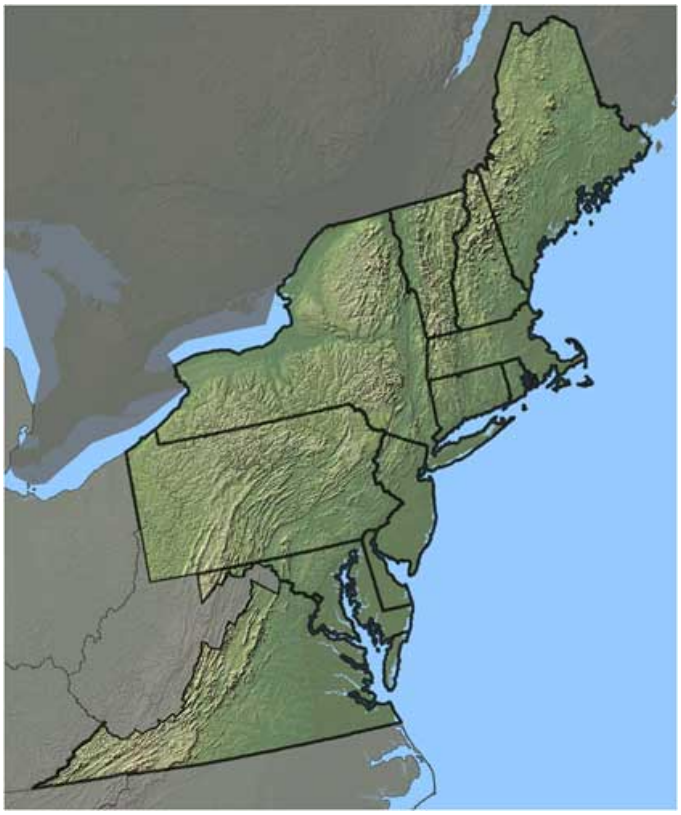
FY 2014 Operating Plan

North Atlantic Regional Collaboration Team

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration



Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia

November 2013

Table of Contents

Regional Collaboration **3**

The North Atlantic Region **4**

NOAA in the North Atlantic **7**

Healthy Oceans **8**

Northeast Coastal Acidification Network: State-of-Science and Stakeholder Engagement Mtg 8

Expanding Climate Knowledge in Management Advice on Marine Ecosystems 15

Virtual Workshop on Applications of Ecological Forecasts 9

Resilient Coastal Communities & Economies **10**

Closing the Loop to Meet NOAA's Long-Term Data and Science Needs: Case Study on Offshore Wind Energy Siting and Management 10

Weather-Ready Nation **11**

Sea Grant Engagement for a Weather-Ready Nation (Annual NART/Sea Grant Project) 11

Promote and evaluate a NWS/NOS wave run-up study (Resilience) 12

Flood Inundation Mapping Outreach 13

Mid-Atlantic River Forecast Center Capabilities and Partnership Opportunities 14

Climate Adaptation & Mitigation **15**

Sea Level Rise Tool Outreach in NY/NJ 16

State and Local Roundtables to Showcase NOAA's Coastal Products and Services 17

Engagement Enterprise **18**

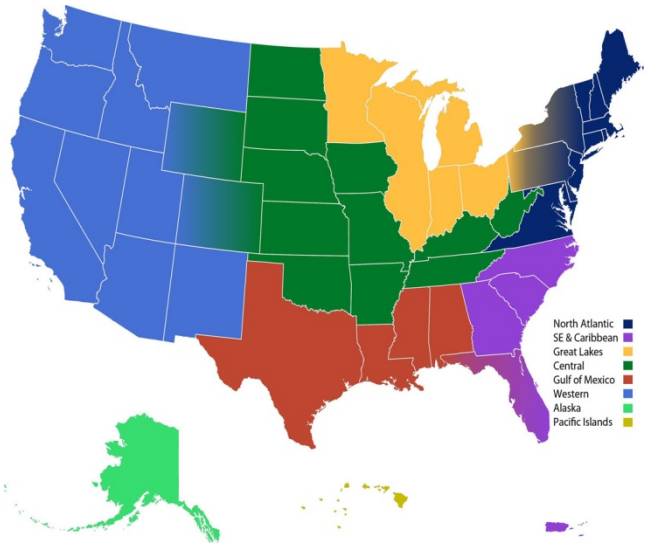
Coordinated Sandy Messaging & Activities in the North Atlantic 18

Engagement of NOAA in the Region: Mini-exhibits at large-scale topical meeting, political stakeholder roundtables, NOAA staff directory 19

Development of NOAA Knowledge Base Prototype 20

Appendix A. NART Membership **21**

Regional Collaboration



NOAA established the Regional Collaboration effort in 2006 to support integrated, regionally-tailored implementation of NOAA-wide programmatic priorities and to provide a more systematic approach to both internal and external communications. NOAA has a responsibility to produce relevant, reliable and timely scientific information to support decision-makers and fulfill its stewardship mandates. Regional Collaboration enables NOAA to achieve this by identifying and applying NOAA's full range of capabilities, within and across regions to improve our productivity and value to stakeholders.

The Regional Collaboration Team (RCT) network creates a means for people to interact at a geographic scale that invites generation of new ideas on ways to better perform our mission and develop new products and services that are responsive to a changing landscape (e.g. changing with respect to society, economics, political pressures, etc.)

The goals of Regional Collaboration are:

- Stakeholder needs continually and adequately assessed for NOAA science, service, and stewardship;
- Integrated products and services tailored to the needs of NOAA's regional stakeholders and customers;
- Organizational responsiveness to stakeholder needs through the evaluation of and adjustments to products and services;
- Two-way communication with regional stakeholders, including regional governance initiatives, to build understanding, trust, and partnerships; and
- A workforce operating with shared awareness and understanding of its cross-agency missions and capabilities.

NOAA's North Atlantic Regional Collaboration Team (NART) is one of eight regional teams nationwide. Membership reflects the diversity of NOAA within the region and may include NOAA partners in addition to NOAA employees. RCTs reach beyond team members to access expertise within the region to meet their goals. Current NART members are listed in Appendix B.

The NART established standing sub-teams based on an assessment of key regional issues and needs, including feedback from stakeholders. NART sub-teams broaden awareness of NOAA capabilities and encourage coordination of products and services around major priorities areas for the North Atlantic. Sub-teams also provide a significant role in understanding partner and stakeholder needs, sharing regional specific information about these priorities, and developing broad NOAA solutions for addressing these needs.

The current set of NART sub-teams include: Climate, Coastal & Ocean Uses, Ecosystems, Hazard Resilience and Water Resources. Leads of sub-teams are NART members, and sub-team membership is open to the NART, other NOAA staff, partners, and stakeholders, in order to take advantage of a wide range of expertise in the region. Sub-teams meet regularly, develop and propose annual activities to the NART, and are responsible for tracking progress of these activities through monthly reporting. The NART evaluates the use of existing sub-teams and their leadership/membership annually.

The North Atlantic Region

Geography & Environment: The North Atlantic has four of the Nation's ten largest metropolitan areas, three of the top five U.S. ports (value of fish landed) and five of the Nation's top 20 ports (international cargo volume). The Mid-Atlantic (NY, NJ, MD, DE and VA) is a relatively affluent part of the country, having 43 of the 100 highest-income counties in the nation based on median household income and 33 of the top 100 based on per capita income. The regional economy is diverse: from dairy farms inland to fish processing and marine construction and transportation on the coasts. The region is also perhaps the busiest portion of the country for tourism. New York City, Boston, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. attract business, and are centers of art and culture. The cities' large populations drive tourism in the rest of the region, including mountain and seaside getaways like the Berkshires, Newport, Long Island, Cape Cod, and the White Mountains.

Population: NOAA's North Atlantic region extends from Maine to Virginia, encompasses the marine coastlines of 11 states, as well as Vermont and Pennsylvania, and is home to 70 million people. One hundred eighty coastal counties (and the District of Columbia) constitute 40 percent of the total land area, and 58 million residents, approximately 82 percent of the region's population[1].

Economy: Rhode Island has the highest unemployment in the region, hovering around 9 percent. New Hampshire has the lowest unemployment, currently at 5 percent[2]. The Mid-Atlantic (NY, NJ, MD, DE and VA) is a relatively affluent part of the country, having 43 of the 100 highest-income counties in the nation based on median household income and 33 of the top 100 based on per capita income.

The North Atlantic region has significant coastal-dependent industries: four of the Nation's ten largest metropolitan areas, three of the top five U.S. ports (value of fish landed) and five of the Nation's top 20 ports (international cargo volume). In the Mid-Atlantic, the ocean economy accounts for over 600,000 jobs, $20.3 billion in wages and $40.2 billion of GDP, with seventy-nine percent in tourism and recreation and another 12 percent from marine transportation. In New England, the ocean economy accounts for 200,000 jobs, $6.1 billion in wages and $11.2 billion of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)[3] with seventy-five percent of the jobs in tourism and recreation.

Political Environment: Only two states in the country held gubernatorial elections in 2013 and they are both in the North Atlantic. Republican New Jersey Governor Chris Christie was re-elected by a wide margin and former Democratic Party Chairman Terry McAuliffe pulled out a narrow victory in Virginia.

There are a total of 98 members of U.S. House of Representatives in the North Atlantic, with the vast majority (77) in the Mid-Atlantic. The Mid-Atlantic is home to 18 percent of the U.S. House membership, compared to five percent in New England. On December 21, 2012, President Barack Obama nominated Massachusetts U.S. Senator John Kerry (D-MA) as Secretary of State. U.S. Representative Ed Markey (MA-5) won the race to succeed him. A special election is being held in December 2013 to fill the Congressional seat vacated by now U.S. Senator Markey. Cory Booker, the mayor of Newark, NJ, won a special election to succeed 89-year-old Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), who died on June 3, 2013.

In addition, two new 'big city' mayors were elected in FY14. New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg was term limited out of office and Democratic Public Advocate Bill de Blasio will become the city's first Democratic mayor in 20 years. Boston Mayor Thomas Menino retired after two decades, and will be succeeded by former state representative Marty Walsh, also a Democrat.

---

[1] National Association of Counties.

[2] U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

[3] "Ocean Economy" is comprised of the following six sectors: Living Resources, Marine Construction, Marine Transportation, Offshore Mineral Resources, Ship and Boat Building and Tourism and Recreation. Source: ENOW.

Thirty-six states will have gubernatorial elections in 2014; seven are in the North Atlantic: O'Malley (MD-D) will be term-limited out of office; Patrick (MA-D) and Chafee (RI-D) have decided not to seek re-election; LePage (ME-R) has announced he will seek re-election. The remaining incumbents up for re-election have not yet announced their intention to run again: Corbett (PA-R), Malloy (CT-D), and Cuomo (NY-D).

The 2014 Mid-term elections will influence most of FY14 since all 98 members of the House of Representatives will be up for re-election. In addition, there are five races for the U.S. Senate: Coons (DE-D) won the special election to succeed Joe Biden when he was selected as Vice-President and will seek re-election; Markey (MA-D) will have to defend the seat he won in mid-2013 for John Kerry's vacated seat; three-term incumbent Reed (RI-D) will seek re-election; one-term incumbents Warner (VA-D) and Shaheen (NH-D) will seek re-election; and Cory Booker (NJ-D) winner of the October 2013 special election in to fill Lautenberg's seat will have to seek re-election as well.

High Visibility Regional Events: There were a number of significant regional events in 2013 that present challenges and continue to shape NOAA's regional work in 2014.

Superstorm Sandy: Post-Tropical Cyclone Sandy, henceforth referred to as "Sandy," was a major storm which hit the Atlantic coast Oct 29, 2012. It was one of the costliest storms in U.S. history resulting in at least 147 deaths (72 of these fatalities occurred in the North Atlantic.) Sandy impacted 24 states, with winds reaching over 820 miles, and caused over $50 billion dollars of damage[4]. NOAA played a key role both in the events leading up to Sandy's landfall as well as in the immediate response. NOAA's storm forecasts were critical to help prepare the affected areas and give as much warning as possible as the storm approached. In the immediate response to Sandy, NOAA seafloor surveys and observations were critical to helping to re-open ports as quickly as possible and shoreline imagery was key to helping emergency response, damage assessments, and clean-up efforts[5].

In response to Sandy, Congress passed the Sandy Supplemental Appropriations Act, (PL 113-2), which funded $309.7 million to NOAA for the purpose of addressing the impact from this storm. The aftermath of Sandy provides an opportunity to change the conversation on rebuilding the nation's coastal communities and coastlines, to include a greater focus on resilience and capacity building. Looking forward, NOAA is using Sandy Supplemental funds to sustain and improve its storm-related products and services so that the American public is more prepared for and ready to respond to the next big event.

Recognizing that large storms are expected to grow more frequent and more severe as a result of climate change, the Federal Government has partnered with states, cities, communities, and other stakeholders to make the Sandy-affected region—and all of America—more resilient. This goal is a guiding principle of President Obama's Climate Action Plan and was the subject of an October 28, 2013 White House Office of Science & Technology Policy (OSTP) Blog Post: "After Sandy, Rebuilding Smarter with S&T." Nationwide, the government is centered on three major focus areas: decision support, innovation, and improved/additional science and data collection.

Offshore Lease Auctions: In September 2013, as part of President Obama's Climate Action Plan to create American jobs, develop domestic clean energy sources and cut carbon pollution, the Interior Department completed the nation's second competitive lease sale for renewable energy in federal waters, garnering $1,600,000 in high bids for 112,799 acres on the Outer Continental Shelf offshore Virginia. Virginia Electric and Power Company is the provisional winner of the sale, which auctioned a Wind Energy Area approximately 23.5 nautical miles off Virginia Beach that has the potential to support 2,000 megawatts of wind generation – enough energy to power more than 700,000 homes. The sale follows a July 31 auction of 164,750 acres offshore Rhode Island and Massachusetts for wind energy development that was provisionally won by Deepwater Wind New England, LLC, generating $3.8 million in high bids. For a map of the Wind Energy Area, click here.

[4] http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/assessments/pdfs/Sandy13.pdf

[5] Hurricane Sandy Response Fact Sheet Nov 12, 2012

The leases have a preliminary term of six months in which to submit a Site Assessment Plan to BOEM for approval. A Site Assessment Plan describes the activities (e.g., installation of meteorological towers and buoys) the lessee plans to perform for the assessment of the wind resources and ocean conditions of its commercial lease. After a SAP is approved, the lessee will have up to four and a half years in which to submit a Construction and Operations Plan (COP) for approval, which provides a detailed outline for the construction and operation of a wind energy project on the lease.

BOEM is expected to announce additional auctions for Wind Energy Areas offshore Maryland, New Jersey, and Massachusetts later this year and in 2014.

Groundfish Management: Several fisheries will be the subject of intense scrutiny in FY14, primarily Northeast groundfish, including Gulf of Maine cod and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder. Recent socioeconomic reports of the fishery continue to show decade old trends of fewer, more efficient fishing operations and declining numbers of active boats. The New England Fishery Management Council is developing an amendment to reduce the likelihood that a limited number of groundfish permit holders will control an excessive share of the resource, which could mitigate economic impacts to fishermen and communities. NOAA is also considering measures to allow fishing within several Groundfish closed areas for the remainder of FY 2013 so that fishermen have increased access to stocks that are in rebuilt conditions such as monkfish and skate. For FY 2014, the New England Fishery Management Council is developing an Essential Fish Habitat Amendment that could substantially change current habitat and groundfish closed areas, and has the potential to allow greater access to fishing.

Sequestration Impacts to Critical Gaging Networks: As cooperators continued to struggle with budget cuts in 2013, which threatened streamflow and precipitation gages throughout the North Atlantic region, a new wrinkle was added to the funding challenges. Sequestration of federal agency funds in 2013 forced discontinuation of a large number of gages nationwide. Gage measurements have a wide variety of uses beyond flood warning and long-term mapping. The data is also used, but not limited to, the designing of new bridges to withstand expected water lows, monitoring the quality of the water in streams, understanding and managing habitat needs, helping recreational users with fishing and boating plans, advancing science to help understand future impacts due to climate change, assisting government agencies and businesses manage, conserve and utilize water resources. The need to increase awareness of the importance of stream gages is a constant challenge. Federal agencies such as NOAA are well positioned to help the USGS increase awareness.

Landscape-Scale Conservation: The Department of Interior's North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (NALCC) is one of 22 LCCs nationwide, and is positioned to be at the forefront of regional conservation. Taken together with the NOAA capacity also engaged in this area of the country (e.g. regional ocean partnership investments, regional climate services, regional collaboration) presents a unique opportunity to demonstrate this concept. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Northeast Region and NOAA have areas of converging interest, including a decision support tool on winter flounder, revitalization of river herring, aquatic connectivity, expanded interest in living shorelines, sustainable landscape projects in the Kennebec, Connecticut River and Chesapeake Bay (Nanticoke/Pocomoke), NOAA's Habitat Blueprint effort and the opportunity that Sandy Supplemental funds present.

NOAA in the North Atlantic

NOAA's regional work is done in concert with a host of governmental and non-governmental partners, ensuring we apply the full suite of NOAA capabilities to address the environmental challenges in this geography. Focusing and integrating these capabilities in the North Atlantic region will improve our ability to provide products and services to our constituents.

Fortunately, NOAA has substantial assets within the region that can be focused on addressing the challenges noted above. Assets within the region include significant workforce concentrations in:

Northeast Fisheries Science Center Woods Hole Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA

- Hampton Roads, VA (OMAO, NOS, NWS, NMFS)
- Silver Spring, MD (NOS, NESDIS, NWS, NMFS)
- Annapolis, MD (NMFS, NOS, OAR, NESDIS)
- Bohemia, NY (NWS)
- Narragansett, RI (NMFS, NOS, OAR)
- Woods Hole, MA (NMFS)
- Gloucester, MA (NMFS)
- Durham, NH (NOS)

There is one National Marine Sanctuary located at Stellwagen Bank and managed out of Scituate, MA. The Monitor National Marine Sanctuary is located off the coast of North Carolina and is managed out of Newport News, VA.

The region is home to the Eastern Region headquarters of NOAA's National Weather Service, 13 Weather Forecast Offices, two River Forecast Centers, and state geodetic advisors are located in two states (VT, DE). The NOAA Marine Operations Center-Atlantic is located in Norfolk, Virginia which is also the homeport of the NOAA ship *Thomas Jefferson*. The NOAA ship *Delaware II* is home ported in Woods Hole, MA, while the newest ship, the *Henry Bigelow* is currently based out of Newport, RI. The *Okeanos Explorer* is homeported out of Davisville, RI, and the *Ferdinand R. Hassler* was just welcomed to New Castle, NH. We also house Navigation Response Team Five (NRT-5). In addition, port agents, law enforcement personnel, and others are distributed throughout the coastal areas of the region.

NOAA also enjoys close partnerships with entities in the region, including:

- Four regional ocean governance structures that include the Gulf of Maine Council, the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC), the recently formed Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Oceans (MARCO) and the Chesapeake Bay Program
- Northeast Regional Climatic Data Center located at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY
- Nine National Estuarine Research Reserves(NERRs)
- 11 Coastal Zone Management Programs
- 13 Sea Grant Programs
- Four Cooperative Institutes
- Two regional associations of coastal ocean observing systems (NERACOOS, MARACOOS)
- One Regional Integrated Science & Assessment (RISA)

June 2013 Ferdinand Hassler homeport ceremony.

Regional Collaboration works to improve cooperation among these NOAA and partner entities to more effectively address our collective challenges.

Healthy Oceans

Priorities influencing NOAA execution in FY14 include management impacts on commercial fisheries and communities, moving forward on ecosystem-based fisheries management, new developments in harmful algae bloom forecasting, growth in aquaculture, and a new effort to employ electronic vessel trip reporting.

Northeast Coastal Acidification Network: State-of-Science and Stakeholder Engagement Meeting

Strategic Objective from NGSP: Healthy Oceans Objective: Improved understanding of ecosystems to inform resource management decisions; Healthy habitats that sustain resilient and thriving marine resources and communities; Sustainable fisheries and safe seafood for healthy populations and vibrant communities; Climate Objective: Improved scientific understanding of the changing climate system and its impacts; A climate-literate public that understands its vulnerabilities to a changing climate and makes informed decisions; Resilient Coastal Communities and Economies Objective: Resilient coastal communities that can adapt to the impacts of hazards and climate change.

Outcome path from NART logic model: Internal output: Added capacity to meet high customer need Internal, mid-term outcome: NART-supported projects lead to new/improved NOAA projects funded by LOs; External, long-term outcome: NOAA's work and people are more relevant and responsive to most critical needs in North Atlantic.

Contact/email:
Beth Turner (NART), Elizabeth.turner@noaa.gov; Sylvain DeGuise (NART), sylvain.deguise@uconn.edu; Dwight Gledhill (NOAA OAP Deputy Director), Dwight.gledhill@noaa.gov

Summary: The Northeast Coastal Acidification Network (NE-CAN) represents a nexus of scientists, federal and state agency representatives, resource managers, and affected industry partners dedicated towards coordinating and guiding regional observing, research and modeling endeavors to better identify critical vulnerabilities, particularly with respect to regionally important and economically significant marine resources. NE-CAN serves as a necessary interface between research and industry interest whereby state-of-the-science can be readily exchanged with regional interest groups, and key data and information synthesis products can be specifically tailored and informed by user group needs.

NE-CAN is developing a multistep process to synthesize the regional OA science, communicate it to regional stakeholders and solicit user input to the strategic design of a Northeast Coastal Acidification Network. The NE-CAN steering committee is leading the development of a regionally specific state-of-the-science webinar series on OA. This will be synthesized and translated for stakeholders at a spring 2014 meeting. The meeting will serve as a springboard for discussion of products and information needed for regional responses to coastal OA conditions.

Why NART? This project combines NOAA capabilites/crosses line offices: The NOAA Ocean Acidification Program (OAP) is a cross-LO program that coordinates activities related to OA monitoring, research, tools, and communication. The OAP is a key partner in this activity. It is of regional importance/scope: New England may be particularly impacted by OA because of regional freshwater input, hydrodynamics and nutrient dynamics. A similar activity is being undertaken in the Mid-Atlantic through an OA network in Chesapeake Bay. NART provides unique value-add/fills a gap in capacity: NART can provide additional regional context for OA work.

Partners: NERACOOS, NOAA Ocean Acidification Program, Sustainable Fisheries Partnership, University of New Hampshire, Maine and Connecticut Sea Grant, EPA, Dalhousie University, Island Institute

Participating NOAA entities: NMFS/NEFSC, NOS/ IOOS, NCCOS/ NERRS, Sanctuaries and Coastal Programs; OAR/ NOAA OAP, provides offshore biogeochemical monitoring through AOML.

NART Funding: $5K in NART funding has been allocated to help support the stakeholder engagement and feedback meeting. Additional funding has been secured from the NOAA OAP and is being pursued through NGOs and private foundations.

Key milestones (by quarter):
Q1: Form steering committee, develop plans for state of science webinar series, draft meeting materials (venue, agenda, invitees)
Q2: Synthesize state-of-the-science webinar input for presentation to stakeholders at workshop
Q3: Hold workshop, receive feedback re. regional priorities for OA monitoring
Q4: Develop implementation plan for NECAN based on regional stakeholder input

Virtual Workshop on Applications of Ecological Forecasts

Strategic Objective from NGSP: Coastal: Improved coastal water quality supporting human health and coastal ecosystem services; Healthy Oceans: Improved understanding of ecosystems to inform resource management decisions; Weather-Ready Nation: A more productive and efficient economy through environmental information relevant to key sectors of the U.S. economy.

Outcome path from NART logic model: Internal, short-term outcome: NOAA is more aware of its program responsibilities, projects, assets and capabilities (what, how). Internal, mid-term outcome: NART-supported projects lead to new/improved NOAA projects funded by LOs; and finally, internal, long-term outcome: NOAA is increasingly a customer of our own products and services (we know NOAA, we use NOAA).

Contact/email: Kevin Friedland (NART), Kevin.Friedland@noaa.gov

Summary: During 2013, a workshop on forecast data transfer in the context of the Northeast Shelf large marine ecosystem was held to develop protocols to facilitate the use of ecosystem seasonal-scale forecast data. It was evident to the workshop participants that the accessibility and quality of these types of data was rapidly improving. It was also evident that large segments of the fisheries and ecosystem science and management communities were largely unaware of the range of data that could be forecasted over multi-month time horizons. Workshop participants recognized that if more researchers were familiar with these data, potentially many more applications could be developed. The NART intends to continue work on developing ecosystem forecasts by organizing a series of web-based workshops to engage a wider range of researchers on the potential use of seasonal forecast data.

Why NART? The NART provides an organizational framework to engage various NOAA entities to help facilitate this activity.

Partners: Ru Morrison, NERACOOS; Andrew Pershing, GMRI, and CINAR

Participating NOAA entities: Emily Becker, NWS/NCEP, Silver Spring; Carlos Lizano, NWS, Camp Springs; Kathy Pegion, OAR, Boulder; Vince Saba, NMFS/NEFSC, Princeton; Karsten Shein, NESDIS/NCDC, Asheville; Doug Pirhalla NOS, Silver Spring; Charles Stock, OAR/GFDL, Princeton; Krisa Arzayus, NESDIS/NODC, Silver Spring; Beth Turner, NOS/NCCOS

Funding request: None.

Key milestones (by quarter):

Q1: Start workshop scoping.
Q2: Schedule and conduct workshop(s).
Q3: Prepare activity report for the NART.
Q4:

Resilient Coastal Communities & Economies

Priorities influencing NOAA execution in FY14 include the demand for emerging uses, such as offshore energy development, sand mining and aquaculture, and those data and management products needed to make the most informed decisions to support these uses.

Closing the Loop to Meet NOAA's Long-Term Data and Science Needs: Case Study on Offshore Wind Energy Siting and Management

Strategic Objective from NGSP: Goal: Healthy Oceans, Objective: Improved understanding of ecosystems to inform resource management decisions

Outcome path from NART logic model: Internal, short-term: NOAA more aware of its own projects, programs; Improved connections among NOAA; Internal mid-term outcome: Improved cross-LO project planning; Internal long-term: Executes as integrated agency; NOAA is NOAA's customer

Contact/email: NART POC: Jenni Samson (NART), Jennifer.Samson@noaa.gov ; Kevin Friedland (NART), Kevin.Friedland@noaa.gov; Leads: Sue Tuxbury, (NMFS/NERO), Susan.Tuxbury@noaa.gov; Leila Hatch (NOS/SBNMS) Leila.hatch@noaa.gov; Brian Kinlan (NOS/NCCOS/CCMA) Brian.Kinlan@noaa.gov

Summary: NOAA currently does not strategically connect our long-term science and data needs with data required for management decisions during large-scale regulatory processes. How do our science priorities fit within our management priorities? How can we ensure that NOAA science is helpful in assessing potential impacts for management? How can NOAA access data collected for specific projects to help fill our science needs? In the North Atlantic planning and implementation of large scale offshore energy projects has already begun, for which large amounts of data and studies are required. Currently, there is no strategy to ensure information collected by NOAA or other agencies is cataloged and considered in meeting NOAA long-term data/science and management needs. There is also no mechanism for coordinating to leverage different projects and maximize results. The NART will take a case study approach and investigate the flow of data needs and incoming information associated with regional-scale offshore energy plan development, and assess where that information goes, how it might be analyzed in light of available data and ongoing projects and recommend who should be using it. We need to ensure that both NOAA science and management key players are engaged to develop more strategy and cross-talk between what we get from big picture regional data gathering efforts and what we still need.

Illustration of information flow: BOEM's request for information -> NOAA responds to requests -> development of monitoring programs and coordination with current available data sets/ongoing monitoring programs to ensure data are collected at various scales to improve information/NOAA's initial characterization -> home determined for those data as they come in -> support for analysis to improve knowledge base for subsequent requests.

As a result of this project, NOAA science and management staffare knowledgeable about the results of our large-scale data gathering efforts, and what we still need to learn.

The product will be a flow diagram with narrative that describes case study following information flow, NOAA science and management POCs, and suggested steps to take to coordinate among different ongoing projects and share information. Ensures NOAA connects with each other to intelligently respond to requests, maximize research efforts and ensure that info/data is being captured in way that informs the way forward re: what we know/still need to know.

Why NART? Combines NOAA capabilites/crosses line offices and is appropriate for North Atlantic to serve as a case study with timely large scale wind projects moving forward. Other regional teams can

benefit from output. No other group is tackling this long-term need for strategy.

***Partners (*second tier as primarily an internal project)** BOEM, USFWS, USGS (and other federal agencies that are generating large-scale information for offshore wind projects, e.g. DOE). Input will also be sought from state CZM managers and regional planning body representatives to the extent they interact with federal planning processes.

Participating NOAA entities: NOS/NCCOS/CCMA; NOS/ONMS/SBNMS; NMFS/NEFSC; NMFS/NERO; NOAA Offshore Wind Team

Funding request: None.

Key milestones (by quarter):
Q1:
Q2: Design project detail, internal meetings among NOAA key science and managers.
Q3: Product presented to NART, Offshore Wind Team, NOAA Energy Team.
Q4:

Weather-Ready Nation

Priorities influencing NOAA execution in FY14 are primarily major weather events that did significant damage in the region in FY13. Water Resources priorities influencing NOAA execution in FY14 are a sustainable water resource future, the nationwide water census, the potential for a shrinking gage network, and the impacts to water resources from natural gas production.

Sea Grant Engagement for a Weather-Ready Nation (Annual NART/Sea Grant Project)

Strategic Objective from NGSP: Weather-Ready Nation: Reduce loss of life, property, and disruption from high-impact events; Climate Adaptation & Mitigation: Help resiliency of communities via adaptation to the impacts of hazards and climate change; Seek to create a climate-literate public that understands its vulnerabilities to a changing climate to enable more informed decision-making; Healthy Oceans: Improve understanding of ecosystems for better informed resource management decisions

Outcome path from NART logic model: Internal output: NOAA knows NOAA: opportunities to inform NOAA programs; Short-term outcomes: NOAA is more aware of its program responsibilities, projects, assets and capabilities (what, how); improved connections among NOAA workforce in North Atlantic (who). Mid-term outcomes: NOAA reps serve as better ambassadors in regional orgs, presentations and in daily job; NOAA projects reflect cross-line abilities/ expertise within NOAA. Long term outcome: NOAA executes as a more integrated Agency.

Contact/email:
Richard Okulski (NART), Richard.Okulski@noaa.gov; Paul Anderson, (Co-PI/ME Sea Grant Director), Panderson@maine.edu; Nicole Bartlett (NART Coordinator), Nicole.Bartlett@noaa.gov

Summary: The United States is subject to a variety of weather disasters every year. These include crippling snow storms, powerful hurricanes, devastating flooding, temperature extremes, damage from severe thunderstorms and tornadoes, severe drought, etc. NOAA's Weather Ready Nation effort seeks to broaden our nation's ability to respond to extreme weather. NWS provides weather information primarily for the protection of life and property and works with partners to enhance the resilience of communities to extreme weather. In turn, Sea Grant is NOAA's primary university-based program in support of coastal resource use and conservation. In the North Atlantic Region, a number of Sea Grant programs have been actively engaged in resilience planning for infrastructure, storm surge, and wave prediction modeling. In fact, Sea Grant has made hazard resilient coastal communities a national priority. Thus, the NWS and Sea Grant have overlapping objectives of enhancing coastal resiliency but have tended to operate more in parallel with limited collaboration.

Historically, NWS and Sea Grant have worked with different sets of local decision-makers on a day to day basis. The NWS closely interacts with the emergency management community, and Sea Grant works more consistently with coastal program managers, town land use planners and conservation

agents. The two sets of customers have different areas of focus but share very similar needs and serve to achieve a common goal of community resilience.

This project is designed to increase collaboration between Sea Grant and NWS for a more integrated approach to achieving coastal resiliency, an important dimension of the Weather Ready Nation initiative. This project seeks to knit together two parts of NOAA in a way that will seed long term collaboration, help NOAA get closer to the customer, and elevate community resilience.

In its second year, we will identify the specific issues and decisions relevant to a broader community of NOAA stakeholders and target products, tools, or services that require feedback. The Resiliency Subteam will facilitate a series of informational briefings for Sea Grant and NWS as a means of achieving general orientation. With the Resiliency Subteam maintaining a facilitator role, Sea Grant will subsequently make recommendations on the best way to obtain feedback on these products and services. It is hoped that a portion of this effort will lead to more effective collaboration on community outreach for various NOAA products and services

Why NART? NART is well-positioned to better integrate the efforts of line offices to achieve NOAA strategic objectives. This effort is focused on the seven coastal NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs), two River Forecast Centers (RFCs), and 13 Sea Grant Programs in the North Atlantic region. NART's mission is to foster greater integration of NOAA efforts with a regional focus. Coastal resiliency is an important area of focus for the North Atlantic region that cuts across NOAA line offices.

Partners: Non-NOAA partners will potentially include NERACOOS and/or MARACOOS.

Participating NOAA entities: NWS, OAR/Sea Grant

Key milestones (by quarter):
Q1: Conduct meetings with Sea Grant officials and coastal stakeholders.
Q2: Plan Storm Surge Warning "roll out" stakeholder engagement strategy with Sea Grant.
Q3: Conduct stakeholder meetings to make them aware of the experimental Storm Surge Warning product.
Q4: Survey effectiveness of Storm Surge Warning product if tropical cyclones impact the NART Region.

NART Funding: $1K to support NOAA travel.

Promote and evaluate a NWS/NOS wave run-up study (Resilience)

Strategic Objective from NGSP: Weather-Ready Nation: Reduced loss of life, property, and disruption from high-impact events.

Outcome path from NART logic model: External output: Additional capacity to meet high customer need; External mid-term outcome: Increased use of NOAA's products and services in the N Atlantic; Internal long-term outcome: NOAA's work and people are more relevant and responsive to most critical needs in North Atlantic. Internal output: Execution-year cross-line office connections to support projects

Contact/email: Richard Okulski (NART), Richard.Okulski@noaa.gov, Jesse Feyen (NOS/CSDL), Jesse.Feyen@noaa.gov; John Cannon (NWS/ WFO Gray), John.W.Cannon@noaa.gov

Summary: Wave run-up is an important but complex component to coastal inundation. Wave run-up contributes to the total water level behind barrier beaches and determines the incursion of the velocity zone, where the greatest risk from wave battery occurs. The complexity of the foreshore environment and immediate shore topography can make wave run-up calculations too resource intensive for operational applications. This project incorporates a parametization scheme based on algorithms developed by Dr. Hilary Stockdon of the USGS for selected points along the middle Atlantic and New England coasts. The project goal is to produce a stand-alone executable program that will determine whether dune erosion, overwash, or inundation can be expected based on beach morphology and wave conditions input. NART's role is to evaluate an automated prototype version of this new tool and recommend future applications of this

tool for operational use; we are in our third year of this project.

An advisory group of NWS and NOS stakeholders is to provide periodic oversight and guidance to this project. The board is made up of the following individuals:

- John Cannon (NWS/WFO Gray)
- Jesse Feyen (NOS/CSDL)
- Bob Thompson (NWS/WFO Taunton)
- Doug Marcy (NOS/CSC)
- Andre van der Westhuysen (NWS/NCEP/EMC)
- Richard Okulski (NWS/WFO Caribou)

Funding source: NART has dedicated $5K for this project in FY14. $3K will be used for a training workshop for local office focal points from Maine to Virginia. This training will allow local offices to establish new test sites across southern New England and the Mid Atlantic Coast. The remaining $2K will be used for for site visits by trained focal points to establish new test sites.

Why NART: This collaborative NWS/NOS effort has the potential to fulfill an important missing puzzle piece to the coastal inundation prediction capability along the North Atlantic coast. Wave run-up has long been identified as an important area for future work, and the FY14 milestones listed in this document would build off the accomplishments of FY13. The Sandy service assessment identified storm surge and coastal inundation as critical risks to life and property.

Partners: USGS. The USGS Extreme Storms and Hurricanes group is well suited to create this tool. The methodology will be based on over 10 years of peer-reviewed research and 5 years of algorithm development. The USGS already uses the codes that will serve as the engine of this tool for real-time monitoring of coastal change hazards during approaching hurricanes. These codes are also being used to create a comprehensive analysis of storm-induced coastal change hazards on the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic coastlines.

Participating NOAA entities: NWS Eastern Region Headquarters, NOS-led Storm Surge Roadmap Team, selected Weather Forecast Offices, NOS Coastal Services Center, National Center for Environmental Prediction (NCEP), Southeast & Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team (SECART)

Key milestones:
Q1: Automate data for existing test sites in Northern New England
Q2: Evaluate experimental test site data after high Impact events.
Q3: Conduct training workshop
Q4: Establish new test sites in Southern New England and Mid Atlantic.

Flood Inundation Mapping Outreach

Strategic Objective from NGSP: Weather-Ready Nation: Reduced loss of life, property, and disruption from high-impact events; Improved water resource management.

Outcome path from NART logic model: External output: presentations to external audiences that provide NOAA context; External short-term outcome: Stakeholders and partners have raised awareness of NOAA products & services; External mid-term outcome: Increased use of NOAA's products & services in the N. Atlantic

Contact/email: George McKillop (NART), George.McKillop@noaa.gov; Laurie Hogan (NWS/ER), laurie.hogan@noaa.gov; Ray Kruzdlo, (NWS/ WFO Mt Holly), Raymond.Kruzdlo@noaa.gov; Jim Brewster (NWS/ WFO Binghamton), James.Brewster@noaa.gov; Adrianne Harrison (NOS/CSC), Adrianne.Harrison@noaa.gov; Jennifer Samson (NART), Jennifer.Samson@noaa.gov

Summary: Inundation mapping corresponding to National Weather Service (NWS) flood categories conveys flood severity and risk, based on the potential impact to property and public safety rather than on the probability of occurrence. Such maps are provided at select NWS Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS) forecast locations, with the aim to assist local partners – such as emergency mangers and public officials – in assessing their overall flood risk.

The NWS Inundation Mapping Interface is a web-based tool that provides flood inundation maps that show the extent of flooding expected spatially over a given area. The inundation indicates when roadways, streets, buildings, airports, etc. are likely to be impacted by floodwaters. The accuracy of the mapping depends on the degree of accuracy of DEM data available for use in GIS application(s), plus other factors. This tool was developed for an initial target audience of the state and local agencies that must make emergency operational decisions during flooding events. However, since the graphics are easy to view, anyone with an interest during these events can make use of the maps, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Corps of Engineers (COE), state and local emergency managers, the media, and the general public.
In FY14, public town hall meetings will be held in the upper Susquehanna River basin in New York State's Southern Tier region and in the Passaic River basin in northern New Jersey. With the recent deployment and availability of web-based, high-resolution inundation mapping libraries for flood-vulnerable communities in upstate New York and northern New Jersey; NOAA staff will conduct direct public engagement meetings to raise awareness of this new, federally-coordinated, decision support information & service so that stakeholders and public users can better access flood risk.

Why NART? NART's regional network of partners and constituents span a wide spectrum of service sectors (e.g., river commerce, emergency management, reservoir management, agriculture, hydropower, watershed management, fish and wildlife, municipal and industrial water supply, recreation, energy production, and water quality) and reaches into the Passaic and Susquehanna watersheds.

Partners: Susquehanna River Basin Commission, NJ Dept of Environmental Protection, USGS, USACE, FEMA

Participating NOAA entities:
NWS/ER, NWS/WFOs, NOS/CSC, NESDIS Climate Services & Monitoring
Funding request: $2K to support in-region travel and participation by non-NWS NOAA employees.

Key milestones (by quarter):
Q1:
Q2: Assemble planning committees for Susquehanna and Passaic watersheds
Q3: Planning, logistics and invitations. Town Hall Meeting #1
Q4: Town Hall Meeting #2

Mid-Atlantic River Forecast Center Capabilities and Partnership Opportunities

Strategic Objective from NGSP: Engagement Enterprise objective: Integrated services meeting the evolving needs of regional stakeholders. Organization & administration enterprise objective: Diverse and constantly evolving capabilities in NOAA's workforce.

Outcome path from NART logic model: Internal output: cross-line office connections to support projects; Internal short term outcome: NOAA is more aware if its program responsibilities, projects assets & capabilities; Improved connections among NOAA workforce in North Atlantic; Internal mid-term outcome: New/improved NOAA projects funded by LOs and increased cross LO project planning for out years

Contact/email: George McKillop (NART), George.Mckillop@noaa.gov; Peter Ahnert, (NWS/MARFC) Peter.Ahnert@noaa.gov; Kevin Schabow (NMFS/NCBO), Kevin.Schabow@noaa.gov

Summary: River flood forecasting is essential to NOAA's mission of saving lives and reducing property damage. To predict floods, the Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center utilizes the Community Hydrologic Prediction System (CHPS), a complex hydrologic forecast model, which uses observed, estimated and predicted hydro-meteorological data. Model output helps hydrologists in predicting water levels. Hydrologic information then gets disseminated through NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards, television, commercial radio and the internet. Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Services (AHPS) provide users with

web-based graphical forecast, guidance and observational information. AHPS hydrologic information assists water resource managers, emergency managers, and other users involved in flood and drought mitigation projects in making better informed decisions, including when to evacuate people and move property.

The RFC provides numerous other services, including providing flash flood and headwater guidance, winter/spring flood potential outlooks, drought guidance, five-day significant flood outlooks, multi-sensor precipitation estimates and precipitation departure information. Information produced by the RFC also helps support ecosystem management programs such as the State of Maryland's Shellfish Harvesting Program, the State of New Jersey's Marine Monitoring Program, and the State of Pennsylvania's Black Fly Suppression Program. The RFC cooperates with numerous federal, state, and local government agencies and private organizations, including other NOAA agencies, the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, regional river basin commissions, and academic organizations.

In FY13, MARFC staff will invite staff members from the NMFS Northeast Regional Office and the Chesapeake Bay Office to a series of webinars designed to provide an overview of river forecast operations, to include: the Community Hydrologic Prediction System; the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Services; services and data provided by and available from the RFC; and a review of some of the RFC's unique ecosystem-based management partner programs.

This project will fund one student intern (12-week undergraduate student) through a cooperative agreement with the Chesapeake Research Consortium with the focus of the internship to explore hydrologic relationships between major freshwater tributaries (Potomac and Susquehanna) and the Chesapeake Bay.

Why NART? NART's regional network of partners and constituents span a wide spectrum of service sectors (e.g., river commerce, emergency management, reservoir management, agriculture, hydropower, watershed management, fish and wildlife, municipal and industrial water supply, recreation, energy production, and water quality) and reaches into all four watersheds (e.g., Potomac, Susquehanna, Delaware and Hudson).

Partners: **NA**

Participating NOAA entities: NWS/MARFC, NWS/ERH, NMFS/NCBO, NMFS/NERO, NMFS/NEFSC

Funding request: $5K in FY13 funding has been obligated to Chesapeake Research Consortium for the internship. Internship primary residence will be in Annapolis. Additional $1K funding is allocated in FY14 to allow intern face time at Middle Atlantic RFC in State College, PA.

Key milestones (by quarter):
Q1: Assemble steering committee for project. Draft internship project description.
Q2: Solicit internship.
Q3: Internship. Conduct Webinar #1.
Q4: Student internship presentation. Conduct Webinar #2.

Climate Adaptation & Mitigation

Climate priorities influencing NOAA execution in FY14 are the need for enhanced climate information in the fisheries and coastal sectors, impacts to coastal communities and extreme events.

Expanding Climate Knowledge in Management Advice on Marine Ecosystems

Strategic Objective from NGSP: Healthy Oceans: Improved understanding of ecosystem impacts and climate; Climate: A climate-literate public that understands its vulnerabilities to a changing climate and makes informed decisions;

Outcome path from NART logic model: Internal short-term outcome: NOAA is more aware of its program responsibilities, projects, assets and capabilities (what, how); Improved connections among NOAA workforce in North Atlantic (who);

Internal mid-term outcome: Leveraging NART funds for new/improved NOAA projects funded by LOs; Internal Long-term outcomes: NOAA executes as a more integrated Agency; NOAA is increasingly a customer of our own products and services (we know NOAA, we use NOAA).

Contact/email: Ellen Mecray (NART), Ellen.L.Mecray@noaa.gov and Kevin Friedland (NART), Kevin.Friedland@noaa.gov; and Vince Saba, (NMFS/NEFSC), Vincent.Saba@noaa.gov

Summary: Incorporating climate change information (e.g., ocean acidification, temperature change, projected habitat shifts) in the management of trust resources is a high priority for NOAA. A recent Northeast Fisheries Science Center ecosystem advisory announced anticipated shifts in distribution of marine populations due to increasing water temperatures and salinity. NMFS/NEFSC also recently released their climate and fisheries web-presence. Separately, NESDIS/NCDC and their funded partners are in year two of their production of regional climate outlook products to address this and other sectoral impacts from a changing climate and regional impacts. NESDIS/NCDC has also funded Cooperative Institute for the North Atlantic Region (CINAR) and the NOAA Regional Climate Center (NRCC) to produce more region-specific and sector-specific outlook products and online tools in FY14.

This project will work to leverage the existing NOAA investments in this cross-agency effort, with a focus on communications. Through online and in-person methods, this project will better connect NOAA's climate and ecosystem information and products, including, but not limited to regional outlooks and advisories, web offerings and public engagement/outreach.

Why NART? The NART is an appropriate venue for the type of cross-line office dialogue and engagement that would support integrated products for the region.

Partners: Cooperative Institute for the North Atlantic Region (CINAR), NOAA Regional Climate Center (NRCC)

Participating NOAA entities: NESDIS/NCDC and NODC; NMFS/NEFSC; OAR/CPO, NOS/NCCOS; NWS/ER

Funding request: $6K in NART funding will leverage with existing partners working to develop these products and services, and support in-region travel of project principals and their divisions.

Key milestones (by quarter):
Q1: Core team established; initial conf call (NMFS and NESDIS).
Q2: Kick-off meeting in New England; schedule developed.
Q3: Second core team meeting; presentation to NEFSC Directorate discussing progress to-date and timeline; presentation to climate equivalent on same.
Q4: NEFSC brown bag, additional outreach; Core team decision on scope for FY15.

Sea Level Rise Tool Outreach in NY/NJ

Strategic Objective from NGSP: Climate: A climate-literate public that understands its vulnerabilities to a changing climate and makes informed decisions; Coastal: Resilient coastal communities that can adapt to the impacts of hazards and climate change

Outcome path from NART logic model: Internal output: Added capacity to meet high customer need; External mid-term outcome: Increased use of NOAA's products and services in the N Atlantic; External long-term outcome: NOAA's work and people are more relevant and responsive to most critical needs in North Atlantic.

Contact/email: Ellen Mecray (NART) Ellen.L.Mecray@noaa.gov; Darlene Finch (NOS/CSC), Darlene.Finch@noaa.gov

Summary: In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, NOAA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE); and the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) partnered to launch a Sea Level Rise Tool for Sandy Recovery to help decision-makers access

the most up-to-date information on sea-level rise and floodplain projections. The tool includes a set of map-based services to help communities, residents, and planners consider risks from future sea-level rise in planning for reconstruction after Sandy, and an updated Sea-Level-Change Calculator to provide site-specific details of projected flood elevations for 5-year intervals from 2010 to 2100. This tool is an important element of the broader climate-data toolkit called for in the President's Climate Action Plan.

A NOAA grant was awarded to the Cooperative Institute for the North Atlantic Region (CINAR) on October 1, 2013 for "Technical Assistance and Outreach for Resilience Coastal Communities;" the NART contributed to this grant with $4K of FY13 funds. The project is being run out of Rutgers University, and the goal is to produce written/printed materials to support community engagement by providing information on the new tool. Rutgers has already interviewed and selected two individuals to work with communities on recovery planning (their contracts will begin in December). Doug Marcy will be making a presentation to FEMA's coastal outreach advisory team to integrate with their processes. Written products on the SLR Planning Tool will be drafted for use by the community engagement staff.

Why NART? The NART is tasked with supporting stakeholder engagement, and activities in the NY/NJ area post-Sandy are particularly relevant for the team in FY14. This project was funded in FY13, but work will be completed in FY14, allowing the NART to tie this outreach effort to our team-wide Sandy messaging project.

Partners: FEMA, USACE, USGCRP, CINAR

Participating NOAA entities: NOS/CSC; NWS/ER; NESDIS/NCDC; OAR

Funding request: None.

Key milestones (by quarter):
Q1: Review and selection of contractors, and NOS/CSC talk at FEMA.
Q2: Review of draft written outreach products.
Q3: Dissemination of outreach products.
Q4:

State and Local Roundtables to Showcase NOAA's Coastal Products and Services

Strategic Objective from NGSP: This project will support multiple NGSP goals including, resilient coastal communities, healthy oceans and climate adaptation. The specific strategic outcomes will be identified as the round table subjects are selected.

Outcome path from NART logic model: External short-term outcomes: NOAA stakeholders and users know "who to call;" NOAA stakeholders and users understand and know how to use our capacity.

Contact/email: Ellen Mecray (NART), Ellen.L.Mecray@noaa.gov; Darlene Finch (NOS/CSC), Darlene.Finch@noaa.gov; Adrienne Antoine (OAR/CPO), Adrienne.Antoine@noaa.gov; Marian Westley (OAR/GFDL), Marian.Westley@noaa.gov in consultation with Rebecca Newhall (NOS/OCRM), Rebecca.Newhall@noaa.gov; and Adrianne Harrison (NOS/CSC), Adrianne.Harrison@noaa.gov

Summary: The project is focused on identifying collaboration opportunities among NOAA staff working with state and local decision-makers, and providing a forum to seed future partnerships between the states and NOAA. It is designed to broaden mutual understanding of our partners' needs, interests and priorities as well as NOAA's regional capacity and capabilities. NOAA has reviewed state-level priorities using state climate adaptation plans, Coastal Zone 309 plans, and other literature, and identified current needs and gaps. These will be matched with NOAA capabilities and corresponding NOAA representatives (no more than 6-8) will be invited to a half-day roundtable discussion with state partners to be held at the respective state's office. One 3-hour state roundtable will be held in the mid-Atlantic, and if funding allows, additional meetings will be held across the region, including some follow-up meetings from FY13 in CT and RI. State colleagues including coastal zone managers, emergency management, fish and wildlife, and health will be invited to elicit cross-sectoral engagement. This approach was utilized

successfully in New England under the NART's FY13 State Roundtables project.

Why NART? NART provides a venue for creating NOAA partnerships with state programs. The goal of this project is to connect multiple NOAA offices and programs with partners in a meaningful way and build relationships that serve beyond this single event. NART also can provide the capacity for NOAA to attend the roundtables in person and fill potential gaps in individual travel budgets.

Partners: State managers from sectors including fish and wildlife, coastal zone, health, emergency management, and others including CINAR

Participating NOAA entities: The Steering Committee includes staff across NOAA's line offices using the Eastern Region Climate Team, and the neclimateus.org website.

Funding request: Up to $5k for federal travel.

Key milestones (by quarter):
Q1: Convene the steering committee to set the vision and scope of these meetings.
Q2: Set agendas for 2 separate meetings, one in mid-Atlantic, and one in NE.
Q3: Convene committees and set dates and locations.
Q4: 2 roundtables completed, including evaluations of NOAA and state partner participation.

Engagement Enterprise

The NART is committed to better engaging NOAA in the region by creating long-term infrastructure for collaboration and partnerships. NART will lead several engagement projects in FY14 directed at connecting Sandy Supplemental efforts, educating our customers and political stakeholders on the broad suite of NOAA capabilities in the region, and better connecting NOAA employees in the region.

Coordinated Sandy Messaging & Activities in the North Atlantic

Strategic Objective from NGSP: Climate: A climate-literate public that understands its vulnerabilities to a changing climate and makes informed decisions; Weather-Ready Nation: Reduced loss of life, property, and disruption from high-impact events; Coastal: Resilient coastal communities that can adapt to the impacts of hazards and climate change.

Outcome path from NART logic model: External mid-term outcome: NOAA stakeholders and partners have raised awareness of NOAA products and services; Internal mid-term outcome: NOAA reps serve as better ambassadors in regional orgs, presentations and in daily job; Internal long-term outcome: NOAA employees are ambassadors of Agency capabilities.

Contact/email: Nicole Bartlett (NART Coordinator), Nicole.Bartlett@noaa.gov; Ellen Mecray (NART) Ellen.L.Mecray@noaa.gov

Summary: Within the charge laid out by Acting Administrator Sullivan in the FY 2014-2020 Annual Guidance Memorandum, NOAA is tasked with employing a ***coordinated effort*** in executing Sandy Supplemental funds in order to "improve readiness, engagement, and assistance before, during and after natural disasters." NART requested and received a NOAA Budget Office briefing on the Sandy Supplemental in August 2013, and afterwards pressed HQ, through PPI, on the need for coordinated Sandy messaging in the region. The AAs were also coordinating on a NOAA wide-approach regarding the Sandy Supplemental per the above mentioned AGM guidance. In September, the DAAs were tasked with developing the framework and messaging, and in October the NART coordinator was asked to participate and represent both the regional perspective and the NMFS DAA on the team. Two primary goals of the team's collective task are to develop and implement: (a) A strategy that communicates the set of major outcomes that NOAA is providing to the country from the Sandy Supplemental; and (b) A description of how NOAA is working in an integrated manner on the supplemental activities and a description that outlines how NOAA will more effectively work as a unified team in the future on preparedness, response, recovery and resiliency.

Why NART? By plugging into this effort, the NART will have an inventory of all of the NOAA Sandy Supplemental projects and contacts for each. This

will result in an opportunity for coordinated messaging, and coordination and maybe even collaborations between the projects. Perhaps more importantly, HQ will gain much-needed regional intelligence and feedback on proposed communications related to Sandy.

Participating NOAA entities: This will be an ongoing responsibility of the NART, and will be part of each team call.

Funding request: $2K for travel.

Key milestones (by quarter):

Q1: Inventory and bin supplemental projects in advance of House Appropriations briefing (Nov). Develop cross-NOAA messaging for each outcome (preparedness, response, recovery and resiliency). Identify science synergies across Federal agencies in support of DOI external RFP.

Q2: Engage in additional supplemental activities as needed.

Q3: Engage in additional supplemental activities as needed.

Q4: Engage in additional supplemental activities as needed; compile report on results of NART engagement.

Engagement of NOAA in the Region: Mini-exhibits at large-scale topical meeting, political stakeholder roundtables, NOAA staff directory

Strategic Objective from NGSP: Engagement Enterprise: Integrated services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders; an engaged and educated public with an improved capacity to make scientifically informed environmental decisions

Outcome path from NART logic model: External, short-term outcomes: NOAA stakeholders and users know "who to call;" NOAA stakeholders and users understand and know how to use our capacity. External, mid-term outcome: increased use of NOAA's products and services in the N Atlantic. External long-term: NOAA's work and people are more relevant and responsive to most critical needs in North Atlantic.

Contact/email: Nicole Bartlett (NART Coordinator); Nicole.Bartlett@noaa.gov

Summary: The NART is committed to better engaging NOAA in the region by creating long-term infrastructure for regional collaboration. This includes products and tools that facilitate cross-line office connections, and activities that increase cross-LO awareness. In FY 14, the team will pilot the use of mini-exhibits at two large-scale meetings, organize and host at least three political stakeholder roundtables, and build an internal NOAA staff/expertise directory.

- **Mini-Exhibits:** The team will identify two or more opportunities to staff and share an exhibit highlighting NOAA capabilities at a regional, large-scale meeting.
- **Political Roundtables**: In an effort to help NOAA share information about the lesser known, maybe even lesser seen products and services that are being used by our customers, the NART will organize and coordinate roundtable discussions with staff of elected officials in the region. We will have 1-2 NOAA folks on hand for each topic, but the presentations will be led by (or be in cooperation with) an end user or partner. As a result, political staff will learn who the NOAA reps are for these capabilities, and also hear from the end user on the value they gain from the product and its local utility.
- **Directory:** Building off the contact list completed in FY13 by the NART Coastal & Ocean Uses subteam, the NART will develop and maintain a directory identifying areas of desired expertise and matching them with a NOAA contact.

Why NART? Communicating our successes and capabilities has never been more important. But in such a fiscally constrained environment, no one line office can shoulder the burden of this broader engagement. The NART is charged with not only facilitating collaboration among NOAA entities and partners, but also engaging regional partners, stakeholders, and customers to foster dialogue regarding products and services and build and maintain relationships. This multi-leveled engagement project will serve both near-term and long-term regional collaboration goals.

Partners: States, regional associations (e.g. Northeast Pilots Association, East Coast Shellfish Growers), Federal partners (e.g. USCG, FEMA, USGS)

Participating NOAA entities: OAR/Sea Grant, NWS/ER/WFOs/RFCs, NMFS/NEFSC, NOS/Coastal Office, NESDIS/NCDC

Funding request: $10K, to support travel and staff directory development

Key milestones (by quarter):
Q1: Hold first stakeholder roundtable and summarize best practices for other RCTs; identify meeting for mini-exhibit; identify developer.
Q2: Hold second political stakeholder roundtable; execute development of staff directory; host mini-exhibit.
Q3: Hold third political stakeholder roundtable; complete staff directory.
Q4: Identify FY15 engagement activities.

Development of NOAA Knowledge Base Prototype

Strategic Objective from NGSP: Integrated services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders.

Outcome path from NART logic model: External/internal output: additional capacity to meet high customer need; External mid-term outcome: Increased cross-LO project planning for out-years (e.g. integration of NOAA products & services); NOAA projects reflect cross-line abilities/ expertise within NOAA. Long term outcome: NOAA executes as a more integrated Agency.

Contact/email: Nicole Bartlett (NART Coordinator), Nicole.Bartlett@noaa.gov

Summary: In 2011, NART and NOAA West began a collaboration to create a relational database to capture stakeholder needs data from a variety of sources so that it can be mined and aggregated in different ways. The NOAA Knowledge Base was developed, populated with data from various source documents for testing in 2012, socialized with NOAA data needs experts, and validated by regional collaboration leadership at our national meeting in 2012. In FY13, the NART contracted an analyst to evaluate relevant documents, extract relevant information and populate the relational database for the North Atlantic and Western regions. This work will occur in FY14. NART and NOAA West will provide the source documents, qualitative analysis software and training on the database structure and data entry process. Completion of this prototype will allow the North Atlantic to:

- Maintain a real-time catalogue of stakeholder needs that can be used to identify and document regional needs.
- Support development of annual regional landscape submission to guide line office AOP development and NART annual operating plan.
- Establish a mechanism for evaluating regional collaboration progress under the NGSP (this prototype is called out in the FY11-17 NGSP Implementation Plan).

Why NART? This tool will guide NART team activities and ensure we are filling gaps, integrating across NOAA and working on priority issues. It will also enable consistency in team activities regardless of leadership changes and team composition.

Partners: Western Water Assessment RISA

Participating NOAA entities: NOAA West Regional Collaboration Team, PPI, LOs represented on NART

Funding request: None.

Key milestones (by quarter):
Q1: Select contractor. Hold orientation and training meeting with contractor. Identify seminal source documents for North Atlantic.
Q2: Contractor completes data entry; face-to-face meeting of project team to analyze reports and develop queries.
Q3: Present project results to network (PPI, RTL call, and EOG) at national ReCo meeting.
Q4: Develop a strategy for regular populating of database; execute strategy.

Appendix A. NART Membership

Name	Email	Affiliation	Location
Regional Team Lead Jason Tuell	**Jason.Tuell@noaa.gov**	**NWS**	**Bohemia, NY**
Regional Coordinator Nicole Bartlett	**Nicole.Bartlett@noaa.gov**	**NMFS**	**Woods Hole, MA**
Aberson, Sim	Sim.Aberson@noaa.gov	OAR	Miami, FL
Antoine, Adrienne	Adrienne.Antoine@noaa.gov	OAR/Climate	Silver Spring, MD
Coogan, Colleen	Colleen.Coogan@noaa.gov	NMFS	Gloucester, MA
Deguise, Sylvain	Sylvain.Deguise@uconn.edu	Sea Grant	Groton, CT
Friedland, Kevin	Kevin.Friedland@noaa.gov	NMFS	Narragansett, RI
Larkin, Andrew	Andrew.W.Larkin@noaa.gov	NMFS/NOS	Norfolk, VA
Martinez, Catalina*	Catalina.Martinez@noaa.gov	OAR	Narragansett, RI
McKillop, George	George.McKillop@noaa.gov	NWS	Bohemia, NY
Mecray, Ellen	Ellen.L.Mecray@noaa.gov	NESDIS	Taunton, MA
Nicholson, Betsy	Betsy.Nicholson@noaa.gov	NOS	Durham, NH
Okulski, Rich	Richard.Okulski@noaa.gov	NWS	Caribou, ME
Samson, Jennifer	Jennifer.Samson@noaa.gov	NMFS	Sandy Hook, NJ
Siebers, Tony	Anthony.Siebers@noaa.gov	NWS	Camp Springs, MD
Ticco, Paul	Paul.Ticco@noaa.gov	NOS	Newport News, VA
Turner, Beth	Elizabeth.Turner@noaa.gov	NOS	Durham, NH

*Leave of absence in FY14