

# FY 2012 Integrated Operating Plan

---

## Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team

## National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration



*North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia,  
Florida, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands*

December 2011

# Contents

I. Background .....	2
Regional Collaboration in NOAA.....	2
The Southeast and Caribbean Region.....	3
Priorities for FY 2012.....	5
Integrated Operating Plan Purpose and Organization .....	7
A. Goal: Climate Adaptation and Mitigation.....	8
Activity A1. Support the Climate Change in the Caribbean 2011 Conference .....	8
Activity A2. Identify local vulnerability to hazards and climate.....	9
Activity A3. Support Regional Climate Services .....	11
B. Goal: Weather Ready Nation .....	12
Activity B1. Enhance capabilities for all-hazards decision support .....	12
Activity B2. Enhance capabilities for ecological forecasts .....	14
Activity B3. Enhance decision support for coastal hazards from tropical cyclones.....	15
C. Goal: Healthy Oceans.....	17
Activity C1. Develop a Database of Ecosystem Status Indicators for Region .....	17
D. Goal: Resilient Coastal Communities and Economies .....	18
Activity D1. Advance the SAA Disaster Resilient Communities Section of the SAA Implementation Plan .....	18
Activity D2. Develop a Coastal Change Hazards Prediction Tool.....	20
E. NOAA’s Science and Technology Enterprise.....	22
Activity E1. Enhance Regional Data Assembly and Archive.....	22
F. NOAA’s Engagement Enterprise .....	23
Activity F1. Advance Regional Partnerships.....	23
Activity F2. Support the South Atlantic Alliance.....	25
Activity F3. Support the NOAA in the Caribbean Collaborative.....	27
Activity F4. Support the NOAA in the Carolinas Collaborative .....	28
Activity F5. Enhance Regional Outreach and Communications .....	29
Activity F6. Support the Regional Team .....	31
Activity F7. Support Regional Collaboration and NOAA Leadership .....	33
III. SECART FY2012 Spend Plan .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Appendix 1. Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team Membership .....	35

# **Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team**

## **FY 2012 Annual Operating Plan**

### **I. Background**

#### ***Regional Collaboration in NOAA***

NOAA established the Regional Collaboration effort 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 helps 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.

Regional Teams add value to NOAA's mission by:

- *Understanding stakeholder needs;*
- *Understanding NOAA's capabilities in the region;*
- *Being aware of the activities and capabilities of NOAA's current and prospective partners;*
- *Synthesizing regional needs and capabilities into a list of achievable and nationally significant priorities; and*
- *Building and maintaining relationships with stakeholders and partners.*

Regional Collaboration expands upon existing regional coordination and communication efforts by adding the component of program integration activities to address NOAA's priorities at both the national and regional scale. The purpose of regional collaboration is to improve NOAA's productivity and value to customers, using existing authority and accountability structures. Regional Collaboration Teams identify and apply NOAA's full range of capabilities, within and across regions, to design the best geographically-specific solutions for customers.

The goals of Regional Collaboration are:

- Improved services for the benefit of NOAA's customers (e.g., citizens, researchers, resource managers);
- Increased value and productivity of partnerships (e.g., other federal agencies, academic institutions, state and local governments);
- Improved stakeholder relations and support (e.g., Congress, non-profits, industry);

- Improved internal communications and efficiency across NOAA’s existing organizational structure; and
- A more visible and valued NOAA.

The NOAA Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team (SECART) is one of eight regional teams. Membership of regional teams typically reflects the diversity of NOAA within the region and may include NOAA partners in addition to NOAA employees. Current SECART members are listed in *Appendix 1*. Regional teams, including SECART, reach beyond team members to access expertise within the region to meet its goals.

## ***The Southeast and Caribbean Region***

### **Geography and Environment**

The NOAA Southeast and Caribbean region is composed of the land areas of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the marine environment adjacent to these lands. Topography ranges from interior mountains to coastal plains to expansive or abrupt continental shelves and intervening ocean basins. The region contains over 18,000 miles of coastline, with extensive riverine, estuarine, marsh, barrier island, mangrove, and coral reef systems.

Three large marine ecosystems support a diverse assemblage of marine life, with 18 protected marine species, over 600 marine managed areas, and one of the world’s largest shallow water coral reef ecosystems. The Gulf Stream is an important influence on biological, chemical, and physical characteristics. Climate is warm-temperate to tropical. Natural hazards include severe thunderstorms and tornadoes; floods and debris flows; earthquakes; tsunamis; drought and wild fires; winter storms; ground subsidence; coastal erosion; and coastal storms including tropical storms and hurricanes.

### **Social and Economic Context**

The Southeast and Caribbean region is socially, politically, and culturally diverse. The expansion of recreation and tourism, residential development, service industries, and commercial space is transforming the region's social, economic, and physical state. The population in the Southeast and Caribbean region continues to increase, especially along the coast and Piedmont area (Atlanta to Raleigh corridor). Populations in NC, SC, GA and FL saw 15.3-18.5% increases from 2000 to 2010 (all in top ten of states), while USVI showed little gain in population and PR decreased slightly. During this time period, the region picked up two congressional seats in FL and one each in GA and SC. The growing population has increased demands on resources, such as water for residential, agricultural, industrial, and recreational uses.

Of the almost 43 million people living in the four southeast states, 37% reside in the coastal counties bordering the Atlantic Ocean, and 4.4 million live in flood hazard areas. In PR and USVI, all of the 3.8 million residents are in close proximity to the coast. Increasing populations in low lying coastal areas increases exposure to hazards such as flooding, tropical storms, tsunamis, storm surge, and erosion. Not only is the population increasing in the region, but changing demographics require new approaches to inform and protect the residents. In 2010, the

region contributed nearly \$1.8 trillion to the nation's GDP, and supported 1.76 billion jobs. Coastal counties in the four southeastern states accounted for \$600 billion of the economic activity. Recreation and tourism, transportation, and shipping are major contributors to the region's coastal economy, especially in the Caribbean. The region has over 35 ports and terminals that service cargo and passenger ships including some of the country's largest and fastest growing container ports. The region also hosts the largest U.S. recreational fishery, plus major commercial multi-species fisheries. In 2010 alone, recreational anglers made 19 million fishing trips in the Atlantic coastal counties of the four southeastern states.

### **Challenges and Drivers**

Rapid land use changes, particularly along the coasts, are stressing ecosystems. Issues include impaired water quality, habitat degradation, overfishing, energy development, hazards, and climate change. By developing close partnerships with domestic, Caribbean, and international organizations, NOAA can better address these and other regional trends and issues.

Understanding what matters to the constituents of the region is a significant first step toward improved overall agency responsiveness. Some of the important drivers influencing NOAA constituents in the region include:

- South Atlantic Alliance and other existing partnerships
- Continued population growth in the region's coastal areas
- Water quantity and quality
- Climate change
- Loss & degradation of habitats
- Sustainability of fisheries
- Energy development
- Extreme weather events
- Ecosystem-based management

Efforts to reduce the federal and state deficits have led some agencies to reduce or eliminate programs, including programs that are long-term partnerships with NOAA. The consequence is that NOAA will need to work more strategically with our federal, state, academic and private partners to more efficiently address the region's needs. Mutually beneficial collaboration and partnership ideally is characterized by shared vision, resources, risk and credit. Although such collaboration requires sustained energy and commitment, the benefits can be substantial...leading to leveraging of scarce resources, development of trusted relationships, and ultimately achieving mission objectives that could not be achieved alone. In an increasingly constrained budget environment, organizations that are perceived as less focused or effective, or insufficiently coordinated and integrated, will most certainly fare worse than others, and consequently the mission will suffer. Among the many solutions to this challenge is the need to identify and act on opportunities for broader collaboration, partnership building, and resource savings and leveraging.

### **Capabilities**

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

- Beaufort, NC (NOS, NMFS)

- Asheville, NC (NESDIS)
- Charleston, SC (NOS, NMFS, NESDIS, NWS)
- St. Petersburg, FL (NMFS, NOS)
- Miami, FL (OAR, NMFS, NWS, NOS)

Three National Marine Sanctuaries are located in the region:

- Monitor NMS, NC (offices in Norfolk, VA)
- Grays Reef NMS, Georgia
- Florida Keys NMS, Florida

The region's River Forecast Center is located in Atlanta, while Weather Forecast Offices (NWS) are located in all of the states and the U.S. Caribbean. State geodetic advisors reside with institutions in NC, SC, FL and PR. The NOAA aircraft operations center is located at McDill Air Force Base in Florida and two NOAA ships (Ronald Brown and Nancy Foster) home port in Charleston, SC. Furthermore, port agents, law enforcement personnel, and others are distributed throughout the coastal areas of the region.

In addition to NOAA employees and facilities, NOAA benefits from close partnerships with NOAA-supported entities in the region, including:

- Six National Estuarine Research Reserves
- Six Coastal Zone Management Programs
- Five Sea Grant Programs
- Three Cooperative Institutes
- Two Regional Integrated Science and Assessments
- Two regional associations of coastal ocean observing systems
- Two regional Fishery Management Councils

Regional Collaboration works to improve cooperation among these NOAA and partner entities to more effectively address the challenges in the region.

## ***Priorities for FY 2012***

As part of the larger federal family, NOAA's Goals and Objectives are aligned with the Department of Commerce (DOC) Goals and Objectives, and to key Administration priorities. Within this framework, Regional Collaboration seeks to improve NOAA's productivity and value to customers by articulating the broader NOAA Goals and Objectives in terms of priority regional needs.

### **NOAA's Goals and Objectives**

NOAA will be focusing its activities toward the following Strategic Goals and Enterprise Objectives articulated in the Next Generation Strategic Plan (NGSP).

- Climate Adaptation and Mitigation – An informed society anticipating and responding to climate and its impacts
- Weather-Ready Nation – Society is prepared for and responds to weather-related events

- Healthy Oceans – Vibrant marine fisheries, habitats, and biodiversity sustained within healthy and productive ecosystems
- Resilient Coastal Communities and Economies – Coastal and Great Lakes communities that are environmentally and economically sustainable
- NOAA’s Science & Technology Enterprise
- NOAA’s Engagement Enterprise
- NOAA’s Organization & Administration Enterprise

### **NOAA’s FY12 Priorities**

Each year the NOAA Administrator identifies, through an [Annual Guidance Memorandum](#) (AGM), the agency’s priorities. In the context of NOAA’s long-term strategy, the current AGM establishes programmatic priorities that will shape NOAA’s execution focus in FY12 and plans for FY13-18.

### **Regional Team Priorities**

NOAA’s Regional Collaboration supports all of the Goals and Objectives in the NOAA Strategic Plan (noted above), however, Regional Collaboration has particular responsibility for implementing the Engagement Enterprise Objective “Integrated Services Meeting the Evolving Demands of Regional Stakeholders.” Evidence of progress toward meeting this objective includes:

- 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.

SECART will utilize its focus on regional engagement to help NOAA address its goals and objectives. SECART will continue to engage NOAA staff, partners and constituents to improve communication and coordination, leading to more effective delivery of products and services. In FY12, SECART will utilize its work groups (sub-teams) to provide additional focus on NOAA goals and to engage a broader spectrum of NOAA and partner colleagues in the region. As NOAA addresses the [National Ocean Policy](#) priority objectives, SECART will provide regional context and coordination, as well as staff resources. SECART will continue to nurture regional partnerships and utilize those partnerships to address agency priorities in the region.

## ***Integrated Operating Plan Purpose and Organization***

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Integrated Operating Plan (IOP) is to guide and document team activities during the fiscal year. Regional Team IOPs form the basis for NOAA to examine how well the agency is addressing Administration and regional priorities in different areas of the country. They also serve as a tool for communicating regionally-informed priorities. Ultimately, Regional Team IOPs enable NOAA to be more effective and responsible to constituent needs by: identifying regional areas for emphasis; uncovering and filling gaps across the line offices and implementing programs; aligning and leveraging NOAA capabilities with partners; and measuring progress toward stated goals and objectives.

### **Organization**

This SECART Integrated Operating Plan for FY2012 addresses national and regional priorities, utilizing an integrative, cross-line office approach, with an emphasis on enhancing coordination and communication within the region. The priority activities of SECART are organized according to the goals of NOAA's current strategic plan, which will be implemented over the next 5 years. Each activity is related to strategic objectives within the long-term goal. Note that projects may address multiple long-term goals, but are organized within a single goal for the purposes of this Operating Plan. The activity descriptions provide information about the purpose, scope, partners and budget of the activity. Milestones are associated with clearly defined deliverables or expected accomplishments.

Regional Collaboration funding to SECART (\$50K) has been allocated to allow SECART to address its priorities. This funding for SECART work is/will be augmented and leveraged through other programs and funding opportunities as practical. The draft spend plan for SECART's FY12 Operating Plan is presented in Section III.

## II. Team Activities

### *A. Goal: Climate Adaptation and Mitigation*

#### **Activity A1. Support the Climate Change in the Caribbean 2011 Conference**

##### **Strategic Objective(s):**

- Mitigation and adaptation efforts supported by sustained, reliable, and timely climate services
- A climate literate public that understands its vulnerabilities to a changing climate and makes informed decisions

**Contact:** David Brown, NESDIS ([david.p.brown@noaa.gov](mailto:david.p.brown@noaa.gov))  
Annie Hillary, NOS ([annie.hillary@noaa.gov](mailto:annie.hillary@noaa.gov))  
Geno Olmi, Coordinator ([geno.olmi@noaa.gov](mailto:geno.olmi@noaa.gov))

**Project Summary:** SECART will provide financial and logistical support to the “Climate Change in the Caribbean 2011: Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands” conference in San Juan PR, to be held November 15-16, 2011. The conference is being jointly organized by NOAA and EPA with central themes of regional climate change impacts and projections, adaptation and vulnerability strategies, climate information and services delivery, and the identification of opportunities and initiatives to build capacity for outreach activities in the U.S. Caribbean. The target audience includes policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders. Participation in the workshop will allow SECART to continue its efforts to build capacity in the U.S. Caribbean for NOAA-wide climate adaptation and outreach activities.

##### **Project Objectives:**

- Increase the level of understanding of climate science and engagement in the region
- Raise awareness of ongoing climate adaptation efforts and activities in the region
- Improve capacity of outreach/extension personnel to access climate adaptation information, tools, and training materials
- Share experiences relevant to climate outreach (what works and what does not)
- Build a community of practice focused on climate adaptation and contextualized for the region

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$3,000 for workshop logistics including participant travel; in-kind support (0.5 months each for SECART coordinator and Regional Climate Services Director, Southern Region)

**Why SECART?** The existing climate services capacity in the region (including a Regional Climate Services Director whose geographic responsibility includes the U.S. Caribbean), coupled with the ability of the Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team (SECART) to effectively

engage other NOAA personnel and extension partners throughout the Caribbean, provides a powerful mechanism for enhancing and sustaining climate outreach capacity in this region, and establishing greater NOAA credibility among both information providers and practitioners.

**Partners:** NOAA Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management; NOAA Sea Grant; NOAA Climate Program Office; NOAA International Affairs; EPA

**Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Caribbean Climate Change Workshop – Q1

**Tasks:**

- Provide funds to support participants in the Caribbean Climate Workshop – Q1
- Participate in planning for workshop sessions – Q1
- Participate in workshop sessions – Q1
- Provide input to a workshop report and other post-workshop activities – Q2

**Activity A2. Identify local vulnerability to hazards and climate**

**Strategic Objective(s):**

- Mitigation and adaptation efforts supported by sustained, reliable, and timely climate services
- A climate literate public that understands its vulnerabilities to a changing climate and makes informed decisions

**Contact:** Geno Olmi, NOS/SECART ([Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov](mailto:Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov))  
Chuck Hopkinson, Sea Grant ([chopkins@uga.edu](mailto:chopkins@uga.edu))  
Jess Whitehead, Sea Grant ([jessica.whitehead@SCSEAGRANT.ORG](mailto:jessica.whitehead@SCSEAGRANT.ORG))  
Stephanie Fauver, NOS/CSC ([Stephanie.Fauver@noaa.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Fauver@noaa.gov))  
Rich Bandy, NWS/MHC ([Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov](mailto:Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov))

**Project Summary:** We will build on progress made in establishing the Southeast and Caribbean Climate Extension and Outreach Community of Practice at the May 2010 workshop, funded through the FY10 Sea Grant Regional Team grant, to address some of the priorities identified then. In particular, we propose to compile decision support materials for outreach to regional audiences on hazards and climate change resilience. We will then hold a second workshop to 1) share new experiences and expertise, 2) develop a plan to evaluate the availability, value, and use of existing decision support methods for hazards and climate vulnerability assessment for their applicability to long term hazards and climate change resilience in the Southeast (modification of decision support methods is beyond the scope of this award). Such a plan will provide the Community of Practice climate outreach professionals, along with selected decision-making partners from the region, with the steps necessary for future adoption or modification of decision support for assessing hazards and climate change resilience that are effective in the Southeast and Caribbean region. Specifically, the 2-3 day workshop will convene state and local level decision-makers from various sectors to

- Analyze existing hazard/resilience assessment tools,
- Identify key decision support features that meet the needs of outreach professionals and local/state emergency planners in the region
- Develop a plan for next steps to synthesize/modify existing decision support for the Southeast and Caribbean Region and to adapt them for use in the region.

Workshop participants will learn about, and analyze, vulnerability and resilience assessment decision support methods for their applicability to long-term climate change resilience and utility to decision-makers in the region.

**Project Objectives:**

- Facilitate exchanging information on hazard and climate vulnerability and resilience among practitioners in the region;
- Develop guidance for an optimized decision support for local resiliency, based on existing assessment tools, that will help state and local decision-makers include climate change in hazards planning;
- Continue to build a community of practice focused on climate adaptation and contextualized for the region;
- Improve capacity of outreach/extension personnel to access climate adaptation information, tools, and training materials.

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$30,000 climate engagement grant (Sea Grant, FY11 Award for FY12 execution); plus \$6k remaining from our previous Sea Grant award on climate outreach; \$600 for coordinator travel.

**Why SECART?** The existing extension capacity of Sea Grant (including a regional climate extension specialist), coupled with the ability of the Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team (SECART) to effectively engage other NOAA personnel and extension partners throughout the region, provides a powerful mechanism for enhancing and sustaining climate outreach capacity in the region, and establishing greater NOAA credibility among practitioners.

**Partners:** Sea Grant programs throughout the region; Coastal Services Center, state Coastal Management Programs, National Estuarine Research Reserves.

**Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Project team assembled to carry out planning and execution of project (Q1);
- Host hazards-climate workshop (Q3)
- Produce workshop report (Q4)
- Identify next steps for improving capacity of state and local officials to plan for hazards, including potential climate change impacts (Q4)

**Project Activities:**

- Assemble project team (Q1)
- Identify potential workshop participants and send invitations (Q2)
- Develop workshop agenda (Q2-3)
- Arrange for meeting space and other logistics (Q2-3)

- Arrange for travel to support for key participants (Q2-3)
- Hold workshop (Q3)
- Prepare workshop support (Q4)

### **Activity A3. Support Regional Climate Services**

#### **Strategic Objective(s):**

- Mitigation and adaptation efforts supported by sustained, reliable, and timely climate services
- A climate literate public that understands its vulnerabilities to a changing climate and makes informed decisions

**Contacts:** David Brown, NESDIS ([David.P.Brown@noaa.gov](mailto:David.P.Brown@noaa.gov))  
Ellen Mecray, NESDIS ([Ellen.L.Mecray@noaa.gov](mailto:Ellen.L.Mecray@noaa.gov))

**Project Summary:** NOAA’s regional climate services program aims to ensure that communities and decision-makers have access to the climate information, products, and services they need, at appropriate spatial and temporal scales, in order to decrease risk and improve economic and social outcomes. Essential to this effort is improved coordination and communication within and among federal, state, and local agencies, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, tribal governments, academia, and other constituent partners. Close coordination with NOAA’s regional collaboration teams is particularly important, in order to maximize opportunities for capacity-building among stakeholder groups while minimizing redundancy and duplication of efforts within the agency.

Within the Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team (SECART) geography, NOAA’s Regional Climate Services Directors (RCSDs) for the Eastern and Southern Regions work to coordinate NOAA’s broad portfolio of climate services assets, build active partnerships among regional and sectoral users of climate products and information, interface with other public and private sector providers of climate services, articulate and communicate user needs, and improve climate literacy and awareness.

#### **Project Objectives:**

- Continue to build a climate work group within the SECART structure.
- Foster collaboration with NOAA partners in the region to provide coordinated climate services to constituents, through mechanisms including the Southern Region Climate Coordination Team (SRCCT) and the Eastern Region Climate Team.
- Support the regional-scale activities of the National Climate Assessment.

**Cost/Funding Source:** in-kind support; \$800 coordinator travel

**Why SECART?** By working closely together, the RCSDs and SECART will be able to prioritize and execute regional climate services activities that effectively deliver products, information, and services to regional constituents and stakeholders.

**Partners:** National Weather Service, NMFS, OAR/Climate Program Office, National Sea Grant Office and the five Sea Grant Programs in the region, NOAA Coastal Services Center, NESDIS/NODC, NESDIS/NCDC, NOS/OCRM and OCRM/NERRs, State Climate Offices, Regional Climate Center, SECOORA and CaRA (regional IOOS Associations), two Cooperative Institutes, and two Regional integrated Science Assessments (RISA), NOS/NCCOS/HML; NOS/OHHI.

**Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Delivery of a draft meeting report from the inaugural SRCCT meeting (Q1)
- Delivery of a draft matrix of regional climate information and services needs, synthesized across RCSD regions and by NOAA/climate services social challenge areas (Q2)
- Delivery of the first draft of the Southeast region’s technical input to the National Climate Assessment (Q3)

**Tasks:**

- Augment FY12 membership in the SECART climate workgroup (Q1)
- Foster collaboration with NOAA partners in the region to provide coordinated climate services to constituents, through coordination mechanisms such as the Southern Region Climate Coordination Team (SRCCT) and the Eastern Region Climate Coordinating Team (Q1-4)
- Participate with state and federal agencies addressing climate change impacts (such as the South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative and Southeast National Resources Leadership Group) (Q1-Q4)
- Participate in planning for and execution of a climate and human health workshop in the Southeast in collaboration with the Oceans and Human Health program (Q1-3)

## ***B. Goal: Weather Ready Nation***

### **Activity B1. Enhance capabilities for all-hazards decision support**

**Strategic Objective:**

- Providing direct, interpretive support to public sector officials and emergency responders, and reducing disruption from high-impact, all-hazards events.

**Contact:** Darin Figurskey, NWS ([darin.figurskey@noaa.gov](mailto:darin.figurskey@noaa.gov))  
Steve Naglic, NWS ([steven.naglic@noaa.gov](mailto:steven.naglic@noaa.gov))  
Mike Proud, NWS ([mike.proud@noaa.gov](mailto:mike.proud@noaa.gov))  
John Quagliariello, NWS ([john.quaglairiello@noaa.gov](mailto:john.quaglairiello@noaa.gov))

**Project Summary:** From previous all-hazards workshops hosted by the NWS, noticeable communication improvement between emergency response agencies and the NWS has occurred. Still, communication among NOAA agencies has been noted as a challenge in significant NOAA all-hazards support efforts, including Deepwater Horizon and the Enbridge pipeline incident in

Michigan. By hosting a workshop in the Raleigh, NC area, an area which an all-hazards workshop has not been held to date, and including NOAA agencies as well as other federal and state partners, an expanded customer and partner base will be reached and informed about the abilities of NOAA and some of its partner agencies to provide decision support services. It should also serve to help bridge communication gaps during a significant all-hazards event.

### **Project Objectives:**

- Demonstrate capabilities of NOAA and how to access all-hazards information and request support.
- Identify what “decision support” means from NOAA partners’ perspective as well as their needs.
- Identify the necessary tools and resources needed to provide the best decision support service.
- Understand and apply lessons learned from Deepwater Horizon and tornado responses.
- Discussion as to what type of event NOAA would provide on-site support.
- Apply workshop information to update NOAA local office operating policies and training plans as necessary.
- Type 1, 2 and 3 NWS Incident Meteorologists (IMETs) – what partners need to know about the new structure.
- Participation by NOAA representatives in addition to NWS offices, creating a OneNOAA concept to decision support.

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$1000 for travel by a NOAA representative to the workshop. \$2000 for travel leveraged from the NWS Eastern Region Headquarters.

**Why SECART?** The existing capacity of the Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team (SECART) to effectively engage NOAA personnel and its partners throughout the region, combined with the engagement capabilities of NWS IMETs who participate in a voluntary program to provide detailed decision support services to fire and other incident management teams, provides an excellent mechanism to enhance all-hazards support in the region.

### **Partners:**

- NOAA agencies including:
  - NOAA ARL (HYSPLIT)
  - NOAA OR&R (ERD)
  - NOAA Coastal Services Center
  - NOAA Beaufort Lab
  - NOAA Hollings Marine Lab
  - NOAA Sea Grant
  - NWS offices serving the Carolinas
  - NWS Fire and Public Services Branch
- USCG
- EPA
- State and local emergency response representatives serving the Carolinas

**Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Host all-hazards workshop (Q1)
- Produce workshop report (Q2 – Q3)

**Project Activities:**

- Develop workshop internet page
- Arrange workshop logistics
- Hold workshop conference calls
- Host workshop
- Produce the workshop report

**Activity B2. Enhance capabilities for ecological forecasts****Strategic Objective:**

Interfacing with the NWS Pilot Project to integrate services for environmental and ecological forecasting in collaboration with a diverse set of multi-agency partners and impact-based decision makers

**Contact:** Brian LaMarre, NWS ([brian.lamarre@noaa.gov](mailto:brian.lamarre@noaa.gov))  
Darin Figurskey, NWS ([Darin.Figurskey@noaa.gov](mailto:Darin.Figurskey@noaa.gov))

**Project Summary:** The NWS is developing nine pilot projects to develop and prototype concepts laid out in the NWS Weather-Ready Nation Roadmap. These projects are designed to enhance the agency's community presence in targeted hotspot locations. The projects will also emphasize the role of communities to better prepare the American public for environmental events.

One location, around Tampa, Florida, will serve to test a program focused on integrating environmental services. The program will test an expanded internal NOAA focus on ecosystems and enable collaboration with external Federal and local partners. The enhanced collaboration will then enable exploration of prototyping efforts with existing agencies and evolving partners.

The project is expected to expand current services. Such services could include multi-agency, collaborative public health forecasts, air quality forecasts, along with services to support renewable energy sources. Enhanced coastal forecasts could support defined navigation routes and marine points of interest, and ecosystem forecasts could provide information on water temperature, salinity, currents and red tide. Hydrologic runoff forecasts could help mitigate the development and transport of harmful algal blooms.

**Project Objectives:**

- Demonstrate capabilities of NOAA and the NWS to test the effectiveness of integrated environmental support services to critical decision-makers and other key partners and stakeholders.
- Expand knowledge and enhance coordination of the pilot project in the Southeast and Caribbean.

- Facilitate the sharing of best practices from the pilot concept in the Southeast and Caribbean region.

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$0. Travel by a SECART representative to a meeting or workshop on the subject of the test program in the Tampa area would be beneficial; if a meeting or workshop is held and SECART funds are available, end-of-year funds may be requested.

**Why SECART?** The existing capacity of the Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team (SECART) to effectively engage NOAA personnel and its partners throughout the region provides an excellent mechanism to enhance ecological forecasts in the region.

**Partners:**

- NOAA
- State and local environmental and emergency response representatives serving Florida (initially)
- Others to be determined

**Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Become part of, and engage in, the Pilot Project Core Evaluation Working Group (Q2)
- Monitor progress and report to SECART (Q2 – Q4)

**Project Activities:**

- Monitor pilot project development and progress
- Engage the Pilot Project Core Evaluation Working Group for coordination and activities
- Coordinate with the Pilot Project Manager to share best practices with NOAA in the Southeast and Caribbean

**Activity B3. Enhance decision support for coastal hazards from tropical cyclones**

**Strategic Objective:**

- Providing direct, interpretive support to public sector officials and emergency responders, and expand environmental education and weather safety programs.

**Contact:** Steve Naglic, NWS ([steve.naglic@noaa.gov](mailto:steve.naglic@noaa.gov))  
Darin Figurskey, NWS ([darin.figurskey@noaa.gov](mailto:darin.figurskey@noaa.gov))

**Project Summary:** Results of attendee feedback from the North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM)/East Carolina University (ECU)/NOAA Hurricane Workshop, held in Greenville, NC May 18 and 19, showed that the more complex the forecast product with regard to tropical cyclones and storm surge, the lower the frequency of use and certainly the lower the confidence in using the product. For example, NHC public advisories and graphical advisories, and the tropical weather outlook, items relatively easy to interpret either in text or in graphical form, were rated high. On the other hand, SLOSH output for maximum envelopes of water

(MEOW) and maximum of MEOWs (MOM), storm surge forecasts using exceedance or confidence, and graphical hurricane local statements were rated low.

The results indicate the need for continued outreach on tropical cyclone forecast, advisory, and warning products and how to interpret them. More importantly, given the variety of products available, the results emphasize that outreach and product development should target helping the critical decision-maker answer the question, "What do I need to know to do what I need to do?" Proper interpretation of the products is essential along with knowledge of the right situations to use them. In particular for flood products, users should be asked what they would like to know more about, with training then focused on those items to build confidence in them.

The project proposes short, on-line training through webinars. With a focus on a certain product or small set of products, the trainer could then, in a short period of time, explain the use of the product(s) and how it (they) could help in critical decision-making. In addition, the training could show how to find the product. Through a webinar in particular, some rapid feedback could be obtained. Given the variety of weather information available on NWS and other web sites, it is important for the user to be able to find the information he or she needs, and find it quickly. If the information is hard to find, obviously the information likely will not be used. Responses from the NCEM/ECU/NOAA workshop show that training on SLOSH products should have the highest priority due to their potential value in critical weather situations in combination with their low survey scores; however, webinar topics will be driven by direct or indirect input from critical decision-makers.

#### **Project Objectives:**

- Expand knowledge of critical tropical cyclone information for decision support.
- Enhance coordination among NOAA and its key partners in the region.

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$0. Leveraging the time of staff from the National Hurricane Center and NWS offices in the Southeast.

**Why SECART?** The existing capacity of the Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team (SECART) to effectively engage NOAA personnel and its partners throughout the region provides an excellent mechanism to coordinate aspects of decision-support education in the region.

#### **Partners:**

- NWS offices serving the Southeast and Caribbean
- The National Hurricane Center
- State and local emergency response representatives serving the Southeast and Caribbean

#### **Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Engage support for a quarterly series of webinars (Q1)
- Host the webinar series (Q2 – Q3)
- Monitor progress and report to SECART (Q4)

**Project Activities:**

- Determine support for webinars (Q1)
- Poll NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologists to determine training items (Q1)
- Host webinars (Q2-3)

## ***C. Goal: Healthy Oceans***

### **Activity C1. Develop a Database of Ecosystem Status Indicators for Region**

**Strategic Objective(s):**

- Healthy habitats that sustain resilient and thriving marine resources and communities
- Improved understanding of ecosystems to inform resource management decisions

**Contacts:** Pace Wilber ([Pace.Wilber@noaa.gov](mailto:Pace.Wilber@noaa.gov))  
Aleta Hohn ([Aleta.Hohn@noaa.gov](mailto:Aleta.Hohn@noaa.gov))

**Project Summary:** Marine, coastal, and riverine habitats are pressured by climate change, ocean acidification, fishing practices, human population growth, development, and extreme events. Healthy habitats are needed to sustain marine ecosystems and provide the ecosystem services that sustain coastal economies. To help manage programs that increase the availability, quantity, and quality of marine, coastal, and riverine habitats, NOAA and its stakeholders assess the status and trends of marine, coastal, and riverine habitats and the ecosystem services they provide. Indicators of ecosystem status (including indicators of socioeconomic status) used by scientists and managers within the Southeastern U.S. Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) and Caribbean LME will be inventoried and examined by SECART and its partners. In FY11, a team was formed, an initial database was developed for the Southeastern U.S. LME, and a mock-up of a tool for searching the database was reviewed by team. Also during late FY11, a parallel effort for the Caribbean LME was initiated in cooperation with SECART's NOAA in the Caribbean. During FY12, the Healthy Oceans workgroup will complete the database for the Caribbean LME and port both databases to the web.

**Project Objectives:**

- Inventory and assess ecosystem status indicators (including indicators of socioeconomic status) used by scientists and managers within the South Atlantic and Caribbean as well as those indicators that have proven to be effective guides for work in other LMEs
- Recommend to NOAA the ecosystem status indicators suitable for guiding development of Integrated Ecosystem Assessments
- Promote collaboration among NOAA and its partners for development of new and refinement of existing ecosystem status indicators for examining effectiveness of management actions
- Lay the foundation for out-year workshops where NOAA and its partners would develop a consensus on the ecosystem status indicators most suited to joint planning within the SECART region

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$3,000 of SECART funds for partner travel; in kind support.

**Why SECART?** Collectively, SECART members work daily with resource managers from all levels of government throughout the region to integrate federal and state management programs and research efforts. This high frequency of communication coupled with the technical expertise of NOAA and its partners makes SECART ideally suited to efficiently inventory and assess the value of the ecosystem status indicators that are in use and to advise on which indicators would prove to be effective guides for Integrated Ecosystem Assessment and management actions.

**Partners:** Sea Grant programs throughout the region, NOS National Center for Coastal and Ocean Science, NOS Office of Marine Sanctuaries, NOS Office of Coastal Resource Management, NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center, NMFS Southeast Regional Office, FWS Coastal Programs Office, NC Division of Coastal Management, SC Department of Natural Resources, GA Department of Natural Resources, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, U.S Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association, Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership, universities

**Key Activities and Milestones/Deliverables FY2012:**

- Review Healthy Ocean Workgroup membership and add new members as needed (Q2)
- With Science and Technology Team, develop plan for porting databases to web (Q2)
- Complete inventory of ecosystem status indicators for Caribbean LME (Q3)
- Port both databases to web (Q4)

## ***D. Goal: Resilient Coastal Communities and Economies***

**Note:** In addition to the two activities listed under this goal, the Resilient Coastal Communities and Economies workgroup is also supporting Activity F4 and Activity A2.

### **Activity D1. Advance the SAA Disaster Resilient Communities Section of the SAA Implementation Plan**

**Strategic Objective(s):**

- Resilient coastal communities that can adapt to the impacts of hazards and climate change
- Improved coastal water quality supporting human health and coastal ecosystem services
- Safe, efficient and environmentally sound marine transportation

**Contacts:** Richard Bandy, NWS ([richard.bandy@noaa.gov](mailto:richard.bandy@noaa.gov))

**Project Summary:** The promotion of disaster-resilient communities is the fourth issue area identified by the Alliance. The Southeast U.S. region continues to experience significant weather- and climate-related events that cause significant hardships for the economic, environmental, and social well-being of residents and visitors alike. Both short-term episodic events (e.g., hurricanes and coastal storms) and long-term chronic changes (e.g., drought, climate change, and sea level rise) are major concerns for the low-lying Southeastern United States, threatening our coastal communities, a multi-billion tourism industry, coastal and watershed development and infrastructure, and local fishing industries. Emergency responders and community planners must develop and implement strategies to minimize risk to the trillions of dollars worth of insured property and the millions of people that live in our coastal counties. Understanding our vulnerability to and the impacts of drought, sea level rise, storms, and climate change will enable coastal and natural resource managers and community decision-makers to adapt their management strategies, improve planning and preparedness, and develop mitigation strategies to address impacts to public safety, environmental health, shoreline change, coastal infrastructure, habitat loss, and species migration. The disaster-resilient communities portion of the Implementation Plan incorporates five objectives: undertake regional and state-specific vulnerability assessments of social, economic and natural resource systems; develop and implement adaptation and mitigation strategies (including retreat) to prepare for climate change impacts; improve post-disaster redevelopment planning at the regional, state, and local community level; identify and implement incentives for encouraging development away from high risk areas; and identify and incorporate management and financial options to address beachfront and estuarine shoreline change.

Implementation of the South Atlantic Alliance's disaster-resilient communities actions focus on extending and expanding these state efforts region-wide through the support of applied research on the region's socio-demographics, natural and built environments, and assessment of needs; conduct of directed pilot projects; generation of region-wide standards, guidelines, and protocols for vulnerability assessments, risk analyses and modeling and mapping efforts; and comparison, analysis, and drafting of policy frameworks and management approaches that focus on community adaptation and mitigation strategies.

The SECART Resiliency work group will work to assist with priorities of the implementation plan that were determined at a SAA Annual Meeting in Savannah on September 7-8.

### **Project Objectives:**

- Assist the Disaster Resilient Communities Workgroup in planning and executing their implementation actions through December 2012. This includes work related to the following Actions in the implementation plan:
  - Action DRC3A: Evaluate nationwide Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning initiatives (e.g., Florida) to improve understanding of post-disaster redevelopment options.
  - Action DRC3B: Develop guidance to improve redevelopment considerations in state and local hazards mitigation plans and local comprehensive and growth management plans

- Action DRC3C: Explore short-term economic recovery aspects of long-term redevelopment, and opportunities to create partnerships in support of local business recovery.

**Cost/Funding Source:** SECART will provide up to \$1500 for travel related cost for NOAA Representative to attend planning meetings and workshop under development.

**Why SECART?** SECART has a clear role to coordinate NOAA efforts in support of the Governors’ South Atlantic Implementation Plan. The plan is a regional response to address key environmental, economic, national defense, and cultural issue areas facing the Southeastern U.S. coasts and ocean. The Governors identified and promoted four priority issue areas that are of mutual importance to the sustainability of the Southeast U.S. region’s resources: healthy ecosystems, working waterfronts, clean coastal and ocean waters, and disaster-resilient communities. The Issue Area Technical Teams, guided by lead state mentors and the Executive Planning Team, with input from stakeholders and other partners, will continue to develop this Implementation Plan to address objectives contained in the Alliance’s Action Plan.

**Partners:**

- SAA (Includes Federal and State Agencies)
- Multiple NOAA LOs

**Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Workgroup still in planning stages for laying out specific milestones and delivery dates.
- One key deliverable will be to hold regional summit in Florida (late spring 2012) to improve understanding of post-disaster redevelopment options. Technical team will plan. Possibly collaborate/combine with SECART’s Community of Practice workshop.

**Project Activities:**

- The group will contribute as needed/requested to help develop a guidance document evaluating current tools and their effectiveness and plan and hold a collaborative workshop on post disaster redevelopment planning.
- The group will report back to SECART on ongoing activities and seek to collaborate and share resources as appropriate.

**Activity D2. Develop a Coastal Change Hazards Prediction Tool**

**Strategic Objective(s):**

- Resilient coastal communities that can adapt to the impacts of hazards and climate change

**Contacts:** Richard Bandy, NWS ([richard.bandy@noaa.gov](mailto:richard.bandy@noaa.gov))  
 Mark Willis, NWS  
 Bob Thompson, NWS

**Project Summary:** Mark Willis (NWS Eastern Region Marine Program Manager) is working with Bob Thompson (NWS MIC Boston, MA and NART Resiliency Team Lead), Hilary Stockdon (USGS), John Cannon, and Tony Mignone (NWS Forecasters) on an AMS paper on incorporating newly developed parameterizations for wave runup/setup/swash into NWS operations...along with a storm impact scaling model that compares total water level to shoreline elevation data to determine if erosion, ocean overwash, or inundation may occur at predetermined hotspots. Mark is using S Turns (Outer Banks, NC) as the test case for Nor'Ida and the swell from Hurricane Bill...and they are trying to also test it in the NE somewhere.

NART is contributing significant funding to develop a more sophisticated tool that can be adapted in any hotspot, and automatically ingest NWS model data, elevation data, etc. SECART will provide a small amount of funding to help with the efforts and Rich bandy and other staff at NWS Newport will contribute time to the project as needed.

### **Project Objectives:**

Create forecaster-friendly tool that, given input storm conditions, will:

- Calculate total water levels at the shoreline (including contribution from waves)
- Determine vulnerability of beaches and dunes to erosion, overwash, and inundation

**Cost/Funding Source:** NOAA NART will contribute \$10,000, SECART will contribute \$2000, and NWS ER Headquarters will contribute staff time and travel costs for Mark Willis to work on the project.

**Why SECART?** Coastal overwash, erosion, and inundation is a significant issue facing the SECART Region. This was clearly demonstrated following Hurricane Irene, which caused significant overwash and erosion issues for the southeast region, even well away from where the storm made landfall. This project could be tied to CSC work in creating hazard resiliency tools in the future, meeting NWS and NOS needs, and providing a valuable service to our partners and stakeholders.

### **Partners:**

- NWS
- USGS
- NOAA Storm Surge RoadMap Team (NOS)
- Local Sea Grant Programs

### **Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Project collaborators will work to develop a stand-alone executable that will determine, given input beach morphology and wave conditions, whether dune erosion, overwash, or inundation can be expected. This will include:
  - Meeting to discuss design of tool, input formats, and final products
  - Building, testing, debugging tool
- A comprehensive user's guide will be developed to allow for the tool to be used along the entire east coast
- Training session(s) will be held with with NWS forecasters to inform and educate on the use of this tool.

**Project Activities:**

- Rich Bandy will coordinate with the NART and Mark Willis on how SECART funds will be spent.
- Rich Bandy will have staff at NWS Newport, NC evaluate the tool as it is developed as well as the documentation before it is released region-wide.

## ***E. NOAA's Science and Technology Enterprise***

### **Activity E1. Enhance Regional Data Assembly and Archive**

**Strategic Objective(s):**

- Accurate and reliable data from sustained and integrated earth observing systems

**Contacts:** Ed Kearns ([Ed.Kearns@noaa.gov](mailto:Ed.Kearns@noaa.gov))  
Scott Cross ([Scott.Cross@noaa.gov](mailto:Scott.Cross@noaa.gov))

**Project Summary:** To meet the expressed needs of stakeholders for access to quality-controlled NOAA scientific data from the Southeast and Caribbean region, this project will identify, assemble and submit priority datasets to the appropriate NOAA Data Center for long-term preservation. SECART members will work within their own organizations to identify key datasets for archival as well as representative holding institutions willing to assist in the archival process. Lastly, representatives from Data Centers will work with data holders to prepare and submit archival packages (data, metadata, Submission Agreements) to the appropriate Data Center.

This year's data assembly and archive efforts will promote Healthy Ecosystems activities by enhancing access to data identified by SECART as important indicators of ecosystem health within the SECART domain. This project will complement and add value to the SECART Data Explorer, which serves as a discovery and access web portal for NOAA geospatial data from the region. For appropriate data sets assembled under this archival project, metadata will be added to the Data Explorer catalog to enhance its holdings.

**Project Objectives:**

- Identify and preserve priority data sets
- Provide for enhanced discovery of and access to these data
- Build new data set records into the Southeast and Caribbean Data Explorer
- Examine synergy between Ecosystem Indicators project and Data Explorer

**Cost/Funding Source:** in-kind support from: CSC for Data Explorer upgrades and maintenance; Data Centers for data archive/access support.

**Why SECART?** Identifying, assembling and developing data for archival requires interested input from archivists, data holders, and prospective data users. The Regional Collaboration

Teams are uniquely positioned to provide access to both stakeholders and data holders, and SECART in particular has strong representation from the NOAA archive centers as well as other centers of data and data-management expertise.

**Partners:** NCDC/NESDIS, NODC/NESDIS, CSC/NOS, and NOAA research and monitoring activities throughout the region.

**Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Archival information packages submitted for priority regional data sets (Q4)
- Southeast and Caribbean Data Explorer updated with new metadata records (Q4)

**Project Tasks:**

- Continue to identify data sets in the Southeast and Caribbean region to be assembled/archived, focusing on marine ecosystem indicator data (Q1-4)
- Where appropriate, update the Southeast and Caribbean Data Explorer to provide discovery and access (Q1-4)
- Develop appropriate linkage between the Ecosystem Indicators database (Activity C1) and the Data Explorer
- Promote use of the Southeast and Caribbean Data Explorer with users in the region (Q1-4)
- Make data available through Global Earth Observations Integrated Data Environment (GEO-IDE)-approved conventions (Q1-4)

## ***F. NOAA's Engagement Enterprise***

### **Activity F1. Advance Regional Partnerships**

**Strategic Objective(s):**

- An engaged and educated public with an improved capacity to make scientifically informed environmental decisions
- Integrated Services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders

**Contacts:** Geno Olmi ([Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov](mailto:Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov))  
Ginny Fay ([Ginny.Fay@noaa.gov](mailto:Ginny.Fay@noaa.gov))

Work Group members: Aleta Hohn, Dana Wusinich-Mendez, Chuck Hopkinson, Scott Cross, Bethney Ward, Rich Bandy, Pace Wilber,

**Project Summary:** A number of multi-partner coordination activities are occurring in the southeast region focused on ecosystems, sustainability, and economic development integration. These partnerships provide unique opportunities for inter-agency and state-federal collaborations. Over the last few years, SECART interacted with and provided various levels of support to several ongoing partnership efforts. Three partnerships receive particular attention

from SECART and are identified as separate activities (see Activity F2, F3, and F4) in this Operating Plan. In FY12, SECART will continue to monitor developments of the following groups, and others as appropriate, for enhanced engagement opportunities.

**Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS)** – Partnership between state environmental and natural resource officials from the southeast (NC, SC, GA, FL, AL, MS), the Department of Defense and other federal agencies to promote better collaboration in making resource-use decisions. SERPPAS works to prevent encroachment around military lands, encourage compatible resource-use decisions, and improve coordination among partners. To a large degree, the initiative for the South Atlantic Alliance emerged from this group.

**Southeast Natural Resource Leaders Group (SENRLG)** – Group of regional Federal executives who lead agencies with natural resource conservation as part of their mission. They strive to coordinate and collaborate across agencies to improve/enhance federal response to stakeholders.

**National Fish Habitat Initiative/Action Plan (NFHI or NFHAP)** – A diverse partnership focused on restoring fish habitats, the NFHI is being implemented in the Southeast through two groups, the **Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP)** and the **Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership**. SARP supports and facilitates science-based action to improve and protect aquatic habitats and resources, and focused habitat assessments, restoration actions, monitoring and evaluation of economically and socially significant aquatic habitats. Last year, SECART participated in several Board and Steering Committee meetings, two flow conferences, and monitored implementation of the Southeast Aquatic Habitat Plan (ongoing).

**Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA)** – One of 11 Regional Associations established through IOOS, SECOORA is responsible for coordinating coastal and ocean observing activities in the Southeast and facilitating dialogue among stakeholders. The Regional Association is guided by user groups in the region and helps ensure that data providers meet those needs. SECART is an affiliate member of SECOORA. NOAA provides funding and guidance to SECOORA and NOAA entities throughout the region interact with SECOORA on a regular basis.

**Project Objectives:**

- Monitor implementation and progress of regional partnerships
- Identify appropriate opportunities for engagement by SECART

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$2500 for coordinator travel; in kind support.

**Why SECART?** Regional partnerships offer important opportunities for interagency and state-federal collaborative. SECART, representing OneNOAA in the region, is well suited to engage in these partnerships to convey the mission and capabilities of NOAA in the region and to glean the key issues and strategies of federal, state, and on-governmental partners.

**Partners:**

- SERPPAS – NC, SC, GA, FL, AL, and MS; NOAA, DoD, US Forest Service, USFWS, EPA, all Armed Services, NRCS, USGS
- SENRLG – NOAA, USFWS, EPA, TVA, DOT, NRCS, BLM, NPS, US Forest Service, USGS, ACOE, and USAEC
- SARP – 14 southeastern states, NOAA, USFWS, Gulf and Atlantic States Fisheries Commissions, Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Management Councils, all SE Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, NGOs, and other local, private, industry, and business sectors.
- Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA) and the Caribbean Regional Association for ocean Observing (CaRA)
- Sea Grant programs in the region (NC, SC, GA, FL, PR)
- South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council and Caribbean Fishery Management Council
- The Nature Conservancy and other non-governmental organizations

**Milestones/Deliverables:**

- none

**Tasks:**

- Maintain internal (SECART) Regional Partnerships Workgroup to serve as “umbrella” for communication and coordination across the various regional and sub-regional partnerships
- Monitor existing and new partnerships within the region and determine which ones warrant SECART engagement.
- SECART members will participate in these various partnerships as appropriate and look to identify enhanced opportunities for engagement, if beneficial to NOAA’s mission in the region.

**Activity F2. Support the South Atlantic Alliance****Strategic Objective(s):**

- An engaged and educated public with an improved capacity to make scientifically informed environmental decisions
- Integrated Services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders

**Contact:** Ginny Fay ([Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov](mailto:Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov))

Project Team: Ginny Fay, Geno Olmi, Chuck Hopkinson, Scott Cross, Bethney Ward, Rich Bandy, Pace Wilber, Randy Schneider, Geoff Scott

**Project Summary:** The South Atlantic Alliance (SAA) is the regional ocean partnership among the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. Their mission is to significantly increase regional collaboration among these South Atlantic states and with federal

agency partners and other stakeholders, and to sustain and enhance the environmental, natural resource, economic, public safety, social, and national defense missions of the respective states and the South Atlantic region as a whole. NOAA is one of three federal co-chairs. NOAA can advance collaboration in direct response to coastal and ocean issues identified by the SAA. NOAA can also explore innovative mechanisms for ecosystem management, integrate coastal and marine spatial planning, integrate coastal and ocean observations, develop decision-support systems based on policy and science, while emphasizing local, state and federal collaboration.

**Project Objectives:**

- Increase the level of understanding of NOAA products and services in the region
- Respond to region-wide science and research needs, including coastal and marine spatial planning
- Advance regional and internal collaboration
- Enhance the success of goals and objectives of the SAA

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$5,000 SECART funds to assist SAA Web site (\$2,500), \$\$2,500 for partner or NOAA staff travel; in-kind support

**Why SECART?** SECART is best-suited to coordinate NOAA’s involvement with the SAA not only through its role in the formative stages of the SAA but also because SECART is in the region, knows capabilities of NOAA within the region, and has existing positive relationships with SAA member states, federal co-chairs, and supporting partner organizations. This provides a powerful mechanism for enhancing and sustaining NOAA response capacity in the region, links to the academic research community through the Sea Grant College Program, and establishes greater NOAA credibility within the region.

**Partners:** North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, EPA, USGS, Navy, USMC, SARRP, SECOORA, SAFMC, TNC, UNC-W, NC, SC, GA, FL and PR Sea Grant Colleges

**Milestones/Deliverables:**

- NOAA response to SAA FFO proposal initiated (Q2-3)
- Federal response to Implementation Plan facilitated (Q1-4)
- Engagement in SAA Implementation Plan (Q1-4)

**Tasks:**

- Assist states in finalizing revised FFO proposals(Q1)
- Coordinate the One-NOAA response to the SAA Implementation Plan (Q1-4)
- Coordinate the federal response to the SAA Implementation Plan (Q2-4)
- Facilitate development of Implementation Plan (Q2-4)
- Brief and advocate for SAA within home offices and Line Offices (Q1-4)
- Monitor NOAA responses to requests from the SAA (“traffic cop”) (Q1-4)

## Activity F3. Support the NOAA in the Caribbean Collaborative

### Strategic Objective(s):

- Integrated Services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders

**Contact:** Dana Wusinich-Mendez ([Dana.Wusinich-Mendez@noaa.gov](mailto:Dana.Wusinich-Mendez@noaa.gov))

Project team: Annie Hillary, Geno Olmi, Peter Ortner, Ginny Fay,  
David Newcomer

**Project Summary:** NOAA in the Caribbean (NOAA-Carib) has assembled a steering committee of 15 representatives from across NOAA as well as key partner agencies in the Caribbean region. This steering committee met for the first time on August 31 and September 1, 2011 and developed a plan of action for the initiative. A student intern from the University of Miami-RSMAS has been identified that is helping to coordinate this effort. Funding support will be needed to support this student and to implement the outcomes of the steering committee meeting.

### Project Objective:

- To facilitate internal and external NOAA communication and collaboration in the Caribbean subregion

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$8500 as follows: \$1200 to cover a student intern and \$7300 for costs associated with a larger meeting of NOAA Carib in FY12. Coordinator travel \$2500.

**Why SECART?** SECART covers a spatially large and diverse area. Effective development of projects may best be done at a subregional level. Rather than have a subregional group operate outside the auspices of SECART, including this established group as part of SECART has the potential to further SECART's goals in the subregion.

**Partners:** All NOAA line offices participate in NOAA Carib, along with Sea Grant, CZM managers, the Caribbean fisheries Management Council and others.

### Key Milestones/Deliverables:

- NOAA-Carib meeting in Puerto Rico or the USVI (Q3)
- Meeting Report (Q4)

### Tasks:

- Create a newsletter, web presence and web calendar for NOAA-Carib
- Plan, organize, and conduct a FY12 NOAA-Carib Meeting
- Increase internal NOAA communications
- Prioritize needs of constituents in the region and communicate partner needs
- Identify region wide opportunities that can attract resources/develop a brainstorming group that will develop an inventory of resourcing opportunities
- Establish stronger partnerships with regional organizations that can assist NOAA

- Develop a communications/public relations strategy to build awareness of NOAA’s link to the regional economy

## Activity F4. Support the NOAA in the Carolinas Collaborative

### Strategic Objective(s):

- Integrated services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders
- Resilient coastal communities that can adapt to the impacts of hazards and climate change, and improved water quality support human health and coastal ecosystem services.

**Contact:** Darin Figurskey ([Darin.Figurskey@noaa.gov](mailto:Darin.Figurskey@noaa.gov))  
 Aleta Hohn ([Aleta.Hohn@noaa.gov](mailto:Aleta.Hohn@noaa.gov))  
 Rich Bandy ([Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov](mailto:Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov))

**Project Summary:** NOAA in the Carolinas (NinC) has been a grassroots partnership of NOAA and extramural partners from across the region. The mission of NinC is to develop and use a OneNOAA approach to work more efficiently and enhance NOAA products and services to the region and the nation. This mission pre-dates NOAA regional collaboration, and is highly consistent with the current aims of SECART. Several SECART members also serve on the NinC steering committee.

NinC has three main objectives:

- Understand and support OneNOAA vision and avenues for regional influence.
- Promote communication and integration of NOAA partners (inside and outside) and activities in the region – BUILD A TEAM!!
- Improve products, services, and public access.

There have been a few NinC meetings in the past 10 years, and in most of the recent meetings, there has been a combination of plenary and breakout sessions. Plenary sessions have been a combination of keynote addresses, and updates on regional and/or national initiatives mostly based on the conference theme. Breakout sessions have been structured primarily to help identify new partnership projects for NinC to help promote, generate support, and build momentum for.

NinC will base a 2012 meeting on the two themes of water resources and resiliency. In two days, the meeting will be run along parallel tracks, with concurrent plenary sessions on each topic. Interspersed in the meeting would be keynote presentations on items of interest to the entire group in attendance. Breakout sessions would be designed as appropriate, and importantly, sufficient time will be allowed for breaks to allow attendees to meet with each other to build new, or strengthen ongoing, partnerships. Feedback from previous workshops has been that there should be more time for breaks to allow for better one-on-one or small group collaboration among attendees. Overall, the workshop is being designed to be one of engagement, and building new and enhancing current partnerships. In order to create a meeting

with broad appeal, NinC has requested and obtained subject matter ideas from NOAA partners and stakeholders in the Carolinas, particularly regarding how NOAA offices and NOAA-funded programs are addressing both resiliency and water resources within the region.

NinC will also host periodic webinars to increase awareness of NOAA activities and capabilities in the region. The audience for the webinars is intended to be internal to NOAA. Effectiveness of the webinars will be assessed at the end of the fiscal year.

**Project Objective:**

- Support NinC to ensure better internal and external NOAA communication in the Carolinas subregion, and for the purpose of enhancing coastal resiliency and water resource project understanding, collaboration and coordination.

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$3,000 for NOAA in the Carolinas coordinator; \$400 for Regional Coordinator travel; in kind support. Administrative costs of the workshop are planned to be obtained through registration fees.

**Why SECART?** SECART covers a spatially large and diverse area. Effective coordination and development of projects may best be done at a subregional level. Working with NinC, and supporting the workshop through SECART involvement at least with regard to time and ideas, will further SECART's goals in the subregion.

**Partners:** All NOAA line offices participate in NinC, along with Sea Grant, CZM managers, NERRs, NURP, state climatologists, emergency managers, regional universities, and others.

**Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Provide funding for NinC coordinator position and leverage additional funds from region (Q3)
- NinC 2012 meeting, with focus on water resources and resiliency (Q2)
- NinC 2012 meeting report (Q4)

**Tasks:**

- Participate on NinC Executive and Steering Committees (Q1 - 4)
- Support NinC coordinator and, where possible, leverage funding within the region to provide support (Q3)
- Assist NinC Executive and Steering Committees in planning for, and execution of, the 2012 NinC meeting with the themes of water resources and resiliency. (Q1-2)
- Support NinC Coordinator in development of the NinC 2012 Workshop report (Q3-4)
- Host NOAA webinars and assess their effectiveness. (Q4)

**Activity F5. Enhance Regional Outreach and Communications**

**Strategic Objective(s):**

- An engaged and educated public with an improved capacity to make scientifically informed environmental decisions

- Integrated services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders.

**Contact:** Sarah Fangman, NOS NMS ([Sarah.Fangman@noaa.gov](mailto:Sarah.Fangman@noaa.gov))  
Bethney Ward, NOS CSC ([Bethney.Ward@noaa.gov](mailto:Bethney.Ward@noaa.gov) )

Workgroup members: Erica Rule, Dave Brown, Jeff Payne, Geno Olmi

**Project Summary:** SECART will conduct a number of communication and outreach activities targeted at facilitating collaboration among NOAA programs, partners, and stakeholders; promoting awareness and understanding of NOAA’s varying capabilities, services and programmatic priorities as they relate to regional and national priorities; and gathering feedback to improve products and services. SECART will continue to build, maintain or enhance “one NOAA in the region” outreach/inreach materials initiated last year. They will also work with other SECART work groups to support their outreach and communication needs and to identify appropriate O&C materials for opportunistic use based on venue or audience. The SECART Outreach and Communications work group will be expanded again to bring in additional expertise and interests.

**Project Objectives:**

- Engage with regional staff, partners, and stakeholders to strengthen collaborative ties and build awareness in the region through targeted outreach or communications.
- Offer a suite of O&C products for SECART and others to use as needed that represent One-NOAA in the Southeast and Caribbean region, including the one-pager, kiosk, banner stands, web site, newsletter, and “State of the Coast” regional brochure.
- Expand the SECART Outreach and Communications work group to include others with O&C expertise and interest in the region.

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$1,000 for supplies, materials; approximately .5 months of programming/web/technical support at NOAA Coastal Services Center (from FY11 funds); shipping costs for kiosk provided by NOAA CSC; approximately 1 month of in-kind support from SECART members; coordinator travel related to Outreach captured under other Engagement projects.

**Why SECART?** NOAA’s regional teams are a mechanism for effectively communicating the agency’s mission and priorities to internal and external audiences in a locally-relevant manner. To contribute to this goal, SECART engages in many forms of communication, including facilitation of messages through appropriate media, making formal presentations, and personal interactions. The activities outlined for SECART in FY12 build on O&C activities and coordination started in FY11 by the work group and team.

**Partners:** SECART will continue to work with the Coastal Services Center to complete or enhance the one-NOAA regional exhibit materials (kiosk, banner stands); with PPI to publish the SECART web site; and with NOS SPO to complete a “state of the coast” brochure for the southeast (Caribbean to be completed in the future). SECART will look to other NOAA programs, offices, and regional partners to add members to Outreach and Communications work

group and to provide additional avenues for regional staff and partners to contribute to and benefit from SECART O&C activities.

**Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- New work group member (Q2)
- Updated SECART web site (Q3)
- One-NOAA content for kiosk (Q1-4)
- One-NOAA banner stands (Q4)
- State of the Coast southeast regional brochure (Q2)
- SECART Newsletter (Q4)

**Tasks:**

- Expand Outreach and Communications Workgroup to include non-team members with expertise in communications and outreach (Q2)
- Maintain content for SECART web site and enhance/update as needed (Q1-4)
- Maintain content for desktop kiosk (Q2-3)
- Develop one-NOAA banners for banner stands (Q4)
- Monitor and assist SECART working groups with outreach support as needed (Q1-4)
- Make one-NOAA outreach materials available for use by other NOAA staff in the region (Q1-4)
- Identify and utilize various forums to display one-NOAA outreach materials to partners and stakeholders (Q1-4)
- Maintain content for SECART kiosk and enhance/update content and interface as needed; make kiosk available to NOAA staff and partners in the region.
- Evaluate the concept of a quarterly SECART newsletter.

## **Activity F6. Support the Regional Team**

**Strategic Objectives:**

- Integrated services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders

**Contacts:** Geno Olmi ([Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov](mailto:Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov))  
Jeff Payne ([Jeff.Payne@noaa.gov](mailto:Jeff.Payne@noaa.gov))

**Project Summary:** For Regional Collaboration teams to be effective, they must have regular and effective coordination and communication. SECART maintains monthly conference calls and semi-annual face-to-face meetings as the key opportunities to exchange information and discuss SECART’s mission and strategy. We continue to refine the purpose and format of our meetings to be more productive and effective. During FY12, we will hold two face-to-face meetings. Our winter meeting is scheduled for early February 2012 and will focus on 1) status and updates of SECART activities and 2) engaging other NOAA staff and partners in the region. Our second face-to-face meeting will be held in June or July and will focus on progress of ongoing SECART projects, team business, and identifying FY12 priorities and activities. In

addition to the monthly calls and semi-annual meetings, team members communicate more frequently via phone and email.

Development and execution of the team's annual Integrated Operating Plan is a major component of this activity. While much of the execution is contained in other Activities, the planning for and development of the annual IOP is captured here. As part of this process, we continually evaluate regional priorities of stakeholders and for the SECART.

Finally, establishment of work groups (sub-teams) in FY11 has helped improve team operations. It does, however, continue to require coordination and oversight by the SECART team lead and coordinator. More specifically, under this Activity in FY12, an Engagement Workgroup will be formed. The purpose of the Engagement Workgroup is to provide the coordination across NOAA's efforts in regional partnerships and outreach activities so that they so they are coordinated, effective and not duplicative.

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$8,000 to support two SECART workshops, including meeting space rental, supplies, and some support of team member travel to the meetings; \$900 for Regional Coordinator travel in support of team operations; in-kind support is provided in team member time contributions.

**Project Objectives:**

- Maintain and improve communication and coordination of the regional team.
- Manage and improve team operations.
- Maintain and enhance topical work groups (sub-teams)
- Establish Engagement Work Group
- Effectively execute the FY12 Integrated Operating Plan
- Make progress toward the Engagement Enterprise Objective: Integrated Services Meeting the Evolving Demands of Regional Stakeholders
- Begin development of the FY13 Integrated Operating Plan

**Why SECART?** This is an important activity for the team to function effectively.

**Partners:** Team members.

**Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Final FY12 Integrated Operating Plan with spend plan (Q1)
- Draft FY13 Integrated Operating Plan with spend plan (Q4)

**Tasks:**

- Convene monthly team calls and distribute notes (Q1-4)
- Complete final FY12 IOP and spend plan (Q1)
- Establish winter meeting planning team (Q1)
- Organize and convene winter meeting (Q1-2)
- Distribute winter meeting notes (Q2)
- Assist with success of all work groups (Q1-4)

- Establish summer meeting planning team (Q2)
- Organize and convene summer meeting (Q3-4)
- Distribute summer meeting notes (Q4)
- Review stakeholder needs as expressed through previous needs assessments (Q2-4)
- Draft FY13 IOP (Q4)

## **Activity F7. Support Regional Collaboration and NOAA Leadership**

### **Strategic Objective:**

- Integrated Services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders

**Contact:** Geno Olmi ([Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov](mailto:Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov))  
 Jeff Payne ([Jeff.Payne@noaa.gov](mailto:Jeff.Payne@noaa.gov))

**Project Summary:** Regional Collaboration expands upon existing regional coordination and communication efforts by adding the component of program integration activities to address NOAA’s priorities at both the national and regional scale. The purpose of regional collaboration is to improve NOAA’s productivity and value to customers, using existing authority and accountability structures. Regional Collaboration Teams identify and apply NOAA’s full range of capabilities, within and across regions, to design the best geographically-specific solutions for customers.

In addition, SECART is called upon to provide information about and from stakeholders and NOAA entities in the region, and also to serve as ambassadors for the agency and department. A current and prominent example is that SECART (Payne) was asked to co-lead development of a NOAA Caribbean Strategy . That activity is well underway and will be completed in Q2. Opportunities to engage stakeholders often require “on the ground” logistical planning and coordination; often with limited advance notification. SECART will respond to information and service requests from NOAA and the Department of Commerce, as needed.

To achieve this goal, SECART will work closely with NOAA’s Office of Program Planning and Integration, the Executive Oversight Group, NOAA Line Offices, and the other Regional Collaboration Teams to strengthen the capacity and value of the overall regional collaboration effort – promoting and supporting the One-NOAA approach within each region and across the regions. SECART will engage NOAA staff within the region to strengthen the communication and coordination of NOAA’s activities in the region.

### **Project Objectives:**

- Strengthen “One-NOAA” approach within the region
- Strengthen NOAA’s Regional Collaboration objectives
- Improve inter-regional coordination
- Support the Executive oversight Group and PPI in implementation of NOAA Regional Collaboration
- Serve NOAA and the Department of Commerce as needed for requests for information and services from the region (Q1-4)

- Represent NOAA and the Department of Commerce in the region
- Continue to co-lead and support development of a “NOAA Caribbean Strategy” as requested by the NOAA Ocean and Coastal Council

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$2200 for Coordinator travel in support of Regional Collaboration tasks, including Regional Coordinator meeting in DC, Annual ReCo workshop, and attending other RCT meetings; in kind support of team members; time of Coordinator and Team Lead.

**Why SECART?** This is an inherent and necessary project for NOAA’s regional collaboration effort to be successful.

**Partners:** NOAA’s Office of Program Planning and Integration, the Regional Collaboration Executive Oversight Group, Line Offices, and the other Regional Collaboration Teams; NGSP stakeholders

**Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Regional Collaboration Meetings in DC (Q1)
- Regional Collaboration Workshop (Q3)
- NOAA Caribbean Strategy final (Q2)

**Tasks:**

- Participate in semi-monthly Regional Coordinator calls (Q1-4)
- Participate in monthly Regional Team Lead calls (Q1-4)
- Support PPI as needed to further Regional Collaboration (Q1-4)
- Participate in Strategic Execution and Evaluation process as appropriate to advocate for addressing regional priorities (Q1-4)
- Participate in the Regional Coordination Meetings in Silver Spring and DC (Q1)
- Participate in the planning and execution of the Annual Regional Collaboration Workshop (Q1-3)
- Coordinate HQ visits and briefings, as requested (Q1-4)
- Inform HQ of issues, concerns and events important to the region (Q1-4)
- Lead and support development of a NOAA Caribbean Strategy by leading a workgroup of cross-NOAA personnel to assemble an inventory of existing programs and projects, review existing assessments of needs in the region, and writing a strategy for NOAA engagement in the region.

# Appendix 1. Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team Membership

(1 Dec 2011)

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
Bandy, Rich	NWS	Newport, NC	<a href="mailto:Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov">Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov</a>
Brown, Dave	NESDIS	Ft. Worth, TX	<a href="mailto:David.P.Brown@noaa.gov">David.P.Brown@noaa.gov</a>
Causey, Billy	NOS	Key West, FL	<a href="mailto:Billy.Causey@noaa.gov">Billy.Causey@noaa.gov</a>
Cross, Scott	NESDIS	Charleston, SC	<a href="mailto:Scott.Cross@noaa.gov">Scott.Cross@noaa.gov</a>
Fangman, Sarah	NOS	Savannah, GA	<a href="mailto:Sarah.fangman@noaa.gov">Sarah.fangman@noaa.gov</a>
Fay, Ginny	NMFS	St. Petersburg, FL	<a href="mailto:Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov">Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov</a>
Figurskey, Darin	NWS	Raleigh, NC	<a href="mailto:Darin.Figurskey@noaa.gov">Darin.Figurskey@noaa.gov</a>
Hillary, Annie	NOS	Silver Spring, MD	<a href="mailto:Annie.Hillary@noaa.gov">Annie.Hillary@noaa.gov</a>
Hohn, Aleta	NMFS	Beaufort, NC	<a href="mailto:Aleta.Hohn@noaa.gov">Aleta.Hohn@noaa.gov</a>
Hopkinson, Chuck	GA Sea Grant	Athens, GA	<a href="mailto:chopkins@uga.edu">chopkins@uga.edu</a>
Kearns, Ed	NESDIS	Asheville, NC	<a href="mailto:Ed.Kearns@noaa.gov">Ed.Kearns@noaa.gov</a>
Leonardi, Alan	OAR	Miami, FL	<a href="mailto:Alan.Leonardi@noaa.gov">Alan.Leonardi@noaa.gov</a>
Mecray, Ellen	NESDIS	Bohema, NY	<a href="mailto:Ellen.Mecray@noaa.gov">Ellen.Mecray@noaa.gov</a>
Newcomer, Dave	NOS	Tallahassee, FL	<a href="mailto:David.Newcomer@noaa.gov">David.Newcomer@noaa.gov</a>
Olmi, Geno	NOS	Charleston, SC	<a href="mailto:Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov">Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov</a>
Ortner, Peter	CMAS/U.Miami	Miami, FL	<a href="mailto:portner@rsmas.miami.edu">portner@rsmas.miami.edu</a>
Payne, Jeff	NOS	Charleston, SC	<a href="mailto:Jeff.Payne@noaa.gov">Jeff.Payne@noaa.gov</a>
Ward, Bethney	NOS	Charleston, SC	<a href="mailto:Bethney.Ward@noaa.gov">Bethney.Ward@noaa.gov</a>
Wilber, Pace	NMFS	Charleston, SC	<a href="mailto:Pace.Wilber@noaa.gov">Pace.Wilber@noaa.gov</a>
Wusinich-Mendez, Dana	NOS	Miami, FL	<a href="mailto:Dana.Wusinich-Mendez@noaa.gov">Dana.Wusinich-Mendez@noaa.gov</a>