

## SECART FY22 Activity Plan Brief Descriptions

**Region:** Southeast and Caribbean (SECART)

**Fiscal Year:** FY 2022

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

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

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

*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.*

**Activity Title:** Activity A1. Enhance NOAA's mission execution through strategic engagement - learning from, informing, and connecting NOAA offices and regional partners to address regional issues

**Estimated Cost:** \$1500

**Timeline:** Ongoing activity

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

**Short Description:** SECART will work with NOAA offices and partners in the region to address problems that might be solved through an interdisciplinary (cross office) approach. 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; and 4) supporting NOAA offices and partners in the shared execution of NOAA's mission.

**Activity Title:** A2. Advance NOAA's mission through engagement with the NOAA in the Caribbean Collaborative

**Estimated Cost:** \$2,300

**Timeline:** Ongoing - long term effort

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

**Short Description:** 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. The NOAA in the Caribbean Collaborative

(NOAA Carib) 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. SECART will assist the NOAA Carib Steering Committee with the development and delivery of four issues of the NOAA in the Caribbean Newsletter through participation on the editorial committee and funding of Spanish translation services. Assist in planning, funding, and execution of a 2022 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 Title:** 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.

**Estimated Cost:** \$1400

**Timeline:** Ongoing effort

**LO/SO/Partners Involved:** All team members

**Short Description:** While related to Activity A1, the focus here is on communication about NOAA in the Region and sharing that information across NOAA, especially "up the chain". This Activity includes actions such as: 1) supporting NOAA and DOC leadership visits to the region, 2) providing "regional intelligence" to NOAA, 3) outreach to NOAA staff and partners on "NOAA in the Region" capacity and accomplishments.

**Activity Title:** Activity A4. Promote an informed, skilled, and diverse NOAA workforce in the region

**Estimated Cost:** \$1500

**Timeline:** Q1-Q4 (continuing)

**LO/SO/Partners Involved:** Internal NOAA, likely all LOs involved

**Short Description:** LOs typically work independently to train and diversify their workforce, often with a sole focus on their Line Office. SECART will bring a "one-NOAA" approach to an informed workforce and can engage in recruitment to benefit all LO offices/staff in the region. This activity has two main components - increasing "one NOAA" awareness among NOAA staff in the region and reaching out to potential employees at universities and conferences (including minority-serving institutions and organizations) to improve awareness of NOAA as a potential workplace/career. Completion of a regional video is a key component of this outreach effort. The NOAA Ambassador Program may be an important resource for materials.

**Activity Title:** Activity A5. Inform congressional staff of the value of NOAA and partner activities

**Estimated Cost:** \$1800

**Timeline:** Q1-Q4 (continuing from FY21 as a stand alone activity)

**LO/SO/Partners Involved:** TBD depending on themes/topics selected for engagements this year

**Short Description:** In FY20, SECART developed a congressional engagement strategy. The purpose of congressional engagement is to inform district staff of the work being done by NOAA and partners that benefits the citizens of the state. The strategy calls for two in-region congressional engagement events each year. We will conduct at least two meet and greets (virtual) and hope to host an in-person event in Q3 or Q4.

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

**Estimated Cost:** \$7400

**Timeline:** Ongoing activity

**LO/SO/Partners Involved:** All team members (5 LOs and 4 partners)

**Short Description:** SECART, as with all the NOAA Regional Collaboration Teams, has a goal of improving communication and collaboration across NOAA offices and with NOAA's partners to tackle issues of importance to the region. For SECART to be successful in meeting that goal, there must be organization and communication within the team to ensure that significant and timely opportunities within the region are identified and pursued. SECART holds monthly meetings and typically meets twice per year in person; however, with COVID uncertainty, we are planning to hold one in-person meeting in FY22 (June or July). In addition, we will update our "FY19-22 Strategic Direction" document for FY23-26.

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

**Estimated Cost:** \$2600

**Timeline:** Ongoing

**LO/SO/Partners Involved:** Mostly team lead and coordinator working with ReCo Network

**Short Description:** 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. This activity will result in the Regional Collaboration Network being an effective mechanism to enhance NOAA's services nationally. SECART will remain active in bi-weekly Regional Coordinator calls, monthly Regional Collaboration Council calls, and other activities that serve to coordinate and integrate the network. SECART will host the annual ReCo Network meeting in March 2022. The RC will 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.

***Priority Area: Improve Economic, Environmental, and Social Resilience of Communities to Weather, Water, and Climate Impacts***

*Goal 1: Facilitate development of emerging science and technology, enabling regional stakeholders to better plan for, respond and adapt to the risks posed by extreme weather, water, and climate hazards and impacts.*

*Goal 2: Facilitate the application of products, services, and knowledge to enhance the capacity of communities to understand, plan for, adapt, and respond to risks posed by extreme weather at different time scales.*

*Goal 3: Enhance internal organizational awareness and coordination within the region to improve preparation and response to disasters.*

**Activity Title:** Activity B1. Resilience Webinar Series

**Estimated Cost:** \$1200

**Timeline:** Q1-Q4. Hurricane series will occur late April to early June 2021. Others will be added - perhaps one in each of Q1, Q2 and Q4.

**LO/SO/Partners Involved:** NWS, OAR, NOS, OMAO

**Short Description:** 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 FY22. All webinars will be regionally-relevant and focus on products and services of NOAA and partners. Approach: (1) Keep Hurricane Awareness Webinar Series" - planning five webinars plus a summary webinar in Spanish; (2) Encourage/plan/host webinars on other topics such as: hazardous environmental outlooks, marine debris, environmental health, HABs, and other events. Coordinate with Meredith Muth on SE Climate Webinar Series.

**Activity Title:** Activity B2. Build regional resilience through the Southeast and Caribbean Disaster Resilience Partnership (SCDRP).

**Estimated Cost:** \$3800

**Timeline:** Q1-Q4

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

**Short Description:** In FY20, the long-time SECART-supported Southeast and Caribbean Climate Community of Practice merged with the Southeast Disaster Recovery Partnership to form the SCDRP, so as not to have two entities in the region trying to accomplish the same objectives. 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 drafted 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 an annual meeting which allows in-person exchange of information and development of relationships. The annual meeting (Jan 2022) will be virtual again this year.

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

**Estimated Cost:** \$5000

**Timeline:** Q1-Q2

**LO/SO/Partners Involved:** All NOAA Offices. Engaging NOAA partners to be sure the product is useful to them also. Engaging CIMAS in completion of product.

**Short Description:** During the first three Disaster Resilience (aka Emergency Response Posture, aka All Hazards) Workshops, participants were highly enthusiastic about creating a NOAA Disaster Resource Guide for the region. Using an NRAP in 2019, we made considerable progress in developing the guide. During FY21, engaging a student at CIMAS, we have completed a draft of the guide and have circulated it for review. In FY22, we will complete the Guide in Q1 and complete “field cards” in Q2.

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

**Estimated Cost:** \$5000

**Timeline:** Q1-Q2 planning workshop. Q3 Workshop. Q4 write up workshop report.

**LO/SO/Partners Involved:** NWS, NOS, NMFS, NOS Disaster Preparedness Program, SC Div Emergency Management, US Coast Guard

**Short Description:** The Southeast and Caribbean Region has experienced several significant weather and climate-related events over the past seven years, and the capabilities of NOAA and its various components have been at the forefront of planning, prediction, assessing, responding, and mitigating for each. 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 exercise, was postponed because of the pandemic, and then was postponed again in 2021 for the same reason. The objective now is to hold the workshop in 2022, with a focus on earthquake response and recovery to bring together the NOAA, federal, state and local partners/responders. We envision two days of presentations and discussions with a one day exercise/simulation that would allow everyone to see the capabilities of each other and how we can improve our cooperation during planning, preparation, response and restoration.

**Activity Title:** B5. Disaster Resilience: Addressing previously identified needs and sharing NOAA relevant information.

**Estimated Cost:** \$0

**Timeline:** Q1 - review the analysis recommendations and actions and establish a few reasonable goals; Q2-3 - determine what actions to pursue in FY22 and what to tackle in FY23.

**LO/SO/Partners Involved:** All NOAA offices and partners in the region

**Short Description:** We have 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" from our prior workshop engagements. The completion of the Disaster Resource Guide (see Activity B3) is an important accomplishment from the workshop recommendations.

**Activity Title:** B6. Climate and Equity Roundtables

**Estimated Cost:** \$2500

**Timeline:** Q1- host "heat health" roundtable virtually in November; Q2 - complete "write up" of heat health roundtable; Q2 or Q3 - host "coastal flooding" roundtable event (in-person if possible); Q3-4 complete write up of coastal flooding roundtable event

**LO/SO/Partners Involved:** NOS/OCM, NOS/CO-OPS, Oar/CPO, OAR/Sea Grant, NWS, RISA and Regional Climate Center partners, others.

**Short Description:** NOAA Leadership requested that Regional Collaboration Teams take lead in organizing a series of "Climate and Equity Roundtables" to address the administration's priorities. In the Southeast and Caribbean, SECART will organize two roundtable events focusing (separately) on "heat health" and "coastal flooding". In FY21, we held conversations with a few NOAA offices and a few partners to begin scoping a roundtable focused on heat health. The tentative plan is to hold a roundtable in Q1 (November) focusing on heat health in three urban areas - Miami, Charleston, and Raleigh-Durham. We are tentatively planning to host a second Climate and Equity Roundtable focusing on coastal flooding. This event would be held in Q2 or Q3 and may be virtual or in-person depending on the COVID situation at the time. After each roundtable event, we will capture key points and lessons learned and compile those with outcomes captured by other regional teams.

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

*Goal 1: Increase the effectiveness of coastal and marine habitat conservation and restoration.*

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

**Activity Title:** C1. Connecting NOAA Fellows with SECART

**Estimated Cost:** \$1000

**Timeline:** Q1-Q4

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

**Short Description:** 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 Title:** C2. Southeast States Shellfish Aquaculture and Sanitation Data and Forecast Strategy

**Estimated Cost:** \$5500

**Timeline:** Q1-3

**LO/SO/Partners Involved:** NCCOS, NWS, FDA, State shellfish sanitation and aquaculture agencies

**Short Description:** The FY22 workshop is expected to be a continuation of FY20 and FY21 shellfish sanitation meetings with an expansion of the participants to federal and state entities involved with shellfish aquaculture planning, monitoring, etc. NOAA line offices participate in emerging research and hold many data sources that SE US states utilize for shellfish sanitation and aquaculture management. The purpose of this FY22 meeting is to continue to expand best practices among SE US states' shellfish sanitation entities, expose both sanitation and aquaculture groups across all SE US states to emerging tools and data, and identify targets of efficiency among SE US academic institutions, federal and state agencies that participate in both shellfish aquaculture management and shellfish sanitation.

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

**Estimated Cost:** \$0

**Timeline:** Ongoing

**LO/SO/Partners Involved:** All

**Short Description:** 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. We will maintain and promote awareness of ecosystem and habitat related activities in the region, including: 1) Habitat mapping activities; 2) Progress made on NOAA Habitat Blueprint Initiative through the Habitat Focus Areas in our region (FL, PR); 3) Ecosystem-related restoration (including Everglades restoration, Restoration Center projects, sediment availability, dredging and placement); 4)

Ecosystem-related initiatives and trends; 5) recent advances (including webinars and draft reports as available) related to NMFS-SEFSC-led programs/projects/reports; 6) offshore energy; 7) HABs; and 8) Ecosystem Indicators.

**Activity Title:** C4. Support for NOAA Response to Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease

**Estimated Cost:** \$5000

**Timeline:** Q1-4

**LO/SO/Partners Involved:** NOS (OCM, ONMS, NCCOS), NMFS (SERO, PIRO), OAR (AOML)

**Short Description:** Over the past 2 years SECART has provided strategic support for efforts to respond to the outbreak of Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease in Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands including support for efforts to build capacity for detection and response to this new and significant threat to coral reef ecosystems in our region. NOAA CRCP and the National Coral Disease Coordinator at FL Sea Grant are in the process of facilitating a cross LO process to develop a 5-year implementation plan for the NOAA Strategy for Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease Response and Prevention that will guide the agencies efforts to prevent, detect and respond to this new coral disease in U.S. coral reef ecosystems. FL SG has developed 2 internship positions to support implementation of the plan in FY22. SECART resources would provide continued financial support for a FL SG intern dedicated to increase capacity and support for SCTLD response efforts in Florida, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands.

**Activity Title:** C5. Enhance awareness of and participation in NOAA UxS developments with regional applicability

**Estimated Cost:** \$2500

**Timeline:** Q1-4

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

**Short Description:** 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. A NOAA Unmanned Systems Strategy is under development, and the NMFS Southeast Regional Strategic Plan includes a priority to work with SECOORA on developing UxS applications to reduce the cost of collecting and processing environmental and habitat data, and produce more accurate and timely scientific products. The leads for this activity will monitor developments with the NOAA Unmanned Systems Strategy and with UxS application and potential within their respective organizations (including outcomes of the "SE and Caribbean Regional Workshop on Using Drones for Coastal Management and Conservation" and the "NERRS Catalyst Grant"), and convey updates as appropriate within SECART. The activity leads will explore options for sharing this information in the region and bringing such applications to use including the facilitation of scoping meetings to define goals for a regional UAS Community of Practice.