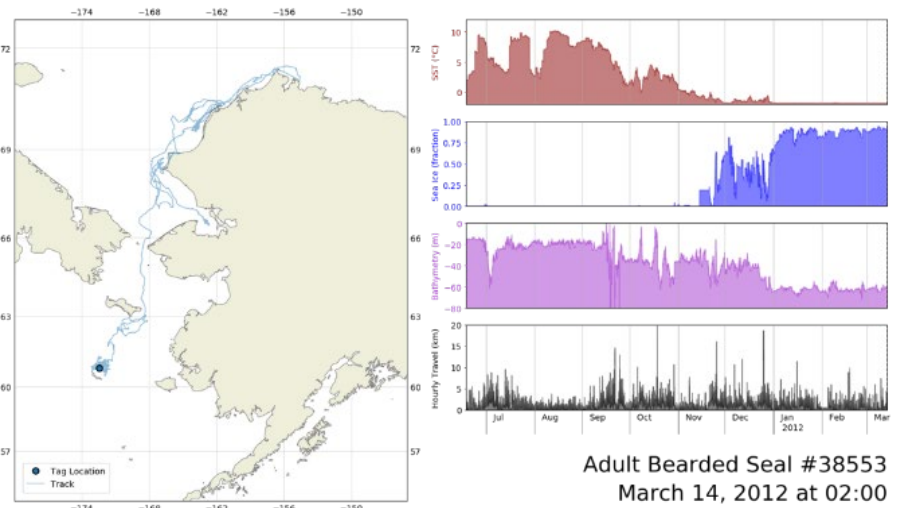
to advance understanding of the existing wind, wave, current, storm, and sediment dynamics conditions in this Beaufort Sea coastal region. This study is in support of a Development and Production Plan by Hilcorp Alaska, LLC to develop the North Slope Liberty prospect in the eastern Beaufort Sea, east of Prudhoe Bay in the Stefansson Sound region. All data will be made available on the AOOs data portal system for visualization and download by the end of the project. For more information, please visit the developing project webpage at: <https://www.aos.org/foggy/>.

**Animal Telemetry Network (ATN) Data**

**Assembly Center (DAC):** Axiom, representing AOOs as the new ATN DAC, participated in the ATN-MBON-OTN Biological Observations Workshop in Santa Cruz, CA from November 7 to 9. At the workshop, Axiom demonstrated a prototype version of the ATN data portal (Figs 1-2) together with animations of tagged animal movements relative to environmental parameters (Fig 3). The portal and other data products will be refined following preliminary feedback generated at the workshop.

**New met station:** As part of the [Central Beaufort Sea Wave and Hydrodynamic Modeling Study](#), a new met station was deployed on Foggy Bay Island. Through field observations from this and other sensors and historical data, the ultimate goal is to be able adequately document wave and sediment transport conditions within Stefansson Sound/Foggy Island observationally and provide input data

assimilation and validation support for wave and a hydrodynamic model activities. The new sensor can be now accessed from the AOOs Ocean Data Explorer’s real time sensor map: <https://portal.aos.org/?#metadata/75598/station>



*Movements of an adult bearded seal tagged by the SOAR Phase II project plotted with physical environmental extracted from along the seal's course.*

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Now-Dec 3**      [Nominations open for 2019 Alaska Ocean Leadership Awards](#)
- Nov 6-7**        Alaska Sea Grant Advisory Committee, Anchorage (McCammon)
- Nov 9**            AIS PAC Workshop, Anchorage (Janzen)
- Nov 14-16**      Herring Research Monitoring (HRM) and Gulf Watch Alaska (GWA) PI Meeting, Anchorage (Buckelew)
- Nov 15**           AIS PAC Workshop, Juneau (Janzen)
- Nov 17-19**      Pacific Marine Expo, Seattle (Dugan)
- Nov 29-30**      Cook Inlet RCAC meeting, Anchorage (McCammon)
- Dec 4-6**         ADAC Annual Meeting, Washington DC (Janzen)
- Dec 10-14**      AGU, Washington DC (McCammon)

**Molly, Carol, Holly, Darcy, and Stacey**