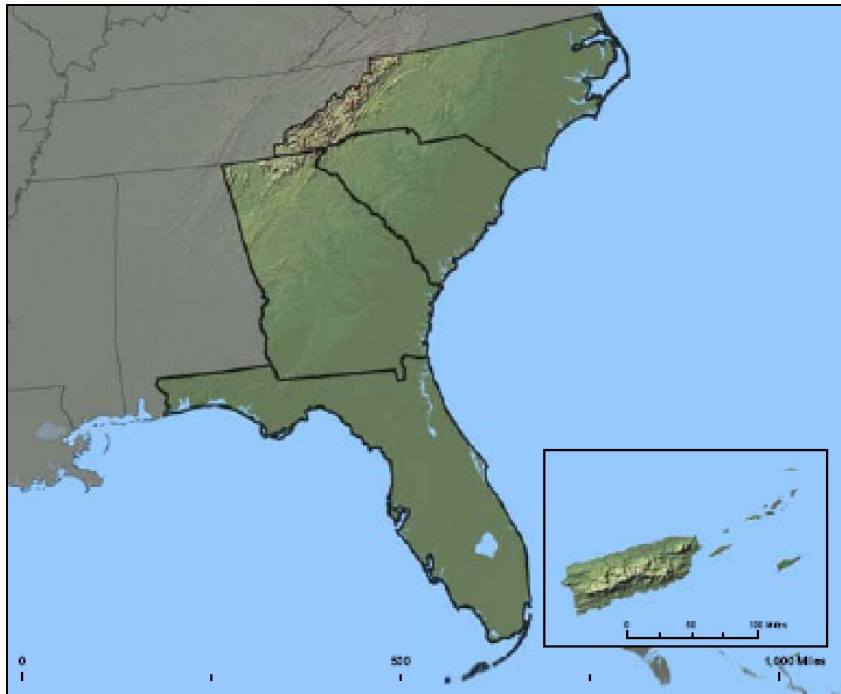


# FY 2019 Operating Plan

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## Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team

### National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration



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

October 2018

# Contents

<b>I. Introduction</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>II. Team Activities</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>SECART Priority: Improve efficiency and effectiveness of NOAA’s mission-execution through enhanced collaboration across NOAA offices and with partners</b>	<b>4</b>
Activity A1. Enhance NOAA’s mission through strategic engagement with regional partners.	4
Activity A2. Advance NOAA’s mission through engagement with the NOAA in the Caribbean Collaborative and promote implementation of the NOAA Caribbean Strategy	7
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.	9
Activity A4. Enhance the capacity of SECART to lead organizational integration within the region	12
Activity A5. Improve the capacity of NOAA’s inter-regional and national integrated services	14
<b>SECART Priority: Improve resilience of communities to extreme events and climate change</b>	<b>16</b>
Activity B1. Resilience Webinar Series	16
Activity B2. Engage and support the Southeast and Caribbean Climate Community of Practice.	18
Activity B3. Improve NOAA’s emergency response posture to large scale disasters in the Southeast and Caribbean region	20
Activity B4. Supporting the Southeast Regional Climate Quarterly Outlook	22
Activity B5. Fostering public-private partnerships in the Southeastern U.S. and Caribbean to advance resiliency and disaster recovery.	23
<b>SECART Priority: Promote the sustainability of the region’s living marine resources and the habitats upon which they depend</b>	<b>26</b>
Activity C1. Improving coordination and prioritization of seafloor mapping in the Southeast Region	26
Activity C2. Support NC Sentinel Site Cooperative: Planning for FY2019 Science Symposium at the NC Coastal Conference	28
Activity C3. Improve awareness of NOAA resources and capabilities to address ecosystem issues in the SE and Caribbean	30
Activity C4. Support for rollout of the Southeast Atlantic Ecosystem Status Report	32
Activity C5. Coral Disease Outbreak Visual Aid for the Caribbean	33
Activity C6. Precipitation data Post-processing and Download for Regional Water Quality and Aquaculture Applications	35
<b>Section III. Appendices</b>	<b>37</b>
Appendix 1. Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team Membership (Oct 2018)	37
Appendix 2. Regional Collaboration Strategy	38
Appendix 3. SECART FY19-22 Strategic Priorities	39
Appendix 4. SECART FY2019 Spend Plan	42

# I. Introduction

NOAA's regional collaboration network seeks to improve NOAA's productivity and value to customers by articulating and acting on the broader NOAA goals in terms of priority regional needs and regional contributions.

NOAA's regional collaboration network comprises eight regional teams plus support/engagement through NOAA Headquarters and Line Offices. The Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team (SECART) covers NC, SC, GA, FL, PR, and USVI. The team is currently composed of 21 members representing geographic and topical diversity of NOAA staff and partners within the region (Appendix 1).

## Department and Agency Priorities

As an agency within the US Department of Commerce (DoC), activities of NOAA fall within and support the Department's [FY18-22 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.

In addition, NOAA's near-term priorities, as expressed by RDML Timothy Gallaudet, PhD, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, are as follows:

- (1) leading the world in Earth system observation and weather prediction,
- (2) minimizing impacts from severe weather, and
- (3) increasing sustainable economic contributions of U.S. fisheries and oceans.

## Regional Collaboration Strategy

In 2014, the Regional Collaboration Network completed (and revised in 2016) a "strategy map" to articulate its vision, mission, goals, and strategies to meet its objective in the NOAA Strategy: "Integrated services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders." The Regional Collaboration Network's Strategy map is included in this document as Appendix 2.

## SECART Priorities

NOAA's Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team (SECART) has identified its priorities for FY19-22. These priorities are consistent with NOAA Goals and Regional Collaboration priorities but focus on current issues in the Southeast and Caribbean Region. These are:

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

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

- Goal: Exchange both national and regional insights that inform action
- Goal: Improve awareness of NOAA's broad mission responsibilities and regional capabilities to achieve an understanding of, and respect for, the totality of NOAA's work

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

- Goal: Facilitate the development of emerging science and technology, enabling regional stakeholders to better plan for, respond, and adapt to the risks posed by extreme weather, water, and climate hazards and impacts.
- Goal. Facilitate the application of products, services, and knowledge to enhance the capacity of communities to understand, plan for, adapt and respond to risks posed by extreme weather at different time scales.
- Goal: Enhance organizational awareness and coordination within the region to improve preparation for and response to disasters.

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

- Goal: Increase the effectiveness of coastal and marine habitat conservation and restoration
- Goal: Enhance awareness of risks to living marine resources and habitats

The full SECART FY19-22 Strategy is presented as Appendix 3.

**Annual Operating Plan Purpose and Organization**

*Purpose*

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

*Organization*

This AOP for FY2019 addresses national and regional priorities by utilizing an integrative, cross-line office approach, with an emphasis on enhancing coordination and communication within the region. The priority activities of SECART are organized according to the three SECART priorities mentioned above. Activities may address multiple priorities and goals, but are organized within a single priority for the purposes of the AOP. Activity descriptions and milestones provide information about the purpose, scope, partners, budget, and expected results.

Regional Collaboration funding from NOAA (\$50K) has been allocated to enable SECART to address these priorities. Annual funding for SECART work has been and will continue to be augmented and leveraged through other programs and funding opportunities. SECART's FY2019 spend plan is presented in Appendix 4.

## II. Team Activities

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

#### **Activity A1. Enhance NOAA's mission through strategic engagement with regional partners.**

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

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

##### **Leads:**

- Geno Olmi ([Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov](mailto:Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov))
- Virginia Fay ([Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov](mailto:Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov))
- Scott Cross ([Scott.Cross@noaa.gov](mailto:Scott.Cross@noaa.gov))
- FEMA component: Bill O'Beirne, Jeff Payne, Rebecca Ellin, Dana Wusinich-Mendez

##### **Key Participants:**

- State and federal agencies and programs;
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs): South Atlantic, Peninsular Florida, and Caribbean.
- Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA) and the Caribbean Regional Association for Ocean Observing (CaRA)
- Sea Grant programs in the region (NC, SC, GA, FL, PR)
- The Nature Conservancy and other non-governmental organizations
- Southeast Ocean and Coastal Acidification Network
- Habitat Focus Areas in Biscayne Bay, FL and Northeast Reserves/Culebra, PR
- Southeast Marine Debris Regional Workshop

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

NOAA has many formal and informal partners in the region who share NOAA's issues and priorities. Addressing these issues in an effective and efficient manner requires regular coordination.

Currently, either FEMA post or pre-event mitigation funding has been used extensively to support hard engineered infrastructure, improved building codes, elevation of structures, etc to reduce future flood/storm surge risk to coastal structures. Alternatively, many offices in NOAA have been promoting the use of natural or nature based infrastructure (NNBI), e.g., living shorelines, maintain restore or at times create coral reefs, wetlands, mangroves to both reduce future flooding and storm surge while avoiding adverse impacts from some Gray infrastructure to, or enhancing natural habitats and other beneficial ecosystem functions. The biggest hurdle for individuals, communities or state or local govts to obtain FEMA mitigation funding is having to develop a Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) that meets FEMA's fairly stringent requirements.

**Target audience:**

Primary partners include long-term NOAA partners such as state CZM, NERR, and Sea Grant programs, Cooperative Institutes, Regional Climate Centers, RISAs and more. NOAA also works with other federal agencies to accomplish shared objectives.

For FY19, SECART will have a special focus on: Facilitating NOAA/NOAA Partner Engagement with FEMA to promote understanding of and enhance potential FEMA mitigation funding for natural and Nature Based Infrastructure; by engaging relevant NOAA staff.

**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:**

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 workplan. Some of these partnerships are long-term relationships, while others may develop for specific issues or activities. Some of the partnerships that we expect to engage in FY18 include: Sea Grant Programs in the region, South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative, NOAA Habitat Focus Areas (2), Southeastern Estuarine Research Society, TNC, Caribbean Regional Association / Caribbean Coastal Ocean Observing System, and Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association.

NOAA Offices will be holding discussions and/or webinars to educate FEMA (national and region) on the flood/risk reduction benefits and costs of natural and nature based infrastructure, (NNBI) e.g., coral reefs, wetlands, mangroves, beaches and dunes, so that funding of restoration of NNBI so that individuals, communities can use FEMA mitigation funding to support creation restoration of NNBI to reduce risk and increase resilience. SECART will assist these offices with identification of appropriate NOAA NNI experts that can and should be part of these conversations, webin

**Cost/Funding Source: \$2000**

\$2000 of SECART funds. \$1000 to support team member travel to regional workshops and/or partner meetings, and \$1000 to support Regional Coordinator travel to partnership-related travel; in kind support by RC and other team members during engagement with regional partnerships. FEMA coordination will be done without funding this year.

**Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- SECART members will identify appropriate NOAA experts to participate in these partnerships as appropriate and look to identify opportunities for engagement, if beneficial to NOAA's mission in the region (Q1-4)
- Represent NOAA on the Steering Committees of the South Atlantic LCC and remain cognizant of the activities of the Peninsular Florida and Caribbean LCC (Q1-4).
- Effectively communicate activities, projects, and opportunities to relevant NOAA programs, offices, and the Regional Collaboration Teams
- Increase engagement with the Biscayne Bay Habitat Focus Area Implementation Team and the Northeast Reserves and Culebra HFA in Puerto Rico (Q 1-4)
- Maintain and enhance engagement with the NC Sentinel Site Cooperative (Q1-4).
- Serve as a NOAA contact for Sea Grant Programs in the region (Q1-4)
- Identify and facilitate opportunities for NOAA-FEMA engagement regarding natural and nature-based infrastructure.(Q1-4)

## **Activity A2. Advance NOAA's mission through engagement with the NOAA in the Caribbean Collaborative and promote implementation of the NOAA Caribbean Strategy**

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

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

### **Leads:**

- Erica Nunez ([Erica.Nunez@noaa.gov](mailto:Erica.Nunez@noaa.gov))
- Makeda Okolo ([Makeda.Okolo@noaa.gov](mailto:Makeda.Okolo@noaa.gov))
- Bill O'Beirne ([Bill.OBeirne@noaa.gov](mailto:Bill.OBeirne@noaa.gov))
- Geno Olmi ([geno.olmi@noaa.gov](mailto:geno.olmi@noaa.gov))
- Elizabeth Clark ([Elizabeth.Clark@noaa.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Clark@noaa.gov))

### **Key Participants:**

NOAA in the Caribbean Steering Committee which includes, in addition to NOAA staff, Puerto Rico & USVI Coastal Management Programs, Caribbean Fisheries Management Council, Caribbean Landscape Conservation Cooperative, The Nature Conservancy, and others.

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

Because of differences in culture, infrastructure, and resources, it is important for NOAA to provide focused attention to address issues of concern to the agency, in collaboration with U. S. Caribbean partners.

### **Target audience:**

NOAA offices and staff in the Caribbean and partners including the PR and VI Coastal Zone Programs, the PR Sea Grant Program, the Caribbean Fisheries Management Council, and others, such as recipients of Coral Reef Conservation Program funding.

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

The NOAA Caribbean Collaborative facilitates improved communication and collaboration with NOAA offices and partners in the US Caribbean and broader Caribbean basin. The NOAA Carib Newsletter reaches a wide audience and highlights NOAA products and services in the region. The Collaborative improves progress toward accomplishing the goals of the NOAA Caribbean Strategy.



**Approach:**

NOAA has a broad portfolio of activities in the Caribbean region, both nationally and internationally. Given the extent of locations, mission, and partners throughout the region, communication and coordination can be challenging. NOAA's Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team (SECART) initiated NOAA in the Caribbean (NOAA Carib) with the goal of identifying and responding to local and regional challenges, needs, and opportunities in the Caribbean region through collaboration across NOAA and with non-NOAA partners.

- Participate in and support the NOAA in the Caribbean Steering Committee.
- Work with the NOAA Carib Steering Committee to maintain production of the NOAA in the Caribbean Newsletter.
- Participate with the NOAA in the Caribbean Steering Committee to identify strategies for enhancing value of NOAA Carib to our NOAA staff and partners in the region.
- Provide funds to support products and services of the NOAA Caribbean Collaborative
- Advance specific short-term implementation of the goals of the NOAA Caribbean Strategy
- Plan and execute a FY19 workshop/training to meet needs of local partners.

**Cost/Funding Source: \$5200**

\$5200 of SECART funds. \$3500 for Newsletter translation to Spanish (to PR Sea Grant via National Sea Grant); \$1700 for Coordinator travel to workshop. Note: SECART (\$4500) and OCM (\$15,000) provided FY18 funds to CIMAS to engage their institute partners in executing the workshop/training in FY19.

**Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- Assist the NOAA Carib Steering Team with the development and delivery of four issues of the NOAA in the Caribbean Newsletter (Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4) through participation on the editorial committee and funding of Spanish translation services.
- Participate in the planning and execution of the next NOAA Carib meeting in FY19 - a workshop/training focusing on green infrastructure options to improve resilience (Q1-3); initial planning targeting xxx.
- Continue participation on NOAA Carib Steering Committee and Executive Committee (Q1-4)

## **Activity A3. Represent NOAA's broad mission capabilities and accomplishments in the region and facilitate two-way flow of information between the region and NOAA leadership.**

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

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

### **Leaders:**

- Geno Olmi ([Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov](mailto:Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov))
- Virginia Fay ([Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov](mailto:Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov))
- Sunny Snider ([Sunny.Snider@noaa.gov](mailto:Sunny.Snider@noaa.gov))

### **Key Participants:**

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

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

NOAA staff in the region are necessarily focused on their particular job function, but to the extent that they better understand the totality of NOAA's mission and what other NOAA staff in the region are doing, the better equipped they are to represent NOAA. Similarly, it is to NOAA's benefit that our partners and stakeholders are more aware of how NOAA works to improve their lives.

### **Target audience:**

The target audience for this activity are those affected by or benefits from NOAA's products and services, including NOAA staff and partners, but also including stakeholders such as congressional staff and the public.

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

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

### **Approach:**

Regional collaboration teams are one of the few entities within NOAA, and especially within the

regions, that represent all of NOAA. A role of SECART is to expand awareness of NOAA's mission responsibilities, capabilities and accomplishments, as an agency, not just for a particular office.

#### *Communicating Regional Programs and Priorities*

SECART will conduct a number of communications and outreach activities targeted at promoting awareness and understanding of NOAA's varying capabilities, services and programmatic priorities as they relate to regional and national priorities; and gather feedback to improve products and services. SECART will continue to build, maintain or enhance "One-NOAA in the region" outreach/inreach materials and tools previously initiated, such as regional factsheets, presentations, and the SECART website. SECART outreach and communications activities will require the support, input and feedback of the full SECART team.

SECART will engage regularly with NOAA staff and partners in the region to maintain an understanding of programs and priorities, and utilize this information (regional intelligence) to inform NOAA understanding and programming. We will also help convey NOAA priorities to staff and partners; enable implementation of NOAA priorities in the region, including initiatives such as Habitat Blueprint and Sentinel Site Cooperatives.

#### *Congressional Roundtable event(s)*

SECART has hosted two "congressional roundtable" events - Miami, FL in May 2016, and Beaufort, NC in August 2017. The purpose of such events is to expand awareness of NOAA's impact in a particular state or sub-region. NOAA staff were "paired" with partners and stakeholders (university, state and local agency, private sector, non-profit) to educate Congressional district staff about timely and relevant issues in their region. The goal of the briefings is to show how NOAA provides products, services, and information to address an issue, and how stakeholders then use that information to inform actions related to the issue. An outcome of this activity is to make district staff more aware of the depth and breadth of NOAA's mission and partnerships in the region. In FY19, we will host our third such event, likely in SC or GA. The focus is TBD but likely to highlight coastal resilience and/or marine transportation.

#### *Supporting NOAA Leadership and National Initiatives*

NOAA Leadership (including Line Office leadership) travels to the regions to attend events (conferences, dedications, etc.), to meet with stakeholders, and to engage with NOAA staff. Regional Collaboration Teams can provide valuable logistical and information intelligence to improve the value of such visits. Regional Coordinators have established a relationship with the Program Coordination Office and the Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs to better assist in

planning and execution of such visits. SECART will provide such assistance when NOAA Leadership visits the region.

The objectives of this activity are to:

- Engage with regional staff, partners, and stakeholders to strengthen collaborative ties and build awareness in the region of NOAA's mission responsibilities and capabilities
- Through this enhanced awareness, spur additional communication, coordination and collaboration among NOAA staff and with partners and stakeholders.
- Utilize outreach materials to enhance such awareness of NOAA work in the region
- Conduct, one "congressional roundtable" briefing in the region to showcase local and state engagement with NOAA and use of NOAA's products and services.
- Identify any regional emerging issues that NOAA should be aware of and communicate that information to NOAA leadership
- Serve NOAA and the Department of Commerce as needed for requests for information and services from the region
- Represent NOAA in the region
- Assist in enhancing the value of visits to the region by NOAA Leadership

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$3000

\$3000 from SECART funds. \$2000 for costs associated with congressional roundtable event, including travel of RTL and participants. \$1000 for RC travel related to this activity. In kind support from SECART members; coordinator travel for outreach captured under other regional enterprise categories.

**Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- Occasional updates to HQ for accomplishments, regional news and upcoming events (Q1-4)
- As needed assistance to enhance NOAA leadership visits to the region; enhance leadership visits to the region by providing "local" intelligence with an inclusive perspective (Q1-4).
- Engage with NOAA staff and partners to understand regional issues and concerns
- Respond to specific requests for information or support from NOAA HQ or DOC (Q1-4)
- Inform HQ of issues, concerns and events important to the region (Q1 – Q4)
- Stay aware of regional events and issues of interest to NOAA (Q1-4)
- Develop slide deck with overview of SECART, FY17 accomplishments, and FY18 activities to use for outreach (Q1)
- Update "NOAA in region" fact sheet, including SECART's FY18 activities (Q1-2)
- Enhance SECART web site (Q1 – Q4)

- Meet with NOAA staff and partners in region to enhance awareness of NOAA's responsibilities and capabilities within the region (Q1-4)
- Conduct one "congressional roundtable" briefing (Q3)
- Monitor and assist SECART working groups with outreach support as needed (Q1 – Q4)

### **Activity A4. Enhance the capacity of SECART to lead organizational integration within the region**

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

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

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

- Geno Olmi (SECART Coordinator)
- Virginia Fay (NMFS, Team Lead)
- Scott Cross (NESDIS, Vice Team Lead)
- Dana Wusinich-Mendez (NOS, Workgroup Co-lead)
- Scott Lokken (NOS, Workgroup Co-Lead)
- Bill O'Beirne (NOS, Workgroup Co-Lead)
- Rebecca Ellin (NC DENR, Workgroup Co-Lead)

#### **Key participants:**

SECART members and collaborators on specific activities

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

For SECART to be successful, there must be organization and communication to ensure that work plans are implemented and that opportunities within the region are unearthed and pursued.

#### **Target audience:**

The 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:**

SECART must have regular and effective coordination and communication. SECART maintains monthly conference calls and semi-annual face-to-face or virtual meetings as the key opportunities to exchange information and discuss SECART's mission, strategy, and effectiveness. SECART continues to refine the purpose and format of meetings to be more productive and efficient.

During FY19, SECART will hold monthly conference calls and one or two face-to-face meetings (TBD). We are tentatively planning meet with partners in the US Caribbean (for the first time in 10 years and first time ever in USVI). The SECART Leadership Team (Team Leads, Coordinator, and work group leads) has weekly calls to guide direction and maintain momentum.

The objectives of this activity are to:

- Maintain and improve communication and coordination of the regional team
- Manage and improve team operations
- Maintain and enhance priority area work groups
- Complete the FY19 Operating Plan (Q1)
- Effectively execute the FY19 Operating Plan
- Begin development of the FY20 Operating Plan (Q4)
- Facilitate team functioning to achieve better coordination and integration within the region.

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$13,500

SECART has decided to return to the US Caribbean for its in-person meeting for the first time in 10 years. We will likely hold only one in-person meeting this year because of anticipated costs of engaging with NOAA staff and partners on either PR or VI. We will scope the costs early in Q1 and make a final determination. If only one in-person meeting, we will likely hold a virtual meeting in Q4 to complete FY20 planning. \$12,000 to support team member travel to in-person SECART meeting(s) (if their LO is unable to cover travel costs); \$1500 for Regional Coordinator travel in support of team operations; in-kind support provided in team member time.

**Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- Complete FY19 Annual Operating Plan with spend plan (Q1)
- Present AOP to the Advisory Group (Q1)
- Draft FY20 Annual Operating Plan with spend plan (Q4)
- SECART in-person meeting (Q3)
- Virtual SECART meeting (Q4)
- Convene monthly team calls and distribute notes (Q1 – Q4)
- Accomplish FY19 Work Plan (Q1 – Q4)

## **Activity A5. Improve the capacity of NOAA's inter-regional and national integrated services**

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

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

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

- Geno Olmi ([Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov](mailto:Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov))
- Virginia Fay ([Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov](mailto:Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov))
- Scott Cross ([Scott.Cross@noaa.gov](mailto:Scott.Cross@noaa.gov))

### **Key Participants:**

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

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

SECART is but one of eight NOAA Regional Collaboration Teams. For the broader network to be successful, there must be organization and communication to ensure that regions are addressing NOAA priorities and that best practices within regions are shared among regions.

### **Target audience:**

The target audience for this activity is the Regional Collaboration Network, including ReCo HQ and the other Regional Collaboration Teams. NOAA Leadership is also an audience of this activity.

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

This activity will result in the Regional Collaboration Network being an effective mechanism to enhance NOAA's services nationally.

### **Approach:**

Regional collaboration is a network of networks and it is imperative to maintain the networks at all levels: within the region, but also nationally. SECART will work closely with the other regional teams, ReCo HQ (Louisa and Meredith), and the NEP to advance regional collaboration at all levels.

SECART will remain active in bi-weekly Regional Coordinator calls, monthly Regional Team Lead

calls, and other activities that serve to coordinate and integrate the network. The SECART Team Lead and RC will help plan, and participate in, the annual Regional Collaboration Workshop. The SECART RC will help plan and participate in the annual RC meeting. Finally, SECART will explore opportunities to work with the North Atlantic Regional Team and the Gulf of Mexico Regional Team to identify fruitful areas of integration.

The objectives of this activity are to:

- Improve inter-regional coordination and identify any regional emerging issues that SECART can help address
- Support the NEP and ReCo HQ in oversight responsibilities, and influence strategic direction setting, for NOAA regional collaboration
- Help plan and execute the annual Regional Coordinator meeting
- Help plan and execute the annual Regional Collaboration Workshop (Feb)
- Continue participation in network-wide coordination activities (calls, meetings, etc.)
- Pursue opportunities for cross-regional coordination on topics of mutual interest

**Cost/Funding Source: \$4600**

\$3200 for travel to ReCo workshop (RC and RTL) and \$1400 for RC travel to annual meeting.

Locations of the FY19 ReCo Workshop and RC Annual Meeting have not yet been identified; ReCo Workshop is likely to be east coast. RC travel to Silver Spring if funds available.

**Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- Regional Coordinator meeting (Q3)
- National Regional Collaboration Workshop (Q2)
- Quarterly and annual reports of accomplishments (Q1-4)
- Participate in bi-weekly Regional Coordinator calls (Q1 – Q4)
- Participate in monthly Regional Team Lead calls (Q1 – Q4)
- Support ReCo HQ as needed to further regional collaboration (Q1 – Q4)
- Contribute to development of a ReCo Communications Strategy (Q1-3)
- Explore opportunities with the NART and GoMRCT for better coordination on topics of mutual interest. (Q1-4)



# **SECART Priority: Improve resilience of communities to extreme events and climate change**

## **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 ([Shirley.Murillo@noaa.gov](mailto:Shirley.Murillo@noaa.gov))

Chip Kasper ([Kenard.Kasper@noaa.gov](mailto:Kenard.Kasper@noaa.gov))

### **Key Participants:**

Dan Brown (NHC Specialist)

Chip Konrad (Director, Southeast Regional Climate Center)

Roberto Garcia (MIC WFO San Juan)

John Schmidt (SERFC, Atlanta)

Ellen Mecray (Regional Climate Services)

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

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 such large audiences of key partners. Also, by advertising the entire themed series of webinars as a unit, we increased coordination and participation in the entire series across Line Office stakeholder groups.

### **Target audience:**

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

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

Through these webinar series, SECART facilitates the understanding of the latest products, services, and research NOAA produces to enhance the capacity of communities to, plan for, and respond to

risks posed by hurricanes. Targeted outreach and communication efforts facilitate delivery of resilience-relevant information to communities in the hurricane impacted regions.

**Approach:**

Webinars are a cost-effective, innovative tool to educate key partners and constituents about NOAA forecast products such as the seasonal climate outlook, improvements in hurricane and storm surge forecasting efforts, or potentially other hazards, while promoting awareness of cross line office activities and SECART involvement. Over the past four years, the reach of this project has grown by increasing audience size and including Spanish language versions. Topics have also expanded to better reflect the contributions of multiple line offices and partners that culminate in improved NOAA products and services that support resilience to extreme weather. This year we will expand the series to be a quarterly webinar, where the May quarterly webinar will be a series focussed on hurricanes. Other topics (e.g., heat waves, tornadoes, drought, flooding, lightning) will be finalized in Q1.

Our objectives for FY19 will be to continue to educate audiences about updates to NOAA’s hurricane forecast products, prediction of associated impacts such as rainfall, and the research and lessons learned from recent storms and how NOAA is improving as a result. As hurricanes affect the entire east coast of the United States, we plan to continue to advertise the hurricane webinars through the NART and Gulf Regions regions as well as the SECART region. We will leverage the WFO’s in these region to advertise the webinars to the relevant stakeholders and partners. Need to work with Warning Coordination Meteorologists to make sure we are effectively marketing the series. Sea Grant will also help market in their network.

Topics will continue to include NHC forecasts, and local WFO forecasts, for both hurricane wind, storm surge, rainfall, and flood forecasting. As NWS continues to focus on improving effective communication of forecasts, risk, and uncertainty, we will identify topics that help. All webinars will continue to be recorded and posted on the SECART website, along with presentation materials, as a resource. Projects Quarterly Fall Winter spring - schedule out Sept.

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

No SECART funds committed to this effort. SECART will leverage existing staff expertise within the region to plan and execute the webinars.

**Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

One webinar in Q1, Q2, and Q4 (topics TBD)

Hurricane themed series of webinars in Q3 (May-June 2019)

## **Activity B2. Engage and support the Southeast and Caribbean Climate Community of Practice.**

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

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

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

Geno Olmi

Ellen Mecray

Rick Devoe

Amanda Farris (Carolinas Integrated Science Assessments)

### **Key Participants:**

Chip Konrad (Southeast Region Climate Center)

Climate CoP Steering Committee

Bill O'Beirne (NOS/OCM)

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

Climate change is a complex phenomenon in terms of understanding the science and consequences and understanding options to mitigate the impacts. The Climate CoP provides a forum for interested individuals (communicators, planners, scientists, etc) to share information and approaches and develop partnerships to support their activities. The CCOP has hosted a bi-annual workshop and created other tools and information sources to support practitioners in the region. SECART, working with Sea Grant programs, the NERRS, CISA and other entities, will facilitate an in-person workshop in FY19 to support NOAA's goals of resilient coastal communities.

### **Target audience:**

Southeast and Caribbean Climate CoP participants and other climate practitioners in the region.

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

Supporting the Climate CoP workshop in planning and delivery will facilitate the sharing and transfer of actionable information, and build the community of practice to serve as a resource for the region.

**Approach:**

The Southeast and Caribbean Climate Community of Practice (CoP) brings together individuals from local, state, and federal governments, academia, non-profit organizations and the private sector to apply climate science and assess how coastal communities and ecosystems can adapt to the impacts of climate variability and change. The Climate CoP provides a forum for sharing lessons learned and best practices related to climate communication and adaptation. The Climate CoP also provides education and networking opportunities to its members and their stakeholders to increase knowledge and awareness of climate science and to coordinate and perform outreach, extension and communication related to climate change and its impacts in the Southeast and Caribbean region.

In-person networking is critical to the success of the Climate CoP. Their most recent workshop was in 2017, with partial funding from the National Sea Grant office. SECART and other NOAA offices provided staff time to help plan and implement the workshop. The Climate CoP meets every 2 years with the next workshop in FY19. With in-kind and monetary support from Carolinas' Integrated Sciences Assessment (CISA) and Sea Grant, SECART will be an additional vested partner to support costs associated with planning for and delivering a successful workshop. Funds may be used for supporting local community travel or facility rental, facilitation services, or other convening costs to support critical in-person knowledge transfer, as well as participation of the SECART regional coordinator.

**Cost/Funding Source: \$3800**

SECART allocates \$3800K for this activity; with \$2000 allocated to support the CCOP Workshop (meeting space, federal travel; Mar or April); \$1200 allocated to support SECART member travel to the SE&Car CCOP workshop; and \$600 for RC travel to the workshop. SECART funds would leverage support from Carolinas RISA and Sea Grant programs in the region.

**Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Continue RC engagement with CCOP Steering Team (Q1-4)
- Participate on the Workshop Planning Team (Q1-3)
- Participate in the execution of the CCOP Workshop (Q3)
- Participate in development of workshop products (Q4)
- Provide travel support for NOAA personnel to attend CCoP related meeting in the region (Q2-3)
- Participate in continuation of the CCoP webinar series (Q1-4)

## **Activity B3. Improve NOAA’s emergency response posture to large scale disasters 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):**

Rich Okulski (NWS, WFO Columbia, SC)

Chip Kasper (NWS, WFO Key West, FL)

### **Key Participants:**

Geno Olmi (SECART Coordinator)

Katie Krushinski, NOAA Gulf of Mexico Disaster Response Center (NOS)

Shirley Murillo (OAR)

Kyle Ward (NOS)

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

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

Having completed two workshops with hurricane scenarios and initial development of a “disaster resource directory”, we are poised to make additional progress in positioning NOAA to be better prepared to maintain operations and effectively serve our constituents before, during and after disasters in the region.

For FY19, we will address three “tools for success” in regional disaster response:

- 1) Training. NOAA staff must be adequately trained in the tools and techniques to respond during disasters.
- 2) Communicating decisions and actions. Learning the roles and responsibilities of other NOAA and partner offices in the region is crucial to efficient response and recovery.

3) Disaster Response Directory. Knowing who has what responsibilities during a disaster and who to contact is imperative.

**Target audience:**

NOAA staffers with emergency response roles and external partners and stakeholders (e.g., FEMA, U.S. Coast Guard, and other federal and state agency stakeholders).

**Anticipated Outcomes/Benefits:**

Federal, State and local emergency response officials would be able to participate in this workshop who require “environmental intelligence” from NOAA employees to execute their larger disaster response and recovery mission.

The NOAA Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team would incorporate the best practices and lessons learned into the NOAA Disaster Resource Directory.

**Approach:**

**Training:** During our FY17 workshop, we provided brief trainings on the NOAA Response Asset Directory (NRAD), Emergency Response Management Application (ERMA), and WebEOC. While something similar may be appropriate (refresher) for 2019, we also want to bring Incident Command System (ICS) training to (at least) the Charleston, South Carolina area. The Disaster Response Center offers a NOAA-oriented ICS-300 class that could be of great value to the agency if more staff members were to participate (several NOAA staff active in this project participated in the training in May 2018 in St. Pete). Initial conversations with DRC suggest that ICS-300 training will be possible in 2019 and we are tentatively looking at a May time frame. The location is anticipated to be Charleston because of the concentration of NOAA employees there.

**Resource Document Development:** Develop a working draft of a regional disaster resource document that would list the NOAA assets in the region and response roles and activities, following the template of the NOAA Great Lakes region resource directory. The goal will be to have a final draft version in place for review during the third Emergency response posture workshop. Continue to work with staff and partners to identify requirements that an interactive directory should meet for maximum utility.

**Workshop:** A third in a series of emergency response posture workshops will be convened to share NOAA capabilities, roles, responsibilities, and assets in the region. We will convene a planning team from previous workshop participants to identify desired outcomes from a workshop in FY19. Likely

outcomes include: inclusion of NOAA partners (e.g., FEMA, Coast Guard) in any exercise (e.g., hurricane, tsunami, etc) , and to review and vet the disaster resource document, with both internal NOAA and external partner/stakeholder feedback, before identifying and developing a more interactive product that would be developed in FY20.

**Cost/Funding Source: \$4800**

\$4200 for participant travel to workshop (May 2018); \$600 for RC travel to workshop (if needed).

**Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- Convene a steering committee to guide FY19 efforts: Q1
- Final Draft Disaster Response Resource Directory: April 2019
- Disaster Response Workshop: May 2019
- Distribute Final Disaster Response Workshop Report: June 2019.
- Deliver revised static resource directory and complete recommendations (requirements) for an interactive resource directory: July 2019

**Activity B4. Supporting the Southeast Regional Climate Quarterly Outlook**

**Regional Collaboration goals addressed:**

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

**Project Lead(s):**

Ellen Mecray

Chip Konrad (Director, Southeast Regional Climate Center)

**Key participants:**

Southeast Regional Climate Center

Carolinas Integrated Science Assessments (CISA)

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

By identifying and ensuring appropriate NOAA input and participation, this product will accurately reflect the climate conditions in the region. SECART assistance with content review and distribution will ensure wide reach to appropriate target audiences.

**Target audience:**

Regional scale decision makers (e.g. coastal managers, community planners, state emergency managers, coastal planners, infrastructure managers, public health officials, agricultural producers, fisheries managers)

**Anticipated outcomes/benefits:**

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

**Approach:**

Initiated in FY17, a regional specific quarterly climate summary and outlook will be produced for the Southeast. The SE Regional Climate Center and Regional Climate Services Director (Mecray) will lead the development of this product. SECART will support this product by identifying a small cross line office team (10 people) to meet virtually two hours per quarter to collect and review content. SECART Team will be asked to help disseminate the product via email with the RCSD in copy for tracking purposes.

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

No SECART funds committed to this effort. SECART will leverage existing staff expertise within the region to assist with review of quarterly outlooks.

**Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- SE regional climate impact and outlook updates (Q1,2,3,4)
- Integrate climate topics of interest for webinars into webinar series (see B1)

**Activity B5. Fostering public-private partnerships in the Southeastern U.S. and Caribbean to advance resiliency and disaster recovery.****Regional Collaboration goals addressed:**

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

**Activity Lead(s):**

Geno Olmi

Rick Devoe (SC Sea Grant Consortium)



**Key Participants:**

- Southeast Disaster Recovery Partnership (SDRP)
- Southeast and Caribbean Sea Grant Programs (SESGP)
- Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team (SECART)  
*With the assistance of*
- Southeast and Caribbean Climate Community of Practice (CCoP)
- Carolinas Integrated Sciences and Assessments (CISA) Program

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

This regional integration project represents a collective attempt to bring together and leverage expertise and resources to address pressing needs related to planning for, preparing, and adequately responding to chronic and episodic hazard events. Project partners recognize that one of the biggest challenges to enhancing community resilience is planning in advance for post-disaster recovery. For a community to be disaster-resilient, public-private partnerships working hand-in-hand to develop comprehensive approaches to disaster recovery are necessary. It also requires the active engagement of leaders representing the many business interests that make up the private sector.

The SDRP Project is engaged in an on-going effort to build public-private partnerships to enhance post-disaster recovery for businesses. Its efforts offer a unique opportunity for the SESGP, SECART, CCoP, and CISA to add value to an existing NOAA-funded project by coalescing available talent and expertise on specific applications of the SDRP that would be unmet under the terms of that award. Sea Grant and SECART are working with the SDRP with support of the CCoP and CISA program to develop a process that can be used to enhance coastal disaster resilience and recovery, particularly in the private sector, through public-private partnerships.

**Target audience:**

Coastal business community, maritime interests, local governments, emergency managers, trade associations, chambers of commerce, consultants working with private business in disaster recovery planning, academic partners, others.

**Anticipated Outcomes/Benefits:**

This project will bring SECART, Sea Grant, and SDRP professionals together with members and representatives of coastal business and industry to share expertise, tools, resources, and lessons learned and assess the effectiveness and practicality of selected approaches to private sector post-disaster recovery planning in our region. We are utilizing the white paper prepared by the SRDP titled “Public-Private Partnerships for Disaster Recovery” as the template for which the forum agenda will be shaped and the pilot projects will be informed. Through face-to-face interaction and

engagement, both regionally and locally, this project will provide one means by which we can identify concrete steps to enhance public-private partnerships and ideas and adaptation strategies which will be crucial for increasing resilience throughout our region. By utilizing the existing framework of the regional Sea Grant and SECART (in partnership with the CCoP) and SDRP networks, we will be strengthening the cumulative capacity of our region to respond to the growing threats of a rapidly changing environment and developing strategies which can be transferable to other communities throughout our region and possibly elsewhere in the country.

### **Approach:**

The SDRP's white paper titled "Public-Private Partnerships for Disaster Recovery" has served as the foundational document for this effort. The white paper provides an overview, recommendations, and case studies of public-private partnerships in disaster recovery in the southeastern U.S. region, includes different areas in which public private partnerships can operate in disaster recovery (housing, business recovery, infrastructure, planning, ecological restoration, etc.), and provides case examples of partnerships in action, from within the Southeast and beyond. It also provides an overview of best practices for collaboration across the public and private sectors. The Puerto Rico Sea Grant College Program has also indicated a willingness to translate the resulting document into Spanish to broaden its reach.

In FY2018 we completed:

- Developed a detailed plan of work
- Convened a joint forum among the southeastern Sea Grant College Programs and SECART together with representatives of the CCoP and the SDRP to review, evaluate, and prioritize effective public-private sector strategies for disaster recovery (held June 19, 2018 in Tampa, FL; discussion points documented for use in pilot exercises)

The following FY19 tasks will be accomplished to achieve desired outcomes:

- Conduct pilot project efforts in NC, SC, GA, FL and PR at the community level to field test and evaluate such strategies through engagement of public and private sector entities to be conducted in Fall 2018.
- Prepare a Summary Report that concisely documents the results of the regional and pilot project efforts, and outlines a prospectus for the future (to be completed by January 31, 2019).
- Hold a project meeting for presentation of pilot project results and discussion of successes, lessons learned, and next steps.

**Cost/Funding Source: \$600**

\$600 requested for Regional Coordinator travel to attend wrap-up meeting in early January 2019.  
\$50,000 Regional Integration award from National Sea Grant Office supporting the effort.

**Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Local-level groups convened to discuss results of disaster recovery forum and pilot projects planned in each state (Q1, continued from FY18)
- Pilot projects implemented in each state (Q1-2)
- Reports on each pilot project prepared (Q2)
- Workshop to present pilot results and discuss successes, lessons learned, and next steps (Q2)

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

### **Activity C1. Improving coordination and prioritization of seafloor mapping in the Southeast Region**

**Regional Collaboration goals addressed:**

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

**SECART Lead(s):**

Chris Taylor ([Chris.Taylor@noaa.gov](mailto:Chris.Taylor@noaa.gov))

Adam Bode ([Adam.Bode@noaa.gov](mailto:Adam.Bode@noaa.gov))

Virginia Fay ([Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov](mailto:Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov))

Kyle Ward ([kyle.ward@noaa.gov](mailto:kyle.ward@noaa.gov))

**Key participants:**

Ashley Chappell, NOS OCS Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping

Mary Conley, The Nature Conservancy

Cheryl Hapke, US Geological Survey

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

Offices in NOAA as well as other state and federal agencies conduct seafloor mapping to support safe navigation (OCS), ocean planning (NOS) and resources assessments (NMFS, NOS). SECART can assist and facilitate greater awareness of the mapping activities conducted by NOAA in the SE and Caribbean Region. The SECART can also facilitate access to mapping data and prioritization tools for NOAA offices and our partners in the US Caribbean and the Southeast US.

**Target audience:**

NOAA Line/Program Offices, Other Federal Agencies, State/Regional Coastal and Fisheries Management Agencies, Academic Institutions

**Anticipated outcomes/benefits:**

- Habitat mapping webinars, or “Habinars”, will improve awareness of NOAA mission, capabilities and activities in the Southeast region, connecting managers, stakeholders and other users of seafloor habitat data with practitioners conducting mapping activities or producing mapping products.
- Online GIS prioritization tool will improve awareness of regional needs for seafloor habitat data and improve efficiency by which NOAA meets goals across agencies and stakeholders. SE Habitat Mapping Workshop will host agencies, academics and partners to review prioritization tool outcomes and identify resources for filling identified gaps

**Approach:**

- Continue “habinars” on regional seafloor and habitat mapping activities on monthly or quarterly basis
- Continue development of seafloor mapping prioritization tool. Based on feedback from the 2018 SE Habitat Mapping Workshop, a “beta” version of the prioritization tool will be distributed to selected user groups representing federal and state agencies and academics to help refine user interface and functionality. The prioritization tool will then be distributed to broader agency representatives. At the 2018 workshop, there was recognition that more research needs to be conducted to identify the most appropriate level within organization to use the tool and enter priority areas that represent programmatic needs. For example, the USGS and NOAA have several programs and divisions with unique missions and needs for seafloor maps. Further discussion among the activity planning team will identify the list of participants who will contribute priorities to the tool. SECART will continue to develop tool and share outcomes with OCS and maintain engagement to ensure SE and Caribbean regional mapping priorities are included in NOAA resource planning.

- During FY19, a short workshop (or virtual meeting) will be hosted to summarize the outcomes from the prioritization tool.

**Cost/Funding Source: \$3000**

\$3000 of FY19 SECART funds for FTE workshop travel. FY18 funds of \$6000 were applied to NCCOS labor contract to continue prioritization tool development.

**Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Maintain quarterly Habinars
- Qtr 3 : Workshop
- Qtr 4: Report of outcomes from prioritization tool results

**Activity C2: Support NC Sentinel Site Cooperative: Planning for FY2019 Science Symposium at the NC Coastal Conference**

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

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

**SECART Lead(s):**

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

**Key participants:**

Sarah Spiegler, NCSSC Coordinator

John Fear, NC Sea Grant and NCSSC Chair

Select members of the NCSSC core management team

NC Sea Grant Coastal Conference planning team

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

Participants at the 2017 NCSSC Partner Meeting identified that a NCSSC-sponsored science symposium will help to fill the gap of communicating research among partners by connecting scientists, decision makers, and educators. The science symposium will bring together educators, city planners, elected officials, resource managers, and other community members to learn about coastal resiliency efforts and sea level rise research and monitoring occurring in the Cooperative geographic

boundary from research scientists and practitioners. Additionally, convening these audiences will provide networking opportunities among partners and attendees, and increase awareness of the NCSSC and its role to participants. The NCSSC will be wrapping up the 5-year pilot phase of its work in FY19 and the science symposium will provide an opportunity to highlight Cooperative accomplishments.

**Target audience:**

Scientists, local communities, resource managers, decision makers, and educators in coastal NC.

**Desired Outcomes/Benefits:**

- Increase awareness of coastal resiliency efforts and sea level rise research and monitoring in coastal NC among Cooperative partners and symposium audiences
- Enhance exposure of the NCSSC, its role and impact
- Create efficiencies and expand reach by hosting symposium as part of NC Sea Grant’s Coastal Conference

**Approach:**

The NCSSC science symposium will be conducted as a portion of NC Sea Grant’s Coastal Conference, anticipated to be held in October 2019 (FY20). The NCSSC science symposium steering committee and staff will engage will accomplish the following activities:

- Work with NC Sea Grant to coordinate symposium and logistics
- Develop symposium objectives and agenda
- Identify and secure speakers

**Cost and Funding Source: \$2000**

\$2,000 of SECART funds to NC Sea Grant to support the special session

**Key Project Milestones:**

- Work with NC Sea Grant to coordinate symposium and logistics (Q1-2)
- Develop symposium objectives and agenda (Q1-2)
- Identify and secure speakers (Q3-4)
- Host session at conference (Q4)
- Develop brief summary of the session (Q4)

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

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

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

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

Chris Taylor, NCCOS ([Chris.Taylor@noaa.gov](mailto:Chris.Taylor@noaa.gov))

Rebecca Ellin, NC NERR ([Rebecca.Ellin@ncdenr.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Ellin@ncdenr.gov))

Adam Bode, OCM ([Adam.Bode@noaa.gov](mailto:Adam.Bode@noaa.gov))

Scott Cross, NCEI ([Scott.Cross@noaa.gov](mailto:Scott.Cross@noaa.gov))

Bill O'Beirne, OCM ([Bill.Obeirne@noaa.gov](mailto:Bill.Obeirne@noaa.gov))

### **Key Participants:**

Whitney Jenkins, NC NERR

NOAA Marine Debris Program

NOAA Fisheries Restoration Center

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

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

SECART serves as a conduit to NOAA resources and capabilities including online data portals and inventories relevant to ecosystem management and coastal decision making in the Southeast and Caribbean Region.

### **Target audience:**

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

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

Improve access to NOAA expertise and data resources for decision making related to ecosystem management or coastal natural resources. This project team has identified specific areas for focus in FY2019

- Receive status updates on two Habitat Focus Areas in the SECART region (Biscayne Bay and

NE Puerto Rico/Culebra)

- Engage NOAA offices and partners involved with post-hurricane response and recovery specific to ecosystem impacts in Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands
- Continue support of SECOORA's efforts to expand monitoring and observation needs in coastal/estuarine waters
- Engage NOAA offices in the region to enhance cross-office collaboration in SE and Caribbean, specifically Marine Debris and NMFS Restoration Center
- Engage NOAA offices and partners to enhance nature-based infrastructure activities

**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. Continue contributions to NOAA data tools regional workshops co-hosted by OCM and NC NERR

- Engage Habitat Focus Areas through briefings provided to the Ecosystems Workgroup and SECART
- Engage other programs and offices in region to identify needs from regional collaboration (e.g., Restoration Center, Marine Debris)
- Explore needs and opportunities for regional collaboration to support information sharing on nature-based infrastructure and living shorelines in the southeast
- Assess interest in and opportunity for a SE and Caribbean region workshop on applications of drones (unmanned aircraft) for ecosystem management and conservation

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

No SECART funds are allocated for this effort this year.

**Key Milestones:**

- Workgroup member attends NOAA Data Tools workshop & provides summary to SECART (Q1)
- Invite Habitat Focus Area leads to provide briefing and activity updates to SECART during monthly call (Q1-2)
- Invite representative from Marine Debris and Restoration Center to join Ecosystem Workgroup bi-monthly call (Q1)
- Invite briefing to SECART or Ecosystem Workgroup on outcomes from Living Shoreline Workshop planned for early November (Q1-2)



- Host scoping call on interest in organizing a SECART and SECOORA co-hosted workshop on applications of drones for coastal management. (Q1)

## **Activity C4. Support for rollout of the Southeast Atlantic Ecosystem Status Report**

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

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

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

Debra Hernandez, IOOS/SECOORA

Scott Cross, NCEI

Chris Taylor, NOS/NCCOS

### **Key Participants:**

NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center - Beaufort Lab

Duke University

SECOORA

NCEI

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

Ecosystem Status Reports (ESRs) seek to support ecosystem-based management by providing a regional snapshot of the health of the integrated ecosystem in a format useful to the management community.

### **Target audience:**

Regional fisheries management, coastal zone managers, coastal communities, state and regional natural resource managers.

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

The key benefits will be (a) a better informed resource management community; (b) a curated and widely accessible data record of key environmental indicators

### **Approach:**

NOAA Fisheries has initiated Ecosystem Status Reports (ESRs) for Large Marine Ecosystems as an initial step toward implementing the Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management Roadmap. The ESR for the Southeast is being led by NOAA Fisheries staff in Beaufort. SECART FY2018 funds supported development of an initial ESR draft, which is scheduled for completion by the end of FY2018. This FY19 SECART project will focus on facilitating the regional rollout of the initial ESR product, to help maximize its effectiveness. The project has 2 components:

- Travel funds for one Federal FTE to present the ESR at a meeting of the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council (\$1500)
- Funds to develop a basic web page that offers access to the ESR content, including the underlying data (\$4,000). SECOORA or a yet-to-be identified partner would provide long-term hosting of the website

**Cost and Funding Source(s): \$5500**

\$5500 of SECART funds. \$1500 FTE travel to brief Councils and SECOORA on ESR, host webinar to stakeholders for feedback, \$4000 for labor support to transition report to one-pager, summary document, or website (Council, SECOORA, SECART). Anticipated FTE Travel Q2 \$700, Q3 \$800.

**Key Project Milestones:**

- Identify web development and website hosting partner(s) (Q1)
- ESR published on web (Q2)
- Present EFR at SAFMC meeting (TBD)

**Activity C5. Coral Disease Outbreak Visual Aid for the Caribbean**

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

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

**Lead(s):**

Dana Wusinich-Mendez (NOS/OCM)

**Key Participants:**

NOAA CRCP, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, NCCOS, NMFS SERO, NMFS Restoration Center, NOAA Carib, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, USVI Department of Planning and Natural Resources, UPR, UVI, TNC

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

The Florida Reef Tract is currently in the midst of an epidemic of a newly identified coral disease referred to as Scleractinian Tissue Loss Disease which is affecting approximately half of the existing hard coral species found in Florida. This particular disease is characterized by rapid tissue loss and high mortality rates. While the disease was first identified on Florida's reefs in 2014, there had been no reports of its spread to the wider Caribbean region until early 2018. It has now been reported in Jamaica, Mexico and the Cayman Islands but the research community in the Caribbean region is asking for assistance in confirming that the observed disease is indeed the Scleractinian Tissue Loss Disease as well as information on how to monitor this disease.

**Target audience:**

Key coral reef research and monitoring partners in the USVI and Puerto Rico.

**Desired Outcomes/Benefits:**

Increased ability of partners to use NOAA products designed to support the identification and monitoring of newly identified coral disease epidemic, improved communication throughout the region on the coral disease outbreak.

**Approach:**

As part of a coordinated response to the outbreak in Florida, NOAA CRCP and FKNMS will be working to produce visual aids, in the form of laminated cards, to help coral researchers positively identify the disease along with information on how to monitor and report it. This project would enable the production of additional cards and their distribution to key coral reef research and monitoring partners in the USVI and Puerto Rico to allow for accurate identification and coordinated reporting of the disease spread.

**Estimated Cost and Funding Source(s):** \$2000

\$2,000 of SECART funds. Cost for printing and shipping cards; anticipated expense in Q2.

**Key Project Milestones:**

- Edit FL visual aids to adapt them for Caribbean (Q1)
- Print laminated cards and distribute to key partners in USVI and Puerto Rico (Q2)

## **Activity C6. Precipitation data Post-processing and Download for Regional Water Quality and Aquaculture Applications**

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

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

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

John Schmidt, NWS/SERFC

Scott Cross, NESDIS/NCEI

### **Key Participants:**

NWS

SECOORA

NCEI

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

Planners and decision makers require timely, accurate, reliable precipitation data, centered on their domain of interest, to apply to their own modeling systems or decision-making processes.

NWS/SERFC has been hosting and maintaining this service, but is unable to continue as the user group expands past the original state aquaculture audience.

### **Target audience:**

State and local decision makers and planners, especially those that lack the ability and/or resources to manipulate raw datasets.

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

Users of observed precipitation data (QPE) in the SE US will have a service that provides regular access to data at their own required resolution and duration. This includes various data types from raw gridded data to post-processed averages of rainfall across a user-defined polygon or point values.

### **Approach:**

Leverage existing NOAA data delivery capabilities or expertise to deliver this service. John Schmidt will scope requirements. Scott Cross will investigate NCEI's prototyping this type of service. If not

possible, SECOORA may be able to assist in developing such a service. If prototype exercise uncovers the need for financial assistance, that project would be proposed as an FY20 project.

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

No SECART funds allocated.

**Key Project Milestones:**

- Gather requirements (John Schmidt) (Q1)
- Determine ability to and develop prototype service (Scott Cross NCEI) (Q2)
- Determine need to engage SECOORA either to coordinate with users or provide the service if not feasible for NCEI (Q3)
- Evaluate if prototype is successful or require a follow-on FY20 project (Q4)

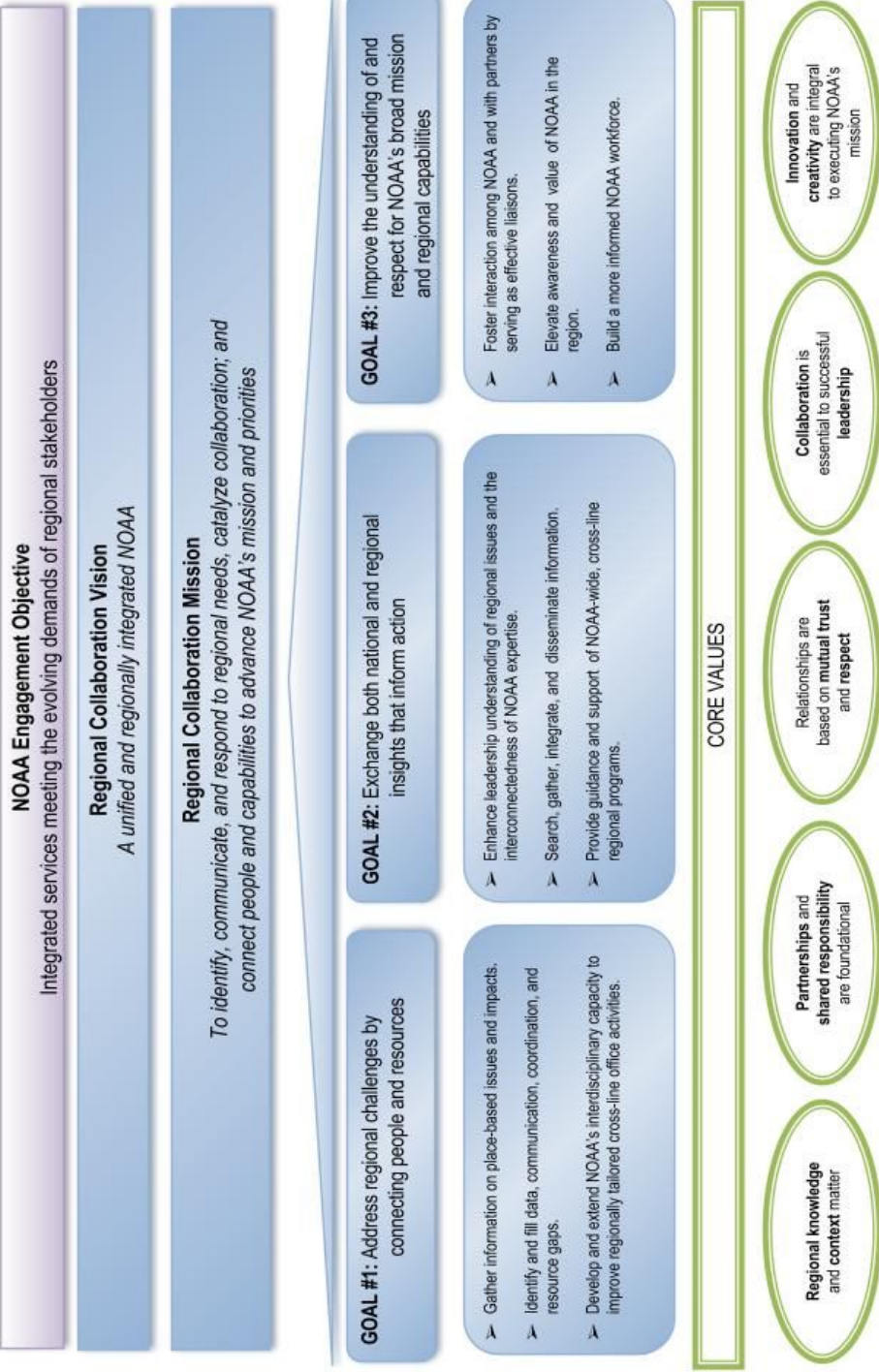
## Section III. Appendices

### Appendix 1. Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team Membership (Oct 2018)

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# Appendix 2. Regional Collaboration Strategy

## Regional Collaboration Strategy 2016



Updated: July 2016

## Appendix 3. SECART FY19-22 Strategic Priorities

### 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 Extreme Events 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 hazards and climate 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, 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 extreme events, including man-made 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).

## Appendix 4. SECART FY2019 Spend Plan

<b>FY19 SECART Activities</b>		
<b>Priority/Activity</b>	<b>SECART Funds</b>	<b>Supplementary funding</b>
<b>Priority: Improve efficiency and effectiveness of NOAA's mission execution through enhanced collaboration across NOAA offices and with partners.</b>		
Activity A1. Advance NOAA's mission through strategic engagement with regional partnerships	2000	
Activity A2. Advance NOAA's mission through engagement with the NOAA in the Caribbean Collaborative and promote implementation of the NOAA Caribbean Strategy.	5200	19,500
Activity A3. Represent NOAA's broad mission capabilities and accomplishments in the region and facilitate two-way flow of information between the region and NOAA leadership.	3000	
Activity A4. Enhance the capacity of the SECART to lead organizational integration within the region.	13,500	
Activity A5. Improve the capacity of NOAA's inter-regional and national integrated services	4600	
<b>Priority: Community resilience to extreme events and climate change</b>		
Activity B1. Webinars: Hurricane/Climate Resilience Webinar Series (hurricanes, hazards, ENSO) plus others of opportunity	0	0
Activity B2. Supporting the Southeast and Caribbean Climate Community of Practice	3800	0
Activity B3. Improve NOAA Response Posture to Large-Scale Disasters Within the SECART Region.	4800	0
Activity B4. Supporting the Southeast Regional Climate Quarterly Outlook.	0	
B5. Fostering Public-private Partnerships in the Southeastern US and Caribbean to Advance Resilience and Disaster Recovery	600	50,000

<b>Priority: Promote the sustainability of the region's living marine resources and the habitats upon which they depend.</b>		
C1. Seafloor habitat mapping next steps - further development of prioritization tool, workshop to discuss prioritization tool output	3,000	
C2. Support NC Sentinel Site Cooperative: Planning for 2019 Science Symposium	2,000	
C3. Improve awareness of NOAA resources and capabilities to address NOAA resources and capabilities to address ecosystem issues in the SE and Caribbean	0	
C4. Southeast US Ecosystem Status Report - web developer to make report accessible/usable	5,500	
C5. Regional coral disease outbreak	2,000	
C6. Precipitation Data Post-Processing and Download for Regional Water Quality and Aquaculture Applications	0	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>69,500</b>
	<b>SECART Funds</b>	<b>Supplementary funding</b>