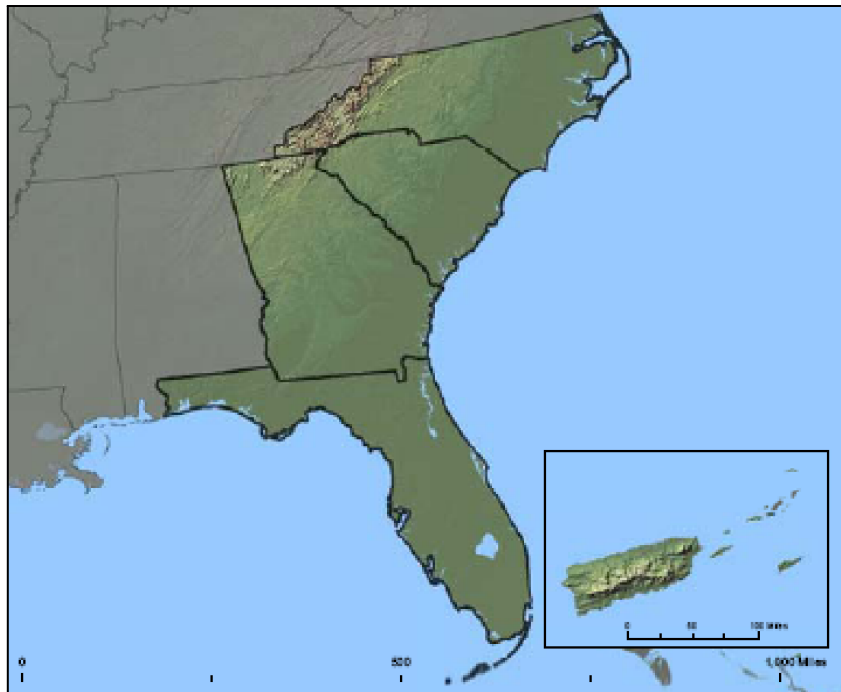


# FY 2023 Activity Plan

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## Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team



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

November 2022

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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.

The 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 22 members representing geographic and topical diversity of NOAA staff and partners within the region (Appendix 1).

### Department and Agency Priorities

As an agency within the US Department of Commerce (DoC), activities of NOAA fall within and support the Department’s [FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan](#).

NOAA's Mission is: Science, Service, and Stewardship

- To understand and predict changes in climate, weather, oceans and coasts;
- To share that knowledge and information with others; and
- To conserve and manage coastal and marine ecosystems and resources.

### Regional Collaboration Strategy

The Regional Collaboration Network completed a revised “strategy map” in 2016 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 FY23-25. These priorities are consistent with NOAA Goals and Regional Collaboration priorities but focus on current issues in the Southeast and Caribbean Region. These are:

#### **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.

- Objective 2: Connect people, programs, and resources to address regional priorities and shared goals
- Objective 3: Efficiently execute Team and Network actions in support of regional and national priorities.

**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.
- 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.
- Objective 3: Enhance internal NOAA awareness and coordination within the region to improve preparedness, planning, response, and recovery 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.
- Objective 2: Enhance awareness of and promote activities that reduce risks to coastal and marine ecosystems.

The full SECART FY23-25 Strategic Priorities are presented as Appendix 3.

**Annual Activity Plan Purpose and Organization**

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

This AAP for FY2023 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 goals mentioned above. Activities may address multiple priorities and goals, but are organized within a single priority for the purposes of the AAP. 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 FY2023 spend plan is presented in Appendix 4.

## **II. Team Activities**

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

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

#### **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 (SECART Coordinator)
- Chip Kasper (SECART Team Lead)
- Richard Okulski, Beth Dieveney, Dana Wusinich-Mendez (Workgroup leads)

#### **Key Participants:**

- State and federal agencies and programs;
- Sea Grant programs in the region (NC, SC, GA, FL, PR)
- Southeast Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS)
- Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy
- Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA) and the Caribbean Coastal Ocean Observing System (CARICOOS)
- The Nature Conservancy and other non-governmental organizations

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

NOAA has many formal and informal partners in the region who share NOAA's issues and priorities. Communication, coordination, and collaboration to address regional needs in an effective and efficient manner is a challenge.

#### **Target audience:**

Primary audiences include NOAA staff in the region and long-term NOAA partners such as state

Coastal Zone Management Programs (CZMP), National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERRs), Sea Grant programs, Cooperative Institutes, Regional Climate Centers, Regional Integrated Science Assessments (RISA), 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

**Approach:**

The mission of NOAA's Regional Collaboration Network is to identify and address regional issues through enhanced awareness, communication, and collaboration among NOAA offices and partners. SECART will work with NOAA offices and partners in the region to share information and address problems that might be solved through an interdisciplinary (cross office) approach. 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. NOAA in the Caribbean Collaborative is proposed as a separate project in this work plan.

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 and other NOAA programmatic leads; 3) supporting relevant NOAA entities on regional issues; 4) supporting NOAA offices and partners in the shared execution of NOAA's mission; and 5) working with Ecosystem and Resilience Workgroups to promote and share information and opportunities in the region.

**Comms / Outreach Plan:** Accomplishments achieved through this activity will be reported to ReCo HQ via the weekly reporting mechanism, and if sufficiently significant, will be highlighted on the SECART website and included in the annual ReCo report to leadership.

**Cost/Funding Source: \$1500**

\$1500 of SECART funds to support travel for Regional Coordinator and/or team member(s) to travel to regional workshops and/or partner meetings.

**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).
- Effectively communicate activities, projects, and opportunities to relevant NOAA programs and offices (Q1-4).
- Work with NOAA offices and partners to identify emerging issues and opportunities for enhanced collaboration (Q1-4).
- Meet with NOAA staff and partners in the region to enhance awareness of NOAA's responsibilities and capabilities within the region (Q1-4).
- Serve as a NOAA contact for Sea Grant Programs in the region (Q1-4), including on the SC Sea Grant Program Advisory Board.

**Activity A2. Advance NOAA's mission through engagement with the NOAA in the Caribbean Collaborative.****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 mission and regional capabilities

**Leads:**

- Lisamarie Carrubba (NOAA/NMFS)
- Makeda Okolo (NOAA/OCM)
- Geno Olmi (SECART Coordinator)
- Samantha Dowdell (International Affairs)
- Trika Gerard (NMFS/SEFSC)
- Amber Fandel (OLIA)

**Key Participants:**

The NOAA in the Caribbean Collaborative (NOAA Carib) Steering Committee consists of members from across NOAA LOs, Staff Offices, and partners in the US Caribbean, including Puerto Rico & USVI Coastal Management Programs, Caribbean Fisheries Management Council, The Nature Conservancy, and others.

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

U.S. Caribbean territories (Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands) have differences in culture, resources, and issues from the rest of the Southeast United States. Therefore, it is important to strategically engage with partners to better understand their particular issues and needs and to enhance their understanding of NOAA products and services.

**Target audience:**

The purpose of this activity is to improve communication and coordination across NOAA offices and with our partners in the U.S. Caribbean. The target audience is therefore, NOAA staff in the Caribbean and partners including territorial agencies, other federal agencies, and non-profit groups.

**Anticipated Outcomes/Benefits:**

The NOAA Carib facilitates improved communication, coordination, and collaboration with NOAA offices and partners in the US Caribbean and broader Caribbean basin.

**Approach:**

The 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 continue to support the efforts of NOAA Carib through monetary and intellectual contributions. 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 2023 NOAA Partners meeting in the U.S. Caribbean; and continue participation on NOAA Carib Steering Committee and Executive Committee to maintain communication and direction for the group.

**Comms / Outreach Plan:** Accomplishments achieved through this activity will be reported to ReCo HQ via the weekly reporting mechanism, and if sufficiently significant, will be highlighted on the SECART website and included in the annual ReCo report to leadership. Key outcomes will also be reported through the NOAA in the Caribbean Newsletter.

**Cost/Funding Source: \$5400**

\$3000 for Puerto Rico Sea Grant for translation of the NOAA in the Caribbean Newsletter to Spanish; \$2400 of SECART funds for RC travel to the 2023 Partners Meeting.

Supplementary funding: SECART provided \$9,000 of FY22 funds to CIMAS to work with us on planning and execution of the 2023 Partner Meeting and other activities.



### **Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- Assist the NOAA Carib Steering Committee with the development and delivery of four issues of the NOAA in the Caribbean Newsletter (Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4) through participation on the editorial committee and funding of Spanish translation services.
- Review outcomes from the SECART/OCM meeting (June 2019) on specific actions of interest to PR and USVI.
- Continue participation on NOAA Carib Steering Committee and Executive Committee (Q1-4) to maintain communication, and chart a path forward for the group.
- 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.
- Plan and execute a Partner Meeting in the US Caribbean in 2023 (Q2-3).

### **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

#### **Leads:**

- Geno Olmi (SECART Coordinator)
- Chip Kasper (NOAA/NWS, SECART Team Lead)

#### **Key Participants:**

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

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

To the extent that NOAA employees 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. In addition, a key role of Regional Collaboration Teams is to understand and communicate regional priorities to NOAA leadership. Essentially this activity is to enhance communication - up, down, and across. Also as part of this activity, SECART will assist

with NOAA leadership and other VIP visits to the region by providing “local knowledge” and logistics support.

**Target audience:**

The target audience includes those benefiting from or affected by NOAA's products and services (e.g., NOAA staff, partners, and the general public). An additional target audience for “informing up” is NOAA leadership.

**Anticipated Outcomes/Benefits:**

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

**Approach:**

The Regional Collaboration Network (RCN) is a catalyst for cross-Line Office communication and coordination to enhance integration of products and services internally and among NOAA’s regional and national stakeholders and constituents. 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. Specific activities to help accomplish this objective:

- Provide updates to ReCo HQ through the weekly reporting mechanism.
- Contribute to the ReCo annual accomplishments report.
- Work with activity leads and Workgroup leads to capture and disseminate accomplishments and products from SECART activities.
- Update the SECART website to provide highlights of accomplishments.
- Update the “NOAA in the Southeast and Caribbean” 2-pager.
- Produce the weekly news of interest to NOAA in the region.
- Promote and support the NOAA Ambassadors program
- Host 1-3 webinars that help improve the understanding of staff and partners of the work being conducted in the region by NOAA and partners.

**Comms / Outreach Plan:** This activity is entirely about communications and outreach.

Accomplishments achieved through this activity will be reported to ReCo HQ via the weekly reporting mechanism, and if sufficiently significant, will be highlighted on the SECART website and included in the annual ReCo report to leadership.

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$1400

\$1400 to support RC travel to NOAA offices and in support of leadership visits.

**Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- Develop/update “NOAA in the Region” and SECART communication pieces (Q1-4).
  - Update 2-pager

- Maintain and update website
- Update presentations
- SECART annual report (2-pager)
- Continue producing the weekly news for the region (Q1-4).
- Occasional updates to HQ for accomplishments, regional news, and upcoming events (Q1-4).
- Enhance NOAA leadership visits to the region by working with the Program Coordination Office (PCO) and Line Office staff and providing “local” intelligence (as needed, Q1-4).
- Respond to specific requests for information or support from NOAA HQ or DOC (Q1-4).
- Meet with NOAA staff and partners in the region to enhance awareness of NOAA’s responsibilities and capabilities within the region (Q1-4).
- Monitor and assist SECART working groups with outreach support as needed (Q1 – Q4).

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

**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

**Leaders:**

- Activity Team: Geno Olmi, Beth Dieveney, Chip Kasper, Todd Kellison, Kyla Breland

**Key Participants:**

- All SECART members
- Individual NOAA Offices and partners as appropriate
- Possibly Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in region

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

LOs typically work independently, including to train and diversify their workforce. SECART can serve to facilitate connections, information sharing, and collaboration across the region. Additionally, SECART may be able to bring training and recruitment to the region to benefit all LO offices/staff in that region.

**Target audience:**

The target audience is twofold: First is NOAA staff, as we provide opportunities for NOAA staff to become more cognizant of the breadth and reach of NOAA activities. Second, is potential NOAA

employees - recruiting talented individuals of various backgrounds.

**Anticipated Outcomes/Benefits:**

This activity should improve the awareness and understanding of, and appreciation for, NOAA and partners' products and services in the region.

**Approach:**

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

In FY2022 we completed a "NOAA in the Southeast and Caribbean" video which may now be used to enhance awareness of NOAA's activities in the region and be used as a "recruiting" tool. This video can be used in "brown bag" seminars at various NOAA offices and at universities (including HBCUs) to attract talent. Develop slides/handouts that highlight in the region opportunities, such as internships, fellowships, work-study programs, etc.

Recognize and confirm ties between this activity and the NOAA Ambassador Program, including use of materials developed by that program.

**Comms / Outreach Plan:** This activity is entirely about communications and outreach.

Accomplishments achieved through this activity will be reported to ReCo HQ via the weekly reporting mechanism, and if sufficiently significant, will be highlighted on the SECART website and included in the annual ReCo report to leadership.

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$1500

\$1500 for within the region travel for the project team.

**Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- Utilize video in inreach and outreach opportunities (Q2).
- NOAA in the Region lightning talk webinar series (Q1-4).
- Hold brown bag presentations at NOAA Offices (Q2-4).
- Diversity and inclusion efforts - "One NOAA" presentations to HBCUs (Q2-3).

**Activity A5. Engage with Congressional Staff to Convey the Value of NOAA and Partner Activities.**

**Regional Collaboration goals addressed:**

- Exchange both national and regional insights that inform action

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

**Leaders:**

- Activity Team: Rich Okulski, Debra Hernandez, Susan White, Chris Taylor, Geno Olmi, Ellen Mecray, Amber Fandel

**Key Participants:**

- All SECART members
- Individual NOAA Offices, Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs (OLIA), and partners as appropriate

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

Congressional members and their staff are often not aware of the benefits to “their” constituents provided by the products and services of NOAA and partners.

**Target audience:**

The target audience is Congressional District Staff in the region and, hopefully by extension, congressional members. NOAA staff and partners are themselves a secondary audience by building relationships and learning from each other.

**Anticipated Outcomes/Benefits:**

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

**Approach:**

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. In FY20, SECART developed a congressional engagement strategy. The strategy provides guidance on determining why, how, and when to conduct congressional engagement events. It also calls for two in-region congressional engagement events each year. Given COVID-19 considerations, we will assess the value of holding one or more events as virtual.

**Comms / Outreach Plan:** This activity is entirely about communications and outreach. Accomplishments achieved through this activity will be reported to ReCo HQ via the weekly reporting mechanism, and if sufficiently significant, will be highlighted on the SECART website and included in the annual ReCo report to leadership.

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$1800

\$1800 for meeting room space (if needed) and to support travel of participants, as needed.

**Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- Following the congressional engagement strategy, refine the approach for conducting congressional engagements in FY23, including locations, partners, target staff, etc. (Q1).
- Conduct virtual engagements (Q1 and Q2).
- Prepare summary report of event(s) and highlight in communications (Q2).
- Conduct an in-person engagement session (Q3-4).
- Prepare summary report of event and highlight in communications (Q3-4).

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

**Activity Lead(s):**

- Geno Olmi (SECART Coordinator)
- Chip Kasper (NWS, SECART Lead)
- Dana Wusinich-Mendez (NOAA/NOS)
- Beth Dieveney (NOAA NOAA/NMFS)
- Rich Okulski (NOAA/NWS)

**Key participants:**

SECART members and collaborators on specific activities

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

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 opportunities within the region are identified and pursued.

**Target audience:**

The first order target audience is the team members, but ultimately the target audience is constituents that benefit from NOAA's products and services in the region.

**Anticipated Outcomes/Benefits:**

This activity will result in SECART accomplishing the vision of regional collaboration and thereby

NOAA providing more effective and efficient services.

**Approach:**

For regional collaboration teams to be effective, they must have regular and effective coordination and communication. This activity is the nurturing of SECART, including planning and organizing team meetings and calls, development and execution of an annual operating plan, preparing and tracking the budget and spend plans, and regularly communicating with the SECART Leadership Team. SECART continues to refine the purpose and format of meetings to be more productive and efficient. This particular activity is about the organization and business of SECART, but touches on all the other elements in this operating plan.

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$8,000

\$8,000 to support team member travel to one in-person SECART meeting in the region (if their LO is unable to cover travel costs). Meeting will be 28-30 March 2023 in St. Petersburg, FL.

**Comms / Outreach Plan:** Accomplishments achieved through this activity will be reported to ReCo HQ via the weekly reporting mechanism, and if sufficiently significant, will be highlighted on the SECART website and included in the annual ReCo report to leadership.

**Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- Complete FY23 Annual Activity Plan with spend plan (Q1).
- Present AAP to the Advisory Group (Q1).
- Host one virtual and one in-person (extended) team meeting (Q2, Q4).
- Convene monthly team calls and distribute notes (Q1 – Q4).
- Accomplish FY23 Activity Plan (Q1 – Q4).
- Draft FY24 Annual Activity Plan with spend plan (Q4).

**Activity A7. 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 (SECART Coordinator)
- Chip Kasper (NOAA/NWS, SECART Team Lead)

- Louisa Koch (ReCo National Team Lead)
- Meredith Cameron (ReCo HQ Liaison)

**Key Participants:**

- Regional Team Leads and Coordinators
- ReCo HQ
- NOAA Regional Collaboration Council

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

SECART is one of eight NOAA Regional Collaboration Teams. For the broader Regional Collaboration Network (RCN) 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 regionally and nationally.

**Approach:**

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 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 NOAA Regional Collaboration Council and ReCo HQ in oversight responsibilities, and influence strategic direction setting, for NOAA RCN
- Participate in the annual Regional Coordinator meeting (typically June)
- Continue participation in network-wide coordination activities (calls, meetings, etc.)
- Pursue opportunities for cross-regional coordination on topics of mutual interest

**Comms / Outreach Plan:** Accomplishments achieved through this activity will be reported to ReCo HQ via the weekly reporting mechanism, and if sufficiently significant, will be highlighted on the SECART website and included in the annual ReCo report to leadership.



**Cost/Funding Source:** \$7200

\$5600 for Team Lead and Coordinator to travel to the Network Workshop (April 2023); \$1600 for RC travel to annual RC meeting (TBD 2023).

**Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- Annual report of ReCo accomplishments (Q1 for previous year).
- Participate in bi-weekly Regional Coordinator calls (Q1 – Q4).
- Participate in monthly Regional Collaboration Council calls (Q1 – Q4).
- Support ReCo HQ as needed to further regional collaboration (Q1 – Q4).
- Contribute to weekly reporting as appropriate (Q1-4).
- Participate in the Regional Coordinator annual meeting (Q3).
- Participate in the RCN annual workshop (Q3)
- Explore opportunities with the NART and GoMRT for better coordination on topics of mutual interest.

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

**Activity B1. 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 (NOAA/OAR/AOML)

Chip Kasper (NOAA/NWS WFO Key West, FL, SECART Team Lead)

Kyla Breland (NOAA/OR&R, SE DPP Coordinator)

**Key Participants:**

Dan Brown (NOAA/NWS National Hurricane Center)

Ernesto Morales (NOAA/NWS, WFO San Juan)

John Schmidt (NOAA/NWS/SERFC)

Other participants as appropriate for particular webinars

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

The understanding of, and forecast products for, tropical cyclones and their impacts are constantly evolving. Emergency management officials and broadcast media need to be able to access and understand these advancements so that they can properly use and relay critical information to their constituents. In addition, there is an identified need to raise awareness and educate NOAA staff and partners about NOAA work related to hurricanes, extreme weather events, and other hazards, and NOAA efforts to enhance resilience to those events. While many NOAA offices have experts with the capability to describe resilience to severe events and weather, they lack the infrastructure and staff time to coordinate, advertise, and execute webinars to a large audience of NOAA staff and key partners.

**Target audience:**

Emergency managers, state and community resilience managers, broadcast meteorologists, those responsible for hurricane preparations within organizations, nongovernmental organizations, coastal managers, and other NOAA employees in the region.

**Anticipated Outcomes/Benefits:**

Through this 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, flooding, and other events. Targeted outreach and communication efforts facilitate delivery of resilience-relevant information to populations at risk to hurricane hazards and impacts.

**Approach:**

Webinars are a cost-effective tool to educate key partners and constituents on a range of resilience related activities. For FY23, we will continue to provide hurricane related webinars and as well as expanding to include additional resilience related webinars (quarterly), to better reflect the contributions of multiple line offices and partners that culminate in improved NOAA products and services.

The FY23 Resilience Webinar Series will include a Hurricane Awareness Webinar Series and additional webinar offerings on NOAA efforts to enhance resilience. Additional webinars may include topics related to extreme weather events and other hazards, resilience financing, environmental health, and/or sharing lessons learned. All webinars will be regionally-relevant and highlight products and services of NOAA and partners within the region.

Objectives include:

(1) Hurricane Awareness Webinar Series - Plan and deliver five webinars plus a summary webinar in Spanish;

- (2) Additional webinars - Encourage/plan/host webinars on other topics such as: hazardous environmental outlooks (e.g., spring flood, hurricane, drought, fire weather), resilience financing, environmental health, HABs, and other extreme events; lessons learned; roles and responsibilities of programs; resilience activities of offices,;
- (3) Coordinate with Meredith Muth on SE Climate Webinar Series to avoid duplication.

### **Comms / Outreach Plan:**

To continue reaching and expanding the audience we will (1) advertise the hurricane webinars through the North Atlantic, Gulf and the SECART regions, as hurricanes affect the entire east coast and Gulf of the United States, (2) continue to provide a Spanish language version of select webinars; and (3) advertise the webinar series through SECART networks (including Weather Forecast Offices, Sea Grant, the ONE NOAA Science Seminars). Webinars will be recorded and subsequently posted on the SECART website, along with presentation materials, as a resource.

### **Cost/Funding Source: \$0**

FY2022 funds were applied to Rev.com for subtitles in English and Spanish for Hurricane Webinars.

### **Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Initiate planning team and develop list of webinar topics (Q1).
- Invite speakers and advertise webinar series (Q2)
- Hold Hurricane Awareness Webinar series April-June (Q3).
- Host other resilience webinars - perhaps one in each of Q1, Q2 and Q4.

## **Activity B2. Build regional resilience through the Southeast and Caribbean Disaster Resilience Partnership.**

### **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)
- Debra Hernandez (SECOORA)
- Lindy Betzhold (NOAA/OCM, and Chair of Advisory Board)
- Kyla Breland (NOAA/OR&R, SE DPP Coordinator)

**Key Participants:**

SCDRP Members which include representation from federal, state and local governments, non profit organizations, and businesses.

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

The Southeast and Caribbean Region has experienced several significant weather and climate-related events over the past six 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.

**Target audience:**

Under the SCDRP, the target audience is beneficially expanded to include more private sector participation while also including the “traditional” audiences of the CCOP: Climate and resilience practitioners in the region, NERRs, local communities, states, small business, Sea Grant Programs, Universities, etc - anyone working to improve resilience to climate change and extreme events.

**Anticipated Outcomes/Benefits:**

The [Southeast and Caribbean Disaster Resilience Partnership](#) (SCDRP) provides a forum for climate/disaster resilience practitioners to share information and assist our region in becoming more resilient.

**Approach:**

The “Southeast Disaster Recovery Partnership” started as a NOAA Coastal Resilience Grant and subsequently added the Caribbean to its name and changed from "Recovery" to "Resilience". In FY20, the long-time SECART-supported Southeast and Caribbean Climate Community of Practice merged with the SCDRP, so as not to have two entities in the region trying to accomplish the same objectives. The SCDRP is 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 the private sector.

The SCDRP completed its 2021-2023 Strategic Plan which guides its activities through this year. 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 will be held 24-25 January 2023 in Miami FL. All of the proposed leads are members of the SCDRP Advisory Board.

**Cost/Funding Source: \$4300**

\$3000 to transfer to SECOORA for SCDRP priorities, including meeting support and/or Executive Director salary and/or operations (SECOORA serves as the administrative home for SCDRP).  
\$1300 for RC travel to the annual meeting (Jan 2023).

**Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Serve as a federal liaison to the SCDRP Advisory Board to help guide the direction of the Partnership (Q1-Q4).
- Assist in planning and attend the annual meeting (Q1-2)
- Attend annual meeting (Q2)
- Transfer funds to IOOS Office (Q2)

**Activity B3. Disaster Resilience: Guide to Integrated NOAA Disaster Resilience in the Southeast and Caribbean 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

**Leader(s):**

- Geno Olmi (SECART Coordinator)
- Chip Kasper (NOAA/NWS, WFO Key West, FL)
- Shirley Murillo (NOAA/OAR/AOML)
- Emily Becker (Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Studies, Univ. Miami)
- Rich Okulski (NOAA/NWS, WFO Columbia, SC)

**Key Participants:**

All NOAA Offices.

Engaging NOAA partners to be sure the product is useful to them also.

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

NOAA staff, partners, and stakeholders all have identified a need to better understand the roles, capabilities, and responsibilities of NOAA offices, across the Southeast and Caribbean Region. This need has been expressed during workshops, training sessions, and before, during, and following recent disasters (e.g., Hurricane Matthew in 2016, Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017, Hurricanes Michael and Florence in 2018, and Hurricane Dorian in 2019). NOAA staff, partners, and stakeholders also have identified the need for easy access to contacts at NOAA offices during

various stages of the disaster management cycle (i.e., preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation/adaptation).

**Target audience:**

NOAA staff, partners, and stakeholders in the Southeast and Caribbean Region.

**Anticipated Outcomes/Benefits:**

- Potential lives saved and mitigation of impacts through improved coordination among NOAA staff, and between NOAA staff and their partners and stakeholders.
- Leveraging resources among NOAA offices and between NOAA offices and its partner organizations in the Southeast and Caribbean Region through more efficient and effective collaboration, facilitated by the Guide and improved communication and new opportunities.

**Approach:**

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. Utilizing an NRAP in 2019 and a CIMAS student in 2021/2022, we were able to complete a draft of the guide and incorporate comments received. The Guide was distributed to NOAA colleagues and partners in the region in March 2022. This was a significant accomplishment..

A product such as "the guide" will always need updating as contact information changes, regulations change, etc. We will solicit feedback from colleagues in the region following the 2022 Hurricane Season to see if information has changed and if there are ways we could revise the document to make it more useful. We will also consider developing field cards that would be a more portable and accessible way to access selected information from the guide.

Objectives in FY2023 include:

- 1) Solicit feedback from colleagues on the utility and accuracy of the guide (Q1)
- 2) Incorporate feedback and produce a revised edition (need to number editions). (Q2)
- 3) Distribute revised edition (Q3).
- 4) If deemed valuable, draft "field cards" for rapid lookup of authority and contacts.

**Comms / Outreach Plan:**

Development of the Guide was a significant accomplishment and has been reported through traditional pathways. Once updated, we will look for additional forms of outreach to increase awareness of the product.

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$0.

No FY23 SECART funds are requested for this activity. \$10,000 in FY22 funds was included in the

CIMAS award (from NOAA); we plan to use some of these funds to provide an opportunity for a student to work with NOAA on updating the guide. If the “field guides” are a desired additional product, we will look toward FY24 for printing.

**Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- Solicit feedback from colleagues on the utility and accuracy of the guide (Q1)
- Incorporate feedback and produce a revised edition (need to number editions). (Q1-2)
- Distribute revised version (Q3).
- If deemed valuable, develop "field cards" that capture selected content. (Q3-4)

**B4. Improving Disaster Resilience in the Southeast and Caribbean Region:  
Exercise with Partners for Large-Scale Disasters.**

**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 mission and regional capabilities

**Leader(s):**

- Emily Carpenter (NOAA/NWS, WFO Columbia, SC)
- Rich Okulski (NOAA/NWS, WFO Columbia, SC)
- Kyla Breland (NOAA/OR&R, SE DPP Coordinator)

**Key Participants:**

NWS, NOS, NMFS, NOS Disaster Preparedness Program, SC Div Emergency Management, US Coast Guard

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

The Southeast and Caribbean Region has experienced significant weather and climate-related events over the past six 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 must include all sectors of society to develop comprehensive approaches to disaster preparedness and recovery.

**Target audience:**

The target audience for this activity is NOAA offices and partners involved in emergency management (e.g., state and local emergency management offices, USGS).

### **Anticipated Outcomes/Benefits:**

Invited participants would include federal, state, and local emergency response officials who require “environmental intelligence” from NOAA employees to execute their disaster response and recovery mission.

The NOAA Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team would incorporate the best practices and lessons learned into the *Guide to Integrated NOAA Disaster Resilience in the Southeast and Caribbean Region*.

### **Approach:**

Prior Disaster Resilience Workshops (2017, 2018, 2019) focused on gaining a better understanding of NOAA program roles and responsibilities during the preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation phases of disaster management. A workshop planned for March 2020 in Charleston, with an earthquake as the disaster, was postponed/canceled because of the pandemic. We rescheduled for March 2021, however we needed to postpone it again due to pandemic travel restrictions.

We are tentatively planning for the 2023 Workshop to be held in Charleston, Savannah, GA, or Columbia, SC in Q2 or Q3. To reach the widest audience possible, the presentations will be “broadcast” on the web using a platform such as GoToMeeting. This will allow us to reach those unable to attend for all three days as well as those limited by travel funds.

The objective is to hold the workshop planned for 2020 in 2023. Focus on response and or recovery with All-hazards to bring together the NOAA, federal, state and local partners/responders. 2 days of presentations and discussions with a one day exercise/simulation, with a morning response and afternoon recovery type scenario. That would allow everyone to see the capabilities of each other and how we can improve our cooperation during planning, preparation, response and restoration. In addition, we will also consider holding virtual options of such workshops. Virtual options, while losing some of the in-person benefits, might allow us to reach additional NOAA staff and partners, including more local specificity.

For all agencies in attendance to achieve a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of those in attendance, we plan to:

- Improve abilities to rapidly share information, technology, and equipment in the response and recovery phases across agencies.
- Allow all agencies to promote their abilities, technology, and research as well as partner with agencies which can help further their abilities.
- Increase direct access to a large number of response, recovery, and restoration partners, allowing new relationships to be forged.
- Include university and higher education programs/students to have opportunities to participate and assist agencies with research projects.



- Incorporate the best practices and lessons learned into planning, response, recovery, and restoration phases, as well as the *Guide to Integrated NOAA Disaster Resilience in the Southeast and Caribbean Region*.

### **Comms / Outreach Plan:**

Activity Leads and key partners will promote the workshop by notifying contacts with federal, state, and local agencies. A website will be established to facilitate communication and coordination, and selected agency contacts will be asked to present at the workshop, detailing their agency's mission, expertise, and capacities.

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$4000. \$1000 to be used for a meeting facility for approximately 150 people for three days with room to have breakout sessions and groups for the exercise (inquiring about involving local universities or locations on the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center complex to help lower costs). \$3000 for travel expenses of invited speakers. If a free meeting facility can be found those funds will also be applied to travel support.

### **Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- Q1: Convene a workshop planning team.
- Q1-Q2: workshop planning - agenda, participants., logistics.
- Q3: Hold workshop.
- Q4: Develop and distribute workshop report.

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

### **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):**

- Chip Kasper (NOAA/NWS, WFO Key West, FL)
- Geno Olmi (SECART Coordinator)
- Rich Okulski (NOAA/NWS, WFO Columbia, SC)
- Kyla Breland (NOAA/NOS/DPP)

### **Key Participants:**

- NOAA Offices throughout the region
- Partners (such as CZ and Sea Grant)

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

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

**Target audience:**

NOAA staff, partners, and stakeholders in the Southeast and Caribbean Region.

**Anticipated Outcomes/Benefits:**

Very useful information and ideas were generated during previous resilience workshops. The purpose of this activity is to capture and share that information and knowledge with colleagues.

**Approach:**

In FY20, we explored the recommendations and actions resulting from our three previous workshops - in 2017, 2018, and 2019. This activity will be to explore the After Action Reports and workshop notes in more detail, and create a list of tangible recommendations. One such recommendation from the initial scan is for SECART to provide a site/forum for sharing information and knowledge across the region. With the SECART website transition (from Wordpress to Drupal) now completed, we have the opportunity to share workshop reports, the *Guide to Integrated NOAA Disaster Resilience in the Southeast and Caribbean Region*, and other materials. We will coordinate with the NOAA Disaster Preparedness program regarding the types of information being shared (avoid redundancy)

**Cost/Funding Source: \$0**

No funds requested for FY23.

**Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Complete analysis of recommendations and establish objectives for follow through (Q1).
- Prioritize and assign key follow through actions (Q2)
- Determine value of a regional disaster web site and evaluate what content to include (Q2)
- If pursued, Populate web page (Q3-4)

## **Activity B6. Climate and Equity Regional Pilot Projects**

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

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

### **Project Lead(s):**

- Geno Olmi (SECART Coordinator)
- Ellen Mecray and Sharon Mesick (NOAA/NESDIS/NCEI Regional Climate Services)
- Aja Szumylo - NOAA West Coordinator
- Hunter Jones - National Integrated Heat Health Information System (OAR/CPO)
- Karla Gore - (NMFS/SERO) - LANTERN detail

### **Key participants:**

NOS/OCM, OAR/CPO, NWS/WFOs, NESDIS/NCEI, Municipalities, and NGOs

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

Underserved communities are often highly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. Community leaders and groups often do not have the best scientific information to mitigate those adverse impacts on behalf of their constituents.

### **Target audience:**

NOAA is the target audience in an effort to learn from partners and stakeholders how the agency may provide products and services that may be used to reduce risk of underserved populations.

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

NOAA Leadership requested that Regional Collaboration Teams take lead in organizing a series of "Climate and Equity Roundtables" to address the administration's priorities related to climate and equitable service delivery. In the Southeast and Caribbean, SECART organized a "Southeast Heat Health Roundtable" in which we focused on Charleston, SC and Miami, FL. The roundtable - held Nov 2021 - brought together the municipalities, heat health experts, representatives of community groups, and NOAA staff to discuss the dangers, causes, and possible solutions to extreme heat risk in these areas. NOAA Leadership committed to funding pilot projects to address some of the issues identified during the roundtable event. The pilot project will gather information on heat exposure and risk and explore organization responsibilities, communications, and potential interventions to reduce heat risk to the population.

**Approach:**

SECART teamed up with NOAA West - who also led a roundtable on extreme heat - to develop a pilot project proposal. The proposal was approved in April. SECART has been working closely with NOAA West and the Integrated Heat Health Information System (NIHHIS) in OAR/CPO in development of the proposal and coordination of the implementation. The two focus localities in the west are Phoenix, AZ and Las Vegas, NV. SECART has led a series of scoping meetings (Jun, July) with key partners in each of Charleston and Miami. In June 2022, funds were provided to CIMAS for the Miami pilot and to SC Sea Grant Consortium for the Charleston pilot. In Aug and Sep 2022 each location gathered heat information in urban areas (actual data gathered differs in the two localities based on local needs). Data processing and summarization was started in late FY2022.

During Q1 we will continue community engagement from FY22 and work with expert teams to process, analyze, and integrate monitoring information with existing heat data for the locality. This information will then be used to design a tabletop exercise in each location that will explore heat risk, organization responsibilities, communications, and potential interventions to reduce heat risk to the population. Katie Krushinski (NOS/ORR/DPP) will lead the table top exercises. The tabletop exercise will occur late Q1 and Q2. A summary report of findings and recommendations will be produced for each of the exercises. The original proposal approved by NOAA Leadership contained a request for FY23 funds to help fund actual interventions to reduce heat risk.

**Comms / Outreach Plan:**

We will work with NOAA Comms to develop a pilot rollout for public release (Q1). In addition, we will develop other outreach materials to explain the intent and progress of the pilot project.

**Cost/Funding Source: \$0**

No SECART funds budgeted for the pilot project. FY23 funds provided by NOAA leadership.

**Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Q1- complete heat sampling in MIA and CHS
- Q1: Begin planning the tabletop exercises for MIA and CHS
- Q2: conduct the exercises in CHS (Jan) and MIA (Mar);
- Q3: complete exercise after action reports and recommendations;
- Q3: Distribute FY23 funds to partners to address recommendations
- Q4: Write summary report for the pilot project
- Q4: Write “how to” guide for engaging communities to address heat risk

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

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

### **Regional Collaboration Goal(s) Addressed:**

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

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

- Rebecca Ellin (NC DEQ)
- Dana Wusinich-Mendez (NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program)

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

- NOS OCM, NOS NCCOS, NOS ONMS, NMFS SEFSC, OAR, NOAA CRCP, SE and Caribbean State/Territory CZM, Coral and NERR programs

### **Situation or problem that this project will address:**

NOAA sponsors and hosts various fellowship programs that are intended to both provide support to the programs in which fellows are placed, as well as offer professional development and real work experience in marine and coastal ecosystem management and science to the next generation of conservation and management professionals. These fellows and scholars are placed with specific programs and may not have access to many relevant NOAA resources and personnel in the region. This project seeks to better connect NOAA fellows and scholars in the SE and Caribbean Region with a variety of NOAA offices and programs.

### **Target audience:**

- NOAA Fellows (e.g., Corals, Margaret A. Davidson, Coastal Management, Digital Coast, Hollings Scholars), State/ Territory CZ, NERR and Coral programs, ONMS, NMFS SEFSC, NOAA offices in the region hosting Hollings Scholars

### **Desired Outcomes/Benefits:**

- Increased knowledge for NOAA Fellows of and access to NOAA Programs across all LO's in the SE and Caribbean Region
- Increased awareness within SECART of fellowship programs and the work that fellows are conducting in NOAA offices and with State/ Territory partners.

**Approach:**

The goal of this activity is to connect NOAA Fellows (Coral Reef Management, Davidson, Coastal Management, 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.

**Comms / Outreach Plan:**

Summaries of the meet and greet event, fellow presentations to SECART, and fellow attendance at SECART meetings will be submitted for weekly collaboration stories and shared with NOAA Fellow program leads to utilize per their communications mechanisms. The activity leads will meet with the NOAA Fellow program leads periodically to coordinate communication to fellows and timing of events, and assess impact of the activity.

**Estimated Cost and Funding Source(s):** \$1000

\$1000 to support Fellows' travel to a SECART meeting.

**Key Project Milestones:**

- Q1/Q2 - reach out to fellows about possible participation in SECART meeting
- Q2 - possibly have fellow(s) attend the in-person SECART meeting (26-28 Mar 2023, St. Petersburg, FL)
- Q3/Q4 - virtual SECART/ NOAA fellows meet and greet event with Fellow presentations

**Activity C2. Coordination of NOAA's experimental marine research and infrastructure in the Southeast and Caribbean.****Regional Collaboration Goal(s) Addressed:**

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

**Lead(s):**

- Ian Enochs (NOAA/OAR/AOML)
- Todd Kellison (NOAA/NMFS/SEFSC)

- A.K. Leight (NOAA/NOS/NCCOS)

**Key Participants:**

NCCOS, NMFS, OAR

**Situation or problem that this project will address:**

Multiple LO's and NOAA labs conduct experiments with marine organisms in the SECART region, manipulating a diversity of environmental and biological parameters (e.g., warming, acidification, nutrients, turbidity, disease) in order to assess the physiology of important marine species (e.g, fishes, corals, etc). These experiments are critical for assessing resilience and predicting the responses of ecosystems and stocks to environmental change. While there is considerable overlap in the species and stressors involved, these activities are mostly siloed with little awareness of the species, targeted stressors, and associated methodologies conducted by groups across LO's and labs.

**Target audience:**

Internal NOAA Coordination and Collaboration.

**Desired Outcomes/Benefits:**

- In FY23, Leads will meet to identify POC's for each participating lab
- In FY23, Leads will reach out to POC's to identify needs and coordination priorities

**Approach:**

The approach is to 1. conduct a survey of groups within the region conducting experimental wet lab research and 2. facilitate a coordination meeting with the immediate goals of a. increasing awareness of infrastructure and expertise, b. identify gaps in capabilities that need to be enhanced in the region, c. identify projects and proposals to facilitate collaboration, especially to address region-scale problems in a coordinated manner, such as global warming, acidification, water quality, and disease.

**Comms / Outreach Plan:**

Communication with experimental research POC's will be done through targeted emails

**Estimated Cost and Funding Source(s): \$0**

**Key Project Milestones:**

- Project lead remote coordination and planning meeting
- Email to lab POC's to identify needs and coordination priorities

## **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 mission and regional capabilities

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

- Beth Dieveney (NOAA/NOS/ ONMS)
- Dana Wusinich-Mendez (NOAA/NOS/OCM),

### **Key Participants:**

- Dana Wusinich-Mendez (NOAA/NOS/OCM)
- Ginny Fay (NOAA/NMFS)
- Beth Dieveney (NOAA/NOS/ONMS)
- Scott Cross (NOAA/NESDIS/NCEI)
- Chris Taylor (NOAA/ NCCOS)
- Todd Kellison (NOAA/NMFS/SEFSC)

### **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:**

SECART (team and working group members), Southeast and Caribbean NOAA community, and relevant regional partners including State Coastal Zone Management Programs (CZMs), National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERRs), other state and federal agencies, fishery management councils, research partners, and non-governmental organizations among others

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

Improve access to NOAA expertise and data resources for decision making related to ecosystem management or coastal natural resources. This project team has identified specific areas for focus in FY2023

- Increase awareness of ecosystem level initiatives.
- Explore needs and opportunities for regional collaboration to support information sharing on ecosystem-related initiatives and trends in the Southeast and Caribbean



- Share information on the various NOAA products, services, and tools that support

### **Approach:**

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, through activities including but not limited to:

- Mapping:
  - Maintain awareness of habitat mapping activities in the SE and Caribbean region (new: ESRI Caribbean GeoPortal);
  - Environmental Sensitivity Index Maps;
- Ecosystem Level Initiatives:
  - Engage Habitat Focus Areas (FL, PR) to expand awareness of those efforts, track progress, and seek opportunities for collaboration,
  - Increase awareness of ecosystem-related restoration (e.g., Everglades restoration, Restoration Center projects, Mission: Iconic Reef)
  - Track progress and share updates related to the South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative, USACE South Atlantic Coastal Study, and the National Marine Ecosystem Status website / NOAA Ecosystem Indicator Working Group;
- Climate:
  - Maintain awareness of development of Climate Regional Action Plans 2.0;
- Research, Tools and Application to Ecosystems:
  - Monitor developments with the NOAA Uncrewed Systems Strategy and with UxS application and potential within their respective organizations.
  - Share research needs and monitoring priorities for HAB monitoring network;
- Emerging Issues and Opportunities:
  - Monitor offshore energy development and share updates where NOAA is engaged in planning, review or other initiatives.

### **Comms / Outreach Plan:**

Outreach from these activities will be communicated through weekly and annual reports to ReCo.

### **Cost/Funding Source: \$0**

No SECART funds required for this effort this year.

### **Key Milestones:**

These ad hoc activities will not carry key milestones.

## **Activity C4. Enhance awareness of and participation in NOAA UxS developments with regional applicability.**

### **Regional Collaboration Goal(s) Addressed:**

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

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

- Debra Hernandez (SECOORA)
- Chris Taylor (NOAA/NOS/NCCOS)
- Scott Cross (NOAA/NESDIS/NCEI)

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

SECOORA, NMFS (SEFSC and SERO), NOS (NCCOS, OCM, ONMS), OAR/AOML, OASOA, Colleagues in Gulf of Mexico Region

### **Situation or problem that this project will address:**

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 outlines several priorities including expanding use of UxS to improve efficiencies and safety in achieving NOAA's mission. For example, 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. A NERRS Catalyst Grant to incorporate drones into the vegetation/wetland habitat monitoring system has been funded. Drones would fill the gap between quadrat (1m) mapping and medium resolution full system mapping.

Stakeholders need support to understand the capabilities, applications, and utilization of rapidly evolving UxS sensors and platforms. The project would help to define best practices and approaches to bringing in drones to help map and monitor NERRS habitats. SECART (with SECOORA) coordinated a UxS workshop "Drones in the Coastal Zone" to gather partners from the SE and Caribbean. One outcome was a call for a Drones in the Coastal Zone (DITCZ) Community of Practice (CoP). The DITCZ CoP hosts quarterly meetings for UAS users across the SE and US Caribbean, led by a CoP steering committee and facilitated by SECOORA and NERRs and composed of representatives from NOAA, state agencies, academia, and private industry.

### **Target audience:**

Scientists, coastal managers, especially habitat managers, shoreline managers. Technical users of the technology and users or decision makers that require data products.

**Desired Outcomes/Benefits:**

- Enhanced regional awareness of NOAA UxS activities
- Increase awareness of UxS-related efforts across Southeast and Caribbean NOAA entities to increase collaboration and decrease duplication.
- Improved regional understanding for information sharing and networking in UxS across government, academic and industry partnerships

**Approach:**

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 updates from the "Drones in the Coastal Zone" Community of Practice that emerged from the workshop: 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.

The activity leads will:

- Monitor the Drones in the Coastal Zone Community of Practice
- Support planning and awareness of an in-person demonstration and field activity for DITCZ CoP members.
- Monitor developments with the NOAA Uncrewed Systems Strategy and with UxS application and potential within their respective organizations
- Explore the possibility of scheduling a webinar focused on the NOAA Uncrewed Systems Strategy, and potentially other UxS-related webinars.
- Share updates and webinar opportunities through SECART and partner networks
- Help formalize the best practices documentation from the NERRS Catalyst Grant and assist with outreach beyond the scope of the NERRS. Share results in the region (eg. webinars) highlighting the resulting documents, methodologies, and outcomes.

**Comms / Outreach Plan:**

- Provide updates to the SECART team regarding progress on the NERRS Catalyst Grant
- Provide updates to the SECART team regarding regional drone programs or initiatives

**Estimated Cost and Funding Source(s):** \$2500

Support federal travel for demonstrations and trainings in UAS Applications (est. Q3).

**Key Project Milestones:**

- Quarterly updates from the NERRS Catalyst Grant project will be shared with SECART
- At least one presentation to SECART focused on UxS activities in the Southeast and/or Caribbean.

## **Activity C5. Develop a GIS Community of Practice for Southeast Shellfish Management.**

### **Regional Collaboration Goal(s) Addressed:**

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

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

- John Schmidt (NOAA/NWS/SERFC)
- A.K. Leight (NOAA/NOS/NCCOS)

### **Key Participants:**

NOS/OCM, NOS/NCCOS, NWS/SERFC, state shellfish GIS specialists

### **Situation or problem that this project will address:**

Each state in the southeast has their own GIS services and tools for managing shellfish growing areas. Our SECRET-sponsored workshops highlighted a need to better coordinate these resources across states for improved inclusion of NOAA data and management.

### **Target audience:**

State shellfish sanitation and aquaculture entities.

### **Desired Outcomes/Benefits:**

- Coordination of data and knowledge sharing across shellfish GIS community
- Enhanced leveraging of NOAA data where appropriate

### **Approach:**

NOS/OCM has taken the lead on developing a working group of GIS specialists from the four southeast states. This group will meet in person and share ideas. An in-person meeting in FY23 would strengthen the collaboration.

### **Comms / Outreach Plan:**

- Development of a summary document of best-practices across states.
- Continued updates to SECART team.

### **Estimated Cost and Funding Source(s): \$4500**

\$4500 in travel support for 6 non-fed invitational travel and one federal traveler. Tentative location is Columbia, SC

**Key Project Milestones:**

- Quarterly meetings of group
- Planning and execution of workshop/training
- Report(s) to SECART

**Activity C6. Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Workshop with aquaculturists, including underserved communities.****Regional Collaboration Goal(s) Addressed:**

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

**Lead(s):**

- Steve Morton (NOAA/NOS/NCCOS)
- A.K. Leight (NOAA/NOS/NCCOS)

**Key Participants:**

NOS/NCCOS, state managers, local shellfish aquaculturists, and members of the Gullah/Geechee Nation.

**Situation or problem that this project will address:**

NOAA's Phytoplankton Monitoring Network (PMN) enhances the Nation's ability to respond to and manage the growing threat posed by HABs by collecting and documenting important data including phytoplankton species composition and distribution, as well as environmental conditions. In addition to the data that is collected, the PMN concept of linking scientists and volunteer groups has a proven track record of success of raising the awareness of HAB issues and research to a broad range of continuant groups

**Target audience:**

Shellfish aquaculturists (particularly those representing underserved communities), shellfish managers, HAB specialists

**Desired Outcomes/Benefits:**

- Knowledge transfer to stakeholders
- Increased citizen-science participation in NOAA HAB monitoring/reporting
- Community-building

**Approach:**

Through a SECART funded workshop we aim to expand this effort by bringing together state managers from North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, local shellfish aquaculturists and members of the Gullah/ Geechee nation. This two-day hands-on workshop would cover the importance of HABs and methods to monitor these species and their toxins.

**Comms / Outreach Plan:**

Workshop report to SECART; Post highlight on website and submit to leadership reports.

**Estimated Cost and Funding Source(s): \$4400**

\$4400 in travel support for ~8 individuals to attend the workshop at a NOAA facility in Charleston, SC.

**Key Project Milestones:**

- Monthly planning meetings
- Workshop - targeted for April 2023 in Charleston, SC
- Development of workshop report

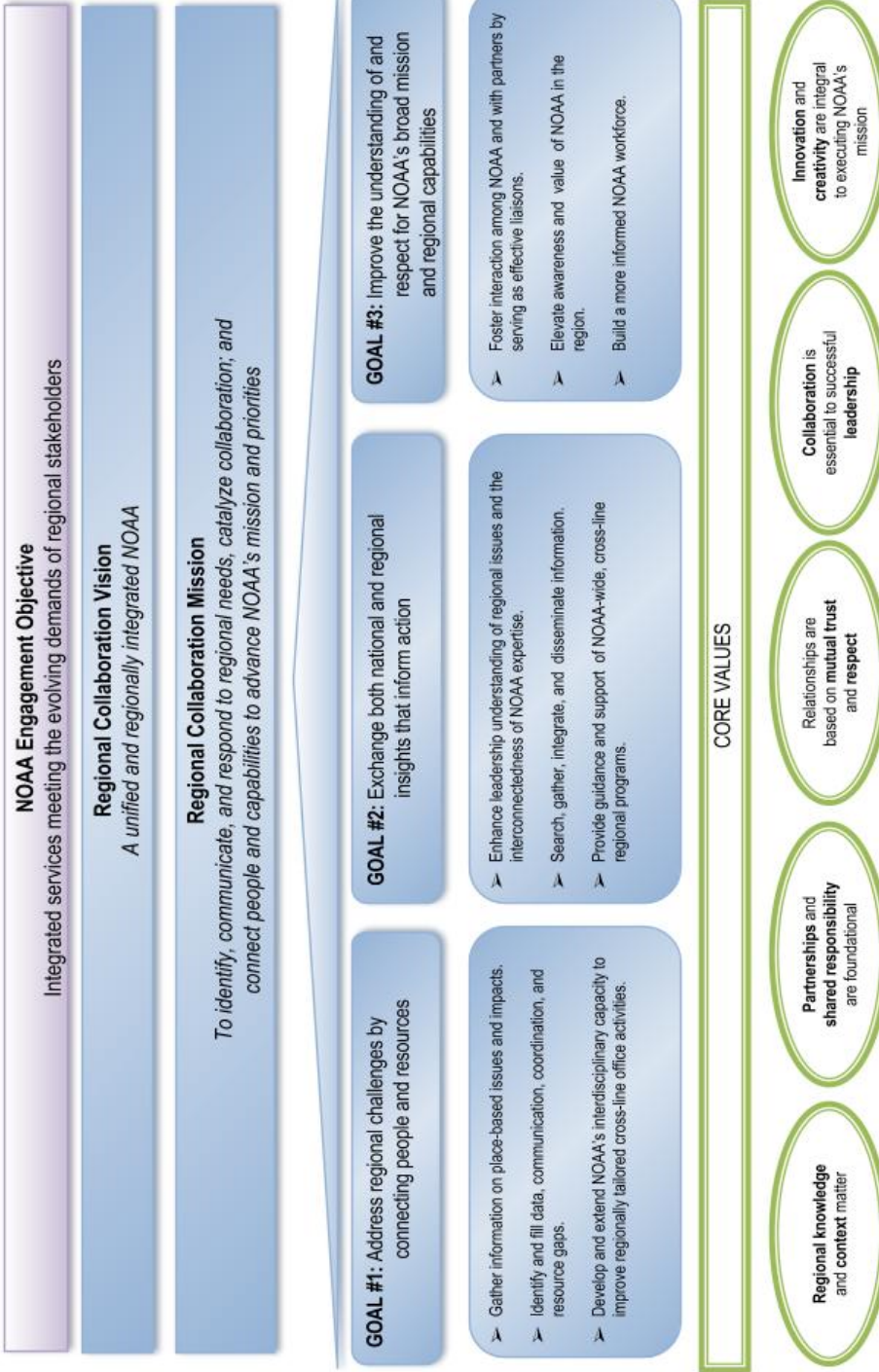
### III. Appendices

#### Appendix 1. Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team Membership (October 2022)

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# Appendix 2. Regional Collaboration Strategy

## Regional Collaboration Strategy 2016



Updated: July 2016



## **Appendix 3. NOAA’s Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team FY23-FY25 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, SCTLD, beneficial use of dredge material) and promote activities that reduce impacts from risks (e.g., nature-based infrastructure).

## Appendix 4. SECART FY2023 Spend Plan

<b>FY22 SECART Activities</b>	
<b>Priority/Activity</b>	<b>SECART FY22 Funds</b>
<b>Priority: Improve efficiency and effectiveness of NOAA’s mission execution through enhanced collaboration across NOAA offices and with partners.</b>	
Activity A1. Enhance NOAA’s mission through strategic engagement with regional partners	1500
Activity A2. Advance NOAA’s mission through engagement with the NOAA in the Caribbean Collaborative	5400
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.	1400
Activity A4. Promote an informed, skilled and diverse NOAA Workforce in the region.	1500
Activity A5. Engage with Congressional Staff to convey the value of NOAA and partner activities.	1800
Activity A6. Provide organization, coordination, and leadership for SECART to be effective in accomplishing its mission.	8000
Activity A7. Improve the capacity of NOAA’s inter-regional and national integrated services	7200
<b>Priority: Improve Economic, Environmental, and Social Resilience of Communities to Weather, Water, and Climate Impacts</b>	
Activity B1. Resilience Webinar Series	0
Activity B2. Build regional resilience through the Southeast and Caribbean Disaster Resilience Partnership	4300
Activity B3. Disaster Resilience: Guide to Integrated NOAA Disaster Resilience in the Southeast and Caribbean Region	0
Activity B4. Improving Disaster Resilience in the Southeast and Caribbean Region: Exercise with Partners for Large Scale Disasters	4000
Activity B5. Disaster Resilience: Addressing previously identified needs and sharing NOAA relevant information.	0
B6. Climate and Equity Roundtables	0

<b>Priority: Promote the sustainability of the region’s living marine resources and the habitats upon which they depend.</b>	
Activity C1. Connecting NOAA Fellows with SECART	1000
Activity C2. Coordination of NOAA’s experimental marine research and infrastructure in the Southeast and Caribbean	2500
Activity C3. Improve awareness of NOAA resources and capabilities to address ecosystem issues in the SE and Caribbean	0
Activity C4. Enhance awareness of and participation in NOAA UxS developments with regional applicability	2500
Activity C5. Develop a GIS Community of Practice for Southeast Shellfish Management	4500
Activity C6. Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Workshop with aquaculturists, including underserved communities	4400
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,000</b>