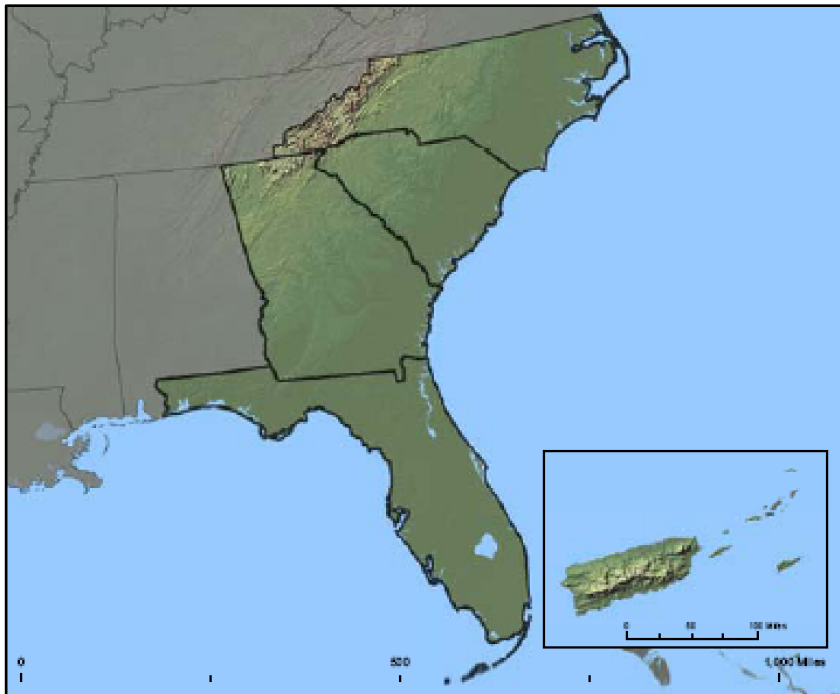


FY 2018 Operating Plan

Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration



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

November 2017

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I. Introduction

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 21 members representing geographic and topical diversity of NOAA staff and partners within the region (Appendix 1).

NOAA's Goals and Enterprise 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 FY2018 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 FY2018 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)
- Virginia Fay (Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov)
- Scott Cross (Scott.Cross@noaa.gov)

Key Participants:

- State and federal agencies and programs
- 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

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

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 activities. Some of the partnerships that we expect to engage in FY18 include:

- *Landscape Conservation Cooperatives* - The 22 LCCs collectively form a network of resource managers and scientists who share a common need for scientific information and interest in conservation. NOAA had a designated representative on most of the 22 LCC Steering Committees, but in 2017 the Department of Interior chose to no longer utilize such advisory bodies. The SECART Coordinator was the representative to the South Atlantic LCC and is waiting for further guidance regarding the role, if any, of the steering committee.

- *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.
- *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. SECART is an affiliate member of SECOORA. The Executive Director of SECOORA is currently a member of SECART.
- *North Carolina Sentinel Site Cooperative* - The NC Sentinel Site Cooperative (NCSSC) aims to create a network of partners among the scientific community, resource managers, and community members to improve sharing of information related to North Carolina’s coastal resources. 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* - NOAA currently has two habitat focus areas within the Southeast and Caribbean Region - Biscayne Bay, Florida and the Northeast Reserves and Culebra, Puerto Rico. These are places where multiple NOAA offices can effectively focus their resources to prioritize long-term habitat science and conservation efforts.

Cost/Funding Source: \$2400 of SECART funds. \$1000 to support team member travel to regional workshops, and \$1400 to support Regional Coordinator travel to 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 and other engaged NOAA staff to coordinate and effectively communicate to the LCC, NOAA’s mission interests in landscape/seascape conservation and bring NOAA capabilities 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:

- Erica Nunez (Erica.Nunez@noaa.gov)
- Makeda Okolo (Makeda.Okolo@noaa.gov)
- Bill O’Beirne (Bill.OBeirne@noaa.gov)
- Geno Olmi (geno.olmi@noaa.gov)

Key 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.

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 Program 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.

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:

- Regular production and distribution 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 and support 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 support products and services of the NOAA Caribbean Collaborative
- Advance specific short-term implementation of the goals of the NOAA Caribbean Strategy

Cost/Funding Source:

\$6600 of FY18 SECART funds - \$3000 is allocated for travel support to the NOAA Carib partner meeting, \$1800 for RC travel to the partner meeting, and \$1800 is allocated for services to translate the newsletter into spanish.

Key Milestones/Tasks:

- Assist the NOAA Carib Steering Team 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.
- Participate in the in-person Steering Committee meeting, delayed to Q1 from Q4 FY17 because of hurricane impacts.
- Participate in the planning of the next NOAA Carib partners meeting, likely in FY18 (Q2-4).
- Provide funds to support travel to an in-person partners meeting (date and location TBD).

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)
- Virginia Fay (Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov)
- Erica Rule (Erica.Rule@noaa.gov)

Key Participants:

- All SECART members
- ReCo HQ
- Individual NOAA Offices as appropriate

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 are those 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.

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.

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 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. We will continue exploring mechanisms to do this effectively, learning from the Regional Collaboration Communications Strategy.

Congressional Roundtable event(s)

SECART has hosted two "congressional roundtable" events - Miami, FL in May 2016, and Beaufort, NC in August 2017. NOAA staff were "paired" with partners and stakeholders (university, state and local agency, private sector, non-profit) 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 and partnerships in the region. In FY18, we will host our third such event, likely in SC or GA. The focus is TBD but likely to highlight coastal resilience and/or marine transportation.

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 and the Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs to better assist in planning and execution of such visits. SECART will provide such assistance when NOAA Leadership visits the region.

Who You NOAA

Who You NOAA is a voluntary directory for NOAA and partner expertise. Other Regional Teams are now also populating this directory, which allows users to search for expertise within the region. During FY18, SECART will work with NOAA staff in the region to add to this directory.

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

Cost/Funding Source: \$3000 from SECART funds. \$2500 for costs associated with congressional roundtable event, including travel of RTL and participants. \$500 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:

- Quarterly accomplishments to HQ (Q1-4)
- Occasional updates to HQ for accomplishments, regional news and upcoming events (Q1-4)
- As needed assistance to enhance NOAA leadership visits to the region; enhance leadership visits to the region by providing “local” intelligence with an inclusive perspective (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)
- Develop slide deck with overview of SECART, FY17 accomplishments, and FY18 activities to use for outreach (Q1)
- Update “NOAA in region” fact sheet, including SECART’s FY18 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 (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 (SECART Coordinator)
- Virginia Fay (NMFS, Team Lead)
- Scott Cross (NESDIS, Vice Team Lead)
- Chris Taylor (NOS, Workgroup Lead)
- Scott Lokken (NOS, Workgroup Co-Lead)
- Erica Rule (OAR, Workgroup Co-Lead)

Key participants:

- SECART members and guests

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.

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 FY18, SECART will hold two face-to-face meetings. The winter meeting (Feb) will focus on development of a new multi-year strategic direction for the team, progress of FY18 activities, and learning about partner activities in the area. The summer meeting (site undetermined) will focus on progress of SECART projects, team business, and identifying FY19 priorities and activities. In addition to monthly calls and meetings, team members communicate frequently via phone and email. The SECART Leadership Team (Team Leads, Coordinator, and work group leads) has weekly calls to guide direction and maintain momentum.

During FY14, 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 FY18 Operating Plan (Q1)
- Effectively execute the FY18 Operating Plan
- Develop a FY19-21 strategic direction
- Begin development of the FY19 Operating Plan (Q4)
- Facilitate team functioning to achieve better coordination and integration within the region.

Cost/Funding Source: \$13,500 of SECART funds. \$12,000 to support team member travel to two in-person 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:

- FY18 Annual Operating Plan with spend plan (Q1)
- Present AOP to the Advisory Group (Q1 or Q2)
- Develop FY19-21 Strategic Direction (Q2-3)
- Draft FY19 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)
- Virginia Fay (Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov)
- Scott Cross (Scott.Cross@noaa.gov)

Key Participants:

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

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.

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 (27 Feb - 2 Mar, Anchorage, AK). 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

Cost/Funding Source: \$5500 of SECART funds allocated as \$3300 for Regional Coordinator travel (Annual ReCo workshop, Regional Coordinator meeting, and attending other RCT meetings) and \$2200 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)
- Contribute to development of a ReCo Communications Strategy (Q1-3)
- 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. 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):

Shirley Murillo (Shirley.Murillo@noaa.gov)

Erica Rule (Erica.Rule@noaa.gov)

Key Participants:

Dan Brown (NHC Specialist)

Chip Konrad (Director, Southeast Regional Climate Center)

Roberto Garcia (MIC WFO San Juan)

Chip Kasper (WFO Key West)

John Schmidt (SE RFC, Atlanta)

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. 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 facilitates the understanding of the latest products services, and research NOAA produces to enhance the capacity of communities to plan for and respond to risks posed by hurricanes and climate change. Targeted outreach and communication efforts facilitate delivery of resilience-relevant information to communities in the Southeast region.

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. 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 FY18 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 NART and Gulf Regions 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 the relationship between NHC forecasts, and close coordination with local WFO's in impacted regions, for both hurricane and storm surge forecasting. We will also conduct a webinar on freshwater flooding and NOAA 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, as a resource.

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:

- 3-5 hurricane themed webinars in 3rd QTR (May-June 2018);
- SE regional Climate outlook updates (QTR, 1,2,3,4),
- Possibly drought or El Nino webinars if needed

Activity B2. 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

Amanda Farris (Carolinas Integrated Science Assessments)

Key Participants:

Chip Konrad (Southeast Region Climate Center)

Climate CoP Steering Committee

Situation/problem this project will address:

State and local communities are struggling with how to adapt to a changing climate and the effects that a changing climate has on resources (e.g. water supply) and infrastructure (e.g., flooded roadways). The Southeast and Caribbean Climate CoP provides a valuable forum for participants to share information related to communicating and adapting to climate change.

Target audience:

Southeast and Caribbean Climate CoP participants and the stakeholders that they serve.

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.

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 2017, with funding from the CISA, SECART, and additional travel support from Sea Grant Programs. The Climate CoP has decided to meet every 2 years with the next workshop in FY19.

During FY18 SECART (mostly through Mecray and Olmi) will continue to participate on the CCOP Steering Committee, helping to guide the webinar series and other outreach to CCOP members, and begin in late FY18 to start planning the CCOP workshop planned for FY19.

Cost/Funding Source: No SECART funds are allocated for this activity in FY2018.

Key Milestones/Deliverables:

- Continue engagement with CCOP Steering Team (Q1-4)
- Participate on the Workshop Planning Team for workshop in FY19 (Q4)
- Participate in continuation of the CCoP webinar series (Q1-4)

Activity B3. Improve NOAA response posture to large scale disasters within the SECART region

Regional Collaboration goals addressed:

- Address regional challenges by connecting people and resources

Leader(s):

Rich Okulski (NWS)

Key Participants:

Chip Kasper (NWS)

Brad Benggio (NOS)

Geno Olmi (SECART Coordinator)

Charlie Henry, NOAA Gulf of Mexico Disaster Response Center (NOS)

Shirley Murillo (OAR)

Kyle Ward (NOS)

Situation/problem this project will address:

The breadth and diversity of NOAA operations can hamper intra-agency communication and coordination, limiting NOAA response to large-scale disasters. Effective identification of NOAA roles, assets, and expertise will build awareness, initiate partnerships, and support emergency response efforts, both within NOAA, and between NOAA and the other federal and state agencies leading emergency response decisions and actions.

Target audience:

NOAA offices in the region, the regional Science Support Coordinators (SSCs) and the Disaster Response Center (DRC).

Anticipated Outcomes/Benefits:

Major landfalling hurricanes disrupt social order for weeks or months after the incident. These disasters require extensive federal, state, and local emergency response assets during the recovery period and billions of dollars in disaster assistance funds.

NOAA offices in the SECART Region can provide weather and water intelligence to decision makers before, during, and after disasters. These actions potentially can save lives and livelihoods, while reducing the cost of preparation, response, recovery, and mitigation activities.

NOAA staff within the region will improve their understanding of:

- The role and purpose of the NOAA SSCs
- What each NOAA office could provide during a landfalling hurricane
- What other NOAA offices could provide during a disaster response scenario
- The range of scenarios during which NOAA offices could provide support during a response and associated differing roles among NOAA offices for each scenario
- The purpose and availability of NOAA assets in the region
- The DRC's Response Asset Directory and potential additions from other NOAA offices in the SECART region

This activity will better position NOAA to effectively draw upon resources and leverage expertise before, during, and after a disaster. The resulting improved NOAA response posture will yield more resilient and weather-ready coastal communities.

Summary:

The Deepwater Horizon incident in 2010, and other recent disasters, have taught us that NOAA has many different resources which could support response for a wide range of potential disasters in the SECART 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 work with the SSCs within the region to convene a workshop to build relationships among NOAA line offices and staff. In addition, we will identify scenario-based resources for the Southeast and Caribbean Region. This project also will help compile data necessary to populate the NOAA Response Asset Directory (NRAD).

One of the key priorities that came out of the June 2017 workshop is development of a regional directory of expertise related to emergency response, including contact information for federal and state agencies with key roles. We will develop this directory (with assistance from workshop attendees who volunteered to assist), and assess its relationship with the NRAD.

SECART will hold a workshop (in Charleston, SC or Jacksonville, FL) during the third quarter of FY18, with appropriate participants from the region, to conduct an After Action Review (AAR) of NOAA capabilities and response during Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Goals of the AAR include: 1) review what happened between and among NOAA offices during these hurricanes; and 2) identify best practices and lessons learned. Knowledge gained from the workshop could then be shared and applied during future major hurricane landfalls.

Cost/Funding Source: SECART has allocated \$7000 to support this activity - \$6000 to support a workshop in Q3 or Q4 and \$1000 to support RC travel related to this project. Funds will likely be used to support travel to the workshop. In addition, we will leverage existing staff expertise within the region to execute this activity.

Key Milestones/Tasks:

- Engage with NOAA's DRC and SSCs to further identify opportunities for enhancing regional response capabilities (Q1-3)
- Develop emergency response contacts directory for region (Q2-3)
- Convene workshop planning team (Q2-3)
- Hold workshop (Q3)
- Develop workshop summary and next steps document (Q4)

Activity B4. 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)

Key participants:

Southeast Regional Climate Center

Carolinas Integrated Science Assessments (CISA)

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 content review and 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:

Target audiences from multiple sectors (mentioned above) will receive timely regional-scale climate information from across NOAA that will better inform their decision making.

Summary:

Initiated in FY17, 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.

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
- SE regional climate impact and outlook updates (Q1,2,3,4)
- Possible update on El Nino, depending on development and intensity

Activity B5. GPS on Benchmarks.

Regional Collaboration goals addressed:

- Exchange both national and regional insights that inform action

Activity Lead(s):

Scott Lokken

Key Participants:

Galen Scott (NGS)

Situation/problem this project will address:

By providing GPS solutions on benchmarks today we can help NGS improve the next hybrid geoid model, increasing access to the current vertical NAVD 88, and enabling conversions to the new geopotential datum in 2022. The data will also provide information improving datum transformation modeling for current and future transformation models.

Target audience:

Anyone with Global Positioning System (GPS) survey-grade GPS receivers can participate. Recommended procedures vary depending on the type of equipment used. WFO offices with GPS equipment can participate with the side benefit of remaining proficient with their Storm Surge measuring equipment.

Anticipated Outcomes/Benefits:

NGS will use the collected data to update and supplement its databases and improve future models and tools including geoid models and improving transformation models to the new 2022 Datums. Information will be shared via the NGS Online Positioning User Service (OPUS).

Summary:

The nation's height system, the North American Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88), is founded on historic geodetic leveling surveys that use thousands of bench marks, many of which have not been positioned with GPS. Adding GPS coordinates to these marks allows them to be used in NGS' modern height reference-surface modeling. For instance, NGS' latest hybrid geoid model, GEOID12B, includes "GPS on bench mark" observations, but would greatly benefit from additional GPS data collection in many areas. These observations will be key infrastructure points in upcoming transformation modeling to the new Geometric Reference Frames and Geopotential Datum in 2022.

Cost/Funding Source: No SECART funds are allocated for this activity in FY2018.

Key Milestones/Deliverables:

- Project Team identifies areas in the SE region which will benefit from additional GPS observations. (Q1)
- National Surveyors Week March 18-24 coordinated observation campaign (Q2)
- 12 OPUS sharing solutions accepted into the NGS OPUS share. (Q4)

Activity B6. Fostering public-private partnerships in the Southeastern U.S. and Caribbean to advance resiliency and disaster recovery.**Regional Collaboration goals addressed:**

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

Activity Lead(s):

Geno Olmi

Rick Devoe (SC Sea Grant Consortium)

Key Participants:

Southeast Disaster Recovery Partnership (SDRP)

Southeast and Caribbean Sea Grant Programs (SESGP)

Southeast and Caribbean Climate Community of Practice (CCoP)

Carolinas Integrated Sciences and Assessments (CISA) Program

Situation/problem this project will address:

Project partners recognize that one of the biggest challenges to enhancing community resilience is planning in advance for post-disaster recovery. For a community to be disaster-resilient, public-private partnerships working hand-in-hand to develop comprehensive approaches to disaster recovery are necessary. Such preparedness requires the active engagement of leaders representing the many business interests that make up the private sector.

Target audience:

Emergency managers

Business susceptible to storm risk

Anticipated Outcomes/Benefits:

This project will bring SECART, Sea Grant, and SDRP professionals together with members and representatives of coastal business and industry to share expertise, tools, resources, and lessons learned and assess the effectiveness and practicality of selected approaches to private sector post-disaster recovery planning in our region.

Summary:

Execution of this activity will involve SECART working closely with other project partners - Sea Grant Programs, Southeast Disaster Recovery Partnership (SDRP), Southeast and Caribbean Sea Grant Programs (SESGP), Southeast and Caribbean Climate Community of Practice (CCoP), and Carolinas Integrated Sciences and Assessments (CISA) Program.

We will utilize the draft white paper being prepared by the SRDP titled “Public-Private Partnerships for Disaster Recovery” as the template from which the forum agenda will be shaped and the pilot projects will be informed. Through face-to-face interaction and engagement, both regionally and locally, this project will provide one means by which we can identify concrete steps to enhance public-private partnerships and ideas and adaptation strategies which will be crucial for increasing resilience throughout our region.

While the SDRP brings representatives of mainstream (e.g. downtown) businesses and state emergency management organizations to the table, the region’s NOAA project partners will be able to augment that representation with those from the broader maritime sector, including fisheries and aquaculture; coastal recreation, tourism, and retirement; marinas and community docks; services (restaurants, tackle shops, etc.); and waterfront trades. Such collaboration will result in an expansion of the network of private sector interests engaged in community-level post-disaster recovery

planning, a desire of all project partner organizations.

We will perform the following tasks in order to achieve our desired outcomes:

1. Develop a detailed plan of work
2. Convene a joint forum among the southeastern Sea Grant College Programs and SECART together with representatives of the CCoP and the SDRP to review, evaluate, and prioritize effective public-private sector strategies for disaster recovery
3. Conduct pilot project efforts in NC, SC, GA, FL and PR at the community level to field test and evaluate such strategies through engagement of public and private sector entities
4. Prepare a Summary Report (“Brief”) that concisely documents the results of the regional and pilot project efforts, and outlines a prospectus for the future.

Cost/Funding Source: SECART allocates \$1500 to support Coordinator travel related to this activity. The project is funded by the National Sea Grant Office at \$50,000.

Key Milestones/Deliverables:

- Project Team develops a detailed plan of work for the project (Q1)
- Project Team plans disaster recovery forum (Q2)
- Host disaster recovery forum (Q2 or Q3)
- Convene local-level groups to discuss results of disaster recovery forum (starting in FY18 but completing in FY19)
- Prepare report on results of the Forum and the local group meetings (FY19)

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

Activity C1. Improving coordination in seafloor habitat mapping in the Southeast Region

Regional Collaboration goals addressed:

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

SECART Lead(s):

Chris Taylor (Chris.Taylor@noaa.gov)

Adam Bode (Adam.Bode@noaa.gov)

Virginia Fay (Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov)

Kyle Ward (kyle.ward@noaa.gov)

Key participants:

- Ashley Chappell, NOS OCS Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping
- Mary Conley, The Nature Conservancy
- Cheryl Hapke, US Geological Survey

Situation/problem this project will address:

Offices in NOAA conduct seafloor mapping to support safe navigation (OCS), ocean planning (NOS) and resources assessments (NMFS, NOS). Other federal and state agencies also conduct seafloor mapping surveys for research and management. 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.

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 will develop tool with OCS and maintain as partnership engagement to ensure SE and Caribbean region priorities are included.
- 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.

Summary:

Building on progress in FY2016 and FY2017, objectives for FY2018 are:

1. Reschedule 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. Host webinars to continue exchange of awareness for regional seafloor habitat mapping activities, advances in mapping technologies, or regional planning needs presented by federal, regional or state government, academic, and private sector partners
3. Develop draft version of a mapping prioritization tool for the Southeast Region (NC - FL). The tool includes regulatory and management boundaries and an inventory of existing seafloor mapping data from Cape Hatteras to South Florida. The will allow agencies to identify and share 1-5 year needs for regional seafloor habitat information.

Cost/Funding Source:

\$9000 for FY18 (\$3000 for Fed travel to workshop, \$6000 for contract labor to prepare technical report; +\$2000 carryover from FY2017 also for contract labor)

Key Milestones/Deliverables:

- Each quarter: Habinars:
- 2nd QTR Rescheduled habitat mapping workshop,
- 2nd QTR, Prepare and publish workshop report

Activity C2: Support NC Sentinel Site Cooperative: Planning for FY2019 Science Symposium**Regional Collaboration Goal(s) 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):

Rebecca Ellin, NCNERR (rebecca.ellin@ncdenr.gov)

Key participants:

John Fear, NC Sea Grant, Chair of the NCSSC
NC Sentinel Site Cooperative staff

Situation or problem that this project will address:

Participants at the 2017 NCSSC Partner Meeting identified that a NCSSC-sponsored science symposium would help to fill the gap of communicating research among partners by connecting scientists, decision makers, and educators. Educators, city planners, elected officials, resource managers, and other community members would learn from research scientists about coastal resiliency and sea level rise research and monitoring occurring in the Cooperative. This would also serve as a networking event among partners.

Target audience:

Scientists, decision makers, and educators within the NCSSC geographic area and coastal NC.

Desired Outcomes/Benefits:

- Engaging NCSSC partners will provide the steering team with a clear understanding of goals and objectives for the science symposium.

Summary:

The NCSSC steering committee and staff will engage with partners to identify key topics for a NCSSC Science Symposium to be held in FY19. The objectives for this effort are:

1. Identify a symposium planning group comprised of NCSSC core management team members and others interested parties
2. Identify symposium objectives and scope
3. Draft an agenda
4. Identify timing of event and resources needed
5. Consider partnering with other conferences/events that may be held in coastal NC in FY19 with complementary objectives to maximize attendance, resources, and impact

Estimated Cost and Funding Source(s):

No SECART funds are requested in FY18. Funds for support of symposium will be requested in FY19.

Key Project Milestones:

- Q1: Provide update at November 2017 NCSSC core management team meeting
- Q2-Q3: Convene planning group to discuss activities 2-5
- Q4: Draft symposium objectives and agenda

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

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, NCCOS (Chris.Taylor@noaa.gov)

Adam Bode, OCM (Adam.Bode@noaa.gov)

Scott Cross, NCEI (Scott.Cross@noaa.gov)

Bill O'Bierne, OCM (Bill.Obierne@noaa.gov)

Key Participants:

Whitney Jenkins, NC NERRS

Situation/problem this project will address:

State and Federal resource managers and non-governmental organizations are not aware of the full range of NOAA data resources and expertise available regionally to inform decision making. SECART serves as a 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.

Target audience:

State Coastal Zone Management Programs, (CZMs), US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), Non-Governmental Organizations, and emergency managers

Anticipated outcomes/benefits:

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

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:

1. NC Data tools workshop
 - a. Co-host workshop with NERRS and NC Sentinel Site Cooperative to showcase various coastal mapping and data tools available on NOAA Digital Coasts and related portals. Workshop summary will be shared with SECART following workshop on October 17, 2017
2. Assist with data discovery/synthesis for developing Southeast US Ecosystem Status Report
 - a. NOAA Fisheries has initiated Ecosystem Status Reports for Large Marine Ecosystems as an initial step toward implementing the Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management Roadmap. The ESR for the Southeast will be led by NOAA Fisheries staff in Beaufort. The Ecosystems Workgroup will assist with data discovery and provide funding to a student/intern (\$1500) to assist with one or more of the following data needs (1) bottom ocean temperature data in SE region, (2) coastal habitat/shoreline hardening metrics, (3) coastal shrimp, crab and oyster fishery metrics. (4) summarizing coastal socioeconomic indicators

3. Monitor other networks in region and facilitate access to NOAA resources under the following initiatives:
 - a. Southeast Ocean and Coastal Acidification Network
 - b. IOOS's regional coordination of animal tracking networks
 - c. US Army Corps of Engineers Southeast Regional Assessment
 - d. NOAA's Habitat Focus Areas (especially Biscayne Bay and Northeast Ecological Reserve, Puerto Rico)
 - e. Coral Program
 - i. NCRMP, socio-economic, land use, ocean acidification, fish, habitat, water quality
 - ii. Briefing to SECART on NCRMP (FL and Caribbean) in Q1
 - iii. CRCP is updating strategic priorities in FY18

Cost/Funding Source:

\$1500 of SECART funds to support a student intern to assist with SE US Ecosystem Status Report

Key Milestones:

- 1st Qtr: Hosted NOAA Data Tools Workshop at Beaufort NC,
- 2nd Qtr, review initial indicators for SE Ecosystem Status Report, identify data needs and student intern to assist

Activity C4. Support SECOORA: Identify nearshore and estuarine monitoring needs

Regional Collaboration Goal(s) Addressed:

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

Lead(s):

Debra Hernandez, IOOS/SECOORA

Scott Cross, NCEI

Kyle Ward, OCS

Key Participants:

SECOORA members

Situation or problem that this project will address:

SECOORA is in the process of updating its 5-year Regional Coastal Ocean Observing System (RCOOS) Plan, which covers estuarine to offshore areas from NC to FL. Currently, offshore needs have been adequately addressed through facilitated sessions at the SECOORA Annual Meeting in May 2017, and input from SECOORA members, many of whom are oceanographers with deep knowledge of observing needs in the offshore area. However, there has been limited opportunity to engage experts and stakeholders regarding needs for estuarine and nearshore monitoring, particularly related to biological components of the ecosystem. SECART networks can be utilized to ensure key stakeholders are engaged in developing the estuarine/nearshore portion of the SE RCOOS Plan.

Target audience:

Key stakeholders include:

- NERRS and other managers
- Ports
- Coastal communities

Desired Outcomes/Benefits:

- Enhanced stakeholder engagement through SECART's network for input on needs for coastal ocean monitoring infrastructure.
- Improved SECOORA RCOOS Plan through broader input from

Summary:

The SECART network will be engaged to help reach a broad audience for input into the new SECOORA RCOOS Plan. SECART will assist by completing the following objectives:

1. SECART members will assist SECOORA by distributing surveys for coastal ocean observation data and sensor needs through the regional offices of NOAA and partners
2. SECART will also participate on the planning team for the 2018 partners meeting, at which the new plan will be addressed.

Estimated Cost and Funding Source(s):

No SECART funds requested for this activity. SECOORA will fund this effort.

Key Project Milestones:

- Quarter 2: Survey method (webinar, workshop or online survey) and distribution list finalized
- Quarter 3: Survey completed
- Quarter 4: Summary report completed

Section III. Appendices

Appendix 1. Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team Membership

Name	Affiliation	Location	E-mail
Bandy, Rich	NWS	Newport, NC	Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov
Cross, Scott	NESDIS	Charleston, SC	Scott.Cross@noaa.gov
Ellin, Rebecca	NC DENR	Beaufort, NC	rebecca.ellin@ncmail.net
Fay, Ginny	NMFS	St. Petersburg, FL	Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov
Garcia, Roberto	NWS	San Juan, PR	Roberto.Garcia@noaa.gov
Havens, Karl	FL Sea Grant	Gainesville, GA	KHavens@ufl.edu
Hernandez, Debra	SECOORA	Charleston, SC	Debra@secoora.org
Hohn, Aleta	NMFS	Beaufort, NC	Aleta.Hohn@noaa.gov
Kirtman, Benjamin	CIMAS	Miami, FL	bkirtman@rsmas.miami.edu
Lokken, Scott	NOS	Raleigh, NC	Scott.Lokken@noaa.gov
Mecray, Ellen	NESDIS	Taunton, MA	Ellen.L.Mecray@noaa.gov
O'Beirne, Bill	NOS	Silver Spring, MD	Bill.OBeirne@noaa.gov
Okulski, Rich	NWS	Columbia, SC	Rich.Okulski@noaa.gov
Olmi, Geno	NOS	Charleston, SC	Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov
Payne, Jeff	NOS	Charleston, SC	Jeff.Payne@noaa.gov
Rule, Erica	OAR	Miami, FL	Erica.Rule@noaa.gov
Sedberry, George	NOS	Savannah, GA	George.Sedberry@noaa.gov
Schmidt, John	NWS	Peachtree City, GA	John.Schmidt@noaa.gov
Taylor, Chris	NOS	Beaufort, NC	Chris.taylor@noaa.gov
Ward, Kyle	NOS	Charleston, SC	Kyle.Ward@noaa.gov
Wusinich-Mendez, Dana	NOS	Palm Beach Gardens, FL	Dana.Wusinich-Mendex@noaa.gov

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 FY2018 Spend Plan

	SECART Funds	Supplemental Funds
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.		
Activity A1. Advance NOAA's mission through strategic engagement with regional partnerships; Include upflow of information from OCM SE&Carib.	2400	
Activity A2. Advance NOAA's mission through engagement with the NOAA in the Caribbean Collaborative and promote implementation of the NOAA Caribbean Strategy.	6600	
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.		
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.	3000	
Activity A4. Enhance the capacity of the SECART to lead organizational integration within the region.	13500	
Activity A5. Improve the capacity of NOAA's inter-regional and national integrated services	5500	
Priority: Community resilience 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 hazards and climate change.		
Activity B1. Webinars: Hurricane/Climate Resilience Webinar Series	0	
Activity B2. Supporting the Southeast and Caribbean Climate Community of Practice	0	
Goal: Enhance organizational awareness and coordination within the region to improve response to a natural or man-made disaster.		
Activity B3. Improve NOAA Response Posture to Large-Scale Disasters Within the SECART Region.	7000	
Activity B4. Supporting the Southeast Regional Climate Quarterly Outlook.	0	
Activity B5. GPS on Benchmarks	0	
Activity B6. Fostering Public-Private Partnerships in the Southeastern U.S. and Caribbean to Advance Resilience and Disaster Recovery	1500	50,000
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		
Activity C1. Improving coordination in seafloor habitat mapping activities in the Southeast Region	9,000	2000
Goal: Enhance awareness of risks to living marine resources and habitats		
C2. Support NC Sentinel Site Cooperative: Planning for FY2019 Science Symposium	0	
Activity C3. Improve awareness of NOAA resources and capabilities to address ecosystem issues in the Southeast and Caribbean	1500	
C4. Support SECOORA: Identify nearshore and estuarine monitoring needs.	0	
Total	50,000	52,000