

**BOARD ACTION ITEM: AOOS Data Management Advisory Committee  
May 14, 2020**

**History of DMAC:** AOOS has had a Data Management Advisory Committee (DMAC - formerly the Data Management and Communications Advisory Committee) since its inception in 2004. The committee is one of three standing committees (the others being Executive and Nominating which are completely Board committees). The Terms of Reference were last revised in 2015 and operational procedures were included in the 2017 AOOS Operating Procedures.

The committee is advisory to the Executive Director and annually reports to the AOOS Board on the status of AOOS data management services, the AOOS Data Management Plan and the annual AOOS Data Management Work Plan.

The committee was especially helpful in the early years of our data assembly center development by providing advice on interoperability; open, easy access and discovery; reliable, sustained, efficient operations; effective user feedback; open design and standards process; preservation of data and products; and the data needs and data management activities of constituent groups. The committee was actively involved in development of the requirements used in an open competition soliciting a new data contractor in 2010. The committee was also helpful in providing input into the 2017 Data Management Review that was conducted by a group of external experts.

**Dec 2017 External Review Report:**

In December 2017 AOOS convened a committee of experts to review the AOOS Data System. The Data Management Review Report (DMR) made a number of recommendations for process improvements with the system, most of which have been implemented or are in the process of being implemented. We are now preparing a report on our responses to that review and upcoming plans for our Data Assembly Center, which is now a federally certified center, and our data contractor Axiom Data Science, whose contract was officially extended by board action through August 31, 2020, with an additional board **recommendation** (December 16, 2019) to extend the contract for an additional year. That report will be given to the board at its next meeting, likely in July or early August.

**Current status of DMAC:** The committee has been in abeyance since members were asked to review the 2017 draft report in January 2018. This was partially due to the fact that the Committee Chair Phil Mundy retired from public service, and partially due to the fact that the committee no longer appeared to be needed for its original purposes. AOOS and Axiom staff participate regularly in a national IOOS Data Management and Communications committee, as well as other national data initiatives. In addition, Axiom supports other data management systems that are similar in scope to AOOS (CeNCOOS and SECOORA), and staff from these are now meeting regularly to discuss mutual data management issues. AOOS and Axiom together are trying to engage more in Arctic data initiatives, although we are somewhat resource limited since travel to Europe is expensive. Because of the maturity of the AOOS data system and our involvement with other efforts (which generate broad community engagement and feedback), we no longer believe that a committee of this nature is needed at this time.

**Recommended Board Motion: To officially disband the AOOS Data Management Advisory Committee.**