

NOAA's Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team FY19 - FY22 Strategic Priorities

Through engagement, integration, and innovation, NOAA's Regional Collaboration Network improves cooperation among the NOAA Line Offices and partner entities to more effectively address our shared regional challenges and respond to emerging opportunities. Regional Collaboration expands on existing coordination and communication efforts by enhancing program integration activities to address NOAA's priorities at regional scales, thereby improving productivity and value to constituents. NOAA's Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team (SECART) network creates means for people to engage at a regional scale (NC, SC, GA, FL, PR, and USVI) and invites new approaches to develop products and services that are responsive to the region's changing economy and environment. SECART has identified three priority areas for action over the period FY19-22: engaging NOAA staff and partners; improving resilience of communities; and sustaining the region's marine and coastal resources. This strategy is responsive to NOAA's priorities and the Regional Collaboration Network strategy.

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

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

- Identify information, communication, coordination, and resource gaps and identify solutions for closing the gaps;
- Understand the capabilities of NOAA and its partners within the region and facilitate bringing those capabilities to bear on priority regional issues, consistent with NOAA's mission;
- Convene NOAA and partners together to address specific regional priorities;
- Support and engage regional partnerships to efficiently address shared goals.

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

- Enhance NOAA leadership's understanding of the region's issues and NOAA capabilities in the region;
- Promote improved understanding of the region's unique needs, capabilities, and contributions as related to NOAA's priorities (Coastal and Ocean Economy, Severe Weather Impacts, and Earth Observations);
- Help regional staff and partners understand NOAA's mission, goals, capabilities and constraints;
- Provide guidance and support in the regional development and implementation of NOAA-wide programs.

Goal 3: Improve awareness of NOAA's broad mission responsibilities and regional capabilities to achieve an understanding of, and respect for, the totality of NOAA's work.

- Elevate the awareness and value of NOAA through strategic partnerships, outreach, and communication, including outreach to elected officials and staff;
- Build NOAA's interdisciplinary capacity and organizational integration;
- Assist in developing and tailoring engagement strategies for the regional implementation of national priorities.

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

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

- Collect, analyze, and evaluate the resiliency related needs of partners and users in the region to inform and focus research and development efforts to help address the issues;
- Connect people and resources to enhance existing and develop new products and services;
- Encourage and facilitate the transition of research to develop societally relevant applications.

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

- Support delivery of resilience-relevant information to communities;
- Facilitate the application of science and tools in communities;
- Support opportunities to bring customer needs for risk identification and the development of mitigation and adaptation strategies to the attention of NOAA.

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

- Identify agency capabilities within the region to prepare for and respond to disasters;
- Improve communication among appropriate NOAA entities both within and outside the region building a better understanding of capabilities and roles during a disaster response.

Priority Area: Promote the sustainability of the region's living marine resources and habitats as key contributors to the nation's economy

Goal 1: Increase the effectiveness of coastal and marine habitat 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;
- Improve awareness of NOAA's mapping activities in the region and access to mapping products;
- Promote regional habitat conservation initiatives in the US Southeast and Caribbean (e.g., NOAA's Habitat Blueprint Framework and NC Sentinel Site Cooperative).

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

- Improve regional awareness of impacts from human activities and climate variability (including extreme weather events), on natural systems;
- Identify and prioritize emerging regional needs (e.g., marine debris) and promote activities that address risks (e.g., nature-based infrastructure).