

## **ADMINISTRATIVE**

**AOOS Board** – The Board met December 10 and re-elected its current slate of officers for another year: Ed Page (Marine Exchange of Alaska), Chair; Ed Fogels (AK Dept of Natural Resources), vice-chair; Glenn Sheehan (Barrow Arctic Science Consortium), secretary; and Amy Holman (NOAA), treasurer. They make up the AOOS Executive Committee, along with Tara Jones representing the Alaska SeaLife Center as the AOOS fiscal agent. The board also heard updates on a variety of AOOS and IOOS activities. A summary of the meeting will be posted on the AOOS website soon.

## **NATIONAL IOOS**

**IOOS Regional Meeting** – All the IOOS regional associations met Nov. 7-8 for their annual fall meeting at Scripps Institute of Oceanography, hosted by Julie Thomas and the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System. The RA directors and key national IOOS Program staff discussed issues including certification, funding, modeling & data management, and product development. A highlight was touring NOAA's new Southwest Fisheries Science Center and discussing with director Cisco Werner how ocean observing systems can help meet NOAA Fisheries needs.



## **MEETINGS/CONFERENCES/TRAVEL**

**Juneau visit** – Darcy Dugan, Ellen Tyler and Will Koeppen traveled to Juneau Nov 4-5 to discuss ocean observing needs with the US Coast Guard, Marine Exchange, NOAA Auke Bay Lab, and ADFG. They demonstrated AOOS data tools at each venue and received valuable feedback. The group also attended the Southeast Alaska Watershed Symposium where they presented a poster on AOOS data resources.

**CERF conference** – Molly McCammon gave a 5-minute IGNITE (enlighten us, but make it quick) presentation – entitled “What’s ice got to do with it?” at the San Diego meeting of the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation on Nov 6.

**IOOS Association** – The trade group for the IOOS regional associations met briefly Nov. 7 to elect a new slate of officers. Molly was elected Treasurer. Ru Morrison from the Northeast Region is the new IA chair.

**GWA PI Meeting:** More than 30 scientists attended the second PI meeting for the Gulf Watch Alaska Program Nov 12-14 in Anchorage. GWA is the long-term monitoring program funded by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council. AOOS is providing data management services for the GWA and the long-term herring programs, and Molly is the program lead for GWA.

**Industry Data Portal** – Representatives of Shell, ConocoPhillips and Statoil met with AOOS to review the past year of making industry-collected data publicly accessible on the AOOS portal, as described in the NOAA-industry data sharing agreement of 2011. The consensus was that the agreement is working well, and that our next goal will be to streamline the process of archiving to the National Ocean Data Center.

**Gulf Program Texas Site Visit** – As part of her role as Advisory Group member developing a strategic plan for the new National Academy of Sciences Gulf Program, Molly joined other members in a site visit to Austin, Texas Nov 21-22 to meet with state and federal agencies and university program interested in Gulf of Mexico research and restoration. Go to the website [www.nas.edu/gulfprogram](http://www.nas.edu/gulfprogram) for more information.

**ORAP** – Molly attended the Dec 3-4 meeting of the Ocean Research Advisory Panel in Arlington VA. ORAP is just finishing a report on Ecosystem Based Management and one on Ocean Education for the National Ocean Council. The panel met with Dr. Brad Moran, acting director of the National Ocean Council and new ocean lead at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

**CIRCAC** – Molly continues to serve as the Municipality of Anchorage rep on the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council, which met in Anchorage Dec 5-6. Interest in ocean observations in Cook Inlet is increasing with renewed oil and gas exploration in the inlet and the possibility of a gasline from Prudhoe Bay to Nikiski.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

**R&M Consulting** – Dugan gave a presentation to R&M staff on Nov 12<sup>th</sup>, demoing AOOS data tools

**USFWS** - Dugan gave an AOOS demo on Nov 12<sup>th</sup> at the USFWS headquarters that included members from three of the Alaska Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, GINA at UAF (via webinar), and USFWS staff.

### **PROPOSALS/FUNDING**

**Ocean Acidification:** Following submission of a Letter of Intent, a full proposal has been requested for ocean acidification regional activities to be conducted by AOOS and the three west coast regional associations.

**Marine Sensor Technology:** Following submission of a Letter of Intent, a full proposal has been requested for real-time detection of freeze-up in the Arctic with UAF as lead and AOOS as a partner.

**MBON:** AOOS partnered on two proposals for developing a Marine Biological Observatory Network (one with UAF for an Arctic MBON, and another with Axiom for a data MBON) and supported one other proposal for an Animal Tagging MBON.

**Arctic Data:** AOOS worked with the data team at the NSF-funded ACADIS (Advanced Cooperative Arctic Data & Information Service) to submit a joint proposal to NSF under the Arctic Research call, but were stymied at the end by institutional deadlines in Boulder that precluded us from finalizing the proposal. We're still hopeful that next year we can make it work.



### **UPDATES**

**Cook Inlet Buoy** – AOOS and its partners rolled the dice this winter to see if the lower Cook Inlet wave buoy (nicknamed Bandit) would stay afloat, continuing to provide real-time wave information to local users. The good news is the buoy has survived 7 months on site, more than doubling its previous record. The bad news: the transmitter recently failed in late November, which ended the data stream. Pick-up is planned for early February so we can fix the problem before the 2014 boating season begins.

**Research Assets Map** – The Arctic Assets Map is being updated by replacing planned tracks from this field season to where research efforts actually occurred. Jordan Jenckes (AOOS Intern) is collaborating with the Arctic Observing Viewer (funded by NSF) to share information about completed ship tracks.

**Aleutian and Bering Climate Vulnerability Assessment** – AOOS, the Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands LCC (ABSI LCC) and the Alaska Climate Science Center (AK CSC) officially launched this project with a webinar hosted by ACCAP on Dec 17. The project integrates projections from two recent climate downscaling approaches: one from the NPRB-NSF Bering Sea Project, and one from the AOOS Spatial Tools for Arctic Mapping and Planning project. More information is available at: <https://absilcc.org/science/sitepages/abcva.aspx>

### **OTHER MEETINGS & VISITORS**

**Acting NOAA Fisheries Director Visits** – AOOS and NPRB staff and boards hosted acting fish czar Sam Rauch on Dec 14 in Anchorage. The meeting provided a good opportunity for both organizations to highlight their programs and activities related to Alaska's federal fishery program and research needs.





**AOOS Coastal Hazards Workgroup Meeting-** AOOS hosted a presentation by Michael Burgy from the NOAA Tsunami Warning Center on December 18 to share information on the instruments they use to monitor sea level and waves, and to hear updates from workgroup members on a number of observing, modeling and hazard mitigation efforts across the state.

**NOAA Fisheries Data Conversation** – AOOS staff met with members from the Juneau Auke Bay Lab on Dec. 5 to identify good candidates for data to ingest into the AOOS system. BASIS (Bering-Aleutian Salmon International Survey) topped the list. We will be working to add these rich datasets to the AOOS system in 2014.

**Office Holiday party** – A good time was had by all once again at the annual AOOS/NPRB/Sea Grant Holiday Party Dec. 17. We wish all of you best wishes for a Happy New Year!

**Going Forward – Some Key Upcoming 2014 Activities**

- Jan 9 Washington DC re: National Ocean Data Center archiving and national Ocean Acidification Program
- Jan 20-23 AK Marine Science Symposium
- Jan 20 Communicating Ocean Sciences Workshop (co-host with ASLC/NPRB/COSEE)
- Jan 22 AOOS Modeling Strategy Workshop
- Jan 24 Aleutian and Bering Climate Vulnerability Assessment Town Hall (co-host with ABSILCC/AKCSC)
- Jan 28 AOOS Demo at Alaska DOT Quarterly Design Meeting
- Jan 29-30 EVOS projects data review meeting
- Feb 7 Community Based Monitoring input session at Alaska Forum on the Environment
- April 1-2 Community Based Monitoring Workshop, Anchorage

**Molly McCammon, Darcy Dugan, Ellen Tyler and Rob Bochenek**