ADMINISTRATIVE

AOOS Budget - AOOS has still not received its 2013 budget since the entire NOAA budget is still waiting Congressional review. However, we’ve been told that we can start charging to it effective June 1. We’ll keep you posted.

Staff retreat and new board orientation - With Darcy’s return, we took a half-day to review all our past activities and future commitments and begin developing our next 1-2 year work plans. Darcy also oriented new board members Margaret Williams and Robert Raye.

Welcome Jordan Jenckes – Now pursuing a degree in Geology at UAA, Jordan grew up in Kenai and has lived and worked along the coast, including in commercial fishing. He is passionate about the outdoors and wants to conduct research that will help to preserve Alaska’s coastal/marine environment. We are excited to have him join AOOS and AXIOM as a student intern, taking over the work of Nathan Hollenbeck in updating the AOOS Research Assets map.

NATIONAL IOOS

Joint planning - As a member of the IOOS Association Board and Executive Committee, Molly has been participating with the IOOS Program Office to develop joint national-regional plans for developing a national IOOS subsurface monitoring strategy, an IOOS modeling strategy, a coordinated data management vision and strategy, and coordination activities on ocean acidification, ecological forecasting, and extreme storm events.

MEETINGS/CONFERENCES/TRAVEL

Arctic Observing Summit – Molly and Rob attended the summit in Vancouver, B.C. April 30-May 2. They presented a poster on AOOS data applications for the Arctic, and participated in group discussions on circum-Arctic data management, biodiversity, and community-based monitoring.

NOAA’s Arctic Program Review – Molly was asked to participate in Washington DC May 9-10 in a small external review of NOAA’s Arctic Research Program, formerly headed by recently retired John Calder, and housed within NOAA’s climate observation division. The Arctic Program has been in existence for 10 years, and is now reviewing current activities in anticipation of developing a plan for the next decade.

ORAP – Molly returned to Washington DC May 21-22 for a meeting of the Ocean Research Advisory Panel (ORAP), the Federal Advisory Committee to the National Ocean Council. Issues discussed were ecosystem-based management, ocean education programs (including the proposed consolidation of all STEM education programs) and mechanisms to balance ocean research and infrastructure needs.

PRB – Already on the east coast for a week vacation, Molly was able to return to Washington DC May 30-31 for her final meeting as a member of the Polar Research Board. 3 Alaskan members rotate off in July, so the board is looking for new Alaska members. Also, the PRB is sponsoring a public workshop Sept 12-13 at the University of Maryland College Park on Linkages between Arctic Warming and Mid-latitude Weather Patterns.

UPDATES

Wave buoys: Cook Inlet & Norton Sound – The lower Cook Inlet wave buoy (now nicknmed Bandit!), which came loose from its tether in January, is getting ready to be redeployed off Anchor Point in early June. A second wave buoy, which was deployed in Norton Sound during the open water season in 2011, is undergoing
Alaska Platform of Opportunity Portal (APOP) -- In partnership with the Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands Landscape Conservation Cooperative, AOOS launched an interactive map that displays information about upcoming research cruises, facilitating collaboration and resource sharing at sea. [Check it out!]

New Data Available -- Recent updates to the [Arctic Portal](#) include Audubon/Oceana’s Arctic Marine Synthesis and the Russian-American Long-term Census of the Arctic (RUSALCA). The Arctic Marine Synthesis includes 145 layers ranging from habitat area and oceanography to human use. The ongoing RUSALCA bilateral scientific sampling program includes 8 years of baseline biological, geological, chemical and physical oceanographic sampling, and was published directly out of the AOOS Research Workspace project level data management system.

2013 Chinook Salmon Run Forecast -- Building on last year’s demonstration, the forecast for Yukon River delta spring Salmon run is now available.

PWS Snotel discussions -- The Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council and Natural Resource Conservation District’s Anchorage office joined AOOS to discuss repairs and maintenance of existing Snotel stations around the Sound. Upgrades are being proposed to the sites and include: new web cams, climate data loggers, watertight camera enclosures and increased data transmission.

Sea Ice survey - In partnership with ACCAP and NOAA, AOOS is launching a survey to better understand what sea ice information products people use, and for what purposes. The results will be used to help guide future sea ice products including the new historic sea ice atlas being produced by UAF. You can [find out more](#) and take the survey on the AOOS website.

PRESENTATIONS

**NPRB** -- Molly updated the North Pacific Research Board on recent AOOS activities at their board meeting Friday May 17.


PROPOSALS

**ABSI LCC/USGS Climate Science Center initiative** -- Ellen worked with the USFWS Aleutian Bering Sea Islands Landscape Conservation Cooperative and the USGS Climate Science Center on a joint proposal to develop vulnerability assessments of key Aleutian/Bering Sea resources based on downscaled climate models developed through projects funded by AOOS and NPRB. Work begins in July.

**Going Forward – Some Key June 2013 Activities**

- June 4-7 Capitol Hill Ocean Week, Washington DC
- June 10-14 Arctic Council, PAME & CAFF meetings, Iceland
- June 13 House Natural Resources Committee: hearing on ICOOS Act reauthorization
- June 15 Copper River Nouveau, Cordova
- June 18-19 NRC Arctic Oil Spills Committee, Seattle
- June 20 North Slope Science Initiative
- June 24-26 AGU Public Policy Forum, Washington DC

Molly McCammon, Darcy Dugan, Ellen Tyler and Rob Bochenek