

AOOS Users Committee Terms of Reference

Adopted by AOOS board November 10, 2009

Committee Tasks: Represent the variety of interests of the users of Alaska's marine environment to:

- Provide input to the Alaska Ocean Observing System (AOOS) Board in developing priorities for observations and data and information products;
- Provide feedback on value of collected observations and data and information products; and
- Identify future issues and emerging needs of user groups for specific geographic region or large marine ecosystem.

Overall Make-up: 10-15 members representing the variety of marine activities in the 3 Large Marine Ecosystems (Arctic, Bering Sea/Aleutians and Gulf of Alaska) being addressed by AOOS, along with 4 stakeholders representing those living with and dependent on the 4 large marine ecosystems (Beaufort, Chukchi, Bering Sea/Aleutians, Gulf of Alaska). Members will be asked to represent the broad sector interests, but not be "the representative" of a particular organization and its agenda. Statewide organizations that largely represent a specific sector may be asked to suggest a representative.

Meetings: The committee will meet at least twice annually in person, preferably in conjunction with workshops, meetings or symposia where AOOS observations and data and information products are being discussed. Travel funds will be provided as needed and as the AOOS budget allows.

Products: The committee will provide stakeholder guidance and rationale for the systematic development and expansion of the AOOS and the improvement of the value in data gathered and information products developed. Recommendations from the Committee will be used to develop the operating plans and program justification for upcoming years.

Membership to draw from interests described below (although list should not be viewed as complete). These are not designated seats, and in some cases, a committee member may be representative of a variety of uses.

- Commercial fishing (United Fishermen of Alaska, Marine Conservation Alliance) - nearshore and offshore focus
- Oil & gas (Alaska Oil & Gas Association)
- Shipping – Marine Transportation (AK Harbormasters & Port Assoc , tug and barge operators, container ships)
- Tourism/recreation/sportfishing – (AK Cruise Association. AK Tourism Association or charter fishing industry)
- Oil spill response (RCACs)
- City/municipal (AK Municipal League)
- Tribal and subsistence users – (focus on 4 LMEs)
- State/Regional Coastal managers (Coastal Political Subdivision representative)
- Environmental (NGOs)
- Public health (contaminants, pollution) – AKDEC
- Resource Development - mining for minerals (export)and gravel/quarry (import or transport around state)