NWS  Alaska Region Observation Program
Priorities and Expansion

Carven Scott, Chief
Environmental Science and Services Division
Who we are: NOAA NWS Alaska Region
### What we do

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Focus Areas</th>
<th>Observation Platforms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coastal Storm Surge</td>
<td>Water level gauges, river gauges, wave buoys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aviation</td>
<td>Surface observations (ceiling and visibility), radar, upper air, lightning data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine Forecasts</td>
<td>Wave buoys, HF radar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydrology</td>
<td>River gauges, precipitation, snow depth, radar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Weather</td>
<td>Lightning data, precipitation, radar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate</td>
<td>Surface observations of T, P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea Ice Forecast and Analysis</td>
<td>HF radar, wave buoys, water level, satellite data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Forecasts &amp; Warnings</td>
<td>All surface observations, lightning data, snow depth, radar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“Since 2000, Alaska has had 15 federally declared [flooding] disaster declarations... collectively impacting over 58% of Alaska’s organized communities...” - DGGS
Major Gaps

- Over 30 at-risk communities
- Developing industry
- Increased traffic due to reduction in sea ice
- Major disaster-level fall storm impacts increasing

WATER LEVEL OBSERVATIONS

West and North Coasts of Alaska
Major Gaps

- Extremely large and active marine community
- Largest fishery in the nation
- High risk for oil/HAZMAT spills
- Major transportation routes
- Developing industry

WAVE BUOY OBSERVATIONS

• Bering Sea and Western Gulf of AK
• South East Alaska (Inside Passages)
• Arctic Ocean

weather.gov/Alaska
Major Gaps

- Very few observations at elevation
- Key for avalanche safety
- Important for hydroelectric power in SE Alaska
ADDITIONAL GAP FILLERS

- UAS
  - Gap: Water profile, river ice

- Drifting buoys
  - Gap: Water profile, ocean waves

- CASA Radars
  - Gap: Ceiling and precipitation

- VOS Observations
  - Gap: Waves, water profile, atmospheric observations

- Wind Profilers
  - Gap: Model data, aviation forecasts
If you are deploying an observational platform, let’s discuss!