



## **Alaska Ocean Observing System Governance Committee Meeting**

*May 26, 2005*

*Anchorage, Alaska*

**June 3, 2005 draft meeting summary**

**Prepared by Molly McCammon**

### 1. Introductions and Approve Agenda and Prior Meeting Summary

The AOOS Governance Committee convened at 8:35 a.m. on Thursday, May 26, 2005 with Craig Dorman chairing. Attendees introduced themselves and approved the agenda and November 24, 2004 meeting summary. Governance Committee members present were Craig Dorman (UA Statewide), Tylan Schrock (Alaska SeaLife Center), Nancy Bird (Prince William Sound Science Center/Oil Spill Recovery Institute), Clarence Pautzke (North Pacific Research Board), Glenn Sheehan (for Richard Glenn – Barrow Arctic Science Consortium), Paula Cullenberg (for Brian Allee - Alaska Sea Grant Program), Denis Wiesenburg (UAF School of Fisheries & Ocean Sciences), Bernard Megrey (for Doug DeMaster - NOAA Fisheries), James Partain (National Weather Service), Al McCabe (Coast Guard), John Goll (MMS), Karen Oakley (USGS), and Lawson Brigham (Arctic Research Commission). Members not present were John Calder (NOAA OAR), Ed Page (Marine Exchange of Alaska), and Gail Phillips (EVOS Trustee Council).

Other participants attending in person were Laura Furgione (National Weather Service), Bruce Sexauer (Army Corps of Engineers), Colonel Timothy Gallagher (Army Corps of Engineers), David Banks (The Nature Conservancy), Patricia Cochran (Alaska Native Science Commission), and Cleve Cowles (MMS). Others attending by phone were Rebecca Smyth (NOAA program manager), Michael Tubman (Alaska Governor's Office – Washington DC), and Heather Brandon (State of Alaska Ocean Cabinet). Molly McCammon and Helen Allen staffed the meeting.

### 2. Update on national activities

Molly McCammon of AOOS and David Martin of NANOOS (Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems) updated the committee on the status of the national IOOS authorizing legislation and the newly formed National Federation of Regional Associations (NFRA), of which Molly and David are the newly elected co-chairs. Molly described the 3 IOOS bills currently in play in Congress and distributed a side-by-side analysis of the legislation. The goal is to have a strong federal interagency program office and strong regional programs with sufficient funding ramping up over a 10-year period. David and Molly also described the NFRA and some of the challenges faced by the new IOOS in achieving true integration, especially with getting all the federal agencies supportive and actively involved. The NFRA will be working with all the regional associations across the country to share best practices and resolve common issues. One upcoming activity in the fall is a west coast workshop to engage

industry stakeholders/users. NANOOS will host a smaller industry workshop in August, and AOOS is planning one for later in the fall. James Partain (NWS) described the need for an IOOS poster child and suggested that coastal erosion/subsistence hunting could be the one for Alaska.

3. NWS Initiatives – presentation by James Partain

PowerPoint presentation will be posted on AOOS website ([www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)).

4. Update on Alaska activities, including funding, planning & implementation

Molly McCammon described AOOS activities within the state. A major effort underway is the establishment of a Data, Modeling and Analysis Group for AOOS at UAF, in partnership with the Arctic Region Supercomputer Center (ARSC), funded in part through AOOS grant funds and matched with ARSC funds. A team is being recruited to provide core expertise in managing and analyzing large data sets from multiple observing platforms and multiple disciplines to provide information products to various AOOS user groups. AOOS is seeking earmarked funds again in FFY 06 as bridge funding until the national IOOS program is authorized in legislation and IOOS funding gets consolidated within single line items in the federal budget. Molly continues to reach out to other groups within the state, including planned presentations to the Arctic Research Commission, North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, and the Coastal Engineering Research Board.

Regional activities include participation in a number of work groups related to the Arctic and the Bering Sea: the National Research Council's Committee to Develop an Arctic Observing Network, a group making recommendations to the National Science Foundation on development of a Barrow Cabled Observatory, and the North Pacific Research Board's Local and Traditional Knowledge committee. Molly and Mark Johnson will work with Glenn Sheehan to organize an Arctic users/stakeholders workshop for AOOS in the next few months. Molly and Mark are participating in the integrated, interagency planning effort to develop a "Climate Change and the Bering Sea Ecosystem" coordinated program. In addition, they will be participating in a joint NOAA Climate Office-UAF-NWS workshop on coastal erosion slated for early August that will develop into an integrated approach to addressing monitoring and modeling needs for coastal erosion.

For the Gulf of Alaska, recent workshops were held for Cook Inlet (Homer, February 21-22, 2005) and Southeast (Juneau, March 31, 2005). A workshop for the Prince William Sound pilot project is scheduled for June 13-14 in Cordova. Reports from all of these workshops will be posted at [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org) once they are available.

Molly presented a proposed approach to developing an AOOS Implementation Plan in the next 6 months, which generated much discussion. The plan would be used to develop priorities for any additional funding that is received for the next fiscal year. The Committee requested that first, they would like to have in hand a concise (approx. 10 pages) Strategic Plan that establishes the overall AOOS approach – vision, goals, guiding principles, and overall priorities – and would be used to provide the guidance for a full Implementation Plan. Much of this has already been included in other planning documents and grant proposals, but has not been consolidated into a

single unifying document. In addition, a number of other plans that will be used in conjunction with these efforts are also under development: a Data Management and Communications Plan, an Education and Outreach Plan, and an AOOS Business Plan. Craig Dorman and Denis Wiesenburg strongly recommended that the Alaska Sea Grant Program be used to help with the planning and outreach efforts.

**Follow-up: Molly will develop a draft Strategic Plan by mid-summer that will be circulated electronically to all of the Governance Committee members for their review. If possible, the committee will approve the plan via email, although a teleconferenced meeting could be held to resolve any outstanding issues. Once the Strategic Plan is approved, it can be used to help focus efforts in developing the Implementation Plan.**

5. Draft MOA – Governance Options Subcommittee: Tylan Schrock

Tylan Schrock, one of four members of the Governance Options Sub-committee (others are John Goll, Nancy Bird, and Molly McCammon), presented the subcommittee's recommendations for a new Memorandum of Agreement for AOOS. Discussion centered on these issues:

- How to achieve diversity of membership. The proposal suggests continued recruiting to achieve a balance of federal, state, academic, and private interests until there are 25 members. At that time, the members would elect a board to reflect that balance, or could assign seats to represent the broad balance of constituencies.
- Federal members as full, voting members. Questions have been raised regarding the legality and ethics of NOAA membership on the regional association boards, and a suggestion has been made to have them be liaisons instead. The Governance Committee reaffirmed its views that to have a true partnership, federal agencies should have rights equal to those of other members. The simplest solution appears to be the addition of language to the IOOS legislation that clearly authorizes federal agency representatives to sit on the RA boards as full, voting members.
- Appropriateness of sub-entity membership on the board. These questions centered on whether NOAA should have only one representative (representing NWS, NOAA Fisheries, NOAA Research, etc.), Department of Interior with one (representing USGS, USFWS, USNPS, MMS, etc.), the University of Alaska with one (representing all 3 campuses, as well as statewide and programs), etc. The consensus appears to be that having these sub-entities as members strengthens the coordination and collaboration aspects of AOOS.
- Payment of dues. This issue generated the greatest discussion and concerns. Concerns were raised by NGOs (too expensive, would drive us away) and by federal agencies (would take us 5 years to figure out a way to pay dues). The Committee spent some time discussing ways to grant exceptions. Finally, the fundamental question was raised about the appropriateness of having a dues structure to be paid by everyone when the committee was seeking additional members and greater inclusiveness. An informal (non-binding) show of hands indicated that there was clearly little support for a dues structure.

**Follow-up: The Governance Options Subcommittee will drop the dues section of the MOA, incorporate some minor modifications brought up at the meeting, circulate the draft for one last round of comments, and develop a new draft for final review.**

6. NPRB and Climate Change and Bering Sea Integrated Assessment – Clarence Pautzke

Clarence Pautzke, Executive Director of the North Pacific Research Board, described current and planned NPRB efforts. One effort is the initiative in collaboration with NOAA, AOOS, and a host of other agencies to develop a comprehensive research and monitoring program for the Bering Sea, especially as it relates to climate change and impacts on fisheries, seabirds, and marine mammals.

7. IPY and other Arctic Initiatives – Craig Dorman

Craig Dorman, Vice President for Statewide Research at the University of Alaska, again brought to the committee's attention the efforts for the International Polar Year with plans to enhance polar science and observations during 2007-2008. Websites with information are [www.ipy.org](http://www.ipy.org) and [www.us-ipy.org](http://www.us-ipy.org). The AOOS expression of interest to ICSU and WMO to be considered a partner project/program under the IPY banner was combined with numerous other proposals under the iAOOS lead project (Integrated Arctic Ocean Observing System).

8. Sea Ice Working Group – Lawson Brigham

Lawson Brigham, Arctic Research Commission deputy director, talked about two ongoing assessments sponsored by the Arctic Council: an oil and gas assessment and a marine shipping activity assessment. He also described an initiative between the ARC and AOOS to develop a sea ice working group with the goal of improving sea ice monitoring products for Alaska.

9. Barrow Global Climate Change Facility – Glenn Sheehan

PowerPoint presentation will be posted at [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org).

10. Next meeting and Adjourn

The next Governance Committee meeting will be in October/November (unless a teleconferenced meeting is needed this summer to finalize the AOOS Strategic Plan). A date will be identified in the near future. The meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.

**Upcoming Meetings and Activities**

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| June 7-10  | NOAA's NWS Alaska Region Climate Service/Science Workshop – Anchorage    |
| June 7-9   | Army Corps of Engineers: Coastal Engineering Research Board meets - Anch |
| June 13-14 | AOOS & PWSSC: Prince William Sound Observing System workshop – Cordova   |
| July 17-21 | Coastal 05, New Orleans  |
| Aug 2-4    | NWS Coastal Erosion Workshop, Anchorage                                  |

Aug 31 AOOS Education Workshop, Anchorage  
Sept 11-15 American Fisheries Society, Anchorage  
Sept 20-23 Oceans 2005 Conference, Washington DC  
Sep 29-Oct 8 PICES, Vladivostok  
Sept 27-29 Arctic Science Conference, Kodiak  
Jan 22-25 2006 Alaska Marine Science Symposium