

COMMUNITY-BASED OBSERVATIONS OF ARCTIC CHANGE **AAOKH**

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The Alaska Arctic Observatory and Knowledge Hub (AAOKH) is a community-based observing network that works to empower northern Alaska communities with tools, resources, and support to share their knowledge of local environmental change. Observations are added to an ongoing Exchange for Local Observations and Knowledge of the Arctic (ELOKA) database containing over 7,000 local observations since 2006.

Close ice edge, wide open lead

Steven Patkotak

Wainwright

May 5-7, 2019- "Close in ice edge subsistence camp, just out front [of town]. Also spring migration of waterfowl. Big ocean shows itself with so much ice gone. Huge lead and waves."



Changing wildlife patterns & health

Billy Adams Utqiagvik

June 9, 2019- "Walrus were seen on large floes of ice [earliest date of memory]. So we decided to take our small boats over the ice with snowmachines and 4 wheelers."



Warm weather, increased storminess, thin ice

Bobby Schaeffer Kotzebue

March 16, 2019- "We had a total of 20 storms in February. Unheard of. The high temperature today was 35 degrees. A friend...drilled a hole. He said [the ice] was less than a foot thick. Too much snow, warm temperatures, and over flow under the fresh snow will cause the strong currents to eat away at the already thin ice."



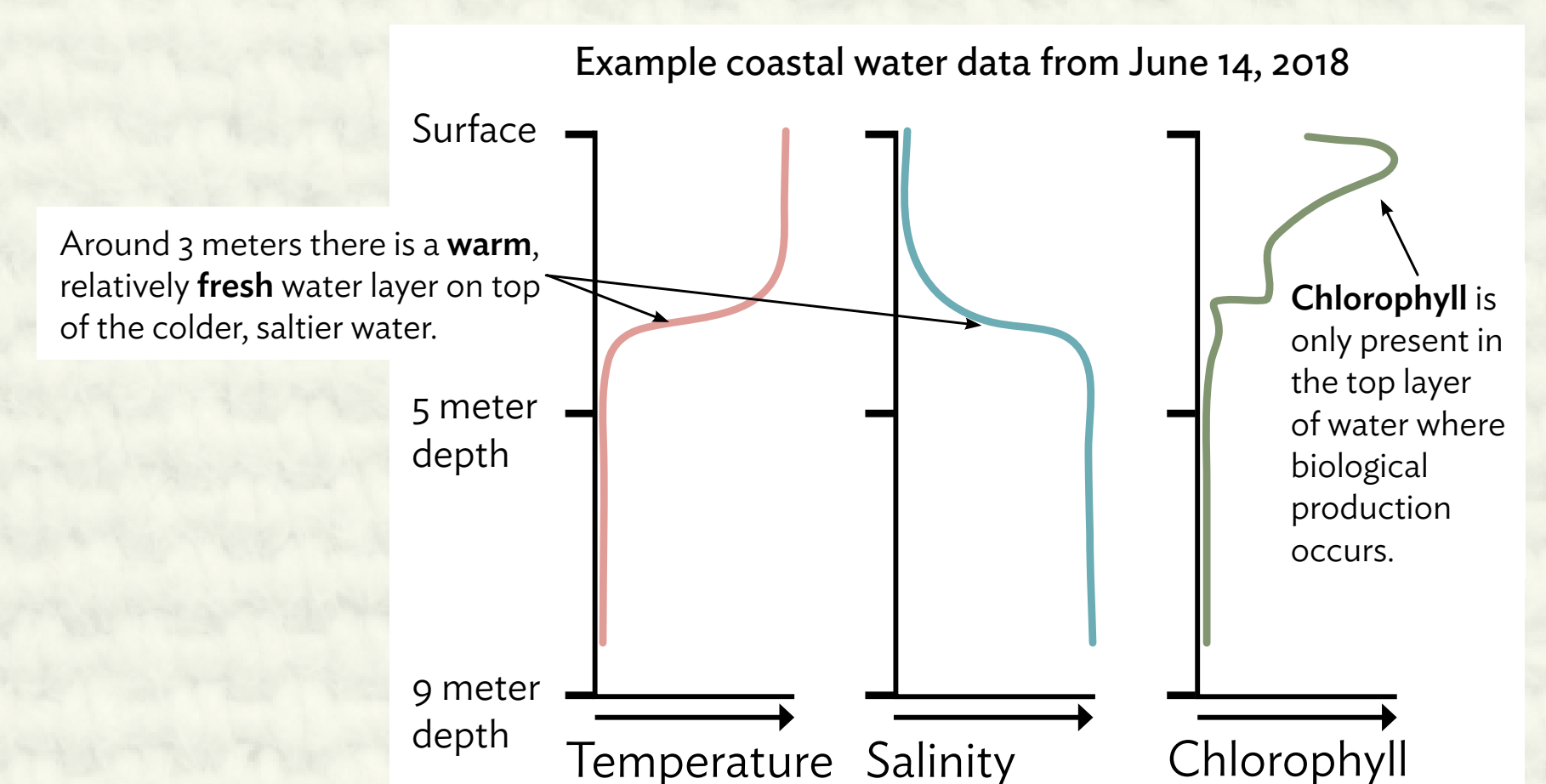
June 18, 2019- "A large bearded seal with hair loss, discolored blubber, did not smell right, and hard bumps throughout the seal."



Measuring ocean properties

Industry partners Prudhoe Bay

Several observers as well as industry partners measure water properties to help explain ocean heat drivers and biological productivity.



Coastal erosion

Lee Kayotuk Kaktovik

"There is lots of erosion happening in my area. Permafrost is melting and the ocean is just wiping the north of the island out. The storms are so bad."



Early break-up

Robert Tokeinna Jr.

Wales

April 11, 2019- "The last of the shorefast ice left the land and [also] pretty much all flow ice. Temperature has been in the upper 20's"

Point Hope

Point Lay

Wainwright

Utqiagvik

Prudhoe Bay industry partners

Kaktovik

Kotzebue

Wales

Indigenous and Scientific knowledge exchange

The AAOKH Knowledge Hub provides tools and relevant data to communities in the context of a changing seasonal cycle, with three primary goals:

- Create a forum for collaboration to exchange knowledge regarding aspects of environmental change, traditional resources, and how this matters to each community
- Link to remote sensing data and information from collaborators studying subsistence species and oceanography
- Provide resources for education and outreach

AAOKH is guided by a Steering Group composed of community representatives & UAF academics.

Learn more at arctic-aok.org or follow us on Facebook @ArcticAOK.



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