

# FY 2013 Integrated Operating Plan

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## Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team

## National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration



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

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# Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team

## FY 2013 Annual Operating Plan

### I. Background

#### *Regional Collaboration in NOAA*

NOAA established Regional Collaboration in 2007 to support integrated, regionally-tailored implementation of NOAA-wide program priorities and provide a more systematic approach to both internal and external communications and coordination. NOAA produces relevant, reliable, and timely scientific information to support decision-making and fulfill its mandates. Regional collaboration helps NOAA to achieve this by identifying and applying NOAA's range of capabilities, within and across regions, to improve 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 partners, and identifying new partners to work with*
- *Synthesizing regional needs and capabilities into achievable and nationally-significant priorities*
- *Building and maintaining relationships with stakeholders and partners*

Regional collaboration expands on existing coordination and communication efforts by enhancing program integration activities to address NOAA's priorities at national and regional scales. As a network, regional teams identify and apply NOAA's range of capabilities to design geographically-specific solutions for constituents. Each regional team helps NOAA to:

*Integrate:* The network helps NOAA achieve goals by facilitating collaboration, within regions and between national and regional groups. By growing occasions to work together, the network identifies ways of solving problems that improves how NOAA does business.

*Innovate:* The network enables line offices to generate ideas for better serving the public. Decision-support tools and user-friendly visualizations have been catalyzed by team efforts, and the network helps tailor application of products to the needs of other regions.

*Engage:* The network amplifies NOAA's capacity by forging links to agencies, universities, membership groups, private companies, and nonprofits. Regional teams offer a place-based approach to engagement that highlights NOAA's capabilities as a whole.

The objectives of NOAA’s Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team (SECART) are to:

- Promote and leverage a One-NOAA approach
- Improve communication throughout the region, within and external to NOAA
- Assist and coordinate means by which NOAA line offices, partners and constituents contribute to and benefit from NOAA products... and the research and development activities that lead to these products...as they address regional issues
- Share technical and administrative assets and expertise to add value to activities and projects
- Improve access by NOAA staff, partners, stakeholders, and constituents to NOAA products
- Identify regional issues, requirements and priorities, propose and pursue coordinated solutions, and advocate for these within NOAA
- Identify methods to engage regional partners in a sustainable, systematic, and inclusive way

SECART is one of eight regional teams. Membership of 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*. As needed, regional teams reach beyond team members to establish relationships and access expertise within the region to meet goals.

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

### **Geography and Environment**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Southeast and Caribbean region is composed of the land areas of North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the marine environment adjacent these lands. Topography ranges from mountains to coastal plains to expansive or abrupt continental/island shelves and intervening ocean basins. The region contains extensive riverine, estuarine, marsh, barrier island, forest, mangrove, and coral reef systems.

Climate is warm-temperate to tropical. 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 reefs. The Gulf Stream is an important influence on biological, chemical, and physical characteristics. The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary lies at the crossroads between the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea, and is the most biologically diverse coral reef ecosystem within the wider Caribbean. Natural and human-influenced hazards include thunderstorms and tornadoes, floods and debris flows, earthquakes, tsunamis, drought and wild fires, winter storms, subsidence, saltwater intrusion, coastal erosion, and tropical storms and hurricanes.

### **Social and Economic Context**

The 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. Population in the 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, while the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) showed little gain in population and Puerto Rico (PR) decreased. The growing population across the Southeast 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, a substantial number of the 3.8 million residents live in close proximity to the coast.

In 2010, economic activity in the Southeast region (excluding U.S. territories in the Caribbean) accounted for more than 10% of the U.S. economy, supporting 16 million jobs, yielding \$657 billion in wages, and producing \$1.7 trillion in gross domestic product (GDP). Ocean-dependent activities like commercial fishing, ocean-dependent tourism and recreation, and shipping accounted for 323,000 jobs, \$7.6 billion in wages, and \$17.2 billion in GDP. As in other parts of the nation, the largest share of ocean-dependent jobs was in the tourism and recreation sector. In 2010, tourism and recreation accounted for 85% of the region's ocean-dependent jobs and 71% of its GDP. The marine transportation sector accounted for another 11% of ocean-dependent jobs and 23% of GDP. 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.<sup>1</sup>

### **Drivers and Challenges**

Understanding what matters to the constituents of the region is a step toward improving overall NOAA responsiveness. Important drivers and challenges influencing the concerns of NOAA constituents include:

- Rapid land-use changes
- Economic development
- Population growth in both inland corridors and coastal areas
- Degraded water quantity and quality, including impacts from land sources of pollution
- Climate-change impacts
- Degradation and loss of riverine, coastal and marine habitats, including coral reefs
- Sustainability of fisheries and food security
- Recovery of protected species
- Offshore and coastal energy development
- Extreme weather, flooding, and geologic events
- Modernizing maritime infrastructure to keep pace with global shipping trends

### **NOAA in the Southeast and Caribbean**

NOAA has substantial assets within the region, including workforce concentrations in:

- Beaufort, NC (NOS, NMFS)
- Asheville, NC (NESDIS)

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<sup>1</sup> National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Spatial Trends in Coastal Socioeconomics (STICS) Data. Based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Silver Spring, MD: NOAA National Ocean Service. <http://coastalsocioeconomics.noaa.gov/>.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Economics: National Ocean Watch (ENOW) Data. Based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Charleston, SC: NOAA Coastal Services Center. [www.csc.noaa.gov/enow](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/enow).

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

Although not major concentrations, NOAA assets are also located in PR and the USVI, enabling engagement within the U.S. domestic and wider-Caribbean. The region includes three National Marine Sanctuaries:

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

A River Forecast Center is located in Atlanta, while Weather Forecast Offices are located in each state and U.S. Caribbean. Geodetic advisors reside with institutions in NC, SC, FL and PR. The NOAA aircraft operations center is located at MacDill Air Force Base in FL and two ships (Ronald Brown and Nancy Foster) home port in Charleston, SC. Port agents, law enforcement staff, and navigation managers are distributed along the coast. In addition to NOAA employees and facilities, NOAA engages with and benefits from partnerships with NOAA-supported entities, including:

- 6 National Estuarine Research Reserves
- 6 Coastal Zone Management programs
- 5 Sea Grant programs
- 3 Cooperative Institutes
- 2 Regional Integrated Science and Assessments programs
- 2 regional associations of coastal ocean observing systems
- 2 regional Fishery Management Councils

### ***Priorities for FY 2013***

NOAA's strategic goals and objectives are aligned with the Department of Commerce (DOC) goals and objectives and with Administration priorities. Within this framework, regional collaboration seeks to improve NOAA's productivity and value to customers by articulating and acting on the broader NOAA goals and objectives in terms of priority regional needs and regional contributions.

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

NOAA focuses 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 and Technology Enterprise
- NOAA’s Engagement Enterprise
- NOAA’s Organization and Administration Enterprise

### **NOAA’s FY13 and Outyear Priorities**

Each year the NOAA Administrator identifies, through an [Annual Guidance Memorandum](#) (AGM), the agency’s annual priorities. In the context of NOAA’s long-term strategy, the AGM establishes programmatic priorities that shapes NOAA’s execution focus for FY13 and plans for FY14-19. The AGM near-term execution imperatives for FY13 will focus on:

- Evolving NOAA’s weather services to become more effective, efficient, and agile
- Cost-effectively sustaining NOAA’s operational satellite capabilities
- Re-engineering a sustainable suite of NOAA’s core infrastructure

Focus areas for planning are:

- Strengthening the production and delivery of climate information and services to inform the management of climate-related risks
- Improving ocean and coastal stewardship by focusing habitat efforts in priority areas and demonstrating landscape-scale results
- Advancing NOAA’s data integration and services to support resilient coastal communities and economies
- Improving the methodologies to assess and manage fish stocks and protected resources
- Enhancing research and modeling to advance NOAA’s mission

### **Regional Team Priorities**

Regional collaboration has particular responsibility for implementing the Engagement Enterprise Objective of the NOAA strategic plan...“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
- A workforce operating with shared awareness and understanding of its cross-agency missions and capabilities

In FY13, 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 to examine how well the agency is addressing Administration and regional priorities. IOPs also serve as a tool for communicating regionally-informed priorities. Regional team IOPs enable NOAA to be more effective by:

- Identifying regional areas for emphasis
- Uncovering and filling gaps across the line offices and implementing programs
- Aligning and leveraging NOAA capabilities with partners
- Measuring progress toward stated goals and objectives

### **Organization**

This IOP for FY2013 addresses national and regional priorities by 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 strategic plan. Each activity is related to strategic objectives within the long-term goal. Projects may address multiple long-term goals, but are organized within a single goal for the purposes of the IOP. Activity descriptions provide information about the purpose, scope, partners, and budget of the activity. Milestones are associated with deliverables or expected accomplishments.

Regional Collaboration funding from NOAA (\$50K) has been allocated to enable SECART to address priorities. This funding for SECART work has been and will continue to be augmented and leveraged through other programs and funding opportunities. The spend plan for SECART's FY13 IOP is presented in *Appendix 2*.

## **II. Team Activities**

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

*Low-lying coastal areas, population growth, valuable fisheries, and fragile coral reef systems are among the characteristics making this region vulnerable to impacts from climate change. Considerations for the region include sea level rise, coastal erosion, ocean acidification, elevated water temperatures, changes in precipitation, drought, and more frequent weather events such as storms and flooding. NOAA is enhancing its climate-related services in this region by working with stakeholders to meet their needs for credible information related to local- and region-specific impacts and adaptation strategies.*

## Activity A1. Supporting the Southeast and Caribbean Climate Outreach Community of Practice

### Continuing Project

#### Strategic Objectives:

- 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:

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- David Brown, RCSD-Southern Region ([David.P.Brown@noaa.gov](mailto:David.P.Brown@noaa.gov))
- Rich Bandy, NWS ([Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov](mailto:Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov))

**Project Summary:** In FY10 and FY12, SeaGrant and SECART provided funds and technical expertise to build a Climate Outreach Community of Practice (CoP) for coastal managers. The purpose is to enhance the capacity of coastal climate extension and outreach professionals to provide accurate and timely information, tools, and assistance on coastal climate issues to stakeholders. Two workshops were hosted to bring the region's extension and outreach community together, along with climate experts, community planners, and decision makers to help them understand climate change considerations, adaptation strategies, and risk and vulnerability assessment processes and tools. Outcomes from the workshops included several requests for more information and communication, including a "who's who" directory of climate information providers and practitioners, and recognition that communication among the CoP needs to be sustained through regular webinars and meetings. FY13 activities will support a prototype directory of climate information providers and practitioners in the SECART geography, linked from the SECART website and the prototype National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) integrated regional climate services portals, as well as a webinar series for the CoP to sustain communication among the members and provide information on climate science and service activities in the region.

#### Project Objectives:

- Maintain a community of practice focused on climate adaptation and resilience, and contextualized for the region
- Increase the level of understanding of climate information for the region
- Raise awareness of ongoing climate adaptation efforts and activities in the region

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$10,000. These funds will be divided to support staff time (e.g., CSC/SECART intern) to build an initial provider and practitioner directory, and support regional partners to organize and implement a regular webinar series directed towards CoP members.

**Why SECART:** SECART has already invested resources into building the CoP and will continue to support, as feasible, its maintenance and growth. SECART has the capability, through its partner networks and institutional knowledge, to identify programs and partners for inclusion in the “who’s who” directory of regional resources, as well as who may be engaged in communication with the CoP via webinars and other mechanisms. SECART team members and members of the CoP will be asked to review draft content, structure, and presentation of the directory, and provide feedback on the webinar and communication activities.

**Partners:** Members of the SECART team and other regional partners (e.g., CoP)

**Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Prototype directory of climate information providers and practitioners in the SECART geography, linked from the SECART website and the prototype National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) integrated regional climate services portals
- Establish a webinar series for the CoP designed to support sustained communication among the membership and provide information on emerging climate science and service activities in the region

**Project Activities:**

- Coordinate and help prepare as necessary two webinars for CoP members (possible topics may include climate.gov, NOAA adaptation team and science messages, updates on climate science, updates on NOAA tools/resources, etc.)
- Develop draft content and a template for the regional “who’s who” directory, identify the primary audience (i.e., internal or external), and post draft content to a regional website (e.g., SECART, NCDC integrated regional climate portals, StormSmart Connect, etc.) for review and assessment
- Expand the reach/membership of the CoP by inviting new participants onto webinars
- Regularly engage on StormSmart Connect to share expertise and NOAA resources with the CoP community

## **Activity A2. Communications and Outreach with NIDIS Pilot Projects**

### **New Project**

**Strategic Objectives:**

- 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:**

- Ellen Mecray, RCSD-Eastern Region ([Ellen.L.Mecray@noaa.gov](mailto:Ellen.L.Mecray@noaa.gov))
- David Brown, RCSD-Southern Region ([David.P.Brown@noaa.gov](mailto:David.P.Brown@noaa.gov))
- Lisa Darby, OAR/ESRL/PSD ([Lisa.Darby@noaa.gov](mailto:Lisa.Darby@noaa.gov))

**Project Summary:** There are two National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) pilot projects within the SECART geography: Carolinas and Apalachicola-Flint-Chattahoochee (ACF). Both pilots are designed to promote long-term capacity in early warning systems for drought onset while also supporting impact assessment, reporting, and communication during drought events. This is achieved in part through close interaction with constituent communities in the public and private sectors and through outreach and communications strategies such as webinars, newsletters, and the U.S. Drought Portal ([www.drought.gov](http://www.drought.gov)).

In FY13, NIDIS program staff at the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) will work with the SECART climate work group leads and SECART outreach and communications team to provide NIDIS pilot information as input to SECART outreach materials. This may include: NIDIS-based content for the SECART climate webpage; interactive multimedia content for the SECART kiosk; and contributions to the SECART and NOAA in the Carolinas news updates. NIDIS pilot efforts will benefit from SECART's regional partner distribution lists to better engage non-traditional constituents in drought early warning and assessment activities.

**Project Objectives:**

- Increase the level of understanding of drought impacts in the SECART region
- Raise awareness of drought onset through increasingly robust early warning systems
- Identify new participants in NIDIS pilot activities via SECART partner networks

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$0. This will be supported by SECART as an in-kind activity of the climate work group and SECART members engaged in outreach and communications.

**Why SECART:** SECART's regional network of partners and constituents will inform new partnering opportunities in the NIDIS pilot projects. At the same time, NIDIS activities and accomplishments will be shared with a broader regional audience in the Southeast.

**Partners:** Members of the SECART climate work group, NIDIS program (OAR) staff, NIDIS pilot communities

**Milestones/Deliverables:**

- NIDIS content for SECART and NOAA in the Carolinas news and information sources
- NIDIS content added to SECART kiosk
- NIDIS content added to SECART climate website

## **Activity A3. Informing Climate Science Center and Landscape Conservation Cooperative Science and Service Priorities**

### **New Project**

**Strategic Objectives:**

- 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:**

- Ellen Mecray, RCSD-Eastern Region ([Ellen.L.Mecray@noaa.gov](mailto:Ellen.L.Mecray@noaa.gov))
- David Brown, RCSD-Southern Region ([David.P.Brown@noaa.gov](mailto:David.P.Brown@noaa.gov))

**Project Summary:** NOAA is an active regional partner with the Department of Interior (DOI) in supplying and supporting the delivery of climate science and services. A primary mechanism for NOAA-DOI coordination at the regional scale is the Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) network, which is supported in part by DOI Climate Science Centers (CSC). Together, the DOI CSCs and LCCs provide a framework to identify landscape-scale science and services priorities for conservation and management. In FY13, the SECART climate work group will work to enhance NOAA's engagement with the Southeast CSC and South Atlantic, Peninsular Florida, and Caribbean LCCs by utilizing the SECART network of partners to ensure that NOAA science and service priorities are informing DOI CSC and LCC science planning and project funding decisions. The climate work group leads (the Eastern and Southern regional climate services directors (RCSDs)), sit on steering or advisory committees for these entities, and will coordinate SECART's input into science planning meetings, project proposal reviews, planning initiatives, and cross-DOI CSC and LCC coordination efforts. In this way, SECART will be a leader among NOAA's regional collaboration teams in engaging with DOI CSCs and LCCs to better align with NOAA NGSP priorities, working with and through the RCSDs.

**Project Objectives:**

- Ensure NOAA science and services priorities from across all line offices are well-articulated in South Atlantic, Peninsular Florida, and Caribbean LCC project planning activities and FY13 project funding decisions
- Ensure NOAA science and services priorities from across all line offices are provided as input to the Southeast DOI CSC FY13 science planning meeting and subsequent project review and execution processes
- Promote a broad awareness of the DOI CSC and LCC network and its benefits to NOAA including as a source of resources for climate and ecosystem science and service activities

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$2,000. These funds will support SECART and team partner participation in DOI CSC and LCC science and strategic planning meetings and activities.

**Why SECART:** SECART's regional network of partners and constituents will inform DOI CSC and LCC prioritization of science and services' needs, to ensure NOAA assets and capabilities in the region are being effectively brought to bear on issues of mutual importance.

**Partners:** The SECART climate work group, members of the SECART team, other regional NOAA employees as appropriate based on DOI CSC and LCC science and services priorities

**Milestones/Deliverables:**

- NOAA participation at DOI CSC and LCC meetings and strategic planning activities
- NOAA participation in regular DOI CSC and LCC coordination calls as appropriate
- Widely-distributed announcements to SECART partners of DOI CSC and LCC funding opportunities

## Goal B: Weather-Ready Nation

*NOAA is helping regional decision-makers, residents and businesses prepare for and respond to high-impact weather events, including hurricanes, thunderstorms and tornadoes, snow and ice storms, drought, and flooding. Efforts focus on reducing impacts, improving water resources management, transportation efficiency and safety, and working with the health sector to identify linkages among human health, weather, water, and climate. In the Southeast, coasts are vulnerable to flooding from hurricanes, tropical storms and extra-tropical low pressure systems. Storm surge and related coastal flooding is often the greatest threat to life and property from a tropical cyclone. Much of the populous Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coastlines lie less than 10 feet above mean sea level, and over half of the nation's economic productivity is located in coastal zones. Priorities influencing NOAA execution are improving readiness and resiliency from tropical storms along the Southeast coast and Caribbean.*

### Activity B1. Enhance Capabilities for Environmental Forecasts

#### Strategic Objectives:

- Reduced loss of life, property, and disruption from high-impact events
- Improved transportation efficiency and safety
- Healthy people and communities due to improved air and water quality services
- A more productive and efficient economy through environmental information relevant to key sectors of the U.S. economy

#### Contacts:

- Brian LaMarre, NWS ([brian.lamarre@noaa.gov](mailto:brian.lamarre@noaa.gov))
- Darin Figungskey, NWS ([darin.figurskey@noaa.gov](mailto:darin.figurskey@noaa.gov))

**Project Summary:** NOAA NWS has established six pilot projects to develop and prototype concepts laid out in the Weather-Ready Nation Roadmap. These projects are designed to enhance NOAA's community presence in targeted locations. The projects will emphasize the role of communities to better prepare the public for environmental events. The Tampa Bay Weather Forecast Office is serving as a test program focused on integrating environmental services. The program will test an expanded NOAA focus on ecosystems and enable collaboration with federal and local partners. Enhanced collaboration will enable exploration of prototyping efforts with agencies and evolving partners. SECART serves as an advisor to the pilot through participation on a review panel to test the effectiveness of integrated environmental support services. The project is expected to expand current services. Such services could include multi-agency, collaborative public health forecasts, air quality forecasts, and 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:

- SECART team members serve as advisors to the pilot project through participation on internal review panels for the following pilot objectives:

- Establish a marine route forecasting service for port systems in Tampa Bay
- Improve local provision of storm surge warning information
- Define an impacts catalog for core partner decisions in ecological and environmental incident response and public health matters
- Demonstrate capabilities of NOAA to test the effectiveness of integrated environmental support services to critical decision-makers and other partners and stakeholders
- Expand knowledge and enhance coordination of the pilot project in the region
- Facilitate the sharing of best practices from the pilot concept in the region

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$1000. Travel by a SECART representative to a meeting or workshop on the subject of the test program (likely in the Tampa area).

**Why SECART:** The existing capacity of SECART to effectively engage NOAA personnel and its partners throughout the region provides a mechanism to enhance ecological forecasts.

**Partners:**

- NOAA and other Federal agencies:
  - NOAA: NMFS, NOS, NWS, OAR; Office of Marine and Aviation Operations; Aircraft Operations Center
  - United States Geological Survey Coastal and Marine Science Center
- State, Local and University
  - Florida: Fish and Wildlife; Division of Forestry; Department of Health; Department of Agriculture; Florida State Ecology
  - Tampa: Tampa Bay and other local Estuary Programs; Tampa Port Authority; Tampa Storm Water and Drain
  - Mote Marine Laboratory; Univ. of South Florida; Univ. of Central Florida

**Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Engage in and assist with various Pilot Project Internal Review Panels (Q1-Q4)
- Monitor progress and report to SECART (FY13 through FY14)

**Project Activities:**

- Monitor Pilot Project development and progress
- Engage the Pilot Project Internal Review Panel for coordination and activities
- Coordinate with Pilot Project Manager to share best practices with NOAA in the region

**Activity B2. Enhance Decision Support for Coastal Hazards from Tropical Cyclones**

**Strategic Objectives:**

- Reduced loss of life, property, and disruption from high-impact events

**Contacts:**

- Steve Naglic, NWS ([steve.naglic@noaa.gov](mailto:steve.naglic@noaa.gov))
- Darin Figungskey, NWS ([darin.figurskey@noaa.gov](mailto:darin.figurskey@noaa.gov))

**Project Summary:** On the heels of the North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM)/East Carolina University (ECU)/NOAA Hurricane Workshop, held in Greenville, NC in May of 2011, SECART's Weather-Ready Nation work group organized a series of webinars in the spring of 2012. The webinars included: 1) impacts of storm surge, storm tide, and tools to facilitate assessment; 2) local factors that impact storm tide (e.g., channels, estuaries, barrier islands, cuts); and 3) impacts of wind and tools to help in assessment. The 2012 webinars were aimed at coastal partners along the Southeast and Gulf Coasts. Each of the webinars was well attended as the coastal NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologists (WCM) spread the word in forecast areas. Feedback from the presentations was positive, leaving attendees asking for more. Therefore, SECART's Weather-Ready Nation work group will provide three webinars in the spring of 2013, expanding the topics and diversifying attendee groups. SECART will seek attendance of coastal and inland emergency management, military installations, other government groups, and perhaps private sector entities who could partner in initiatives as a Weather-Ready Nation.

**Project Objectives:**

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

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$0. Leverage staff time from NHC and NWS offices in the Southeast.

**Why SECART:** The existing capacity of SECART to effectively engage NOAA personnel and its partners throughout the region provides a mechanism to coordinate aspects of decision-support education in the region.

**Partners:**

- NWS offices serving the region; National Hurricane Center
- State and local emergency response representatives serving the region

**Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Engage support for quarterly, bi-annual, or annual webinars (Q1 – Q2)
- Host the webinar series (Q2 – Q3)
- Monitor progress and report to SECART (Q4)

**Project Activities:**

- Poll NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologists to determine training items
- Host webinars

**Activity B3. Improving Inundation Forecasts through Post-Storm Assessments**

**Strategic Objectives:**

- Reduced loss of life, property, and disruption from high-impact events
- A more productive and efficient economy through environmental information relevant to key sectors of the U.S. economy

**Contacts:**

- Richard Bandy, NWS ([richard.bandy@noaa.gov](mailto:richard.bandy@noaa.gov))
- Darin Figurskey, NWS ([darin.figurskey@noaa.gov](mailto:darin.figurskey@noaa.gov))
- Chuck Hopkinson, Georgia Sea Grant ([chopkins@uga.edu](mailto:chopkins@uga.edu))
- David Newcomer, NGS ([david.newcomer@noaa.gov](mailto:david.newcomer@noaa.gov))

**Project Summary:** Coastal areas are especially vulnerable to flooding from hurricanes, tropical storms, and strong extratropical low pressure systems. Along the coast, storm surge and event-related coastal flooding is often the greatest threat to life and property from a tropical cyclone. Much of the United States' densely populated Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coastlines lie less than 10 feet above mean sea level, and over half of the nation's economic productivity is located within coastal zones. In the past, large death tolls and considerable damage have resulted from the rise of the ocean associated with many of the major hurricanes that have made landfall.

In Louisiana, the Louisiana Sea Grant Program hosts a program where Sea Grant agents and other trained individuals go out immediately to locate and document good storm surge indicators following a tropical or extratropical cyclone. The indicators are carefully marked so that even if the indicator is removed through clean-up activities, agents can return days or weeks later with sophisticated GPS equipment to take a very accurate reading of the actual elevation, including potentially using a rotary laser level to transfer elevation marks from one place to another to get accurate elevations. Training of agents for this activity has evolved, but there is not yet a documented set of training materials for this purpose. Development of such training materials and utilizing them within Sea Grant, NWS, NOS, and other networks could dramatically expand the potential for gathering accurate post-storm data on actual surge levels.

With the ultimate goal of saving lives and property through improved inundation forecasts and understanding of impacts, this project will begin creation of a network of “volunteer” observers to capture inundation heights and extents and information (including pictures) on impacts. The project will also bring together people in the storm surge modeling, measuring, and forecasting communities in the Southeast and Caribbean region for a scoping workshop to identify needs, opportunities, and constraints for providing inundation information. Following the workshop, the project team would work to implement the plan developed at the workshop. Key aspects of this follow-up would likely include contacting individuals, negotiating equipment access, and conducting additional training. SECART anticipates that Sea Grant Extension and NWS personnel may engage interested individuals in a “train-the-trainer” approach.

In addition to providing valuable information on inundation heights, extent and impacts, the project will serve as an outreach opportunity. Sea Grant communications experts and NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologists can utilize the project as an opportunity to inform and engage the public and improve understanding of inundation risk. This project would also serve to establish coordination for a joint NWS and Sea Grant partnership, in development of storm surge outreach and education materials for Sea Grant extension agents to help people along the coast understand storm surge and its dangers, and how to use NOAA storm surge forecast and warning information.

### **Project Objectives:**

- Develop working agreements for improved collaboration and coordination for quickly obtaining accurate inundation measurements and impacts following inundation events
- Expand knowledge of inundation for decision support, and better communicate potential impacts from storms
- Enhance coordination among NOAA and partners in the region

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$25,000. The funding source is a Georgia Sea Grant – NOAA Regional Team Collaboration Grant, Federal Funding Opportunity number NOAA-OAR-SG-2012-2003367. In addition, this project leverages the time of staff from the National Hurricane Center, NWS offices in the Southeast, the NOAA Storm Surge Unit, and NOAA Sea Grant.

**Why SECART:** The existing capacity of SECART to effectively engage NOAA personnel and its partners throughout the region provides a mechanism to coordinate, network, inform, and engage the public and partners with regard to improving understanding of, and forecasting for, coastal storm surge inundation.

### **Partners:**

- NHC and NWS offices serving the region
- NOAA Sea Grant
- Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorology (OFCM) Working Group for Disaster Impacts and Plans
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Geological Survey

### **Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Engage support for workshop and coordinate workshop development (Q2 – Q3)
- Host workshop (Q3, likely April, prior to Atlantic hurricane season)
- Develop working agreements (Q4 into Q1 FY14)

### **Project Activities:**

- Develop team and engage partners
- Determine support for the workshop and the development of the workshop agenda
- Host workshop and produce workshop report
- Develop working agreements

## **Activity B4. Extend Existing Water Level Forecasts Into Tidal/Surge Zones of River(s) Feeding Tampa Bay**

### **Strategic Objectives:**

- Reduced loss of life, property, and disruption from high-impact events
- Improved freshwater resource management
- A more productive and efficient economy through environmental information relevant to key sectors of the U.S. economy

**Contact:**

- John Schmidt, NWS ([john.schmidt@noaa.gov](mailto:john.schmidt@noaa.gov))
- Rich Bandy, NWS ([richard.bandy@noaa.gov](mailto:richard.bandy@noaa.gov))

**Project Summary:** Historically, the Southeast RFC (SERFC) has only modeled rivers using hydrologic routing techniques. This prohibits the extension of river level forecast models into areas of very flat slope and areas affected by tidal and storm surge effects. Much of the coastal plain of the southeast U.S. and Florida falls into that category. This area is coincident with population concentrations living near the coast and other water bodies. With the recent implementation of the Community Hydrologic Prediction System (CHPS) at NWS RFCs, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) HEC-RAS hydrodynamic modeling system can be integrated seamlessly into operational modeling and forecast systems at SERFC. SERFC's existing hydrologic model would be used to produce upstream boundary condition simulations and lateral inflow simulations to existing HEC-RAS models collected from external sources. Downstream boundary conditions will consist of a variety of observed and modeled water surface data from offices such as NOAA's NOS including the Office of Coast Survey, and the NWS's NHC and Meteorological Development Laboratory, to incorporate the effects of storm surge in both a deterministic and ensemble mode.

The introduction of hydrodynamic modeling is also necessary for the construction of real-time inundation mapping services that would complement NOAA Coastal Services Center (CSC) coastal inundation mapping efforts. Coordination of enhanced water level forecast products and water surface inundation visualizations between this effort and existing coastal modeling and inundation projects, such as those available from CSC, will be vital to this project's success in service. While this project is specifically for the Tampa area, the process of model development can be transferred to other watersheds in Florida. Following Tampa, one high-priority location for model development using this process is the St. John's watershed in eastern Florida.

**Project Objectives (FY13):**

- Provide operational water level forecasts and potentially inundation maps to reaches of rivers requiring hydrodynamic modeling that couple tidal and surge effects to traditional River Forecast Center (RFC) hydrologic models (a la CI-FLOW)
- Identify existing hydraulic models, preferably HEC-RAS, for rivers that discharge into Tampa Bay (e.g. Hillsborough, Alafia, Little Manatee, Manatee) from federal and/or local partners
- Incorporate externally-produced, stand-alone HEC-RAS models into Southeast RFC operational modeling and forecasting environment (CHPS)
- Train SERFC staff on operational use of HEC-RAS models for the purposes of traditional, point-specific water level time series forecasts
- Establish additional river forecast service locations as possible with new modeling

**Project Objectives (FY14):**

- Produce static, and potentially real-time, inundation maps based on extended modeling capabilities
- Identify most useful inundation information and decision support products through coordination with NOAA CSC or partner/public input

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$1000. For travel by SERFC representative to Tampa Bay or USACE-Jacksonville, FL District to identify existing HEC-RAS model instances (FY13). \$1000 for travel by SERFC representative to Tampa Bay in coordination with NWS WFO-Ruskin, FL, to hold meetings with local government to identify enhanced water level forecast services (FY14).

**Why SECART:** The capacity of SECART can be leveraged to engage NOAA personnel and its partners throughout the region, and help to integrate water information across agencies to increase the accuracy and timeliness of water information and associated uncertainties.

**Partners:**

- NOAA agencies including:
  - NOS: CSC; Office of Coast Survey; Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services
  - NWS: WFO Ruskin, FL; SERFC; OHD; NHC; MDL
- USACE
- Florida state, county, and/or local governments

**FY13 Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Identify and acquire available HEC-RAS models for Tampa Bay inflow rivers (Q1)
- Incorporate acquired model(s) into SERFC real-time operations in parallel with existing modeling techniques (Q2 – Q4)
- Establish additional river forecast service locations in Tampa Bay region (Q4)

**Project Activities:**

- Perform local research to identify availability of existing hydrodynamic models
- Calibrate and/or modify hydrodynamic model and incorporate into SERFC operations
- Establish additional river forecast sites
- Educate customers and partners and obtain feedback (FY14)

**Activity B5. Collaborating and Informing on Rip Current and other Beach Hazards Efforts within the SECART Region**

**Continuing Project**

**Strategic Objectives:**

- Reduced loss of life, property, and disruption from high-impact events
- Healthy people and communities due to improved air and water quality services
- A more productive and efficient economy through environmental information relevant to key sectors of the U.S. economy

**Contacts:**

- Richard Bandy, NWS ([richard.bandy@noaa.gov](mailto:richard.bandy@noaa.gov))
- Steve Pfaff, NWS ([steven.pfaff@noaa.gov](mailto:steven.pfaff@noaa.gov))

**Project Summary:** Beach hazards account for a significant risk to the safety and health of both citizens and visitors to the SECART Region. The NWS currently is testing a new Beach Hazards Message to incorporate alerts to all the potential hazards beach-goers could experience.

Currently, rip currents are one of the deadliest hazards that the NWS can provide forecasts for that would affect beach goers. In fact, since 2000 there have been over 82 rip current related fatalities in the Carolinas alone. There are a variety of uncoordinated projects related to rip current reporting and modeling that are in development. Many of these projects came to light on a national level rip current call organized by the NWS Office of Science and Technology. These projects included on-line rip current reporting forms developed by the NWS Meteorological Development Lab (MDL), online reporting forms used by the NWS WFO in Newport, NC, and a smart phone application being developed by the Stevens Institute with the support of NOAA Sea Grant and NWS WFO Mt. Holly, NJ. There are also efforts in rip current modeling that MDL has undertaken, as well as a collaborative effort between WFO Newport, NC, NWSHQ, and NOS. There is a need to keep up coordination on rip current projects and to identify additional rip current related projects in the SECART region, including work by academic partners. The end goal would be to better leverage efforts, communicate them throughout the region, and ensure there is no duplication of work or waste of effort.

NOS and NWS are collaborating on how to use the Beach Hazards Message at a national level to relay NOS-based forecasts and information. Potential examples would be notification of tsunami debris and harmful algal blooms in other locations. A specific need exists to provide NOAA entities in the region with information about the myriad of the ongoing rip current forecast and outreach activities. Increased collaboration will result in enhanced services provided to the public and partners, and increase the viability and visibility of the Beach Hazards Message.

#### **Project Objectives:**

- Inform the region of the Beach Hazards Message and seek feedback on collaboration opportunities for communication of information from NOS and NMFS in this product
- Help ensure the region is well informed of current and proposed rip current projects to ensure tasks are well coordinated and can be leveraged as appropriate
- Provide assistance through identifying programming or other existing resources for ongoing rip current modeling and reporting system efforts

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$0. In-kind support as available.

**Why SECART:** SECART has a role to help coordinate NOAA efforts in within the region. Ongoing work with regard to rip currents crosses NOAA NWS, NOS, and Sea Grant and would benefit from increased collaboration. The Beach Hazards message could be a source for disseminating information from multiple line offices to better inform the public of things to be aware of at beaches throughout the region.

#### **Partners:**

- NOAA: NWS; NOS; NMFS
- Sea Grant
- Academic Partners (Mote Marine Laboratory and FIU (examples))

### **Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Inform the region of the Beach Hazards Statement experimental product, and request feedback on potential future uses of the product to disseminate information from other NOAA line offices
- Monitor efforts to leverage existing rip current related projects and consolidate as appropriate; inform the region of the results through the SECART website and related information sources, and/or a webinar on the efforts

### **Project Activities:**

- Facilitate a bi-annual call about rip current projects
- Develop a rip current listserv or email group to foster ongoing communication
- Report findings on rip current related projects in the region to NWSHQ staff including the NWS Marine Program Manager and NWS OST Marine Program Manager
- Engage NOS and NMFS in the region and inform them on the Beach Hazards Statement Experiment through a webinar; solicit their feedback on potential future uses

## **Goal C: Healthy Oceans**

*Coastal and marine habitats in the Southeast and Caribbean region are threatened by land use changes, increased demands on water, non-point source pollution, fishing pressures, and invasive species. NOAA is working with local agencies, communities, and researchers to better understand ecosystem processes (including human elements) and develop protection and management strategies that promote ecosystem sustainability, food security, recreational opportunities, and livelihoods.*

### **Activity C1. Regional Priorities for the NOAA Habitat Blueprint**

#### **New Project**

#### **Strategic Objectives:**

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

#### **SECART Contacts:**

- Aleta Hohn, NMFS ([Aleta.Hohn@noaa.gov](mailto:Aleta.Hohn@noaa.gov))
- Pace Wilber, NMFS ([Pace.Wilber@noaa.gov](mailto:Pace.Wilber@noaa.gov))

**Project Summary:** The NOAA Habitat Blueprint provides a framework for NOAA to act strategically across programs and with partner organizations to address the growing challenge of coastal and marine habitat loss and degradation. Establishing focus areas for long-term habitat science and conservation is one prong of the Blueprint. In FY13, NOAA's regional teams may help coordinate meetings of NOAA offices and partners to identify spatial intersections where collaboration among NOAA management and science programs and external partners would address multiple habitat-dependent objectives. Focal habitats and locations are expected to

consider federally managed fish species, protected species, at-risk areas, resilient coastal communities, and societal uses, such as recreation and tourism.

**Project Objectives:**

- SECART will monitor development of the NOAA Habitat Blueprint and the expected role of NOAA’s regional teams, and will respond accordingly with the Healthy Oceans workgroup or a combination of SECART workgroups leading the effort

**Cost/Funding Source:** TBD: for now, assuming direction on funding would be part of the direction that accompanies the request to proceed with the meetings.

**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 orchestrate efficiently the meetings needed develop a consensus on the focal habitats and locations.

**Partners:** To be determined based on direction received from NOAA HQ. Expected partners include the South Atlantic Alliance Technical Teams, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Habitat Committee, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Coral and Habitat Advisory Panels, U.S. F&WS Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership, Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership, and all NOAA Line Offices.

**Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Participation, as needed, in meetings of NOAA and external partners to identify opportunities for collaboration that will address multiple habitat-dependent objectives
- Report out to SECART on developments relevant to the Habitat Blueprint within NOAA
- Develop, as appropriate, a white paper identifying the different habitat-related activities and efforts across the region to help inform the Habitat Blueprint process

**Project Activities:**

- Provide support for NOAA/partner meetings
- Inventory NOAA habitat activities

**Activity C2. North Carolina Sentinal Site Cooperative – Sea-Level Rise Research and Monitoring Coordination Workshop**

**New Project**

**Strategic Objectives:**

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

**SECART Contacts:**

- Aleta Hohn, NMFS ([Aleta.Hohn@noaa.gov](mailto:Aleta.Hohn@noaa.gov))

**Project Summary:** The NC Sentinel Site Program (NC SSP) utilizes existing assets and programs to better leverage resources across NOAA and its partners to increase efficiencies, integrate multiple parallel efforts, and provide information and tools to help communities and resource managers adapt to sea level change and inundation. As part of the NC SSP's five-year Implementation Plan, the NC SSP intends to determine gaps in research and monitoring information related to factors controlling the response of coastal habitats to sea level rise through a two-day research and monitoring workshop (and associated workshop report). At this workshop, area researchers will share related work and identify and prioritize research and monitoring gaps. Due to National SSP requirements, determining gaps in research and monitoring needs to be accomplished by June 2013. These identified gaps will be used to inform NOAA budget recommendations for out-years.

**Project Objectives:**

- Summarize past and current research and monitoring efforts on effects of sea-level rise in North Carolina
- Determine and prioritize gaps in research and monitoring that are needed to help stakeholders understand the ongoing and future potential impacts of sea-level rise
- Provide a forum to forge or enhance partnerships
- Discuss the how a citizen science program could be used to augment research and monitoring efforts, involve volunteers in sea-level rise science/data collection, and engage the public to actively participate in a community-based effort to understand and prepare for climate change

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$3,900. SECART support. \$7,300 in-kind support, largely from NERRS.

**Why SECART?** The Sentinel Site Programs can assist strategic objectives for the NOAA Habitat Blueprint (see above). The North Carolina Sentinel Site is the only SSP within SECART's jurisdiction.

**Partners:** The NC SSP Cooperative was initiated by the NERRS, NOS, and NMFS programs at the NOAA lab in Beaufort, NC. The Steering Committee includes the NC Division of Coastal Management. Anticipated partners for the workshop include DoD, State offices, and academia.

**Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Coordinate workshop development (Q1 – Q2)
- Host workshop May 2013
- Complete workshop report (Q4)

**Project Activities:**

- Engage partners
- Secure contract for assistance with rapporteur for workshop and drafting of report
- Organize workshop
- Develop and distribute survey about current and past sea-level rise research and monitoring to invitees; compile results to inform discussions at workshop
- Host workshop and produce workshop report.

## **Goal D: Resilient Coastal Communities and Economies (RCCE)**

*With increasing demands on resources, communities must balance environmental and economic considerations. NOAA is working with stakeholders to increase community resilience and productivity in the region through coastal and ocean planning, improved water quality, port and marine transportation resilience, and reduction of impacts from hazards and climate change.*

### **Activity D1. Supporting the South Atlantic Alliance (SAA) Sub Group on Disaster Resilient Communities**

#### **Continuing Project**

#### **Strategic Objectives:**

- 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 South Atlantic Alliance. The Southeast U.S. region continues to experience significant weather- and climate-related events that cause 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 U.S., threatening 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 insured property and the millions of people that live in 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 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 SECART IOP 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 regional, state, and community level

- Identify and implement incentives for development away from high risk areas
- Identify and incorporate management and financial options to address beachfront and estuarine shoreline change.

Implementation of the SAA's disaster-resilient communities actions focus on extending and expanding these state efforts region-wide through: 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.

In FY12, the SECART RCCE Work Group helped to plan a Post Disaster Redevelopment Summit co-sponsored by the SAA and NC, SC, GA, and FL. Feedback was acquired during this meeting and documented in a report. This group will review the notes to identify areas where NOAA can provide assistance to build on this workshop or address needs/gaps identified.

#### **Project Objectives:**

- Review report materials from the July 2012 Post Disaster Redevelopment Planning (PDRP) Summit and identify where NOAA can provide further assistance to build on the workshop or address needs/gaps identified
- Support the next priority task(s) identified by the Disaster Resilient Communities Sub Group related to participation in the SAA 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting (Sept 2012)
- Participate in the SAA 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting in September 2013 and help support the next priority task(s) identified by the Disaster Resilient Communities Sub Group.

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$1,000. Travel related cost for NOAA representative to attend planning meetings and workshops that may result from these meetings.

**Why SECART?** SECART has a 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

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

- Report-Out to SECART on possible NOAA roles identified from Post Disaster Redevelopment Planning Summit

- Participation on SAA Disaster Resilient Communities Sub Group Meetings and Calls
- Report-out to SECART on NOAA role to assist in meeting needs and planning projects identified following SAA annual meeting and Disaster Resilient Community Sub Group projects/requests

### **Project Activities:**

- Analyze PDRP Summit results, identifying NOAA role going forward
- Support SAA DRC sub group as requested

## **Activity D2. Promote and Evaluate a NWS/NOS Wave Run-up Study**

### **Ongoing Project**

#### **Strategic Objective:**

- Reduced loss of life, property, and disruption from high-impact events

#### **Contacts:**

- Richard Bandy, NWS ([richard.bandy@noaa.gov](mailto:richard.bandy@noaa.gov))
- Bob Thompson ([robert.thompson@noaa.gov](mailto:robert.thompson@noaa.gov))
- Jesse Feyen ([jesse.feyen@noaa.gov](mailto:jesse.feyen@noaa.gov))

**Project 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 battering occurs. The complexity of the foreshore environment and immediate shore topography can make wave run-up calculations too resource intensive for operational applications. This two year project will incorporate a parameterization 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. The North Atlantic Regional Teams's (NART) role will be to evaluate a rudimentary version of this new tool and recommend future applications of this tool for operational prototype use. This will be a joint project with SECART. An advisory group of NWS and NOS stakeholders will provide periodic oversight and guidance to this project. The board will be made up of the following individuals:

- John Cannon (NWS)
- Jesse Feyen (NOS)
- Bob Thompson (NWS)
- Rich Bandy
- Doug Marcy (NOS/CSC)
- Andre van der Westhuysen (NCEP/EMC)

#### **Project Objectives:**

- Create a 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:** \$0 from current FY13 budget. In FY12, NOAA NART contributed \$10,000, and SECART contributed \$2000. The money is being held over in an account by NART for obligation during FY13. No additional funds are being provided by SECART in FY13. Existing funds will be used to support the following (estimate):

- \$2000 for design of the tool, input formats, and any associated travel if a face to face meeting is necessary
- \$7000 (two pay periods) for a USGS technician and one pay period for Dr. Stockdon to build, test, and debug tool as well as to formulate a first version of a user's guide
- \$2000 for travel and related support for a training session

**Why SECART?** Coastal overwash, erosion, and inundation are significant issues facing the SECART and NART regions. This was clearly demonstrated following Hurricane Irene, which caused significant overwash and erosion issues for the southeast region, and most recently Hurricane Sandy in the northeast, even well away from where the storm made landfall. This collaborative NWS/NOS effort has the potential to fulfill an important missing puzzle piece to the coastal inundation prediction capability along the Southeast coast. Wave run-up has long been identified as an important area for future work. This project could also be tied to NOAA 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: ERH Headquarters; selected WFOs; NCEP
- USGS Extreme Storms and Hurricanes Group
- NOAA Storm Surge RoadMap Team (NOS-led)
- NOAA Coastal Services Center

*Developer contacts:* Hilary Stockdon  
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**Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Transfer funds to USGS
- Complete rudimentary version for alpha testing at selected NWS WFOs
- Feedback from alpha testing and recommendation regarding future applications as an operational prototype

## **Goal E: Regional Enterprise**

### ***Regional Enterprise Sub-goal: Engagement***

#### **Engagement Activity 1. Advance Regional Partnerships**

##### **Strategic Objective:**

- An engaged and educated public with an improved capacity to make scientifically informed environmental decisions
- Improved partner collaboration to meet the evolving demands of regional stakeholders

##### **Contacts:**

- Geno Olmi ([Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov](mailto:Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov))
- Bethney Ward ([Bethney.Ward@noaa.gov](mailto:Bethney.Ward@noaa.gov))
- Jeff Payne ([Jeff.Payne@noaa.gov](mailto:Jeff.Payne@noaa.gov))

**Project Summary:** Multi-partner coordination activities are occurring in the region focused on ecosystems, sustainability, and economic development integration. These partnerships provide 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. Two partnerships receive particular attention from SECART and are identified as separate activities (see Activity E2 and E3). In FY13, SECART will continue to monitor developments of the following groups, and others as appropriate, for enhanced engagement opportunities.

**South Atlantic Alliance (SAA)** – 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 help 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, and develop decision-support systems based on policy and science, while emphasizing local, state and federal collaboration.

**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.

**Southeast Natural Resource Leaders Group (SENRLG)** – Group of regional Federal executives who lead agencies with natural resource conservation as part of their mission. SENRLG strives 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 (ACFHP)**. 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 and two flow conferences, and monitored implementation of the Southeast Aquatic Habitat Plan (ongoing). ACFHP is a coast wide collaborative effort developed under NFHAP. Their mission is to accelerate the conservation, protection, restoration, and enhancement of habitat for native Atlantic coastal, estuarine-dependent, and diadromous fishes. ACFHP is composed of fish habitat resource managers, scientists, and communications professionals from 30 different state, federal, tribal and non-governmental agencies.

**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. SECART will pursue discussions with the national IOOS office concerning the potential addition of a SECOORA representative to the SECART team.

**Caribbean Regional Association (CaRA) / (Caribbean Coastal Ocean Observing System (CariCOOS)** – One of 11 Regional Associations established through IOOS, CaRA is responsible for coordinating coastal and ocean observing activities in the U.S. Caribbean 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.

#### **Project Objectives (FY13):**

- Monitor implementation and progress of regional partnerships
- Identify appropriate opportunities for engagement and respond to region-wide needs
- Utilize SECART’s collaborative network to enhance the success of the regional partners
- Increase the level of understanding of NOAA products and services in the region
- Advance regional and internal collaboration

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$3,000. For regional coordinator and staff travel, plus 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 non-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
- ACFHP - composed of fish habitat resource managers, scientists, and communications professionals from 30 different state, federal, tribal and non-governmental agencies
- 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 Fishery Management Council; Caribbean Fishery Management Council
- The Nature Conservancy and other non-governmental organizations

**Tasks:**

- Monitor partnerships within region and determine which warrant SECART engagement
- SECART members will participate in these partnerships as appropriate and look to identify opportunities for engagement, if beneficial to NOAA’s mission in the region

**Engagement Activity 2. Support the NOAA in the Caribbean Collaborative**

**Strategic Objectives:**

- Integrated services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders

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**Project Summary:** NOAA in the Caribbean (NOAACarib) assembled a steering committee composed of representatives from across NOAA as well as key partner agencies in the Caribbean region. This steering committee met for the first time in 2011 and developed a plan of action for the initiative. This plan includes the implementation of an annual NOAACarib meeting. The first NOAACarib meeting was held in St Thomas in May of 2012 and served as a platform for the exchange of information on NOAA related efforts in the region, including the draft NOAA Caribbean Strategy, as well as fostering increased collaboration within NOAA and between NOAA and its Caribbean partners. A student intern position has been created that helps to coordinate this effort. Funding support will be needed to support this student and to implement the priority activities including the execution of a NOAACarib annual meeting in FY13.

**Project Objectives:**

- Facilitate internal and external NOAA communication and collaboration in the Caribbean sub-region

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$12,000. SECART support to cover student intern, costs associated with NOAA Carib partner meeting in FY13, and support for the NOAACarib Newsletter (note: full costs of publishing 4 editions of the Newsletter requires additional support from NOAA offices). \$10,000 is being provided by NOAA CSC for newsletter support; transfer to NCCOS.

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

**Partners:** All NOAA line offices participate in NOAACarib, along with Sea Grant, CZM managers, the Caribbean Fishery Management Council, Cooperative Institutes, CaRA and others

**Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Convene NOAACarib meeting in Puerto Rico or the USVI (Q3)
- Meeting Report (Q4)
- Publish multiple editions of NOAACarib newsletter

**Tasks:**

- Establish stronger partnerships with regional organizations that can assist NOAA
- Develop a communications strategy for awareness of NOAA's link to regional economy
- Continue to develop NOAA Carib email list, create and distribute the newsletter, enhance the web presence on the SECART site, and develop a web calendar for NOAACarib
- Plan, organize, and conduct a FY13 NOAACarib Meeting
- Increase internal NOAA communication and coordination through monthly NOAACarib Steering Committee calls
- 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
- Assist with partnering opportunities and implementation activities of the NOAA Caribbean Strategy

### **Engagement Activity 3. Support the NOAA in the Carolinas Collaborative**

**Strategic Objectives:**

- Integrated services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders

**Contacts:**

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- Rich Bandy ([Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov](mailto:Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov))
- Jeff Payne ([Jeff.Payne@noaa.gov](mailto:Jeff.Payne@noaa.gov))

**Project Summary:** NOAA in the Carolinas (NinC) has its origins as a grassroots partnership of NOAA and external partners from North and South Carolina. 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. The mission is consistent with, and helps enable the mission of SECART. Several SECART members serve on the NinC steering committee. NinC has three objectives:

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

Over the past 10 years, NinC has hosted numerous regional meetings with participants from the two states and beyond, depending on thematic intent. The meetings typically include plenary sessions, and updates on regional and/or national initiatives 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 accomplishing NOAA's mission in the Carolinas region.

In March 2012, NinC gathered NOAA staff and partners from the Carolinas in Charleston, SC to share information on issues and projects related to the two workshop themes of "resiliency" and "water resources." All of NOAA's line offices attended, as well as partners from states, cities, universities, the private sector, and other federal agencies. The 58 participants discussed current projects, NOAA capabilities, and options to leverage investments on future work. Topics addressed included: monitoring drought; forecasting floods; Hurricane Irene forecasts and response; impacts of climate change on water resources and resiliency; and applying lessons from hazards management to climate change. Participants also discussed initiating a National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) pilot program in the coastal Carolinas.

In FY13, NinC' steering committee will consider options for a potential FY13 or FY14 workshop; theme to be determined. NinC will also continue to host periodic webinars to increase awareness of NOAA activities and capabilities in the region. The audience for webinars is intended to be largely internal to NOAA.

#### **Project Objectives:**

- Ensure better internal and external NOAA communication and enhance collaboration and coordination in the Carolinas sub-region
- Help promote a) resilient coastal communities that can adapt to the impacts of hazards and climate change, and b) improved water quality to support human health and coastal ecosystem services, in the Carolinas sub-region

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$3,000. For NOAA in the Carolinas coordinator. 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 sub-regional level. Working with NinC, and supporting a workshop, will further SECART's goals in the sub-region.

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

**Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Provide funding for NinC coordinator and leverage additional funds from region (Q3)
- Begin scoping and planning for a NOAA in the Carolinas meeting in 2014 (Q3 – Q4)

**Tasks:**

- Participate on NinC Executive and Steering Committees (Q1 – Q4)
- Support NinC coordinator and, where possible, leverage funding within the region to provide support (Q3)
- Assist NinC Coordinator and Executive and Steering Committees in planning for a workshop in 2014
- Support NinC Coordinator in development of the NinC 2012 Workshop report (Q1 – Q2)
- Host NOAA webinars and assess their effectiveness (Q4)

***Regional Enterprise Sub-goal: Inreach, Outreach, Communications***

**Activity 1. Enhance Regional Outreach and Communications**

**Strategic Objectives:**

- 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:**

- Geno Olmi ([Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov](mailto:Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov))
- Bethney Ward ([Bethney.Ward@noaa.gov](mailto:Bethney.Ward@noaa.gov))
- Jeff Payne ([Jeff.Payne@noaa.gov](mailto:Jeff.Payne@noaa.gov))

**Project Summary:** SECART will conduct a number of communications and outreach activities targeted at facilitating collaboration among NOAA programs, partners, and stakeholders; promote awareness and understanding of NOAA’s varying capabilities, services and programmatic priorities as they relate to regional and national priorities; and gather feedback to improve products and services. SECART will continue to build, maintain or enhance “One-NOAA in the region” outreach/inreach materials and tools previously initiated, such as regional factsheets, presentations, and the kiosk. In FY13, additional focus will be placed on building and utilizing the SECART website as a tool and resource for increased in-reach, outreach, and communications. SECART outreach and communications activities will require the support, input and feedback of the full SECART team.

**Project Objectives:**

- Increase effectiveness of SECART In-reach, Outreach and Communications delivery through on-going resource evaluation and analysis; use analysis to determine opportunities for strengthening communications messaging

- Engage with regional staff, partners, and stakeholders to strengthen collaborative ties and build awareness in the region through targeted outreach and communications
- Offer a suite of In-reach, Outreach and Communications products for SECART and others to use as needed that represent One-NOAA in the region, including the one-pager, kiosk, presentations, factsheets, and website

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$1,000. For technical support (e.g., website, kiosk); in-kind support from SECART; coordinator travel for outreach captured under other regional enterprise categories.

**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 FY13 seek to maintain and increase use of existing in-reach, outreach and communications products.

**Partners:** All line offices and SECART work groups; the NOAA Coastal Services Center and National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science for continued technical support.

**Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Refine SECART web site (Q1 – Q4)
- Update One-NOAA content for kiosk and track usage (Q1 – Q4)
- Assess uses and requirements of newsletters (including NOAACarib) (Q2 – Q3)

**Tasks:**

- Maintain content for SECART web site and enhance/update as needed (Q1 – Q4)
- Monitor and assist SECART working groups with outreach support as needed (Q1 – Q4)
- Make One-NOAA outreach materials available for use by staff in the region (Q1 – Q4)
- Identify and utilize various forums to display One-NOAA outreach materials to partners and stakeholders (Q1 – Q4)
- Maintain content for SECART kiosk and enhance/update content and interface as needed; make kiosk available to NOAA staff and partners in the region

***Regional Enterprise Sub-goal: Integrated Services***

**Integrated Services Activity 1. Support the Regional Team**

**Strategic Objective:**

- Improve integrated services and enhanced collaboration to meet the evolving demands of regional stakeholders

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- Geno Olmi ([Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov](mailto:Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov))
- Bethney Ward ([Bethney.Ward@noaa.gov](mailto:Bethney.Ward@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 or virtual meetings as the key opportunities to exchange information and discuss SECART’s mission, strategy, and effectiveness. SECART continues to refine the purpose and format of meetings to be more productive and efficient.

During FY13, SECART will hold one face-to-face meeting and one virtual meeting. The winter virtual meeting will occur in February and focus on status of SECART activities. The face-to-face meeting will be held during the summer and focus on progress of SECART projects, team business, meeting with local partners, and identifying FY14 priorities and activities. In addition to monthly calls and meetings, team members communicate frequently via phone and email.

Development and execution of the team’s annual IOP is a major task within this activity. While much of the execution is contained in other IOP Activities, the planning for and development of the annual IOP is captured here. As part of this process, SECART will continually evaluate regional priorities of stakeholders. SECART work groups, established in FY11 in relation to the NOAA Strategic Plan goals, have helped improve team operations. Work groups require coordination and oversight by the SECART team lead and coordinator.

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$8,000. To support SECART workshop(s), including meeting space rental, supplies, and some support of team member travel to the meetings (also included within is \$900 for Regional Coordinator travel in support of team operations); in-kind support provided in team member time and possible financial contributions.

**Project Objectives:**

- Maintain and improve communication and coordination of the regional team
- Manage and improve team operations
- Maintain and enhance topical work groups
- Effectively execute the FY13 Integrated Operating Plan
- Make progress toward the Engagement Enterprise Objective: *Integrated Services Meeting the Evolving Demands of Regional Stakeholders*
- Begin development of the FY14 Integrated Operating Plan

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

**Partners:** All team members

**Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Final FY13 Integrated Operating Plan with spend plan (Q1)
- Draft FY14 Integrated Operating Plan with spend plan (Q4)

**Tasks:**

- Convene monthly team calls and distribute notes (Q1 – Q4)
- Complete final FY13 IOP and spend plan (Q1)
- Establish winter virtual meeting planning team (Q1)

- Organize and convene winter virtual meeting (Q1 – Q2)
- Distribute winter meeting notes (Q2)
- Assist with success of all work groups (Q1 – Q4)
- Establish summer meeting planning team (Q2)
- Organize and convene summer meeting (Q3 – Q4)
- Distribute summer meeting notes (Q4)
- Review stakeholder needs from previous assessments and new initiatives (Q2 – Q4)
- Draft FY14 IOP (Q4)

## **Integrated Services Activity 2. Support Regional Collaboration and NOAA Leadership**

### **Strategic Objective:**

- Improve integrated services and enhanced collaboration to meet the evolving demands of regional stakeholders

### **Contact:**

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

**Project Summary:** Regional collaboration is a network of networks and it is imperative to maintain the networks at all levels: within the region, but also nationally. Regional collaboration teams report to the Executive Oversight Group (EOG), which includes the deputy assistant administrators of each line office, and is led by the Office of Program Planning and Integration (PPI), the NOAA Policy Office, and External Affairs. SECART will work closely with PPI to advance regional collaboration at all levels.

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. Examples include SECART being asked to co-lead development of a NOAA Caribbean Strategy, to advance National Ocean Policy objectives such as marine spatial planning, and assist with the execution of the NOAA Habitat Blueprint and the Sentinel Sites Program. 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 PPI, the EOG, 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

- Serve to enhance two-way communication between NOAA and regional partners and stakeholders
- Improve inter-regional coordination and identify any regional emerging issues that SECART can help address
- Support the EOG and PPI in oversight responsibilities, and influence strategic direction setting, for NOAA regional collaboration
- Serve NOAA and the Department of Commerce as needed for requests for information and services from the region
- 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:** \$10,000. For Coordinator and team member travel in support of regional collaboration tasks including Regional Coordinator meeting, Annual ReCo workshop, and attending other RCT meetings; in kind support of team members; time of Coordinator and Lead.

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

**Partners:** NOAA's PPI, EOG, line offices, and other regional collaboration teams; and NGSP stakeholders

**Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Regional Collaboration meetings in DC (Q1)
- National Regional Collaboration Workshop (Q3)
- NOAA Caribbean Strategy final (Q3)
- Regional Landscape Analysis document complete (Q1)

**Tasks:**

- Participate in semi-monthly Regional Coordinator calls (Q1 – Q4)
- Participate in monthly Regional Team Lead calls (Q1 – Q4)
- Support PPI as needed to further regional collaboration (Q1 – Q4)
- Participate in Strategic Execution and Evaluation process as appropriate to advocate for addressing regional priorities (Q1 – Q4)
- 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 – Q3)
- Coordinate HQ visits and briefings, as requested (Q1 – Q4)
- Inform HQ of issues, concerns and events important to the region (Q1 – Q4)
- Lead completion of the NOAA Caribbean Strategy and advocate for its implementation

### III. Appendix

#### Appendix 1. Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team Membership

(Jan 2013)

Name	Affiliation	Location	E-mail
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