

# Alaska Ocean Observing System Governance Committee Meeting

*May 25, 2004*  
*Anchorage, Alaska*  
June 16 draft

## 1. Introductions and Approve Agenda

The Governance Committee convened at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 25, 2004. Opening remarks were made by the Chairman, Craig Dorman. Attendees introduced themselves and the agenda was approved. Governance Committee members present were Craig Dorman, Phil Mundy, Bill Seitz, John Goll, Tylan Schrock, Nancy Bird, Clarence Pautzke, Lawson Brigham, Glenn Sheehan (for Richard Glenn), and Paula Cullenberg (for Brian Allee). Also attending were Terry Thompson (Kachemak Bay Research Reserve), Laura Rear (for Marcia Weak at NOAA CO-OPS), Bern Megrey and Jim Balsiger (NOAA), Mike Burdette (NOAA NDBC), Carl Schoch, Denis Wiesenburg (new dean of UAF SFOS), Rebecca Smyth (NOAA program manager), Stan Boc, Jr. (Corps of Engineers), Gary Hufford (National Weather Service), James Partain (NWS), Kevin Duffy (ADF&G), Kurt Parkan (The Nature Conservancy), Dick Prentki (MMS) and by teleconference Tom Malone (OceanUS) and Allen Macklin (NOAA PMEL). Molly McCammon and Misty Ott staffed the meeting.

## 2. AOOS Director's Report

Molly McCammon gave an overview of the AOOS work plan and status report. Statewide AOOS efforts included the following:

- Governance Committee member signatures on the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) are nearly all obtained; additional potential members have been or will be contacted in near future.
- Planning for FY07 budget and developing criteria for strategic/business plan are underway.
- Funding has been obtained and a request for a FY05 increment for \$4 million has been submitted to Senator Stevens.
- Data Management and Communications (DMAC) Committee is up and running with Prince William Sound selected as a pilot project. Several members participated in the May 10-11 OOS tech workshop.
- Communication and outreach includes the revised website, revised poster, development of a brochure, and an extensive user outreach/needs identification effort.
- Education component of IOOS meeting was attended by two members and an Alaska work group/committee should be formed this fall to follow up on these efforts.

Regional efforts included the following:

- Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI) draft monitoring strategy is under revision. The Nature Conservancy has an interest in planning for this region.
- Arctic – Barrow Arctic Science Consortium is coordinating a meeting in Barrow for late summer/fall to brief stakeholder/user community.

- Gulf of Alaska strategy session scheduled for June 15. A work group met April 28 to discuss monitoring efforts in Prince William Sound. The Cook Inlet Regional Citizens' Advisory Council and Environmental Monitoring Committee met in May and will be co-sponsoring the Physical Oceanography workshop with AOOS and Kachemak Bay Research Reserve (KBRR) in October. KBRR is developing a user needs assessment for the workshop. Molly McCammon briefed various groups in Kodiak on AOOS planning efforts.
- North Pacific efforts including integration of smaller regional observing efforts will be discussed at the PICES meeting in Hawaii in October.

Coordination with national efforts included the following:

- IOOS legislation S.1400 has passed the Senate and is in the House Resources Committee. Draft revisions are in process. Comments solicited by the Governor's review team on the Ocean Commission Report were sent May 7.
- DMAC involvement in national efforts and workshop participation.
- NFRA (National Federation of Regional Associations) 2007 budget meeting will be held August 31-September 2. Molly McCammon and Nancy Bird will attend on behalf of AOOS. AOOS is coordinating its efforts with other regional efforts including the Northwest regional association (NANOOS).

### 3. IOOS Status Report

- Tom Malone, OceanUS Director, gave an update on IOOS status focusing on the implementation plan and enhancements to the system backbone. He also urged the AOOS Committee to obtain broad support for the national legislation, S. 1400.

### 4. Status of regional and subregional planning efforts

\*\*Indicates presentations are posted on website

- Statewide - Mike Burdette, NOAA National Data Buoy Center\*\*, gave a presentation on enhancements to the NDBC program. Gary Hufford, National Weather Service highlighted the NWS commitment to long term climate studies with 3 programs: expansion of C-MAN stations with another 40 sites; expansion of Climate Reference Network (CRN) from 2 sites to 12 sites in Alaska, with a workshop in late August to determine where they should be located; and work with other federal agencies, such as National Park Service, to establish climate stations and provide information for weather and climate forecasts. Gary and James Partain also expressed support for CIFAR (Cooperative Institute for Arctic Research) as a tool for collaboration with the University of Alaska, including additional work on tsunami forecast models.
- Arctic – Glenn Sheehan, Barrow Arctic Science Consortium, gave an update on the Barrow science support facility which will see groundbreaking this year, and a likely adjacent seafloor observatory to be funded by National Science Foundation. John Goll and Richard Prentki gave an update on the Minerals Management Service workshop on the use of high frequency radar in the Beaufort Sea and/or Cook Inlet. A draft statement of work is out for review.

- Bering Sea – Program update was given by Clarence Pautzke, North Pacific Research Board.
- Gulf of Alaska. Additional presentations were given by Phil Mundy, Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council’s the Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring (GEM) program\*\*, Carl Schoch, Prince William Sound Science Center/Oil Spill Recovery Institute\*\*, Terry Thompson, Kachemak Bay Research Reserve\*\*, and Tylan Schrock, Alaska SeaLife Center.

## 5. Governance Options

Molly described the governance criteria being developed by the National Federation of Regional Associations and the OceanUS office. The current MOA and options for a more formal MOA with a designated fiscal agent or application to become a 501C3 nonprofit organization were discussed. Topics of discussion also included requirements for Regional Association certification, lobbying ability, and how AOOS compares to the Ocean Commission’s recommendations and requirements for three Alaska regional associations, their financial distribution and criteria for AOOS. A big issue is participation of federal agencies. The RA’s want the federal agencies to participate, but they also want NFRA to be able to lobby. Development of the IOOS organization and RA’s is somewhat complicated by the Ocean Commission recommendations calling for several new regional organizations.

Kevin Duffy, Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, addressed the committee, speaking on behalf of his department, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Department of Environmental Conservation. Duffy explained their concern about the potential expense of the proposed IOOS program, and how its funding and implementation would compete with funding the basic functions of ADF&G. He said the state was not prepared to sign the MOA because of a concern that the program will erode basic state management and questions on how AOOS would work with the State departments and how the Ocean Commission report compares to the AOOS vision. He said the state was not “divorcing” itself totally from the program, but was “skeptical”.

The committee discussed the option of some form of binding agreement, but expressed concern about the impacts of future budget cuts on federal agencies. Goll said “we need to find a way for everyone to participate.” They also discussed the liability issue. Regarding the IOOS future, they said “Something is going to happen – let’s drive it.” “Other entities need this over-arching facilitation role performed.” “Other groups across the country are getting organized.” Tylan Schrock asked several strategy questions – “What is the opportunity? What do we want to be? What do we want to do?”

**Action Item: A subcommittee was formed to review governance options with respect to the organization, funding, priorities, user definitions, and the federal backbone, and develop some recommendations for the full committee. Members: John Goll, Tylan Schrock, Phil Mundy, and Nancy Bird. The state was also invited to send a representative.**

## 6. FY05 –FY07 Funding Priorities and Strategic Plan

Molly described the three handouts: draft strategic plan criteria prepared by OceanUS and the NFRA; the FY05 increment proposal to Senator Stevens; and the May IOOS report, including proposed FY 07-11 priorities in Appendix F.

There was substantial discussion regarding these, in particular, the Appendix F describing funding priorities for AOOS.

- Phil Mundy thought we needed a small user group for each region and should focus on a couple of high priorities in each region. He supports HF Radar, and also thinks the Seward line and GAK 1 should be supported with possible use of AUVs out of Seward.
- James Partain suggested first identifying the problems/issues, and then determining what monitoring needs to be done to address the problems. For example, commercial fishermen are most concerned when waves are greater than 6 ft. high.
- Stan Boc recommended making smart decisions about increasing the number of buoys – using them to calibrate models. He also believes coastal erosion – and how to forecast waves - is an important issue for Alaska
- Tylan Schrock called the document a strategic plan that should include a process for weighing costs and benefits. He also wants to make sure we didn't lose a cross-regional focus, such as use of ships of opportunity across more than one region.
- Mike Burdette said that NOAA uses a cost benefit analysis that includes societal impacts; it might be helpful to the AOOS process. He views the current process as a “staged iteration” and that we should be reworking it as we get more information. He emphasized maritime security issues and greater marine transportation access in the Arctic.
- Laura Rears spoke on behalf of the CO-OPS program and the water level observation network. The Alaska system is being upgraded in 04-07 with 25-30 new stations. We need to include CO-OPS in talks with NWS and NDBC.
- There was some discussion about the language calling for radar and buoy coverage of half the density of the rest of the U.S. coast. In some cases we could justify 5 times the density of the rest of the coast. We need to make our case. HF Radar – issues are power and telemetry.
- Gary Hufford has met with the Eskimo Walrus Commission. Their big issue is sea ice conditions and its impact on subsistence hunting of walrus and whales.

The Committee told Molly to keep working on the draft strategy/priorities and let them know if a more detailed prioritization is needed before the late summer meeting.

## 7. Ocean Commission Report

Ed Rasmuson, one of the commissioners on the President's Commission on Ocean Policy, briefed the committee on the commission's April 20 draft report. The commission is recommending an ecosystem-based management strategy using unbiased information, improved ocean education efforts for K-12 and college, creation of a National Ocean Council, and creation of the integrated ocean observing system. Rasmuson said the report recommendations will

require substantial funding, but the needs are critical and action is needed now. The report will include an addendum with comments from all the governors. Rasmuson said Senator Stevens has expressed strong support for many of the commission's recommendations.

#### 8. Data Management and Communications

**Action item: Tylan Schrock proposed and Nancy Bird seconded a motion to accept the proposed May 17, 2004 AOOS DMAC Membership List, including Igor Katrayev from AOOS/NPRB and someone from the National Weather Service, with direction to fill out the remaining membership up to a total of 15 and targeting non-agency individuals for the remaining seats. Motion adopted unanimously.**

Allen Macklin reported by teleconference on the March DMAC workshop, report and recommendations, including the draft Terms of Reference for the new DMAC Committee. OceanUS is developing a national DMAC Committee and AOOS would like to have a member on that.

#### 9. Industry Workshops

The Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System held a successful workshop in March to explore private sector interests in the IOOS. The workshop attracted more than 80 private sector representatives. The AOOS Governance Committee discussed the possibility of sponsoring a similar workshop in Alaska, with the possibility of tagging onto the Kodiak Com Fish event in March. John Goll suggested a session at the annual meeting of the Resource Development Council in November. James Partain spoke to the importance of developing a broad based support group for these efforts to show the practical need for them.

**Follow-up: Molly will explore options for industry sessions with RDC and Kodiak Com Fish organizers.**

#### 10. Next Governance Committee Meeting

Depends on what is needed for budget meeting of regional association in late August. If additional prioritization is needed before then, another meeting could be held in the summer. If not, the next meeting will be sometime in the fall.