

# DAAR

## Observation Array, Alaska Region Newsletter

Issue: 7, December 2022

### That's a Wrap!

As we approach the end of another year, it is amazing to look back at the all that that has happened. You won't want to miss the January 2023 edition to read up on the wrap up of 2022.

In this issue you can see how the snow totals are adding up for Southcentral area, how the Christmas Winter Storm snowfall amounts accumulated. You can also meet Ryan, an important part to our operations and someone who understands the importance of observations.

Here is a short poem to sum up the year...

Enjoy!

The months of January, February and March  
Winter extending its cold and windy arch.

April and May temperatures getting warmer still,  
for us Alaskan this can be quite the thrill!

June and July may have come and gone,  
but the days were becoming so long.

August, September and October theme,  
was wet and cool, not our Fall dream.

November and December where chill,  
Snow, wind and temps not run of the mill.

Someone once said and maybe you agree,  
or maybe this isn't your cup of tea:

There is no bad weather per se.  
Just bad choice of clothing, okay?!

Stay informed of the water and weather,  
while we go through the seasons together.

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## 🏆 Congratulations 🏆

### to our John Campanius Holm Award Recipients!

On December 19, Alaska Region Director Dr. Scott Lindsey presented two John Campanius Holm Awards at a public ceremony held in Trapper Creek, AK.

**Beverly and Reinhard Grenz**, formerly of Chulitna, and **Joan Medbery** of Amber Lake are recipients of the 2020 and 2021 Holm Awards, respectively. While a virtual ceremony was held to honor their esteemed accomplishments, NWS Alaska staff were thrilled to welcome the observers, their friends and family, and local community members to deliver the awards in person.

The Holm award honors Cooperative Observers for outstanding accomplishments in the field of meteorological observations. The award is named after a Lutheran minister, the first person known to have taken systematic weather observations in the American Colonies. Reverend Holm made observations of climate without the use of instruments in 1644 and 1645, near the present site of Wilmington, Delaware. Only twenty-five Holm awards are given annually.



**Front row:** Reinhard and Beverly Grenz, former COOP observers of Chulitna, WFO Anchorage HMT Michael Kutz, Joan Medbery, COOP Observer at Amber Lake, and Ray Medbery.

**Back row:** Alaska Region Director Dr. Scott Lindsey, WFO Anchorage MIC Noelle Runyan  
Photo captured by Kaitlyn O'Brien

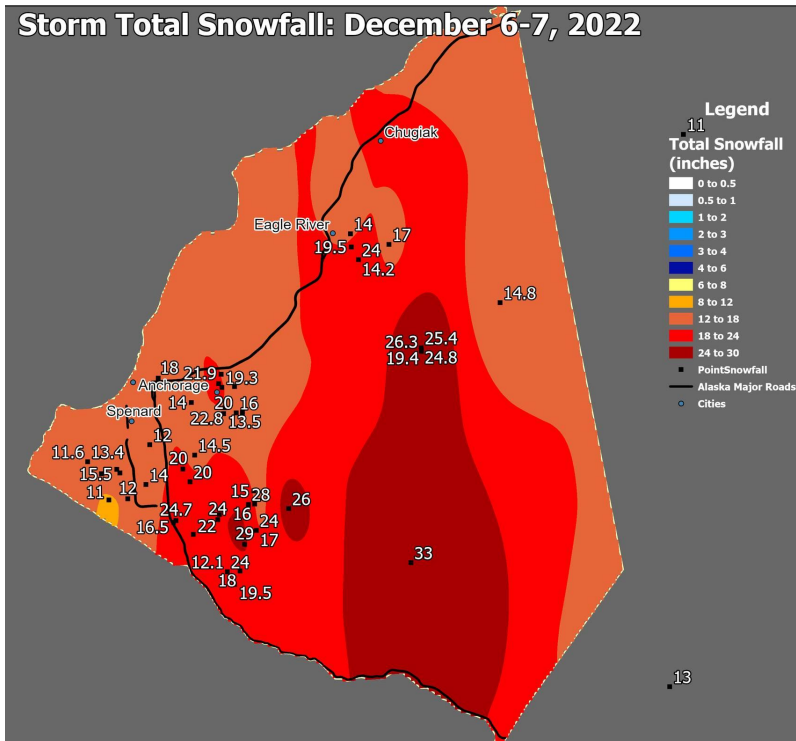
## Southcentral

Kaitlyn O'Brien

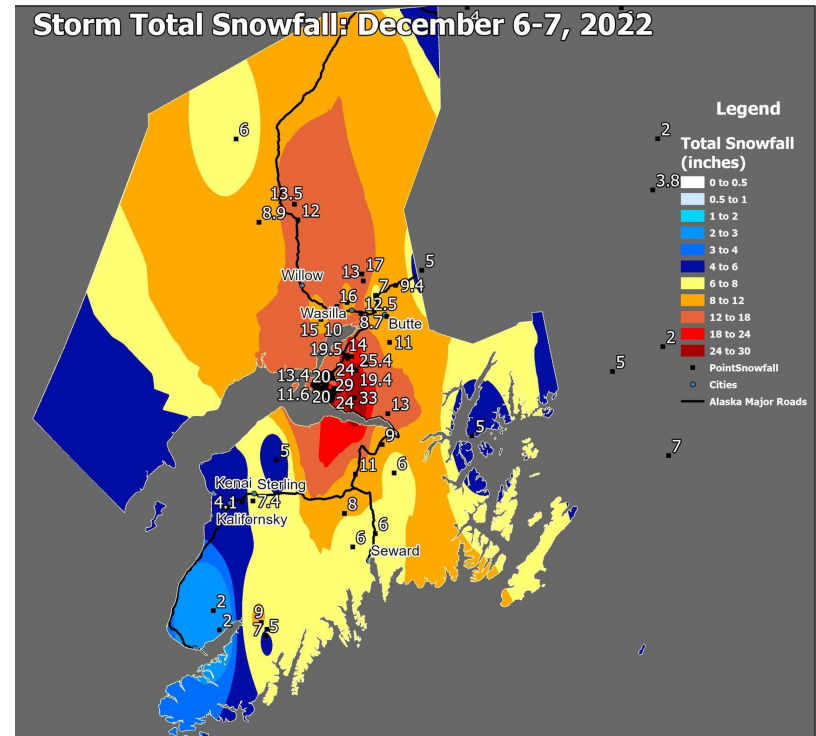
### ❄️ Snowy Start to Winter: A look at how things are adding up ❄️

WOW Southcentral, it has been a crazy start to winter! Several back to back events within an 11-day span really kept us shoveling nearly every day! Let's take a look at how these totals have stacked up.

Storm Total Snowfall: December 6-7, 2022



Storm Total Snowfall: December 6-7, 2022

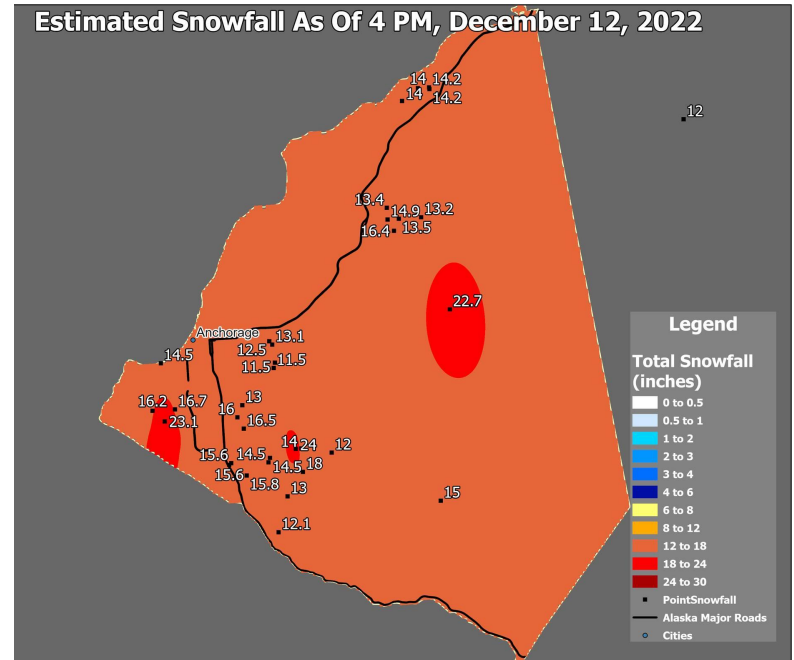
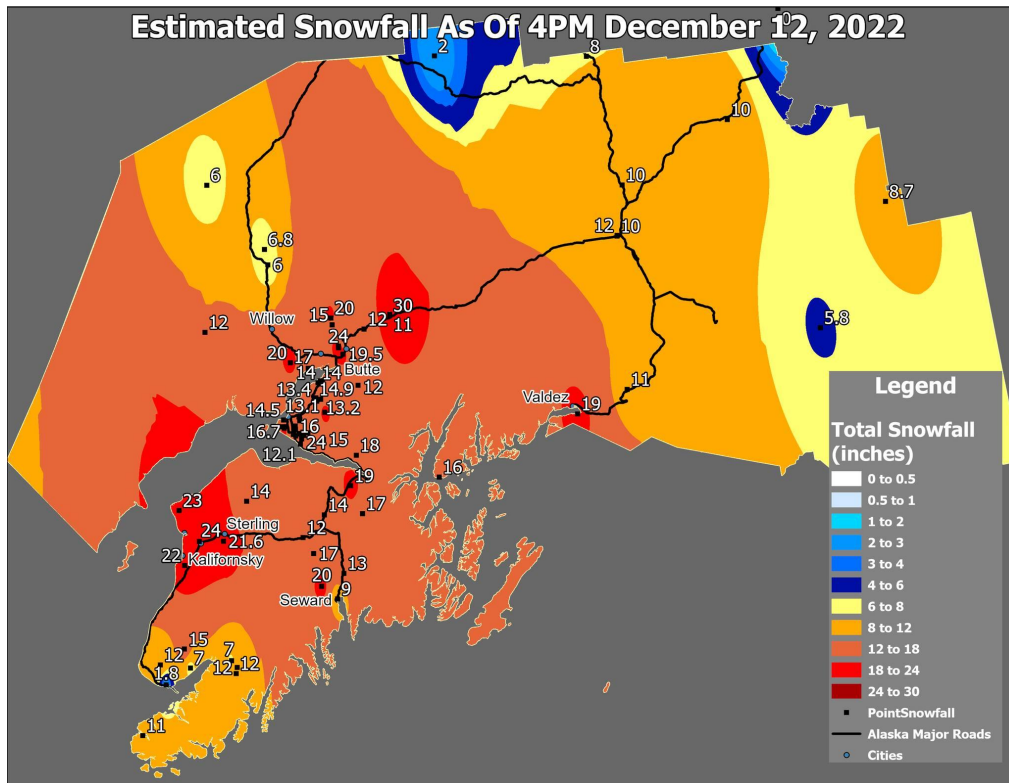


On December 6 and 7, several ingredients came together to produce abundant snowfall across Southcentral. While there was a preceding lighter snowfall event on Monday December 5, the bulk of the snowfall arrived Tuesday night into Wednesday. Across East Anchorage and the Hillside, as well as Eagle River, many reports were received of snowfall continuing through Wednesday afternoon and evening. These locations, along with higher elevations, received the greatest amounts.

## Southcentral

Kaitlyn O'Brien

Just five days later on December 11, storm #2 came through and lasted through Monday December 12 with the heaviest snow falling late Sunday afternoon into early Monday morning.



East Anchorage and the Hillside, Eagle River, western Kenai Peninsula (specifically Clam Gulch north to Nikiski), the Matanuska Valley, and the higher elevations were the winners of this round where amounts reached 2 feet!







NEW!

## Climate Tools You Can Use



Climate and Past Weather

Drought

Local Climate Reports

Climate FAQ

National

Anchorage Records and Stats

Local Online Weather Graphs

Local Online Weather Data

Guide To CPC Products

Have you ever wondered about what's in store each season and whether to expect a wet summer or a cold winter?

The [Climate Prediction Center](#) provides extensive climate outlook information including monthly and seasonal temperature and precipitation outlooks, drought information, and extended period (8-14 days) hazard outlooks.

If you're wondering how to interpret these various Climate Outlook Products, we've recently developed a new guided resource page on our website. You'll also find a one-stop shop for all current outlook information sorted by category along the tabs at the top of the page.

### A Guide to Interpreting CPC Products

#### Table of Contents

Temperature and Precipitation	8-14 Day Hazards	Heat Index/Wind Chill	Drought Information	Tropical Hazards and Benefits	WDTD Training Videos
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To access this page, go to [www.weather.gov/Anchorage](http://www.weather.gov/Anchorage) and find the **Climate and Past Weather** tab at the top. A dropdown menu will appear - select **Guide to CPC Products** to see the latest information. [Send us a note](#) and let us know what you think!

From the Fairbanks or Juneau Main page find the **Climate and Past Weather** tab at the top. Hover over to get the dropdown menu, select **National**, then select **Climate Prediction Center**.



## Southeast

Kimberly Vaughan

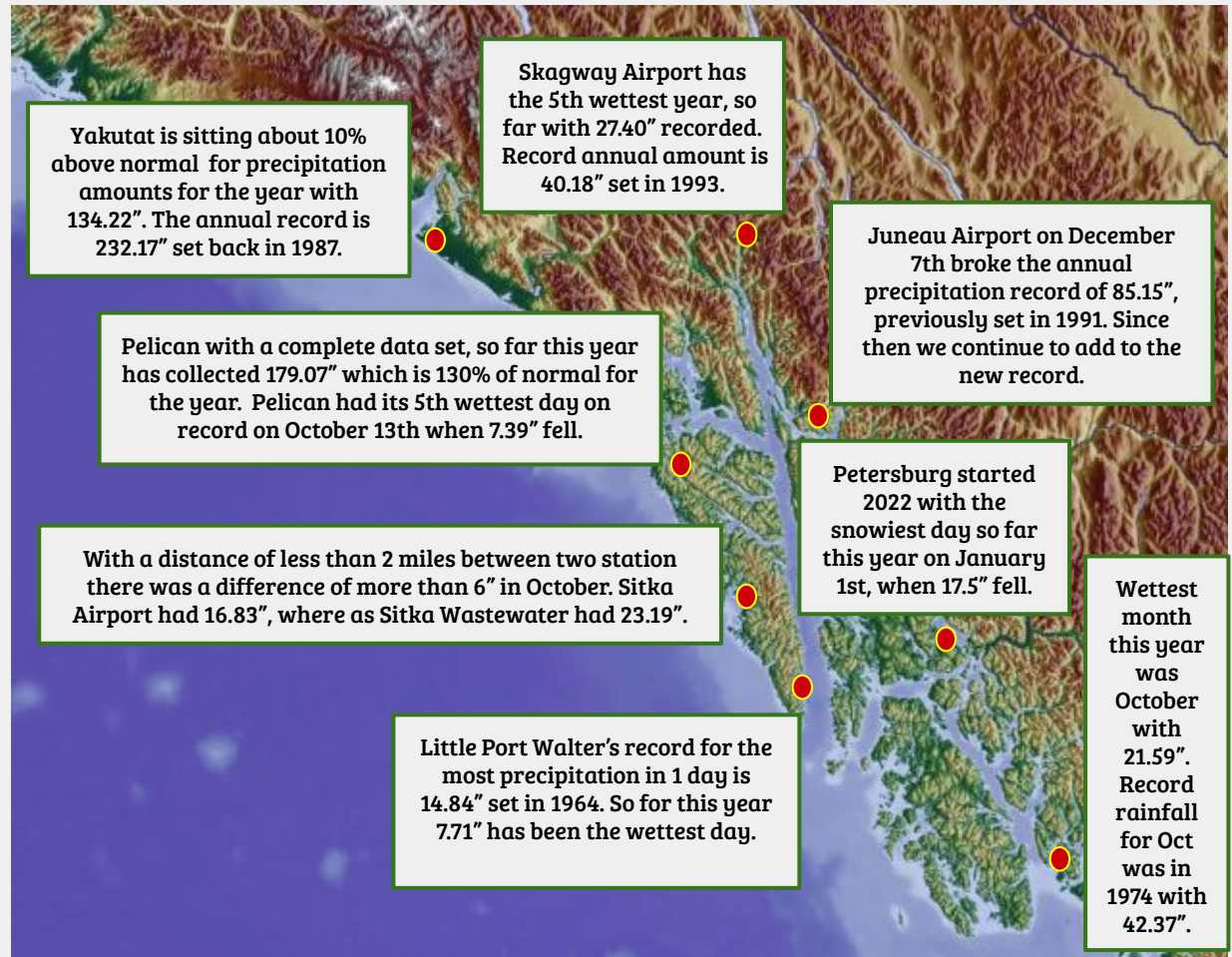
Southeast Alaska has been living up to its title as a temperate rainforest in 2022, with the emphasis on RAIN more so at some stations over others.

The entire Panhandle has seen what feels like an end to summer in July and a Fall that has lasted for months until the temperatures took a deeper turn and snow replaced the rain in November.

Here are some interesting precipitation stats, not to mention as of December 12, 2022.

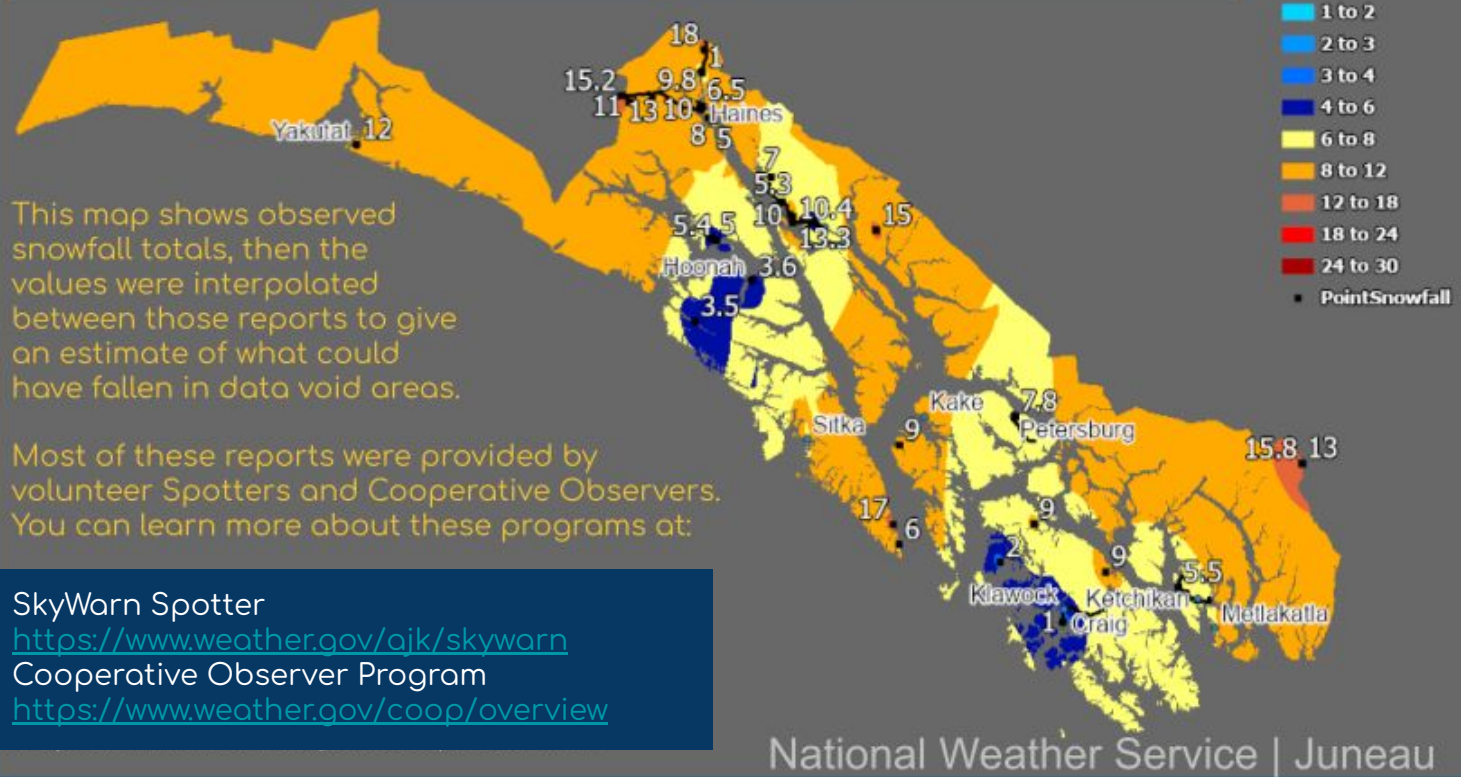
Next newsletter will include complete annual summaries for 2022 in SE Alaska. There was a wide range of weather during the year, you don't want to miss it!

*2022 Complete Season  
Coming Soon*





### Snowfall Totals from Friday Evening to Monday Evening December 23 - 26, 2022



This map shows observed snowfall totals, then the values were interpolated between those reports to give an estimate of what could have fallen in data void areas.

Most of these reports were provided by volunteer Spotters and Cooperative Observers. You can learn more about these programs at:

SkyWarn Spotter  
<https://www.weather.gov/qjk/skywarn>  
Cooperative Observer Program  
<https://www.weather.gov/coop/overview>

## Northern and Interior Alaska

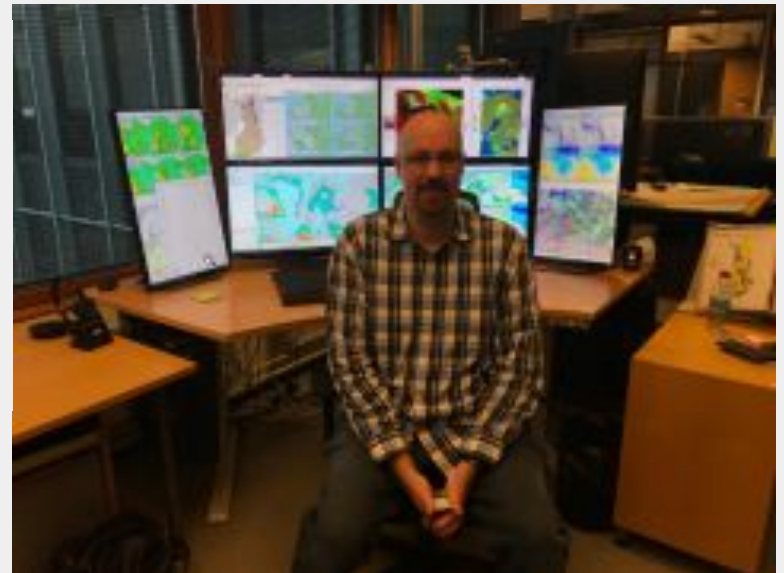
Kaitlyn Lardeo

### Meet the Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the Fairbanks Weather Forecast Office

Ryan was born in North Dakota, and spent time in North Dakota and Ohio growing up; he also spent a year in Canberra, Australia because of his Dad's job! After high school, Ryan spent 6 years in the United States Air Force. He worked as a satellite communications technician, and was stationed in Germany, South Korea, and Nebraska. After he got out of the Air Force, he received a Bachelor's degree in Atmospheric Science from Ohio State University, and a Master's degree in Atmospheric Science from Texas Tech University. During graduate school, Ryan worked as a Teaching Assistant for undergraduate classes, and he also participated in the VORTEX2 tornado research, and utilized radar data from VORTEX2 for his Master's thesis.

Ryan started out his NWS career at WFO Glasgow, Montana in 2011 as a SCEP (Student Career Experience Program) student employee (the SCEP program is now called the Pathways Program). In 2012, he became a meteorologist intern at WFO Las Vegas, Nevada. In 2014, he was promoted to a general forecaster at WFO Fairbanks, Alaska, and in 2017, he received an on-station promotion to a lead forecaster. In January 2020, Ryan represented the NWS in a forecaster exchange with the Finnish Meteorological Institute (Finland's equivalent of the NWS). In 2022, he became the Warning Coordination Meteorologist at NWS Fairbanks.

Now let's ask him some questions...



## Northern and Interior Alaska

Kaitlyn Laredo

### **What advice would you give someone who's considering working for NWS Fairbanks or any of the Alaskan WFOs?**

Keep an open mind and try to enjoy everything Alaska has to offer. Your experience depends on what you make of it; a positive attitude or outlook will help to lead to a positive experience. Alaska Region is small and you have better chances to get involved with high visibility projects than you do in the lower 48.

### **What has been the most memorable experience you've had at NWS Fairbanks?**

My trip to Finland was probably the most memorable thing that I have done. My deployment to the Arctic Coast (Point Thomson) for an exercise is a close second. Obviously, big weather events come to mind as well, such as big winter storms (late December 2016, September 2015, April 2021, December 2021), flooding (summer 2014), and active fire weather (2015 and 2019).

### **What project(s) have you worked/been working on?**

I was the social media focal point for several years after I moved up here (2014 to 2019). I helped to lead the transition from one Facebook account that was shared across the region to individual accounts for each forecast office (we did not get a separate NWS Fairbanks account until early 2019!). I also assisted with the first NWS test of Instagram back in 2016.

I have been involved with the radar and severe weather programs since I got here in 2014, and became the primary focal point for both in 2016 when long-time lead forecaster Bob Fisher retired.

Each spring I do training for staff on the Weather Event Simulator to prepare them for thunderstorms. I have also been the Decision Support Services Focal Point.



## Upcoming Changes to Marine Zones

In March 2023, there will be an implementation of the changes to the marine zones to better serve the marine communities. Changes include the addition of nearshore marine zones, along with other splitting of zones.

For more details, please visit this link:



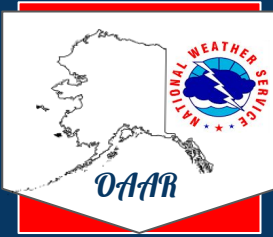
Much of the state's weather originates over the water, and impacts transportation and shipping operations. This makes marine weather important to all Alaskans. Buoys and transiting vessels provide observations in an otherwise data void place. These observations aid in better forecasting models and safety to fellow mariners. Thanks to all who contribute to these critical weather observations.



[Voluntary Observing Ship Program](#)







# Observation Array, Alaska Region Newsletter

## Resources



Cooperative Observer Program: <https://www.weather.gov/coop/>



CoCoRaHS: <https://www.cocorahs.org/state.aspx?state=ak>



Voluntary Observing Ship Program: <https://www.vos.noaa.gov/>

## Weather Forecast Offices

Alaska Region: <https://www.weather.gov/alaska/>

WFO Anchorage: <https://www.weather.gov/anchorage/>

Sea Ice Program: <https://www.weather.gov/afc/ice>

WFO Fairbanks: <https://www.weather.gov/fairbanks/>

Alaska-Pacific RFC: <https://www.weather.gov/aprfc/>

WFO Juneau: <https://www.weather.gov/juneau/>

Climate Prediction Center: <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>

National Centers for Environmental Information: <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/>