

FY2023 Activity Plan Brief Descriptions
NOAA Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team

Team Priorities:

- Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of NOAA's mission execution through engagement across NOAA line offices and with partners.
- Improve economic, environmental, and social resilience of communities to weather, water, and climate impacts.
- Promote the sustainability of the region's coastal and marine ecosystems.

Priority 1: Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of NOAA's mission execution through engagement across NOAA line offices and with partners.

Activity A-1 Title: Enhance NOAA's mission execution through strategic engagement - learning from, informing, and connecting NOAA offices and regional partners to address regional issues

Estimated Cost (if any): \$1500

Timeline: Q1-4 (ongoing activity)

LO/SO/Partners Involved: All LOs and primary partners

Team Members or Key NOAA Staff Involved: Geno Olmi (RC), Chip Kasper (NWS), Rich Okulski (NWS), Dana Wusinich-Mendez (NOS), Beth Dieveny (NOS) (SECART Leadership Team)

Short 1 Paragraph Description (including any anticipated outcomes):

SECART will work to share information among NOAA offices and partners, identify key issues in the region, and bring together the "right" people to collaborate to more efficiently tackle the problem. Some of this work is accomplished through the two SECART Workgroups, but often this activity is generic engagement and sharing of information to enhance awareness and understanding. Objectives include: 1) improving awareness of NOAA and partner programs and projects; 2) representing "One NOAA" with partners; 3) connecting relevant entities on regional issues; 4) supporting NOAA offices and partners in the shared execution of NOAA's mission, and 5) working with Ecosystem and Resilience Workgroups, promote and share information opportunities in the region.

Activity A-2 Title: Advance NOAA's mission through engagement with the NOAA in the Caribbean Collaborative

Estimated Cost (if any): \$5400

Timeline: Q1-4 (ongoing activity)

LO/SO/Partners Involved: The NOAA Carib Steering Committee consists of members from across NOAA LOs and partners in the US Caribbean.

Team Members or Key NOAA Staff Involved: Geno Olmi (RC), Lee Carrubba (NMFS), Sami Dowdell (OLIA), Trika Gerard (NMFS), Dana Wusinich-Mendez (NOS) (NOAA Carib Executive Committee)

Short 1 Paragraph Description (including any anticipated outcomes):

Assist the NOAA Carib Steering Committee with the development and delivery of four issues of the NOAA in the Caribbean Newsletter (Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4) through participation on the editorial committee and funding of Spanish translation services. Assist in planning, funding, and execution of a 2023 NOAA Partners meeting in the U.S. Caribbean (Q1-Q3). Continue participation on NOAA Carib Steering Committee and Executive Committee (Q1-4) to maintain communication and direction for the group.

Activity A-3 Title: Represent NOAA's broad mission capabilities and accomplishments in the region and facilitate two-way flow of information between the region and NOAA leadership.

Estimated Cost (if any): \$1400

Timeline: Q1-4 (ongoing activity)

LO/SO/Partners Involved: All

Team Members or Key NOAA Staff Involved: Chip Kasper (RTL), Geno Olmi (RC)

Short 1 Paragraph Description (including any anticipated outcomes):

Includes activities such as: 1) supporting NOAA and DOC leadership visits to region; 2) providing "regional intelligence" to NOAA; 3) outreach to NOAA staff and partners on "NOAA in the Region" capacity and accomplishments; 4) Utilizing NOAA Ambassador materials to accomplish outreach and promote the NOAA Ambassador program to NOAA staff in the region.

Activity A-4 Title: Promote an informed, skilled, and diverse NOAA workforce in the region

Estimated Cost (if any): \$1500

Timeline: Q1-4 (ongoing activity)

LO/SO/Partners Involved: All in the region

Team Members or Key NOAA Staff Involved: Geno Olmi(RC), Beth Dieveney (NOS), Chip Kasper (NWS)

Short 1 Paragraph Description (including any anticipated outcomes):

This activity has two main components - increasing one noaa awareness among NOAA staff in the region and reaching out to minority populations to improve awareness of NOAA as a potential workplace.

Activity A-5 Title: Engage with congressional staff to convey the value of NOAA and partner activities

Estimated Cost (if any): \$1800

Timeline: Q1-4 as scheduled

LO/SO/Partners Involved: Varies depending on congressional staff, location and topic

Team Members or Key NOAA Staff Involved: Rich Okulski (NWS), Debra Hernandez (SECOORA), Ellen Mecray (NESDIS), Mark Risse (GA Sea Grant), Amber Fandel (OLIA), Chris Taylor (NOS)

Short 1 Paragraph Description (including any anticipated outcomes):

SECART's Congressional Engagement Strategy calls for two in-region congressional engagement events each year. During COVID, we have learned that virtual events can also be effective (in different ways). We will plan for at least two virtual events in FY23 and (potentially) one in-person event (COVID levels permitting).

Activity A-6 Title: Activity A6. Provide organization, coordination, and leadership for SECART to be effective in accomplishing its mission.

Estimated Cost (if any): \$8000

Timeline: Q1-4 (ongoing activity)

LO/SO/Partners Involved: NOAA and partners represented on the SECART

Team Members or Key NOAA Staff Involved: Geno Olmi (RC), Chip Kasper (NWS), Rich Okulski (NWS), Dana Wusinich-Mendez (NOS), Beth Dieveny (NOS)

Short 1 Paragraph Description (including any anticipated outcomes):

This activity is the nurturing of SECART, including planning and organizing team meetings and calls, development and execution of annual operating plan, preparing and tracking the budget and spend plans, and regularly communicating with the SECART Leadership Team. In FY22, SECART developed its FY23-25 Strategic Priorities. This Activity Plan is guided by those priorities. Prior to 2019, SECART met in-person twice a year - a strategy that team members supported and resulted in good camaraderie and working environment. In June 2022, we met in-person for the first time in three years. We are planning to meet in person once in FY23.

Activity A-7 Title: Activity A7. Support the Regional Collaboration Network to improve NOAA's science, service and stewardship.

Estimated Cost (if any): \$7200

Timeline: Q1-4 (ongoing activity)

LO/SO/Partners Involved: Regional Collaboration Teams, RCN Council, RCN HQ personnel

Team Members or Key NOAA Staff Involved: Chip Kasper (Team Lead), Geno Olmi (RC)

Short 1 Paragraph Description (including any anticipated outcomes):

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. SECART will remain active in bi-weekly Regional Coordinator calls, monthly RCN Council calls, and other activities that serve to coordinate and integrate the network. The Team Lead and Coordinator will participate in the annual Regional Collaboration Network Meeting (April 2023). The RC will participate in the annual RC meeting (TBD). 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.

Priority 2: Improve economic, environmental, and social resilience of communities to weather, water, and climate impacts.

Activity B-1 Title:

Estimated Cost (if any): \$0

Timeline: The hurricane webinars will be May/June 2023; others may occur throughout the FY.

LO/SO/Partners Involved: AOML and National Hurricane Center lead the effort but also recruit other NOAA offices as speakers (varies with topic)

Team Members or Key NOAA Staff Involved: Shirley Murillo (OAR/AOML), Dan Brown (NWS/NHC)

Short 1 Paragraph Description (including any anticipated outcomes):

The Hurricane Awareness Webinar Series is targeted to Emergency Managers and Broadcast Media to inform them of the latest products and services from NOAA related to tropical cyclones. The series has been extremely popular - for the target audience as well as others. We have in the past expanded our offerings to topics in addition to tropical cyclones and plan to do so again in FY23. All webinars will be regionally-relevant and focus on products and services of NOAA and partners in the region. We will continue the webinar series, planning five webinars plus a summary webinar in Spanish. We also will encourage/plan/host webinars on other resilience-related topics, coordinating with other webinar series to reduce/eliminate redundancy.

Activity B-2 Title: Build regional resilience through the [Southeast and Caribbean Disaster Resilience Partnership](#).

Estimated Cost (if any): \$4300

Timeline: Q1-4 (ongoing activity); Q2 annual meeting

LO/SO/Partners Involved: NOS, NWS, SECOORA, Sea Grant, NERRs, states, NGOs, others

Team Members or Key NOAA Staff Involved: Geno Olmi, Debra Hernandez (SECOORA), Kyla Breland (NOS/ORR), Lindy Betzhold (NOS/OCM)

Short 1 Paragraph Description (including any anticipated outcomes):

The SCDRP serves as a forum for climate and disaster professionals to exchange information on topics of response, recovery, adaptation, and planning related to short and long-term disasters. Members include local, state and federal government agencies, non-profits, and private sector. The SCDRP has completed a strategic plan which will guide its activities for the next few years. SECART will support the SCDRP to be an inclusive forum for sharing information to support disaster (short and long-term) resilience in the region. The SCDRP hosts monthly remote meetings and an annual meeting which allows in-person exchange of information and development of relationships.

Activity B-3 Title: Activity B.3 Disaster Resilience: Guide to Integrated NOAA Disaster Resilience in the Southeast and Caribbean Region

Estimated Cost (if any): \$0 (not FY23 funds)

Timeline: Primarily Q1-2

LO/SO/Partners Involved: All NOAA Offices in the region. Engaging NOAA partners to be sure the product is useful to them.

Team Members or Key NOAA Staff Involved: Chip Kasper (NWS), Geno Olmi (RC), Rich Okulski (NWS), Kyla Breland (NOS)

Short 1 Paragraph Description (including any anticipated outcomes):

The “Disaster Guide” was created in response to a need expressed by NOAA offices and partners at three “NOAA Disaster Workshops” that we hosted 2017, 2018, and 2019. With the help of a CIMAS student, we finally completed the guide in March 2022 and distributed it to NOAA offices and partners throughout the region. In FY23, we will seek feedback on utility and accuracy of the guide and update it as needed. We plan to engage CIMAS again in completing this update.

Activity B-4 Title: Activity B.4 Disaster Resilience: exercise with partners for large scale disasters in the Southeast and Caribbean Region

Estimated Cost (if any): \$4000

Timeline: Workshop planning Q1-2; workshop Q2 or Q3

LO/SO/Partners Involved: NWS WFOs, NOS/ORR, state Emergency Management from SC, NC, GA

Team Members or Key NOAA Staff Involved: Emily Carpenter, Rich Okulski (NWS), Kyla Breland (NOS)

Short 1 Paragraph Description (including any anticipated outcomes):

For a community to be disaster-resilient, planning and partnerships with all sectors of society to develop comprehensive approaches to disaster preparedness and recovery are necessary. A workshop planned for March 2020 in Charleston, with an earthquake as the disaster, was postponed because of the pandemic. The objective is to hold the workshop planned for 2020 in 2023. The focus on response and recovery to bring together the NOAA, federal, state and local partners/responders. We anticipate 2 days of presentations and discussions with a one day exercise/simulation. That format would allow everyone to learn the capabilities of each other and how we can improve our cooperation during planning, preparation, response and restoration. The plan is to exercise a major earthquake just off the coast of Charleston, SC followed by a heat wave.

Activity B-5 Title: Disaster Resilience: Addressing previously identified needs and sharing NOAA relevant information.

Estimated Cost (if any): \$0

Timeline: Q1-2

LO/SO/Partners Involved: NOS, NWS, NMFS

Team Members or Key NOAA Staff Involved: Chip Kasper, Rich Okulski, Kyla Breland, Geno Olmi, Katie Krushinski

Short 1 Paragraph Description (including any anticipated outcomes):

We held three successful workshops largely focusing on increasing NOAA's preparedness for resilience from disasters. Quite a few recommendations emerged from these workshops, only a few of which have been acted on to date. We completed a preliminary analysis of these recommendations in FY20. We will further examine these recommendations and actions and provide additional "follow through" to our prior workshop engagements. The completion of the Disaster Resource Guide (see Activity B3) was a very important accomplishment from the workshop recommendations.

Activity B-6 Title: Climate and Equity Pilot Project: Heat Health

Estimated Cost (if any): requesting funds elsewhere

Timeline: Q1-4 with key milestones in Q1, Q2 and Q3

LO/SO/Partners Involved: NWS, OAR, NESDIS, partners in Charleston and Miami

Team Members or Key NOAA Staff Involved: Geno Olmi (RC), Ellen Mecray, Sharon Mesick (NESDIS), Kyla Gore (NMFS), Robert Molleda, Emily McGraw (NWS), Hunter Jones, Morgan Zabow (OAR), Katie Krushinski (NOS) (note that on-the-ground work in each locality is led by an expert team in that locality)

Short 1 Paragraph Description (including any anticipated outcomes):

NOAA Leadership requested that Regional Collaboration Teams take lead in organizing a series of "Climate and Equity Roundtables" to address the administration's priorities related to climate and equitable service delivery. In the Southeast and Caribbean, SECART organized a "Southeast Heat Health Roundtable" in which we focused on Charleston, SC and Miami, FL. The roundtable - held Nov 2021 - brought together the municipalities, heat health experts, representatives of community groups, and NOAA staff to discuss the dangers, causes, and possible solutions to extreme heat risk in these areas. NOAA Leadership committed to funding pilot projects to address some of the issues identified during the roundtable event. SECART teamed up with NOAA West - who also led a roundtable on extreme heat - to develop a pilot project proposal. The proposal was approved in April.

During Q1 we will continue community engagement from FY22 and work with expert teams to collect, process, analyze, and integrate monitoring information with existing heat data for the locality. This information will then be used to design a tabletop exercise in each location that will explore heat risk, organization responsibilities, communications, and potential interventions to reduce heat risk to the population. The tabletop exercise will occur late Q1 or Q2. A summary report of findings and recommendations will be produced for each of the exercises, and will be used to guide requested FY23 investments.

Priority 3: Promote the sustainability of the region's coastal and marine ecosystems

Activity C-1 Title: Connecting NOAA Fellows with SECART

Estimated Cost (if any): \$1000

Timeline: Q1-Q4 (milestone Q2 with SECART meeting)

LO/SO/Partners Involved: OCM, NCCOS, CRCP, SEFSC, state/territory NERR, CZM, and coral programs.

Team Members or Key NOAA Staff Involved: Rebecca Ellin (NC NERR), Dana Wusinich-Mendez (NOS)

Short 1 Paragraph Description (including any anticipated outcomes):

The goal of this activity is to connect NOAA fellows (Coral Mgmt, Davidson, Coastal Mgmt, Digital Coast, Hollings Scholars, Nancy Foster Scholars, NMFS SEFSC fellows) with the regional team in meaningful ways to share fellow project information and create networking and professional development opportunities for the fellows. SECART will act as a vehicle to expose NOAA fellows to other NOAA offices, programs and activities in the region. We will facilitate a virtual meet and greet event where fellows learn about

SECART and meet (available and interested) SECART members, connect fellows with team members who are interested in engaging with the fellows, invite the fellows to present their work on occasional monthly SECART meetings, support attendance for 1-2 fellows at in person SECART meetings when they occur in that fellow's state or territory.

Activity C-2 Title: Coordination of NOAA's experimental marine research and infrastructure in the Southeast and Caribbean

Estimated Cost (if any): \$2500

Timeline: Q3 or Q4

LO/SO/Partners Involved: OAR, SEFSC, NCCOS

Team Members or Key NOAA Staff Involved: Ian Enochs (OAR), Todd Kellison (NNMFS), A.K. Leight (NOS)

Short 1 Paragraph Description (including any anticipated outcomes):

Multiple LO's and NOAA labs conduct experiments with marine organisms in the SECART region, manipulating a diversity of environmental and biological parameters in order to assess the physiology of important marine species. While there is considerable overlap in the species and stressors involved, these activities are mostly siloed with little awareness of the species, targeted stressors, and associated methodologies conducted by groups across LO's and labs. The approach is to 1. conduct a survey of groups within the region conducting experimental wet lab research and 2. facilitate a coordination meeting with the immediate goals of a. increasing awareness of infrastructure and expertise, b. identify gaps in capabilities that need to be enhanced in the region, c. identify projects and proposals to facilitate collaboration, especially to address region-scale problems in a coordinated manner, such as global warming, acidification, water quality, and disease.

Activity C-3 Title: Improve awareness of NOAA resources and capabilities to address ecosystem issues in the SE and Caribbean

Estimated Cost (if any): \$0

Timeline: Q1-4

LO/SO/Partners Involved: NOS, NMFS, NESDIS

Team Members or Key NOAA Staff Involved: Dana Wusinich-Mendez (NOS/OCM), Beth Dieveney (NOS/ONMS), Ginny Fay (NMFS), Scott Cross (NESDIS/NCEI) Chris Taylor (NCCOS), Todd Kellison (NMFS/SEFSC)

Short 1 Paragraph Description (including any anticipated outcomes):

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. This activity will enhance awareness

and connectivity of ecosystem related projects and programs in the region through approaches such as webinars, briefings at team meetings, distributing updates and reports, and engaging programs/projects (Habitat Focus Areas, restoration sites, etc).

Activity C-4 Title: Enhance awareness of and participation in NOAA UxS Strategy developments with regional applicability

Estimated Cost (if any): \$2500

Timeline: Q1-4, with key milestones in Q3-4

LO/SO/Partners Involved: SECOORA, NMFS (SEFSC and -SERO), NOS (NCCOS, OCM, ONMS) OAR/AOML, OASOA

Team Members or Key NOAA Staff Involved: Debra Hernandez (SECOORA), Todd Kellison (NMFS), Chris Taylor (NOS), John McCombs (NOS), Scott Cross (NESDIS)

Short 1 Paragraph Description (including any anticipated outcomes):

The capability and utility of Unmanned Aerial and Marine Systems (UxSs) in support of ecosystem-level research, monitoring, and support for management decisions continues to increase. SECART and SECOORA sponsored a (virtual, unfortunately) UxS workshop "Drones in the Coastal Zone" to gather partners from the SE and Caribbean to share information about drone use in the region. In FY23 we will build on the success of the workshop and subsequent drone training scholarships. One outcome of the workshop was a strong interest in building a Community of Practice around drone use in the region. This activity will continue to support that development and the information sharing and training that has been requested.

Activity C-5 Title: Develop GIS community of practice for southeast shellfish management (new activity)

Estimated Cost (if any): \$4500

Timeline: Q3-4

LO/SO/Partners Involved: NOS/OCM, NOS/NCCOS, NWS/SERFC, state shellfish GIS specialists

Team Members or Key NOAA Staff Involved: John McCombs (NOS), A.K. Leight (NOS), John Schmidt (NWS), State GIS Specialists

Short 1 Paragraph Description (including any anticipated outcomes):

SECART-sponsored shellfish workshops in FY20, 21, and 22 have resulted in some specific follow-on activities, including this one. Each state in the southeast has their own GIS services and tools for managing shellfish growing areas. Our SECART-sponsored workshops (2019, 2020, 2021) highlighted a need to better coordinate these resources across states for improved inclusion of NOAA data. John McCombs (NOS/OCM) has taken the lead on developing a working group of GIS specialists from the four southeast

states. An in-person meeting in FY23 will strengthen the collaboration through sharing of data, methodologies, and obstacles.

Activity C-6 Title: HAB Workshop with aquaculturists, including underserved communities (new activity)

Estimated Cost (if any): \$4400

Timeline: Q1-2 planning; Q3 workshop; Q4 report.

LO/SO/Partners Involved: NOS/NCCOS, state managers, local shellfish aquaculturists and members of the Gullah/ Geechee nation

Team Members or Key NOAA Staff Involved: A.K. Leight, Steve Morton (NOS/NCCOS)

Short 1 Paragraph Description (including any anticipated outcomes):

NOAA's Phytoplankton Monitoring Network (PMN) enhances the Nation's ability to respond to and manage the growing threat posed by HABs by collecting and documenting important data on phytoplankton species composition and distribution, as well as environmental conditions. In addition to the data that is collected, the PMN concept of linking scientists and volunteer groups has a proven track record of success of raising the awareness of HAB issues and research to a broad range of continuant groups. Through a SECART funded workshop we aim to expand this effort by bringing together state managers from North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, local shellfish aquaculturists, and members of the Gullah/ Geechee nation. This two-day hands-on workshop would cover the importance of HABs and methods to monitor these species and their toxins.