Amphibious Array (and GeoPRISMS) breakout summary

Peter van Keken provided an overview of the GeoPRISMS program, which focuses on geophysics, geodynamics, and geochemistry. The global perspective of GeoPRISMS encourages international collaborations. Several previous and active projects were funded in the Aleutians.

Geoff Abers provided an overview of the Amphibious Array. This array of ocean-bottom seismometers offshore Cascadia provides a plate-spanning grid at 70 km spacing with densification in the forearc. The experiment allows the imaging of North America to extend west of the coastline and into a tectonically important region of the forearc, shelf, and spreading ridge of the Juan de Fuca plate. Scientists have developed “trawl-resistant mount” for shallow-water deployment (on shelf). There is a SRL special issue scheduled for Sept-Oct 2015 that will feature science results from the Amphibious Array.

A workshop was held in October 2014 to discuss the possible future for the Amphibious Array: http://www.iris.edu/hq/workshops/2014/10/amphibious_array_facility_workshop
Three target sites identified in fall 2014 workshop: (1) Alaska Thrust Zone, (2) Alaska/Aleutians deep magma, (3) Eastern North America Margin. A workshop report is available from the webpage above. NSF is not yet encouraging any future extension of multi-year, large-scale extensions of Amphibious Array (soonest consideration would be 2016).

People discussed the challenge of coordinating different efforts to maximize the science impact. For example, is it possible to have TA, FlexArray, Langseth, Amphibious Array in the same place at the same time? Nathan Bangs mentioned that there is now a regional planning committee for the Langseth, which should facilitate coordination with other efforts (and proposals).