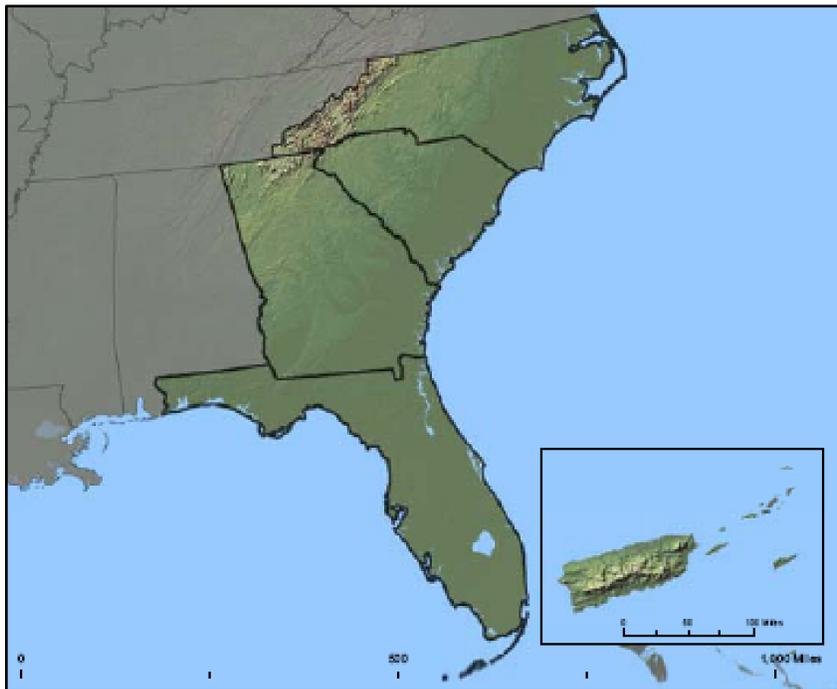


# FY 2017 Operating Plan

---

## Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team

## National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration



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

November 2016

## Contents

I. Introduction .....	2
II. Team Activities .....	4
SECART Priority: Improve efficiency and effectiveness of NOAA’s mission-execution through enhanced collaboration across NOAA offices and with partners .....	4
Activity A1. Enhance NOAA’s mission through strategic engagement with regional partners.	4
Activity A2. Advance NOAA’s mission through engagement with the NOAA in the Caribbean Collaborative and promote implementation of the NOAA Caribbean Strategy .....	8
Activity A3. Represent NOAA’s broad mission capabilities and accomplishments in the region and facilitate two-way flow of information between the region and NOAA leadership. ....	11
Activity A4. Enhance the capacity of SECART to lead organizational integration within the region .....	15
Activity A5. Improve the capacity of NOAA’s inter-regional and national integrated services .....	17
SECART Priority: Improve resilience of communities to extreme events and climate change ...	19
Activity B1. Implementing Wave Run-up modeling in the southeast. ....	19
Activity B2. Hurricane / Climate Resilience Webinar Series .....	21
Activity B3. Engage and support the Southeast and Caribbean Climate Community of Practice.....	23
Activity B4. Improve NOAA response posture to large scale disasters within the SECART region .....	24
Activity B5. Supporting the Southeast Regional Climate Quarterly Outlook .....	26
Priority: Promote the sustainability of the region’s living marine resources and the habitats upon which they depend .....	28
Activity C1. Improving coordination and prioritization of seafloor habitat mapping activities in the Southeast Region .....	28
Activity C2. Enhancing ocean animal movement networks in the southeast region for management and regulatory actions.....	30
Activity C3. Improve awareness of NOAA resources and capabilities to address ecosystem issues in the SE and Caribbean .....	32
Activity C4. Support SOCAN workshop hosted by SECOORA.....	33
Section III. Appendices.....	36
Appendix 1. Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team Membership .....	36
Appendix 3. SECART FY15-18 Strategic Priorities .....	39
Appendix 4. SECART FY2017 Spend Plan .....	42

# **I. Introduction**

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

NOAA’s regional collaboration network comprises eight regional teams plus support/engagement through NOAA Headquarters and Line Offices. The Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team (SECART) covers NC, SC, GA, FL PR, and USVI. The team is currently composed of 18 members representing geographic and topical diversity of NOAA staff and partners within the region (Appendix 1).

## **NOAA’s Goals and Objectives**

NOAA focuses its activities toward the following Strategic Goals and Enterprise Objectives articulated in the NOAA Strategic Plan:

- 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

## **Regional Collaboration Strategy**

In 2014, the Regional Collaboration Network completed (and revised in 2016) a “strategy map” to articulate its vision, mission, goals, and strategies to meet its objective in the NOAA Strategy: “Integrated services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders.” The Regional Collaboration Network’s Strategy map is included in this document as Appendix 2.

## **SECART Priorities**

NOAA’s Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team (SECART) has identified its priorities for FY15-18. These priorities are consistent with NOAA Goals and Regional Collaboration priorities but focus on current issues in the Southeast and Caribbean Region. These are:

**Priority: Improve efficiency and effectiveness of NOAA’s mission-execution through enhanced collaboration across NOAA offices and with partners.**

- Goal: Address regional priorities by connecting people and resources
- Goal: Exchange both national and regional insights that inform action
- Goal: Improve awareness of NOAA’s broad mission responsibilities and regional capabilities to achieve an understanding of, and respect for, the totality of NOAA’s work

**Priority: Improve Resilience of Communities to Extreme Events and Climate Change**

- Goal: Facilitate the development of emerging science and technology solutions to enable regional stakeholders to better plan for and respond to the risks posed by hazards and climate change
- Goal: Facilitate the application of products, services, and knowledge to enhance the capacity of communities to understand, plan for, and respond to risks posed by extreme events and climate change.
- Goal: Enhance organizational awareness and coordination within the region to improve response to a natural or man-made disaster

**Priority: Promote the sustainability of the region’s living marine resources and the habitats upon which they depend**

- Goal: Improve coordination and focus of coastal and marine habitat conservation and restoration
- Goal: Enhance awareness of risks to living marine resources and habitats

The full SECART FY15-18 Strategy is presented as Appendix 3.

**Annual Operating Plan Purpose and Organization**

***Purpose***

The purpose of the SECART Annual Operating Plan (AOP) is to document and guide team activities during the fiscal year. The AOP also serves as a tool for communicating regionally-informed priorities and collaborative approaches.

***Organization***

This AOP for FY2017 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 three SECART priorities mentioned above. Activities may address multiple priorities and goals, but are organized within a single priority for the purposes of the AOP. Activity descriptions and milestones provide information about the purpose, scope, partners, budget, and expected results.

Regional Collaboration funding from NOAA (\$50K) has been allocated to enable SECART to address these priorities. Annual funding for SECART work has been and will continue to be augmented and leveraged through other programs and funding opportunities. SECART’s FY2017 spend plan is presented in Appendix 4.

## II. Team Activities

### **SECART Priority: Improve efficiency and effectiveness of NOAA's mission-execution through enhanced collaboration across NOAA offices and with partners**

#### **Activity A1. Enhance NOAA's mission through strategic engagement with regional partners.**

##### **Regional Collaboration goals addressed:**

- Address regional challenges by connecting people and resources
- Exchange both national and regional insights that inform action
- Improve the understanding of and respect for NOAA's broad mission and regional capabilities

##### **Leads:**

- Geno Olmi ([Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov](mailto:Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov))
- Virginia Fay ([Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov](mailto:Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov))
- Rich Bandy ([Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov](mailto:Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov))

##### **Key Participants:**

- Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs): South Atlantic, Peninsular Florida, and Caribbean.
- 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)
- The Nature Conservancy and other non-governmental organizations
- North Carolina Sentinel Site Cooperative
- Southeast Ocean and Coastal Acidification Network
- Habitat Focus Areas in Biscayne Bay, FL and Northeast Reserves/Culebra, PR
- Other groups with whom SECART may explore closer connections, if appropriate:
  - Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability.
  - Southeast Natural Resources Leadership Group
  - Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership
  - Atlantic Coast Fish Habitat Partnership

## **Summary:**

Multi-partner coordination activities are occurring in the region focused on ecosystems, sustainability, and economic development integration. These partnerships provide ready opportunities for inter-agency and state-federal collaborations on issues of mutual interest. Over the last few years, SECART interacted with and provided various levels of support to several ongoing partnership efforts. One such partnership, the NOAA in the Caribbean Collaborative, is proposed as a separate project in this workplan. Some of these partnerships are long-term relationships, while others may develop for specific issues or projects. A few of these partnerships are further described below.

### *Regional Ocean Alliance*

In 2016 the Governors' South Atlantic Alliance (GSAA) decided to dissolve the Alliance in the form in which it has existed since its creation. Former members of the GSAA are presently planning a successor to the GSAA - with many of the same goals but in a different structure (and name). NOAA will continue to be part of this conversation as we feel there is value in regional approaches to issues in our region.

### *Landscape Conservation Cooperatives*

The Department of Interior launched the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) to better integrate science and management to address climate change and other landscape scale issues. The 22 LCCs collectively form a network of resource managers and scientists who share a common need for scientific information and interest in conservation. Partners work collaboratively to identify best practices, connect efforts, identify science gaps, and avoid duplication through conservation planning and design.

NOAA has a designated representative on most of the 22 LCC Steering Committees. NOAA's LCC Steering Committee members work to advance the work of NOAA and the LCC network. Three LCCs overlap with the SECART geography. The SECART Coordinator serves on the steering committee for the South Atlantic LCC and coordinates closely with NOAA representatives to the Peninsular Florida and Caribbean LCCs.

*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.

*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. The Executive Director of SECOORA is currently a member of SECART.

#### *Caribbean Regional Ocean Partnership*

The Caribbean Regional Ocean Partnership (CROP) was created in May 2012 through a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Governors of Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands. The CROP aims to establish mechanisms that will improve regional collaboration on ocean management in order to reduce user conflicts, improve cohesive regional planning, and support healthy communities and ecosystems for present and future generations. The Nature Conservancy is also an active partner in the CROP.

#### *North Carolina Sentinel Site Cooperative*

This Cooperative is located within the central coastal region of North Carolina, encompassing Carteret, Craven, and Onslow Counties. This area includes the Rachel Carson National Estuarine Research Reserve, state and national parks, Department of Defense installations, and State Port facilities. The region's extensive marsh and seagrass systems, sweeping beaches, and sheltered harbors support a high concentration of shipping, commercial and recreational fishing, and tourism. The region is also renowned for the wealth of academic and scientific institutions, including NOAA laboratories, universities, and state coastal management and fisheries agencies.

The NC Sentinel Site Cooperative (NCSSC) aims to create a network of partners among the scientific community, resource managers, and community members. NCSSC partner organizations work together to continue long-term research and monitoring efforts and to establish demonstration projects within the NCSSC boundary. These partnerships in the NC Cooperative result in more informed decisions about how to protect North Carolina's coastal resources and ecosystems. SECART has been engaged in the Cooperative from its inception and continues to support it through funds and time of team members.

#### *NOAA Habitat Focus Areas*

Over the last five years, NOAA has selected 10 Habitat Focus Areas. These are places where multiple NOAA offices can effectively focus their resources to prioritize long-term habitat science and conservation efforts. In each of these focus areas, we demonstrate how NOAA's science, service, and stewardship come together to improve habitat conditions for fisheries,

coastal communities, and marine life, and to provide other economic, cultural, and environmental benefits our society needs and enjoys.

SECART helped guide the process to selection of two Habitat Focus Areas in our region: Biscayne Bay, Florida and the Northeast Reserves and Culebra, Puerto Rico, and remains engaged with the efforts.

**Situation/problem this project will address:**

NOAA has many formal and informal partners in the region who share NOAA's issues and priorities. Addressing these issues in an effective and efficient manner requires communication and collaboration.

**Target audience:**

Primary partners include long-term NOAA partners such as state CZM, NERR, and Sea Grant programs, Cooperative Institutes, Regional Climate Centers, RISAs and more. NOAA also works with other federal agencies to accomplish shared objectives.

**Anticipated outcomes/benefits:**

- Increase the level of understanding of NOAA products and services in the region
- Respond to region-wide needs through a variety of partnerships
- Advance regional and internal collaboration with regional partnerships
- Serve on steering committees, technical teams and other collaborations as appropriate in support of regional partnerships
- Monitor progress of regional partnerships and identify appropriate opportunities for engagement, addressing NOAA priorities and responding to region-wide needs
- Utilize SECART's collaborative network to enhance the success of the regional partners

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$2000 of SECART funds. \$1000 to support team member travel to regional workshops, and \$1000 to support Regional Coordinator travel to SALCC Steering Committee meetings and other partnership-related travel; in kind support by RC and other team members during engagement with regional partnerships.

**Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- 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 (Q1-4)
- Represent NOAA on the Steering Committees of the South Atlantic LCC and remain cognizant of the activities of the Peninsular Florida and Caribbean LCC (Q1-4). Work

with NOAA's LCC Coordinator, programs, offices, and Regional Collaboration Teams to coordinate and effectively communicate to the LCC, NOAA's mission interests in landscape/seascape conservation and bring NOAA capabilities to the LCC to assist in the attainment of LCC goals and objectives (Q 1-4)

- Effectively communicate activities, projects, and opportunities to relevant NOAA programs, offices, and the Regional Collaboration Teams
- Participate on the Biscayne Bay Habitat Focus Area Implementation Team and stay aware of activities underway at the Northeast Reserves and Culebra HFA in Puerto Rico (Q 1-4)
- Maintain engagement with the NC Sentinel Site Cooperative and look for opportunities to enhance this NOAA-led collaborative.

## **Activity A2. Advance NOAA's mission through engagement with the NOAA in the Caribbean Collaborative and promote implementation of the NOAA Caribbean Strategy**

### **Regional Collaboration goals addressed:**

- Address regional challenges by connecting people and resources
- Exchange both national and regional insights that inform action
- Improve the understanding of and respect for NOAA's broad mission and regional capabilities

### **Leads:**

- Staci Rijal (Staci.Rijal@noaa.gov)
- Makeda Okolo (Makede.Okolo@noaa.gov)
- Jeff Payne ([Jeff.Payne@noaa.gov](mailto:Jeff.Payne@noaa.gov))
- Geno Olmi (geno.olmi@noaa.gov)

### **Participants:**

NOAA in the Caribbean Steering Committee which includes, in addition to NOAA staff, Puerto Rico & USVI Coastal Management Programs, Caribbean Fisheries Management Council, Caribbean Landscape Conservation Cooperative, The Nature Conservancy, and others

### **Summary:**

NOAA has a broad portfolio of activities in the Caribbean region, both nationally and internationally. Given the extent of locations, mission, and partners throughout the region, communication and coordination can be challenging. NOAA's Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team (SECART) initiated NOAA in the Caribbean (NOAA Carib) with the goal of

identifying and responding to local and regional challenges, needs, and opportunities in the Caribbean region through collaboration across NOAA and with non-NOAA partners. NOAA Carib includes NOAA employees and partners currently active in research, management, training, or other efforts in the Caribbean. NOAA Carib's initial focus has been on Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands; however, the initiative seeks to maintain resource exchanges with Florida and, as appropriate and practicable, with partners in the wider Caribbean.

Significant accomplishments to date include:

- Production of the NOAA in the Caribbean Newsletter
- Leadership in the writing and vetting of the NOAA Caribbean Strategy
- An in-person partners meeting in St. Thomas, VI May 2012
- A virtual partners meeting in Jan 2014
- An in-person partners meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico, May 2016

Launched in February 2012 as the first product from the new NOAA in the Caribbean Initiative, the NOAA in the Caribbean Newsletter enhances communication and awareness of NOAA's Caribbean activities both within NOAA and with the Caribbean region's managers, partners and decision makers. The newsletter is currently the only one-NOAA outreach product with a focus on the Caribbean region.

In May 2012, NOAA Carib held its first annual meeting in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, to discuss how to best identify and respond to local and regional challenges in the Caribbean with NOAA and non-NOAA partners, including through the NOAA Caribbean Strategy. In Jan-Feb 2014, NOAA Carib used virtual technology and small hub locations to coordinate with our Caribbean partners, both within and outside of NOAA for our second annual meeting. A second in person partners' workshop was held in May 2016 to share information on progress toward shared priorities and identification of emerging issues since the NOAA Caribbean Strategy was developed. Reports from these these workshops are available.

In FY14, the [NOAA Caribbean Strategy](#) was approved by Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, NOAA's Administrator. The NOAA Caribbean Strategy lays out three goals for meeting NOAA's mission in the Caribbean region:

- Improved conservation and management of ocean and coastal ecosystems and resources;
- Strengthened understanding of, and adaptation to, a changing climate;
- Enhanced multi-hazard monitoring, forecasting, and risk management.

SECART and the NOAA Carib collaborative provide a focus for NOAA on implementation of the Strategy and will work with partners in the execution of the Strategy's short-term objectives,

as part of a broader regional coordination effort in the Caribbean. As we work to implement elements of the NOAA Caribbean Strategy, we must of course be cognizant of new and evolving issues and concerns (e.g., ESA listing of coral species).

The objectives of this activity are to:

- Participate in the NOAA in the Caribbean Steering Committee.
- Work with the NOAA Carib Steering Committee to maintain production of the NOAA in the Caribbean Newsletter.
- Participate with the NOAA in the Caribbean Steering Committee to identify strategies for enhancing value of NOAA Carib to our NOAA staff and partners in the region.
- Provide funds to the support products and services of the NOAA Caribbean Collaborative
- Advance specific short-term implementation of the goals of the NOAA Caribbean Strategy

**Situation/problem this project will address:**

Because of differences in culture, infrastructure, and resources, it is important for NOAA to provide focused attention to address issues of concern to the agency, in collaboration with U. S. Caribbean partners.

**Target audience:**

NOAA offices and staff in the Caribbean and partners including the PR and VI Coastal Zone Programs, the PR Sea Grant Program, the Caribbean Fisheries Management Council, and others, such as recipients of Coral Reef Conservation funding.

**Anticipated Outcomes/Benefits:**

The NOAA Caribbean Collaborative facilitates improved communication and collaboration with NOAA offices and partners in the US Caribbean and broader Caribbean basin. The NOAA Carib Newsletter reaches a wide audience and highlights NOAA products and services in the region. The Collaborative improves progress toward accomplishing the goals of the NOAA Caribbean Strategy.

**Cost/Funding Source:**

\$4500 of FY17 SECART funds - \$3000 is allocated for support of the NOAA Carib intern and \$1500 is allocated for translation services.

**Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- Assist the NOAA Carib Steering Team with the development and delivery of two issues of the NOAA in the Caribbean Newsletter (Q2, Q4) through participation on the editorial committee and funding of Spanish translation services.
- Provide \$3K in funds to NOAA Carib to support an intern (Q2). The intern has proven to be an important mechanism for day-to-day operations of the NOAA Carib Steering Committee.
- Participate (through the NOAA Carib Steering Committee and the meeting planning team) in the planning of the next NOAA Carib partners meeting, likely in FY18 (Q3-4).
- Based on the outcomes of the NOAA Carib Constituents Meeting, identify near-term priorities consistent with the NOAA Carib Strategy for SECART to “promote” as NOAA priorities in the region. Priorities and potential projects that result will be briefed to the Regional Collaboration Advisory Group and other NOAA leadership groups (Q1).

**Activity A3. Represent NOAA’s broad mission capabilities and accomplishments in the region and facilitate two-way flow of information between the region and NOAA leadership.****Regional Collaboration goals addressed:**

- Address regional challenges by connecting people and resources
- Exchange both national and regional insights that inform action
- Improve the understanding of and respect for NOAA's broad mission and regional capabilities

**Leaders:**

- Geno Olmi ([Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov](mailto:Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov))
- Rich Bandy ([Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov](mailto:Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov))
- Virginia Fay ([Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov](mailto:Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov))
- Erica Rule ([Erica.Rule@noaa.gov](mailto:Erica.Rule@noaa.gov))

**Participants:**

- All SECART members
- ReCo HQ

## **Summary:**

Regional collaboration teams are one of the few entities within NOAA, and especially within the regions, that represent all of NOAA. A role of SECART is to expand awareness of NOAA's mission responsibilities, capabilities and accomplishments, as an agency, not just for a particular office. NOAA staff in the region are necessarily focused on their particular job function, but to the extent that they better understand the totality of NOAA's mission and what other NOAA staff in the region are doing, the better equipped they are to represent NOAA. Similarly, it is to NOAA's benefit that our partners and stakeholders are more aware of how NOAA works to improve their lives.

### *Communicating Regional Programs and Priorities*

SECART will conduct a number of communications and outreach activities targeted at promoting 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 SECART website. SECART outreach and communications activities will require the support, input and feedback of the full SECART team.

SECART will engage regularly with NOAA staff and partners in the region to maintain an understanding of programs and priorities, and utilize this information (regional intelligence) to inform NOAA understanding and programming. We will also help convey NOAA priorities to staff and partners; enable implementation of NOAA priorities in the region, including initiatives such as Habitat Blueprint and Sentinel Site Cooperatives.

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. SECART will engage NOAA staff and partners within the region to enhance the flow of information, especially concerning priorities and needs. One mechanism that the Regional Collaboration Teams have used to convey timely information about the regions are the "Regional Landscapes" – documents that attempt to provide a profile of the region concerning interests to NOAA. SECART plans to continue producing annual updates of the profile for the Southeast and Caribbean Region to inform NOAA leadership and others regarding regional issues and priorities.

### *Congressional Roundtable event(s)*

In FY16, SECART hosted its first “roundtable briefing” on climate impacts in southeast Florida for congressional staff in the region (Miami, May 2016). The purpose such events is to expand awareness of NOAA’s impact in a particular state or sub-region. Following the model used by the North Atlantic Team, NOAA staff were “paired” with university and state and local agency stakeholders to educate Congressional district staff about timely and relevant issues in their region. The goal of the briefings is to show how NOAA provides products, services, and information to address an issue, and how stakeholders then use that information to inform actions related to the issue. An outcome of this activity is to make district staff more aware of the depth and breadth of NOAA’s mission in the region, especially on issues where NOAA’s expertise is not as well known.

In FY17, we will host our second such event in NC (or SC). The focus will likely be on coastal and ocean research and mapping (NC) or coastal resilience (SC), though we are still refining our strategy for this event.

### *Who You NOAA*

The North Atlantic Regional Team has been developing a web-accessible directory of NOAA staff and expertise in their region. SECART provided funds in FY16 to expand the directory to the SECART region. In FY17 we will work to populate the directory, starting with team members and reaching out to other NOAA staff in the region.

### *Supporting NOAA Leadership and National Initiatives*

NOAA Leadership (including Line Office leadership) travels to the regions to attend events (conferences, dedications, etc.), to meet with stakeholders, and to engage with NOAA staff. Regional Collaboration Teams can provide valuable logistical and information intelligence to improve the value of such visits. Regional Coordinators have established a relationship with the Program Coordination Office to better assist in planning and execution of such visits. SECART will provide such assistance when NOAA Leadership visits the region.

The objectives of this activity are to:

- Engage with regional staff, partners, and stakeholders to strengthen collaborative ties and build awareness in the region of NOAA’s mission responsibilities and capabilities
- Through this enhanced awareness, spur additional communication, coordination and collaboration among NOAA staff and with partners and stakeholders.
- Utilize outreach materials to enhance such awareness of NOAA work in the region

- Conduct, one “congressional roundtable” briefing in the region to showcase local and state engagement with NOAA and use of NOAA’s products and services.
- Populate the Who You NOAA directory with NOAA personnel from the southeast and Caribbean region.
- Identify any regional emerging issues that NOAA should be aware of and communicate that information to NOAA leadership
- Serve NOAA and the Department of Commerce as needed for requests for information and services from the region
- Represent NOAA in the region
- Assist in enhancing the value of visits to the region by NOAA Leadership

**Situation/problem this project will address:**

NOAA staff in the region are necessarily focused on their particular job function, but to the extent that they better understand the totality of NOAA’s mission and what other NOAA staff in the region are doing, the better equipped they are to represent NOAA. Similarly, it is to NOAA’s benefit that our partners and stakeholders are more aware of how NOAA works to improve their lives.

**Target audience:**

The target audience for this activity is affected by or benefits from NOAA’s products and services, including NOAA staff and partners, but also including stakeholders such as congressional staff and the public.

**Anticipated Outcomes/Benefits:**

This activity should improve the awareness and understanding of, and appreciation for, NOAA’s products and services in the region

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$4000 from SECART funds. \$3000 for costs associated with congressional roundtable event, including travel of RTL and participants. \$1000 for RC travel related to this activity. In kind support from SECART members; coordinator travel for outreach captured under other regional enterprise categories.

**Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- Regional Landscape Analysis document updated for FY17 (Q2)
- Quarterly accomplishments to HQ (Q1-4)
- Occasional updates, as appropriate, to HQ for accomplishments, regional news and upcoming events (Q1-4)

- As needed assistance to enhance NOAA leadership visits to the region (Q1-4)
- Engage with NOAA staff and partners to understand regional issues and concerns
- Respond to specific requests for information or support from NOAA HQ or DOC (Q1-4)
- Inform HQ of issues, concerns and events important to the region (Q1 – Q4)
- Stay aware of regional events and issues of interest to NOAA (Q1-4)
- Enhance leadership visits to the region by providing “local” intelligence with an inclusive perspective.
- Develop slide deck with overview of SECART, FY16 accomplishments, and FY17 activities to use for outreach (Q1)
- Update “NOAA in region” fact sheet, including SECART’s FY17 activities (Q1-2)
- Enhance SECART web site (Q1 – Q4)
- Meet with NOAA staff and partners in region to enhance awareness of NOAA’s responsibilities and capabilities within the region (Q1-4)
- Conduct one “congressional roundtable” briefing in NC or SC area (Q3)
- 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)

#### **Activity A4. Enhance the capacity of SECART to lead organizational integration within the region**

##### **Regional Collaboration goals addressed:**

- Address regional challenges by connecting people and resources
- Exchange both national and regional insights that inform action
- Improve the understanding of and respect for NOAA's broad mission and regional capabilities

##### **Activity Lead(s):**

- Geno Olmi ([Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov](mailto:Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov))
- Rich Bandy ([Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov](mailto:Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov))
- Virginia Fay ([Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov](mailto:Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov))
- Chris Taylor ([Chris.Taylor@noaa.gov](mailto:Chris.Taylor@noaa.gov))
- Erica Rule ([Erica.Rule@noaa.gov](mailto:Erica.Rule@noaa.gov))

**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 FY17, SECART will hold two face-to-face meetings. The winter meeting will occur in February in Atlanta, GA. The meeting will focus on SECART operations, progress of FY17 activities, and learning about NOAA and partner activities in the Atlanta area - home to regional offices of several federal partners (including USGS, USACOE, EPA, FEMA, and USFWS). The summer meeting (site undetermined) will focus on progress of SECART projects, team business, and identifying FY18 priorities and activities. In addition to monthly calls and meetings, team members communicate frequently via phone and email. The SECART Leadership Team (Team Lead, Coordinator, and work group leads) has weekly calls to guide direction and maintain momentum.

During FY14-FY15, SECART completed its FY15-18 Strategy, adopted new strategic priority areas, and changed its workgroup structure to match. The strategy and matching workgroup structure guide SECART investment. Development and execution of the team's Annual Operating Plan is a significant task within this activity. While much of the execution is contained in other AOP Activities, the planning for and development of the AOP is captured here. As part of this process, SECART will continually evaluate regional priorities of stakeholders. Through SECART workgroups and leadership, we will execute our Annual Operating Plan to provide integrated services to the region.

The objectives of this activity are to:

- Maintain and improve communication and coordination of the regional team
- Manage and improve team operations
- Maintain and enhance priority area work groups
- Complete the FY17 Operating Plan (Q1)
- Effectively execute the FY17 Operating Plan
- Begin development of the FY18 Operating Plan (Q4)
- Facilitate team functioning to achieve better coordination and integration within the region.

**Situation/problem this project will address:**

For SECART to be successful, there must be organization and communication to ensure that work plans are implemented and that opportunities within the region are unearthed and pursued.

**Target audience:**

The target audience for this activity is SECART members.

**Anticipated Outcomes/Benefits:**

This activity will result in SECART providing effective services on behalf of NOAA and its partners.

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$12,000 to support team member travel to SECART meetings (if their LO is unable to cover travel costs); \$1500 for Regional Coordinator travel in support of team operations; in-kind support provided in team member time.

**Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- FY17 Annual Operating Plan with spend plan (Q1)
- Present AOP to the Advisory Group (Q1)
- Draft FY18 Annual Operating Plan with spend plan (Q4)
- Winter SECART meeting (Q2)
- Summer SECART meeting (Q4)
- Convene monthly team calls and distribute notes (Q1 – Q4)
- Assist with success of work groups (Q1 – Q4)

**Activity A5. Improve the capacity of NOAA’s inter-regional and national integrated services****Regional Collaboration goals addressed:**

- Exchange both national and regional insights that inform action
- Improve the understanding of and respect for NOAA's broad mission and regional capabilities

**Activity Lead(s):**

- Geno Olmi ([Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov](mailto:Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov))
- Rich Bandy ([Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov](mailto:Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov))
- Virginia Fay ([Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov](mailto:Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov))

**Participants:**

- Regional Team Leads and Coordinators
- ReCo HQ
- Regional Collaboration Advisory Group

**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 NOAA Executive Panel (NEP), which is led by the Deputy Undersecretary for Operations and includes the deputy assistant administrators of each line office as well as other programmatic and administrative offices within NOAA. In addition the Regional Collaboration Advisory Group, representing the NEP members, provides regular engagement between Regional Collaboration and Line Office Leadership. SECART will work closely with the other regional teams, ReCo HQ (Louisa and Meredith), and the NEP to advance regional collaboration at all levels.

SECART will remain active in bi-weekly Regional Coordinator calls, monthly Regional Team Lead calls, and other activities that serve to coordinate and integrate the network. The SECART Team Lead and RC will help plan, and participate in, the annual Regional Collaboration Workshop (February, San Diego, CA). The SECART RC will help plan and participate in the annual RC meeting. Finally, SECART will explore opportunities to work with the North Atlantic Regional Team and the Gulf of Mexico Regional Team to identify fruitful areas of integration.

The objectives of this activity are to:

- Improve inter-regional coordination and identify any regional emerging issues that SECART can help address
- Support the NEP and ReCo HQ in oversight responsibilities, and influence strategic direction setting, for NOAA regional collaboration
- Help plan and execute the annual Regional Coordinator meeting (TBD)
- Help plan and execute the annual Regional Collaboration Workshop (Feb)
- Continue participation in network-wide coordination activities (calls, meetings, etc.)
- Pursue opportunities for cross-regional coordination on topics of mutual interest

**Situation/problem this project will address:**

SECART is but one of eight NOAA Regional Collaboration Teams. For the broader network to be successful, there must be organization and communication to ensure that regions are addressing NOAA priorities and that best practices within regions are shared among regions.

**Target audience:**

The target audience for this activity is the Regional Collaboration Network, including ReCo HQ and the other Regional Collaboration Teams. NOAA Leadership is also an audience of this activity.

**Anticipated Outcomes/Benefits:**

This activity will result in the Regional Collaboration Network being an effective mechanism to enhance NOAA's services nationally.

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$4500 of SECART funds allocated as \$2500 for Regional Coordinator travel (Annual ReCo workshop, Regional Coordinator meeting, and attending other RCT meetings) and \$2000 to support SECART Team Lead travel to the annual ReCo workshop. Also, in kind support of team members; time of Coordinator and Team Lead.

**Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- Regional Coordinator meeting (Q3)
- National Regional Collaboration Workshop (Q2)
- Quarterly and annual reports of accomplishments (Q1-4)
- Participate in bi-weekly Regional Coordinator calls (Q1 – Q4)
- Participate in monthly Regional Team Lead calls (Q1 – Q4)
- Support ReCo HQ as needed to further regional collaboration (Q1 – Q4)
- Explore opportunities with the NART and GoMRCT for better coordination on topics of mutual interest.

## **SECART Priority: Improve resilience of communities to extreme events and climate change**

### **Activity B1. Implementing Wave Run-up modeling in the southeast.**

**Regional Collaboration goals addressed:**

- Address regional challenges by connecting people and resources

**Activity Lead(s):**

Rich Bandy

**Partners:**

North Atlantic Regional Team  
National Ocean Service (OCS)  
Sea Grant Programs in region  
Tampa and Miami WFOs

**Summary:**

The NART began a Wave run-up project in 2011 to provide NOAA meteorologists and emergency response officials with site specific coastal flood forecast data as much as three days in advance. These data assist meteorologists with making wave run-up forecasts that contribute to Coastal Flood Warning decisions and emergency responders with resource decisions such as potential road closures and evacuations. In 2015, SECART co-sponsored a workshop to develop techniques and training to move this project into implementation. In 2016 the methodology was implemented throughout most of the NWS Eastern Region, and we plan to expand this effort to the southeast. The goal is that, in 2018 (through the CARDS process), wave runup forecasts become accepted nationally. To improve the acceptance of this effort within NWS, it would be beneficial to show the effort is beneficial to additional regions of the country.

NART will fund travel to send someone to WFO Miami to train them on survey techniques for this project. It will also work with staff remotely to configure production of this forecast product. There will be a winter/spring test and evaluation for the Morehead City, Miami, and Tampa Bay NWS Offices. Following the test period, there will be a wrap up workshop to identify successes and future needs. Although funds have not been allocated for this activity, SECART will try to fund travel for staff from NWS Morehead City and Miami to attend a wrap-up meeting in the summer of 2017. NART will fund their staff to attend, and The Gulf Region will fund travel from Tampa Bay staff. \$2,500 should cover travel expenses.

**Situation/problem this project will address:**

Expanding this effort to the NWS Southern Region will demonstrate its utility in other regions, furthering the likelihood of national implementation.

**Target audience:**

WFOs and Emergency Management in NC and Florida that will benefit from the forecasts, and eventually coastal locations throughout at least the Gulf and East Coast.

**Anticipated Outcomes/Benefits:**

NOAA meteorologists and emergency response officials will have site specific coastal flood forecast data as much as three days in advance. These data will assist meteorologists with making Coastal Flood Warning decisions and emergency responders with decisions such as road closures and evacuations. Local communities and emergency managers and emergency response communities will benefit. Expanding this effort to the NWS Southern Region will increase the likelihood of national implementation.

**Cost/Funding Source:** No SECART funds committed to this effort at present. SECART will leverage existing staff expertise within the region (if funds remain in other projects, may try to support travel in this activity).

**Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Completion in Q4

## **Activity B2. Hurricane / Climate Resilience Webinar Series**

**Regional Collaboration goals addressed:**

- Exchange both national and regional insights that inform action
- Improve the understanding of and respect for NOAA's broad mission and regional capabilities

**Project Lead(s):**

Erica Rule (Erica.Rule@noaa.gov)

**Partners:**

Dan Brown (NHC Specialist)

Rich Bandy (MIC WFO Newport/Morehead City)

Chip Konrad (Director, Southeast Regional Climate Center)

Roberto Garcia (MIC WFO San Juan)

Matt Moreland (MIC WFO Key West)

John Schmidt (SE RFC, Atlanta)

**Summary:**

Webinars are a useful tool to educate key partners and constituents about NOAA forecast products such as the seasonal climate outlook, improvements in hurricane and storm surge forecasting efforts, or potentially other hazards, while promoting awareness of cross line office activities and SECART involvement. Over the past two years, the reach of this project has grown by increasing audience size and including Spanish language versions. Topics have also expanded to better reflect the contributions of multiple line offices and partners that culminate in improved NOAA products and services that support resilience to extreme weather and climate impacts.

Our objectives for FY17 will be to continue to educate audiences about updates to NOAA's hurricane forecast products as well as expected impacts of significant climate phenomena that

may impact the region. As hurricanes affect the entire east coast of the United States and we have not reached the audience capacity allowed by our webinar license, we plan to increase our audience by advertising the hurricane webinars through the North Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico regions as well as the SECART region. We will leverage the WFO's in these region to advertise the webinars to the relevant stakeholders and partners.

Topics will also be expanded to include explaining the relationship between NHC and WFO forecasts in impacted regions, for both hurricane and storm surge forecasting. We will also conduct a webinar on freshwater flooding and NOAA's role in forecasting and warning communities of this danger. An ENSO webinar will be planned that will explain the forecast and regional impacts as well as the science of forecasting ENSO events. All webinars will continue to be recorded and posted on the SECART website, along with presentation materials.

**Situation/problem this project will address:**

While many NOAA offices have experts with the capability to describe these topics, they lack the infrastructure to coordinate, advertise, and execute webinars to such large audiences of key partners. Further, SECART encourages a "One-NOAA" approach to addressing the webinar topics. Also, by advertising the entire themed-series of webinars as a unit, we increase coordination and participation in the entire series.

**Target audience:**

Emergency managers, broadcast meteorologists, those responsible for hurricane response w/in organizations, community resilience managers, coastal zone managers.

**Anticipated Outcomes/Benefits:**

Through these webinar series, SECART enhances the understanding of the latest products services, and research

**Cost/Funding Source:** No SECART funds committed to this effort. SECART will leverage existing staff expertise within the region to plan and execute the webinars.

**Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Drought Webinar: 1st QTR,
- La Nina Webinar: 2nd QTR
- Hurricane themed webinars: 3rd QTR (May-June 2017);
- SE regional Climate outlook updates (QTR, 1,2,3,4)

## **Activity B3. Engage and support the Southeast and Caribbean Climate Community of Practice.**

### **Regional Collaboration goals addressed:**

- Address regional challenges by connecting people and resources
- Exchange both national and regional insights that inform action
- Improve the understanding of and respect for NOAA's broad mission and regional capabilities

### **Activity Lead(s):**

Geno Olmi

Ellen Mecray

Liz Fly (SC Sea Grant & Carolinas Integrated Science Assessments)

Amanda Farris (Carolinas Integrated Science Assessments)

### **Partners:**

Bethney Ward (NOS OCM)

Chip Konrad (Southeast Region Climate Center)

Climate CoP Steering Committee

### **Summary:**

The Southeast and Caribbean Climate Community of Practice (CoP) brings together individuals from local, state, and federal governments, academia, non-profit organizations and the private sector to apply climate science and assess how coastal communities and ecosystems can adapt to the impacts of climate variability and change. The Climate CoP provides a forum for sharing lessons learned and best practices related to climate communication and adaptation. The Climate CoP also provides education and networking opportunities to its members and their stakeholders to increase knowledge and awareness of climate science and to coordinate and perform outreach, extension and communication related to climate change and its impacts in the Southeast and Caribbean region.

In-person networking is critical to the success of the Climate CoP. Their most recent workshop was in 2016, with funding from the National Sea Grant office. SECART and other NOAA offices provided staff time to help plan and implement the workshop. The Climate CoP has decided to meet every 2 years with the next workshop in FY17. With support from Carolinas' Integrated Sciences Assessment (CISA), est. \$10K, and support from Sea Grant, SECART will be an additional vested partner to support costs associated with planning for and delivering a

successful workshop. Funds may be used for supporting local community travel or facility rental, facilitation services, or other convening costs to support critical in-person knowledge transfer, as well as participation of the SECART regional coordinator.

**Situation/problem this project will address:**

The Climate CoP seeks partnerships to provide support for their activities, primarily their ability to come together and network for in-person workshops. As a regional partner that aligns with their organizational goals, facilitating their success directly supports SECART goals.

**Target audience:**

Southeast and Caribbean Climate CoP members and other climate practitioners in the region

**Anticipated Outcomes/Benefits:**

Supporting the Climate CoP workshop in planning and delivery will facilitate the sharing and transfer of actionable information, and build the community of practice to serve as a resource for the region.

**Cost/Funding Source:** SECART is allocating \$5000 for this activity; \$3000 is allocated to support the CCOP Workshop in FY17 (meeting space, federal travel); \$1200 is allocated to support SECART member (Mecray) travel to the SE&Car CCOP workshop; \$800 is for RC travel to the workshop. The Carolinas RISA has offered up to \$10K to support a workshop in 2017 and we are anticipating additional funds from the Sea Grant Programs in the region.

**Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Continue engagement with CCOP Steering Team (Q1-4)
- Participate on the Workshop Planning Team (Q1-3)
- Participate in the execution of the CCOP Workshop (Q3)
- Participate in development of workshop products (Q4)
- Provide travel support for NOAA personnel to attend CCoP related meeting in the region (Q2-3)
- Participate in continuation of the CCoP webinar series (Q1-4)

**Activity B4. Improve NOAA response posture to large scale disasters within the SECART region**

**Regional Collaboration goals addressed:**

- Address regional challenges by connecting people and resources
- Exchange both national and regional insights that inform action

**Leader(s):**

Matt Moreland ([Matt.Moreland@noaa.gov](mailto:Matt.Moreland@noaa.gov))

Brad Benggio ([Brad.Benggio@noaa.gov](mailto:Brad.Benggio@noaa.gov))

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

Erica Rule ([Erica.Rule@noaa.gov](mailto:Erica.Rule@noaa.gov))

**Partners:**

Charlie Henry, NOAA Gulf of Mexico Disaster Response Center

Other NOAA offices in region

**Objectives/Summary:**

The Deepwater Horizon incident in 2010, and other recent disasters, have taught us that NOAA as an agency has many different resources that could be brought to bear to support response to a wide range of potential disasters in our region. However, there is not a great deal of understanding between NOAA line offices of what each can provide in terms of assets and expertise before, during, and after a major disaster.

SECART will improve the understanding of NOAA’s disaster response capabilities within the region. We will also work with the SSCs within the region to convene a workshop to build relationships among NOAA line offices and staff in the region and identify scenario based resources for the Southeast and Caribbean region. This project will help compile data for our region so that it can eventually help populate the DRC National NOAA Response Asset Directory.

SECART will hold a workshop (potentially in Charleston, SC) in the third or fourth quarter of FY17 with appropriate participants in the region to conduct a tabletop exercise to go through a range of disaster scenarios and improve understanding of what each NOAA office can provide in terms of information, expertise and assets during each phase of a disaster.

**Situation/problem this project will address:**

This will position NOAA to more effectively identify assets available to a wide range of disaster scenarios that could impact the SECART region, increasing NOAA responsiveness to disasters and improving our ability to quickly partner with and support any other Federal or state agencies

leading response efforts. It will also better engage senior NOAA leaders in the region so that they are more aware of regional capacity to leverage assets.

**Target audience:**

Other NOAA offices in the region, the regional SSCs and the DRC.

**Anticipated Outcomes/Benefits:**

NOAA staff within the regional will have a better understanding of:

- 1) The role and purpose of the NOAA Scientific Service Coordinators within OR&R
- 2) What their NOAA office could provide during a response scenario
- 3) What other NOAA offices could provide during a disaster response scenario
- 4) The range of scenarios that NOAA office could potentially provide support to during a response, and how those role may differ during different scenarios
- 5) Scientific Service Coordinators to have a better understanding of the NOAA assets in the region

**Cost/Funding Source:** SECART has allocated \$6000 to support a workshop in Q3 or Q4.

Funds will likely be used to support travel to the workshop. In addition, we leverage existing staff expertise within the region to execute this activity.

**Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- Collaborate with Scientific Support Coordinators for the region, Brad Benggio and Frank Csulak, to identify opportunities to improve NOAA’s overall response capability
- Hold conversation with NOAA’s Disaster Response Center to further identify opportunities for enhancing regional response capabilities.
- Make additional contacts in region and begin planning for workshop.
- Hold workshop (Q3 or Q4)
- Develop workshop summary and next steps document (Q4)

**Activity B5. Supporting the Southeast Regional Climate Quarterly Outlook**

**Regional Collaboration goals addressed:**

- Exchange both national and regional insights that inform action
- Improve the understanding of and respect for NOAA's broad mission and regional capabilities

**Project Lead(s):**

Ellen Mecray

Chip Konrad (Director, Southeast Regional Climate Center)

**Partners:**

Sea Grant

CISA

NWS WFOs

NWS RFC

OAR in the region

NMFS in the region

NOS in the region

**Summary:**

For the first time, a regional specific quarterly climate summary and outlook will be produced for the Southeast. The SE Regional Climate Center and Regional Climate Services Director (Mecray) will lead the development of this product. SECART will support this product by identifying a small cross line office team (10 people) to meet virtually two hours per quarter to collect and review content. SECART Team will be asked to help disseminate the product via email with the RCSD in copy for tracking purposes.

**Situation/problem this project will address:**

By identifying and ensuring appropriate NOAA input and participation, this product will accurately reflect the climate conditions in the region. SECART assistance with distribution will ensure wide reach to appropriate target audiences.

**Target audience:**

Regional scale decision makers (e.g. coastal managers, community planners, state emergency managers, coastal planners, infrastructure managers, public health officials, agricultural producers, fisheries managers)

**Anticipated outcomes/benefits:**

For the first time, target audiences from multiple sectors (mentioned above) will receive timely regional-scale climate information from across NOAA that will better inform their decision making.

**Cost/Funding Source:** No SECART funds committed to this effort. SECART will leverage existing staff expertise within the region to assist with review of quarterly outlooks.

**Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Drought Outlook: Q1
- La Nina Outlook: Q1-2
- SE regional Climate outlook updates (Q1,2,3,4),

## **Priority: Promote the sustainability of the region's living marine resources and the habitats upon which they depend**

### **Activity C1. Improving coordination and prioritization of seafloor habitat mapping activities in the Southeast Region**

**Regional Collaboration goals addressed:**

- Address regional challenges by connecting people and resources
- Improve the understanding of and respect for NOAA's broad mission and regional capabilities

**SECART Lead(s):**

Chris Taylor ([Chris.Taylor@noaa.gov](mailto:Chris.Taylor@noaa.gov))

Adam Bode ([Adam.Bode@noaa.gov](mailto:Adam.Bode@noaa.gov))

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

George Sedberry ([George.Sedberry@noaa.gov](mailto:George.Sedberry@noaa.gov))

**Key Partner(s), Collaborators and Contributors:**

- Stephen Giordano, NMFS Southeast Region Habitat Conservation
- Ashley Chappell, NOS OCS Integrated Ocean Coastal Mapping
- Chip Collier, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
- Other Entities: US Navy, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, US Army Corps of Engineers

### **Summary:**

Offices in NOAA conduct seafloor mapping to support safe navigation (OCS), ocean planning (NOS) and resources assessments (NMFS, NOS). SECART can assist and facilitate greater awareness of the mapping activities conducted by NOAA in the SE and Caribbean Region. The SECART can also facilitate access to mapping data and prioritization tools for NOAA offices and our partners in the US Caribbean and the Southeast US (emphasis on SE US since other coordination is under way in Caribbean through Coral). Building on progress in FY2016, objectives for FY2017 are:

1. Host regional workshop to continue development of Best Practices and Requirements for seafloor habitat mapping information required by agencies and industry for ecosystem management and regulatory actions. Three topic areas identified during 2016 workshop will serve as initial areas:
  - a. Near-shore coastal, submerged aquatic vegetation, oyster reefs
  - b. Sand shoals as fish habitat
  - c. Outer shelf hardbottom/rocky reef seafloor habitats.
2. Continue to facilitate exchange of awareness for regional seafloor habitat mapping activities, advances in mapping technologies, or regional planning needs through webinars hosted by SECART and presented by federal, regional or state government, academic, and private sector partners
3. Develop draft version of a mapping prioritization, participatory GIS tool for the Southeast Region. The tool includes an assembled inventory of existing seafloor mapping data as footprints in a gridded region from Cape Hatteras to South Florida. This will allow agencies to identify 1-5 year needs for regional seafloor habitat information.

### **Situation/problem this project will address:**

Coordination of offshore mapping activities will improve the efficiency of data acquisition and management. In addition, awareness of NOAA's resources and expertise in providing seafloor habitat information to management and regulatory actions can be improved through such regional prioritization and coordination.

### **Target audience:**

NOAA Line/Program Offices, Other Federal Agencies, State/Regional Coastal and Fisheries Management Agencies, Academic Institutions

### **Anticipated outcomes/benefits:**

- Webinars will improve awareness of NOAA mission, capabilities and activities in the Southeast region, connecting managers, stakeholders and other users of seafloor habitat data with practitioners conducting mapping activities or producing mapping products.

- Online GIS prioritization tool will improve awareness of regional needs for seafloor habitat data and improve efficiency by which NOAA meets goals across agencies and stakeholders. SECART would develop tool with OCS and maintain as partnership engagement to ensure SE and Caribbean region priorities are included in
- Development of “Best Practices” will provide a review and consensus on state of the science for acquiring hydrographic seafloor survey data using sonars or airborne imaging systems. Best practices will ensure hydrographic survey sensors and systems are configured so that data are collected to meet agency requirements, such as resolving least depths for navigational hazards, but also ensure data contain information that could lead to accurate interpretation of seafloor habitats.

**Cost/Funding Source:**

\$5,000 of SECART funds. \$3,000 for travel (SECART FTE and invitational travel), \$2,000 for technical support to develop GIS prioritization tool

**Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Q1 - Finalize work plan for FY2017 and outyear goals
- Q2 - Webinars with states and partners; begin planning for Q4 workshop
- Q3 - Planning for Q4 in-person workshop
- Q4 - In-person workshop; workshop summary

**Activity C2. Enhancing ocean animal movement networks in the southeast region for management and regulatory actions**

**Regional Collaboration goals addressed:**

- Address regional challenges by connecting people and resources
- Improve the understanding of and respect for NOAA’s broad mission and regional capabilities

**SECART Lead(s):**

Debra Hernandez, SECOORA Executive Director  
George Sedberry (George.Sedberry@noaa.gov)

**Key Partner(s), Collaborators and Contributors:**

Regional acoustic telemetry networks (FACT, iTAG, ACT)  
NOAA’s Integrated Ocean Observing System (CariCOOS, SECOORA)

Federal partners in BOEM and US Navy  
Other academic partners

**Summary:**

Ocean organisms (fish, sea turtles and marine mammals) migrate and transit through the estuaries and coastal ocean without regard for state, federal boundaries or regulatory activities. The South East Coastal Ocean Observatory Regional Association (SECOORA), the Caribbean Regional Association for Integrated Coastal Ocean Observing (CaRA) and SECART in partnership with the IOOS Program Office can facilitate improved communication to enhance ocean telemetry networks in the Southeast Region. Specific objective for FY2017 include:

1. Host workshop to summarize ocean telemetry activities in the region, improve data management and exchange standards among data providers and data users
2. Identify and prioritize baseline needs and infrastructure for animal telemetry observations of aquatic species.

**Situation/problem this project will address:**

Improve exchange of activities, assets and expertise related to ocean telemetry/tracking networks to extend capacity for understanding ocean animal movements related to ocean ecosystem management, ocean planning and regulatory actions in the Southeast and Caribbean regions

**Target audience:**

State and federal management and regulatory agencies: including Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, FL, GA, SC and NC CZMs/Natural Resource departments, NOAA, BOEM, USACE, NAVY and academic institutions conducting telemetry research

**Anticipated outcomes/benefits:**

- Hosted workshop that creates improved networking between ATN data providers and users
- Summary report that includes identification of priority baseline observation needs in the region, taking into account existing regional and inter-regional capacities and capabilities as well as national priorities and identifies gaps to fill needs and priorities.

**Cost/Funding Source:**

\$3,000 of SECART funds for Fed travel to workshop. SECOORA is providing \$25,000 to plan and host workshop. (SECOORA funds cannot be used for FTE travel)

**Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

Regional workshop hosted by SECOORA and SECART in mid-FY2017.

- Q1 - Form Steering Committee for workshop; send invites/Save the Dates
- Q2 - Planning for workshop / tentative schedule: late March, 2017 in Miami
- Q3 - Workshop report and follow-up

### **Activity C3. Improve awareness of NOAA resources and capabilities to address ecosystem issues in the SE and Caribbean**

#### **Regional Collaboration goals addressed:**

- Improve the understanding of and respect for NOAA's broad mission and regional capabilities

#### **SECART Lead(s):**

Chris Taylor (Chris.Taylor@noaa.gov)

Adam Bode (Adam.Bode@noaa.gov)

Scott Cross (Scott.Cross@noaa.gov)

#### **Key Partner(s), Collaborators and Contributors:**

SECART members

NOAA in Caribbean

USACE South Atlantic Division

#### **Summary:**

SECART serves as conduit to NOAA resources and capabilities including online data portals and inventories relevant to ecosystem management and coastal decision making in the Southeast and Caribbean Region. For FY17, SECART will focus on improving awareness to NOAA's resources and capabilities in the following areas:

- Facilitate regional additions to expertise directories such as "Who You NOAA", assemble list of regional networks and portals (Bode, Cross, Taylor).
- Continue monitoring of Eco-Forecasting Roadmap activities in region, specifically related to Fisheries & Habitat technical team and maintain as standing agenda item for SECART working group bi-monthly calls (Cross, Glenn).
- Improve awareness of precipitation and river forecasts for shellfish sanitation forecasting and management: Host webinar on existing predictive model linking precipitation to contaminants and bacteria. May lead to developing better predictive tools to produce better predictions on very small/local scale for shellfish harvesters. (J. Schmidt, D. Glenn)

- Address NOAA in the Caribbean request for access to NOAA data resources: Host webinar in Q2 on new NCCOS/.NCEI geospatial data portal, OCM Digital Coasts and related online resources (Taylor, Bode, Cross, Hernandez)
- Update regional inventory of passive acoustic and ocean noise monitor and research efforts in the Southeast and Caribbean (Taylor, Sedberry)

**Situation/problem this project will address:**

State and Federal resource managers, non-governmental organizations, and emergency managers are not aware of the full range of NOAA data resources and expertise available regionally to inform decisions making.

**Target audience:**

State CZMs, USACE, BOEM, Non-Governmental Organizations, Emergency managers

**Anticipated outcomes/benefits:**

Improve access to NOAA expertise and data resources for decision making related to ecosystem management or coastal natural resources.

**Cost/Funding Source:**

Funds are not needed for this activity.

**Key Milestones:**

- Q1 - Data call to SECARTians to populate all \*known\* databases, portals, data viewers, cross with Who You NOAA expertise catalog?
- Q2 - Webinars on NOAA ecosystem data resources: Initial webinar to NOAA in the Caribbean in response to request for access to NOAA data/resources; Identify Q3 webinar topic
- Q3 - Quarterly webinar; update databases/portal directory
- Q4 -Report out on Activity outcomes, portal directory

**Activity C4. Support SOCAN workshop hosted by SECOORA**

**Regional Collaboration goals addressed:**

- Address regional challenges by connecting people and resources
- Exchange both national and regional insights that inform action

**SECART Lead(s):**

Debra Hernandez ([debra@secoora.org](mailto:debra@secoora.org))

Bethney Ward ([Bethney.Ward@noaa.gov](mailto:Bethney.Ward@noaa.gov))

**Key Partner(s), Collaborators and Contributors:**

Federal partners: NOAA Line Offices, US Geological Service, US EPA Region 4,

State agencies: North Carolina Department of Natural Resources, NC, SC and GA Sea Grant Programs, National Park Service Ocean Program, National Estuarine Research Reserves, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Regional academic institutions

**Summary:**

On January 12 and 13, 2016 the Southeast Ocean and Coastal Acidification Network (SOCAN) Steering Committee held a meeting at the College of Charleston in Charleston, SC to discuss the state of ocean acidification (OA) science, vulnerabilities of the Southeast Region, and science gaps and priorities. The Southeast Region is unique within the United States in that it spans subtropical to tropical climate zones, and displays unique and extreme environmental conditions, stressors and gradients, making the biogeochemical environment both diverse and complex. Many species in the Southeast are adapted to these extreme conditions; but how this affects their vulnerability to OA is unknown. Certain species of shellfish and reef-building corals, which are important to the culture and the economy of the region, are particularly vulnerable because OA can directly impede the growth of these species.

One of the highest priorities identified during the January SOCAN meeting was to address the lack of coastal ocean acidification monitoring data. Only two long-term OA monitoring stations (Gray's Reef, Georgia and Cheeca Rocks reef, Florida Keys) and a few grass roots and research-driven monitoring efforts exist in the Southeast. These efforts are currently not collaborating efforts. Some local water quality monitoring programs include pH in their suite of measurements. However, data quality, lack of other OA chemical parameters and inconsistent methodologies limit its utility for determining ocean acidification impacts. Results from the few existing OA monitoring studies, synthesis of limited historical pH data, and recent research in the Florida Keys Reef Tract indicate that coastal acidification is already occurring and becoming exacerbated by ocean acidification. Identifying local causes of acidification and establishing baselines so that OA effects can be correctly attributed to the causes is of critical importance for developing effective management strategies.

We propose to organize and convene a small (~15 participants), invitation only Ocean Acidification Monitoring Workshop to bring together experts in OA chemistry and monitoring for the purpose of planning for regional-scale OA monitoring. Objectives of the workshop will include:

- Identifying key locations (possibly sentinel or priority sites) to begin filling monitoring gaps;
- Outlining an approach for developing OA monitoring test beds that will expand existing efforts; and
- Assessing how to cost-effectively monitor the chemical variability along the diverse physical, geological and ecological gradients across the region.

**Situation/problem this project will address:**

Identifying local causes of acidification and establishing baselines so that OA effects can be correctly attributed to the causes is of critical importance for developing effective management strategies.

**Target audience:**

Ocean acidification and monitoring experts

**Anticipated outcomes/benefits:**

We anticipate creating a SOCAN OA Monitoring Working Group as an outcome of this Workshop. The OA Monitoring Working Group will work to establish partnerships and leveraging opportunities, implement plans resulting from the Workshop for developing OA monitoring test beds, and coordinate monitoring activities across the Southeast Region. The Working Group will provide periodic updates to the SOCAN Steering Committee and SECART, and host a webinar to present their findings. This effort will build on OA monitoring knowledge and practices developed by Coastal Acidification Networks (CANs) in other regions of the U.S. to support future regional comparisons and national OA assessments.

**Cost/Funding Source:**

\$700 SECART Coordinator travel to SOCAN workshop (\$7,300 provided to SECOORA from FY16 SECART funds)

**Key Milestones/Deliverables and Tasks:**

- Q1 - Establish steering committee and plan workshop
- Q2 - Host workshop
- Q3 - Finalize workshop report and recommendations

## Section III. Appendices

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

(Oct 2016)

Name	Affiliation	Location	E-mail
Bandy, Rich	NWS	Newport, NC	<a href="mailto:Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov">Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov</a>
Cross, Scott	NESDIS	Charleston, SC	<a href="mailto:Scott.Cross@noaa.gov">Scott.Cross@noaa.gov</a>
Fay, Ginny	NMFS	St. Petersburg, FL	<a href="mailto:Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov">Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov</a>
Garcia, Roberto	NWS	San Juan, PR	<a href="mailto:Roberto.Garcia@noaa.gov">Roberto.Garcia@noaa.gov</a>
Havens, Karl	FL Sea Grant	Gainesville, GA	<a href="mailto:KHavens@ufl.edu">KHavens@ufl.edu</a>
Hernandez, Debra	SECOORA	Charleston, SC	<a href="mailto:Debra@secoora.org">Debra@secoora.org</a>
Hohn, Aleta	NMFS	Beaufort, NC	<a href="mailto:Aleta.Hohn@noaa.gov">Aleta.Hohn@noaa.gov</a>
Kirtman, Benjamin	CIMAS	Miami, FL	<a href="mailto:bkirtman@rsmas.miami.edu">bkirtman@rsmas.miami.edu</a>
Lokken, Scott	NOS	Raleigh, NC	<a href="mailto:Scott.Lokken@noaa.gov">Scott.Lokken@noaa.gov</a>
Mecray, Ellen	NESDIS	Bohema, NY	<a href="mailto:Ellen.Mecray@noaa.gov">Ellen.Mecray@noaa.gov</a>
Olmi, Geno	NOS	Charleston, SC	<a href="mailto:Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov">Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov</a>
Payne, Jeff	NOS	Charleston, SC	<a href="mailto:Jeff.Payne@noaa.gov">Jeff.Payne@noaa.gov</a>
Rule, Erica	OAR	Miami, FL	<a href="mailto:Erica.Rule@noaa.gov">Erica.Rule@noaa.gov</a>
Sedberry, George	NOS	Savannah, GA	<a href="mailto:George.Sedberry@noaa.gov">George.Sedberry@noaa.gov</a>
Schmidt, John	NWS	Peachtree City, GA	<a href="mailto:John.Schmidt@noaa.gov">John.Schmidt@noaa.gov</a>
Taylor, Chris	NOS	Beaufort, NC	<a href="mailto:Chris.taylor@noaa.gov">Chris.taylor@noaa.gov</a>
Ward, Bethney	NOS	Charleston, SC	<a href="mailto:Bethney.Ward@noaa.gov">Bethney.Ward@noaa.gov</a>
Ward, Kyle	NOS	Charleston, SC	<a href="mailto:Kyle.Ward@noaa.gov">Kyle.Ward@noaa.gov</a>

# **Appendix 2. Regional Collaboration Strategy**

# Regional Collaboration Strategy 2016

**NOAA Engagement Objective**  
Integrated services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders

**Regional Collaboration Vision**  
*A unified and regionally integrated NOAA*

**Regional Collaboration Mission**  
*To identify, communicate, and respond to regional needs, catalyze collaboration, and connect people and capabilities to advance NOAA's mission and priorities*

**GOAL #1:** Address regional challenges by connecting people and resources

- Gather information on place-based issues and impacts.
- Identify and fill data, communication, coordination, and resource gaps.
- Develop and extend NOAA's interdisciplinary capacity to improve regionally tailored cross-line office activities.

**GOAL #2:** Exchange both national and regional insights that inform action

- Enhance leadership understanding of regional issues and the interconnectedness of NOAA expertise.
- Search, gather, integrate, and disseminate information.
- Provide guidance and support of NOAA-wide, cross-line regional programs.

**GOAL #3:** Improve the understanding of and respect for NOAA's broad mission and regional capabilities

- Foster interaction among NOAA and with partners by serving as effective liaisons.
- Elevate awareness and value of NOAA in the region.
- Build a more informed NOAA workforce.

## CORE VALUES

**Regional knowledge and context** matter

**Partnerships and shared responsibility** are foundational

Relationships are based on **mutual trust and respect**

**Collaboration is essential to successful leadership**

**Innovation and creativity** are integral to executing NOAA's mission

Updated: July 2016

## Appendix 3. SECART FY15-18 Strategic Priorities

### NOAA's Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team FY15 - FY18 Strategic Priorities

Through engagement, integration, and innovation, NOAA's Regional Collaboration network improves cooperation among the NOAA Line Offices and partner entities to more effectively address our shared regional challenges and respond to emerging opportunities. Regional Collaboration expands on existing coordination and communication efforts by enhancing program integration activities to address NOAA's priorities at regional scales, thereby improving productivity and value to constituents. NOAA's Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team (SECART) network creates means for people to engage at a regional scale (NC, SC, GA, FL, PR, and USVI) and invites new approaches to develop products and services that are responsive to the region's changing economy and environment. This strategy identifies SECART's three priority areas for action over the period FY15-18 and is responsive to NOAA's Strategic Plan and the Regional Collaboration Network Strategy.

**Priority Area: Improve efficiency and effectiveness of NOAA's mission execution through enhanced collaboration across NOAA line offices and with partners.**

***Goal 1: Address regional priorities by connecting people and resources.***

- Identify information, communication, coordination, and resource gaps and identify solutions for closing the gaps;
- Understand the capabilities of NOAA and its partners within the region and facilitate bringing those capabilities to bear on priority issues, consistent with NOAA's mission;
- Convene NOAA and partners together to address specific regional priorities;
- Support and engage regional partnerships to efficiently address shared goals.

***Goal 2: Exchange both national and regional insights that inform action.***

- Understand regional issues and needs and transmit that information to inform NOAA program planning;
- Enhance NOAA leadership's understanding of the region's issues and NOAA capabilities in the region;
- Help regional staff and partners understand NOAA's mission, goals, capabilities and constraints;
- Provide guidance and support in the development and implementation of NOAA-wide regional programs.

***Goal 3: Improve awareness of NOAA's broad mission responsibilities and regional capabilities to achieve an understanding of, and respect for, the totality of NOAA's work.***

- Elevate the awareness and value of NOAA through strategic partnerships, outreach, and communication;
- Build NOAA's interdisciplinary capacity and organizational integration;
- Improve leadership's understanding of the capabilities and interconnectedness of NOAA expertise in the region;
- Assist in developing and tailoring engagement strategies for the regional implementation of national priorities.

**Priority Area: Improve Resilience of Communities to Extreme Events and Climate Change**

***Goal 1: Facilitate the development of emerging science and technology solutions to enable regional stakeholders to better plan for and respond to the risks posed by hazards and climate change.***

- Collect, analyze, and evaluate the resiliency related needs of partners and users in the region to inform and focus research and development efforts to help address the issues;
- Connect people and resources to enhance existing and develop new products and services;
- Encourage and facilitate the transition of research to develop societally relevant applications.

***Goal 2: Facilitate the application of products, services, and knowledge to enhance the capacity of communities to understand, plan for, and respond to risks posed by extreme events and climate change.***

- Target outreach and communication efforts to facilitate delivery of resilience-relevant information to communities;
- Facilitate the application of science and tools in communities to assist with risk identification and the development of mitigation and adaptation strategies;
- Promote the effective implementation of built and natural solutions by bringing NOAA tools and resources to partners.

***Goal 3: Enhance organizational awareness and coordination within the region to improve response to a natural or man-made disaster.***

- Identify agency capabilities within the region for response to disasters;
- Improve communication among appropriate NOAA entities both within and outside the region for a better understanding of capabilities and roles during a disaster response.

**Priority Area: Promote the sustainability of the region's living marine resources and the habitats upon which they depend**

***Goal 1: Improve coordination and focus of coastal and marine habitat conservation and restoration.***

- Improve coordination among NOAA entities and partners to identify capabilities and efficiencies in achieving regional priorities in resource management and conservation;
- Improve awareness of NOAA's mapping activities in the region and access to mapping products;
- Promote development of tools to identify emerging habitat mapping priorities for NOAA programs and partners;
- Promote NOAA's Habitat Blueprint Framework and regional habitat conservation initiatives in the Southeast US and Caribbean.

***Goal 2: Enhance awareness of risks to living marine resources and habitats***

- Improve regional awareness of impacts from climate variability, including extreme weather events, on natural systems;
- Identify and prioritize emerging regional needs for NOAA ecological modeling and forecasts with a focus on harmful algal blooms, hypoxia, waterborne pathogens, or health of biological communities.

## Appendix 4. SECART FY2017 Spend Plan

	SECART FY17 Funds	Leveraged funding
<b>Priority: Improve efficiency and effectiveness of NOAA's mission execution through enhanced collaboration across NOAA offices and with partners.</b>		
<b>Goal: Address regional priorities by connecting people and resources.</b>		
Activity A1. Advance NOAA's mission through strategic engagement with regional partnerships	2000	0
Activity A2. Advance NOAA's mission through engagement with the NOAA in the Caribbean Collaborative and promote implementation of the NOAA Caribbean Strategy.	4500	0
<b>Goal: Improve awareness of NOAA's broad mission responsibilities and regional capabilities to achieve an understanding of, and respect for, the totality of NOAA's work.</b>		
Activity A3. Represent NOAA's broad mission capabilities and accomplishments in the region and facilitate two-way flow of information between the region and NOAA leadership.	4000	0
Activity A4. Enhance the capacity of the SECART to lead organizational integration within the region.	13500	0
<b>Goal: Exchange both national and regional insights that inform action</b>		
Activity A5. Improve the capacity of NOAA's inter-regional and national integrated services	5500	0
<b>Priority: Community resilience to extreme events and climate change</b>		
<b>Goal: Facilitate the development of emerging science and technology solutions to enable regional stakeholders to better plan for and respond to the risks posed by hazards and climate change.</b>		
Activity B1 . Wave Run Up Project with North Atlantic Regional Team (NART)	0	0
<b>Goal: Facilitate the application of products, services, and knowledge to enhance the capacity of communities to understand, plan for, and respond to risks posed by hazards and climate change.</b>		

Activity B2. Hurricane/Climate Webinar Series	0	0
Activity B3. Engage and Support the Southeast and Caribbean Climate Community of Practice	5000	15,000
Activity B4. Supporting the Southeast Regional Climate Quarterly Outlook.	0	0
<b>Goal: Enhance organizational awareness and coordination within the region to improve response to a natural or man-made disaster.</b>		
Activity B5. Improve NOAA Response Posture to Large-Scale Disasters Within the SECART Region.	6000	0
<b>Priority: Promote the sustainability of the region's living marine resources and the habitats upon which they depend.</b>		
<b>Goal: Improve coordination and focus of coastal and marine habitat conservation and restoration</b>		
Activity C1. Improving coordination and prioritization of benthic habitat mapping activities in the Southeast Region)	5800	0
<b>Goal: Enhance awareness of risks to living marine resources and habitats</b>		
Activity C2. Facilitate improved network for monitoring ocean animal movement related to management and regulatory actions in the southeast region	3000	25,000
Activity C3. Improve awareness of NOAA activities related to Ecosystem Issues in the Region	0	0
Activity C4. Support SOCAN workshop hosted by SECOORA	700	7300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>47,300</b>