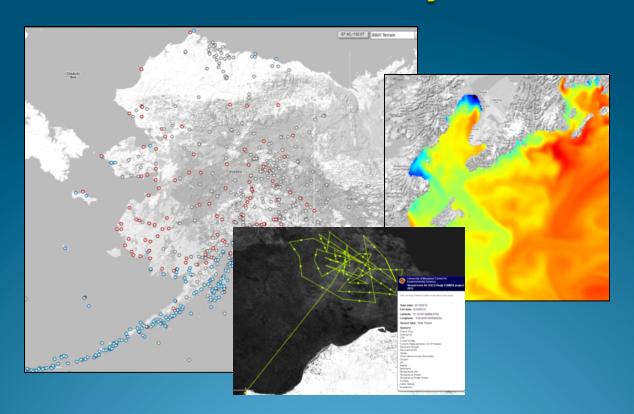
### 1008



## What the Alaska Ocean Observing System can do for you



Providing observations, data and information products to meet agency and stakeholder needs



## What is AOOS?

- Part of the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS)
- Governed through a Memorandum of Agreement
- Fiscal agent: Alaska SeaLife Center



AK Marine Exchange: Ed Page, chair

AK Dept of Natural Resources: Ed Fogels, vice-chair

US Arctic Research Commission: Cheryl Rosa, secretary

Bureau of Ocean Energy Mgmt: Jim Kendall, treasurer

Other Members: AK Sea Grant Program, AK SeaLife Center, AK Dept of Fish & Game, AK Department of Environmental Conservation, Barrow Arctic Science Consortium, NOAA AK Fishery Science Center, NOAA AK Regional Team, North Pacific Fishery Management Council, North Pacific Research Board, Prince William Sound Science Center/OSRI, Shell Oil, University of Alaska, US Coast Guard, US Geological Survey, World Wildlife Fund



## Philosophy

- Congressionally directed, stakeholder driven, science-based
- Measure once, use many times
- Highly leveraged: partners are essential!
- Policy neutral

No REGULATORY authority
Yes COORDINATING authority
Yes OBSERVING authority

Only entity <u>mandated</u> by Congress to work with private sector, local, state & f

work with private sector, local, state & federal agencies to coordinate

ocean observing



## Stakeholder

Climate change impacts

Increased coastal erosion

Changing marine ecosystems

Unstable sea ice and uncertain freeze/thaw dates

Fewer subsistence resources

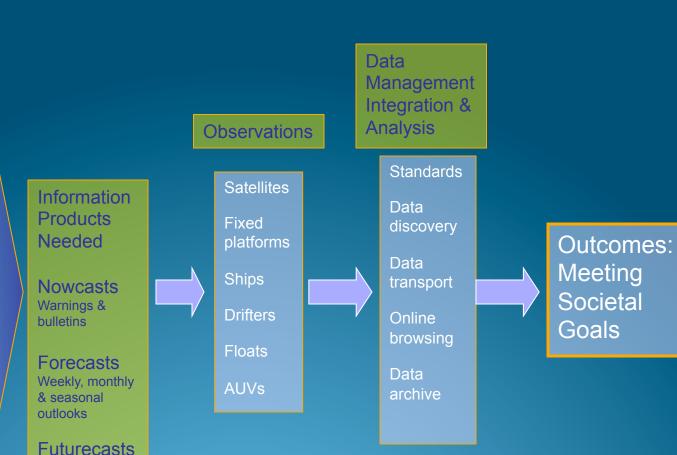
More shipping = more oil spill potential

Changing sea state: more fog, storms, winds, waves

Scenarios &

projections

## **AOOS** is User-Driven



## Key Stakeholders

- Local communities
- Alaska Native subsistence use
- Offshore oil and gas development
- Fishing: commercial, recreational, subsistence
- Shipping
- Resource managers: species at risk
- Ecosystem services for nation ( impacts on nation's climate & weather)
- Conservation
- General public
- Research community



## **Arctic-focused partnerships**

- Federal & State Agencies
- DBO & PAG
- RUSALCA
- Canada: OTN & Ocean Networks Canada, DFO
- PAME: EBM
- CAFF: Biodiversity
- AMBON, MARES, Arctic EIS



# AOOS Stakeholder needs: How to identify

- AOOS outreach meetings and workshops
- Participation in advisory groups, steering teams
- Ad hoc stakeholder/researcher & technical expert workshops: navigation safety, ecosystems, and coastal hazards
- Presentations to stakeholder groups & conferences
- Recommendations of other programs w/stakeholder engagement
- Surveys & interviews (sea ice users, recreation boaters)

## What does AOOS do?

#### **Themes**

Improve Safety of Marine Operations

Mitigate Coastal Hazards (erosion, flooding)

Track Climate & Ecosystem Trends for Fisheries

Monitor Water Quality: OA





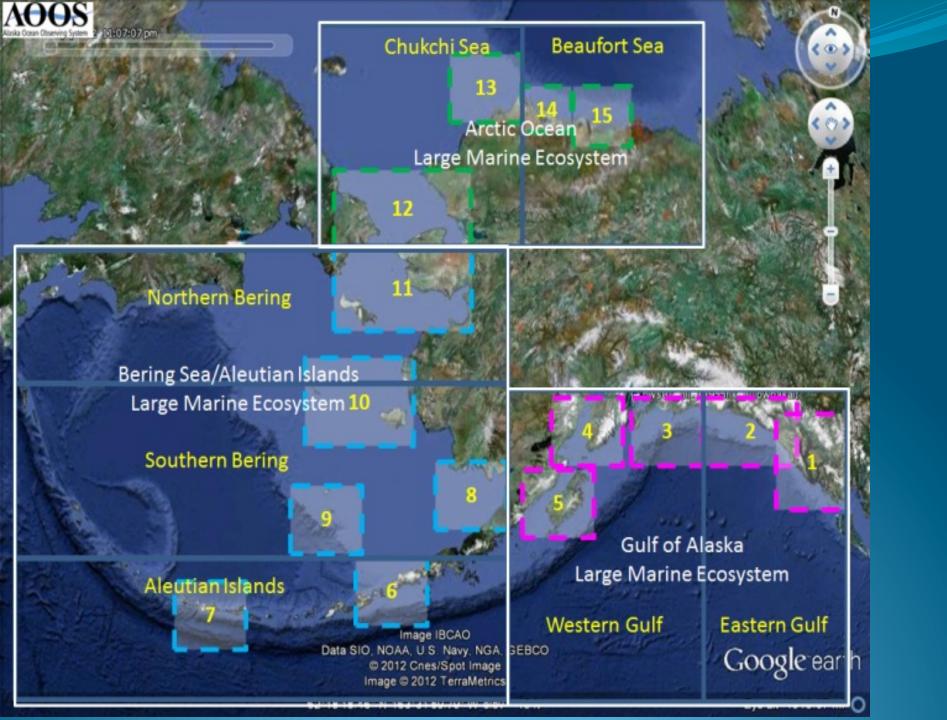
#### **Activities**

Identify & fill observation gaps & forecasts
Facilitate working groups & networks
Pilot technology

Host Regional Data Assembly Center to provide easy access to ocean information Generate tools & products for stakeholder use









## **Marine Operation Safety**

- Safe & efficient commercial shipping, recreational & subsistence boating
- Support search & rescue operations in highest risk traffic areas
- Support observations & data tools critical for oil spill response & prevention
- Provide ocean data for offshore energy decision-making



#### **1008**

## **Marine Operation Safety**

#### Observations

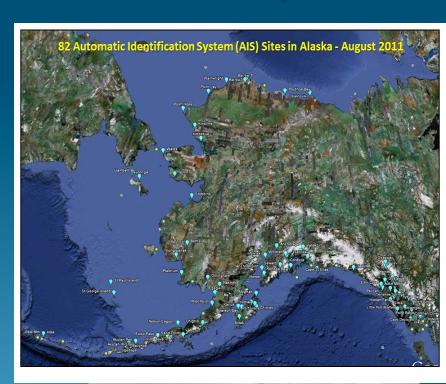
- Weather & wave buoys
- AIS & weather
- HF radars
- Freeze-up detection buoy

#### Products

- Real time sensor map
- AIS vessel tracking database
- Arctic Domain Awareness
  Center support

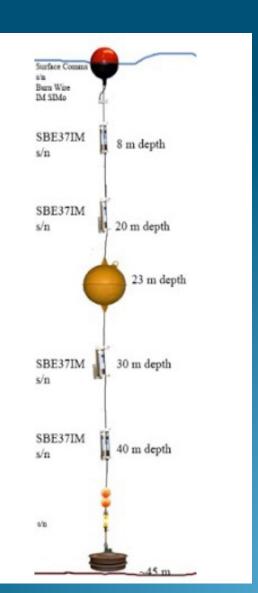
#### Coordination/facilitation

AIS vessel tracking Arctic ERMA





## Freeze-up detection buoy

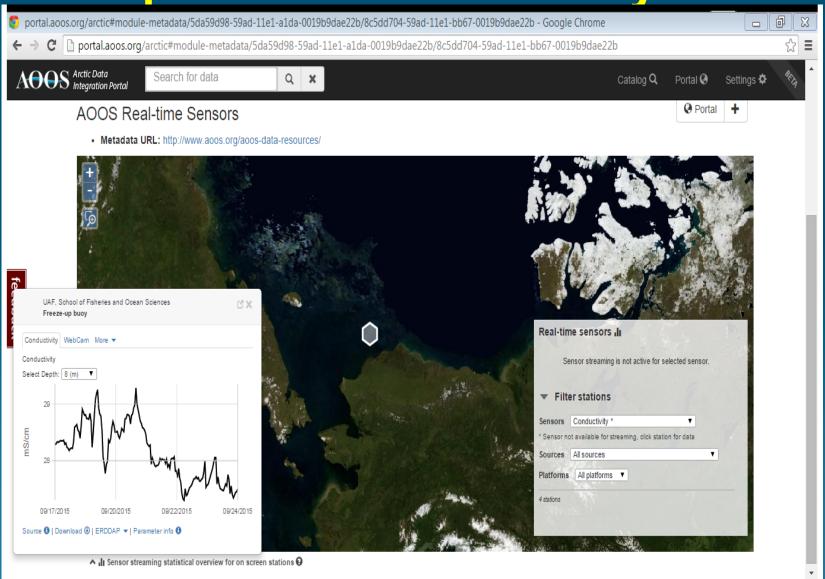


- Document sea ice freezeup with water column conditions prior to and during freeze-up stages in late fall and early winter
- Surface sensor package detaches prior to actual freeze-up, with the rest of the mooring remaining

beneath the sea ice
The mooring package is unique in that it will
remain in place as the sea ice forms.

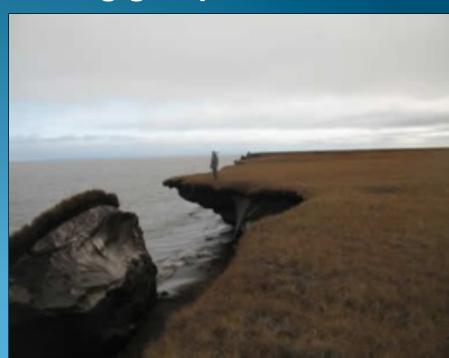


Sample Ice Detection Buoy Data



## Coastal Hazards

- Increase water level observations for emergency response & coastal erosion
- Sea ice thickness, extent & trajectory what is AOOS role? Initiated Sea Ice Working group, now?
- Support sea level & storm surge forecasts, maps & decision- support tools



## Coastal Hazards

#### **Observations**

- Weather & wave buoys & sensors
- Water level sensors
- Below ice waves & currents
   for winter conditions

#### **Products**

- Archived shoreline profile database
- Tailored flooding maps
- Electronic sea ice atlas
- Geodetic leveling coastal community tide gauges

#### **Coordination & Facilitation**

informal working group: establish water level observing network



# Climate & Ecosystem Trends and Water Quality

- Time series: Physical, chemical & biological observations
- Integrated ecosystem & climate vulnerability assessments
- Climatologies: coastal climate variability & trends over time
- Ocean acidification: sustained monitoring & outreach/public education

Climate & Ecosystem Trends

#### **Observations**

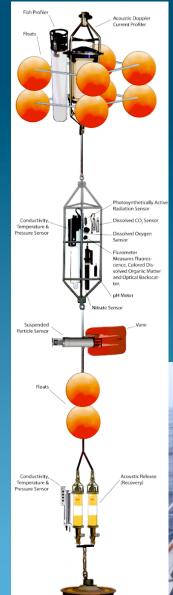
- Whale gliders
- Ecosystem moorings
- OA moorings/surveys

#### **Products**

- Sea ice atlas
- Chinook run timing forecast
- Surface current maps

#### Coordination/Facilitation

- State of AK coast & ocean report
- AK Ocean Acidification Network
- Community based monitoring

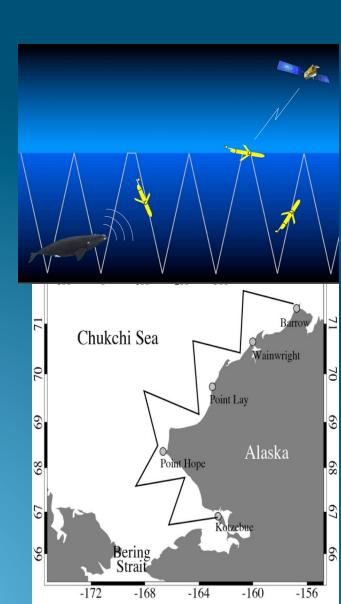






## Marine Mammal Glider

- 3<sup>rd</sup> year of deployment
- Region spanning Bering Strait (Kotzebue) to Chukchi Sea (Barrow)
- Lithium batteries allowed solo deployment for entire open water summer season
  - Previous deployments were only 10 days
- AOOS supported purchase of glider and contributes to logistical support and data analysis





## Advantages of AOOS

- More agile, flexible than federal agencies
- Connections to stakeholders
- Partnerships w/industry, NGOs, academia
- Facilitate consortia
- Education & outreach

#### **1008**

## Support for "Blob Blog" Tracker

- Hosted by AOOS
- Features posts from variety of scientists and media
- Central POC
- Provides avenue for those working in the region to share observations
- Share local and national news stories

