

NOAA's Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team FY23-25 Strategic Priorities

NOAA Regional Collaboration Network

Through engagement, integration, and innovation, NOAA's Regional Collaboration Network (the Network) improves cooperation among the NOAA Line Offices and partner entities to more effectively address our shared regional priorities and 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 value to constituents. The Network recognizes the need to ensure that all communities have access to and benefit from NOAA's products and services.

NOAA Regional Collaboration's mission, goals, and core values are:

- Mission: To identify, communicate, and respond to regional needs, catalyze collaboration, and connect people and capabilities to advance NOAA's mission and priorities.
- Goals: 1) Address regional challenges by connecting people and resources; 2) Exchange both national and regional insights that inform action; and 3) Improve the understanding of and respect for NOAA's broad mission and regional capabilities.
- Core values: 1) Regional knowledge and context matter; 2) Partnerships and shared responsibility are foundational; 3) Relationships are based on mutual trust and respect; 4) Collaboration is essential to successful leadership; 5) Innovation and creativity are integral to executing NOAA's mission.

Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team

NOAA's Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team (SECART) addresses the above mission and goals, and adopts the core values, with a focus on the Southeast and Caribbean region, here defined as the states of NC, SC, GA, and FL, and the territories of PR, and USVI.

For planning and communication purposes, SECART has identified three priority goals for action over fiscal years 2023-2025 (FY23-25):

- Conduct engagement across NOAA line offices and with partners to improve NOAA's mission execution

- Improve Economic, Environmental, and Social Resilience of Communities to Weather, Water, and Climate Impacts
- Promote the restoration, conservation, and sustainability of the region's living marine resources and habitats for their value to biodiversity and the economy

Engagement is central to regional collaboration and to each of SECART's three priority goals. The engagement goal largely reflects regional collaboration goals and captures a range of team activities that support regional collaboration. The two topical goals allow SECART to focus efforts on regional priorities.

SECART FY23-25 Goals, Objectives, and Strategies:

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

Objective 1: Facilitate the transfer of data, information, and knowledge among stakeholders, partners, and NOAA staff regarding NOAA programs and priorities in the region.

- Foster an informed, skilled, and diverse NOAA workforce in the region, adapted to new technologies and new ways of doing business
- Build increased awareness of and support for NOAA offices, programs, partners, and priorities in the region
- Promote improved understanding of the region's unique needs, capabilities, and contributions as related to NOAA's priorities
- Identify information, communication, coordination, and resource gaps and identify solutions for closing the gaps in an equitable manner;
- Ensure that all communities have access to and benefit from NOAA's products and services

Objective 2: Connect people, programs, and resources to address regional priorities and shared goals

- Facilitate bringing diverse capabilities to bear on priority regional issues, consistent with NOAA's mission
- Connect NOAA, partners, and stakeholders for NOAA to better execute its mission in the region
- Support NOAA leadership's understanding of the region's issues and NOAA capabilities in the region;

Objective 3: Efficiently execute Team and Network actions in support of regional and national priorities.

- Organize, coordinate, and lead the team and manage its resources; adapting to and supporting changing workplace and travel conditions.
- Cooperate with the Network to develop network-wide products and services.
- Respond to NOAA and Department of Commerce requests for information, support, and leadership to achieve agency and department missions.

Goal 2: Improve Economic, Environmental, and Social Resilience of Communities to Weather, Water, and Climate Impacts

Objective 1: Build awareness of, facilitate dialog on, and offer support for products and services that enable regional stakeholders to better plan for, respond and adapt to the risks posed by environmental hazards and impacts.

- Build relationships and gather user needs on 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 in the region to enhance existing, and develop new, products and services in an equitable manner;
- Encourage and facilitate the transition of research to develop societally relevant applications.

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

- Support delivery of resilience-relevant information to communities;
- Engaging with communities in the region with technical assistance, training, and supporting their access and use of NOAA's products and services;
- Support opportunities to bring customer needs for risk identification and the development of mitigation and adaptation strategies to the attention of NOAA.

Objective 3: Enhance internal NOAA awareness and coordination within the region to improve preparedness, planning, response, and recovery to environmental hazards and impacts.

- Identify agency capabilities within the region to prepare for and respond to

environmental hazards and impacts;

- Improve communication among appropriate NOAA entities, both within and outside the region, building a better understanding of capabilities and roles in response to environmental hazards and impacts.

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

Objective 1: Increase the effectiveness of coastal and marine resource conservation and restoration.

- Improve coordination among NOAA entities and partners to identify gaps, capabilities, and efficiencies in achieving regional priorities in resource management and conservation in an equitable manner;
- Improve awareness of NOAA's coastal and marine resource mapping activities in the region and access to shoreline, seafloor and resource mapping products;
- Improve awareness of NOAA and NOAA supported coastal and marine resource monitoring activities in the Southeast and Caribbean region and access to data and related products;
- Promote habitat conservation and restoration initiatives in the US Southeast and Caribbean region (e.g., NOAA's Habitat Blueprint Framework, America the Beautiful 30x30, Mission: Iconic Reefs, Natural and Nature-based Infrastructure, watershed management and restoration);
- Improve awareness of and access to NOAA tools and products to support coastal and marine resources conservation and restoration including those developed to support monitoring, communications, education, planning and management.

Objective 2: Enhance awareness of and promote activities that reduce risks to coastal and marine ecosystems.

- Improve regional awareness of impacts from human activities (e.g., shoreline development, increased dredging, offshore energy development) and climate variability (including extreme weather events), on natural systems;
- Identify and prioritize emerging regional needs associated with risks (e.g., marine debris, SCTL, beneficial use of dredge material) and promote activities that reduce impacts from risks (e.g., nature-based infrastructure).