

# FY 2020 Operating Plan

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## Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team



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

October 2019

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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 21 members representing geographic and topical diversity of NOAA staff and partners within the region (App. 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.

NOAA will focus on four long-term goals that are central determinants of resilient ecosystems, communities, and economies — and that cannot be achieved without the agency's distinctive mission and capabilities. The objectives identified in NOAA's [Next-Generation Strategic Plan](#) are the basis for NOAA's corporate planning, performance management, and stakeholder engagement.

## 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 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 FY2020 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 FY2020 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 (SECART Coordinator)
- Richard Okulski (NOAA/NWS, SECART Team Lead)

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

- State and federal agencies and programs;
- Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs): South Atlantic, Peninsular Florida, and Caribbean.
- Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA) and the Caribbean Coastal Ocean Observing System (CaraCOOS)
- Sea Grant programs in the region (NC, SC, GA, FL, PR)
- The Nature Conservancy and other non-governmental organizations
- Habitat Focus Areas in Biscayne Bay, FL and Northeast Reserves/Culebra, PR

##### **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.

##### **Target audience:**

Primary partners include 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:**

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. 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 FY20 include: Sea Grant Programs in the region, South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative, NOAA Habitat Focus Areas (2), Southeastern Estuarine Research Society, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Caribbean Coastal Ocean Observing System, and Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association.

**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:** \$3200

\$3200 of SECART funds. \$1000 to support team member travel to regional workshops and/or partner meetings, and \$2200 to support Regional Coordinator travel to partnership-related travel; in kind support by RC and other team members during engagement with regional partnerships.

**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)
- Represent NOAA on the Steering Committees of the South Atlantic LCC and remain cognizant of the activities of Peninsular Florida LCC and Caribbean LCC (Q1-4)
- Effectively communicate activities, projects, and opportunities to relevant NOAA programs and offices (Q1-4)

- Increase engagement with the Biscayne Bay Habitat Focus Area Implementation Team and the Northeast Reserves and Culebra Habitat Focus Area 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)

## **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 broad mission and regional capabilities

### **Leads:**

- Lisamarie Carrubba (NOAA/NMFS)
- Makeda Okolo (NOAA/OLIA)
- Melanie Jackson (NOAA/OLIA)
- Geno Olmi (SECART Coordinator)
- Dana Wusinich-Mendez NOAA/NOS/OCM)

### **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:**

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 not-for-profit groups.

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

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

### **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.

- Review outcomes from the FY19 workshop/training (Aug 2019) to determine what, if any, actions SECART should/can participate.
- Review outcomes from the SECART/OCM meeting (June 2019) on specific actions of interest to PR and USVI.
- Participate in and provide leadership to the NOAA in the Caribbean Steering Committee.
- Work with the NOAA Carib Steering Committee to maintain production of the *NOAA in the Caribbean Newsletter*. The newsletter has evolved into a “flagship” product of the collaborative, reaching hundreds of NOAA staff and partners with an interest in the region. .
- 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.
- Execute funding to support products and services of the NOAA Caribbean Collaborative, including translation of the Newsletter into Spanish.

**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: \$3500**

\$3500 of SECART funds for Newsletter translation to Spanish (to PR Sea Grant).

### **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 NOAA Carib meeting in FY19 and determine appropriate next steps for NOAA Carib..
- Continue participation on NOAA Carib Steering Committee and Executive Committee (Q1-4) to maintain communication and chart a path forward for the group.



## **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 (SECART Coordinator)
- Richard Okulski (NOAA/NWS, SECART Team Lead)
- Sunny Snider (NOAA/NMFS/SEFSC)

### **Key Participants:**

- All SECART members
- ReCo HQ
- Individual NOAA Offices, Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs (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 (including congressional staff in the region) 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. Finally, SECART will assist with NOAA leadership and congressional 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, congressional staff, and the general public). An additional target audience includes NOAA leadership and congressional representatives.

### **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:**

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. Specific activities to help accomplish this objective:

- Provide updates to ReCo HQ through the weekly reporting mechanism
- Contribute to the ReCO annual accomplishments report.
- ReCo branding styles will be implemented in SECART products
- 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
- The "NOAA in the Southeast and Caribbean" 2-pager will be updated in content and format
- Produce the weekly news of interest to NOAA in the region
- Hold a congressional engagement event in the region
- 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 - possibly following the "three-minute thesis" type of format

**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:** \$3100

\$1500 to support RC travel to NOAA offices and in support of leadership visits; and \$1600 for team member or partner travel to congressional roundtable event.

**Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- Develop/update "NOAA in the Region" communication pieces, implementing the new ReCo branding styles/formats (Q1-4)
  - Update 2-pager
  - Maintain and update website
  - Update presentations
  - Possibly create a SECART annual report (2-pager)
- Plan and host at least one congressional roundtable event in region, likely SC or GA first (Q1-2), followed in Q3 with another at a location TBD
- 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 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. 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)
- Rich Okulski (NWS, SECART Lead)
- Dana Wusinich-Mendez (NOAA/NOS)
- Rebecca Ellin (NC DENR)
- Chip Kasper (NOAA/NWS)
- Shirley Murillo (NOAA/OAR)

### **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 of/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. 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. 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:** \$12,500

\$11,000 to support team member travel to two in-person SECART meetings in the region (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.

**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 FY20 Annual Operating Plan with spend plan (Q1)
- Present AOP to the Advisory Group (Q1 or Q2)
- Winter SECART meeting (Q2) - plan, execute, and follow-up
- Summer SECART meeting (Q4) - plan, execute, and follow-up
- Convene monthly team calls and distribute notes (Q1 – Q4)
- Accomplish FY20 Work Plan (Q1 – Q4)
- Draft FY21 Annual Operating Plan with spend plan (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 (SECART Coordinator)
- Richard Okulski (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 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:**

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 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 NOAA Regional Collaboration Council and ReCo HQ in oversight responsibilities, and influence strategic direction setting, for NOAA regional collaboration
- Serve as lead for ReCo Communications Task Order and close out the task order (Q2)
- Help plan and execute the annual Regional Coordinator meeting (June)
- Help plan and execute the annual Regional Collaboration Network Workshop (Feb)
- 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:** \$6000

\$3600 for travel of RTL and RC to 2020 ReCo workshop (Seattle, WA; Q2); \$1400 for RC travel to annual RC meeting; \$1000 for RC travel to Silver Spring. Locations of RC Annual Meeting has not yet been identified (though likely in northeast). Supplemental funds (TBD) from ReCo National to support team member (2) travel to workshop)

**Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- Regional Coordinator meeting (Q3)
- National Regional Collaboration Workshop (Q2)
- 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)
- Provide oversight and close out of ReCo Comms Task Order (Q1-2)
- Contribute to weekly reporting as appropriate (Q1-4)
- Explore opportunities with the NART and GoMRCT 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 ([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 (Southeast Regional Climate Center)

Roberto Garcia (NOAA/NWS, WFO San Juan)

John Schmidt (SERFC)

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

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. Promotion of the entire themed series as a unit will increase coordination and participation across Line Office stakeholder groups.

### **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 communities in the hurricane impacted regions.

**Approach:**

Webinars are a cost-effective tool to educate key partners and constituents on a range of resilience related activities. For FY20 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. We will continue to grow our audience size through outreach and other means.

Our FY20 objectives will be (1) educate audiences about updates to NOAA’s hurricane forecast products (e.g., storm surge forecasting), prediction of associated impacts such as rainfall, and the research and lessons learned from recent storms and how NOAA is improving as a result; (2) provide webinars on other potential hazards such as hazardous environmental outlooks (e.g., spring flood, hurricane, drought, fire weather); and (3) educate NOAA staff and partners in the region about the resilience-related roles and responsibilities of various NOAA offices --all while promoting awareness of cross line office activities and SECART involvement.

**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; (3) advertise the webinar series through SECART networks (including Weather Forecast Offices, Sea Grant, the ONE NOAA Science Seminars), (3) identify a single web platform with significant line capacity for all SECART webinars. Webinars will be recorded and subsequently posted on the SECART website, along with presentation materials, as a resource.

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

No funds are needed for this effort. SECART will leverage existing staff to moderate the webinar series.

**Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Select web platform to host webinars (Q1)
- Finalize list of webinar topics (Q1)
- Hold 1st resilience/extreme weather webinar (TBD) (Q1)
- Hold 2nd resilience/extreme weather webinar. (TBD) (Q2)
- Hold Hurricane Webinar series in May (Q3)
- Hold 3rd resilience/extreme weather webinar. (TBD) (Q4)



## **Activity B2. Engaging the Community in Climate/Disaster Resilience**

### **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)
- Ellen Mecray (NOAA/NESDIS?NCEI)
- Debra Hernandez (SECOORA)

### **Key Participants:**

Climate CoP Steering Committee

Amanda Farris (Carolinas Integrated Science Assessments)

Southeast and Caribbean Disaster Recovery Partnership (SCDRP)

Adam Stein (NOS/OCM)

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

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

This activity builds upon previous activities by SECART with the SE & Caribbean Climate Community of Practice (CCOP) and Public-Private-Partnerships in Disaster Recovery, but also adds a new component to engage the community in populating the Climate Resilience Toolkit for the region.

### **Target audience:**

Climate and resilience practitioners in the region - CCOP participants, SCDRP participants, 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 Climate Community of Practice, the Southeast Disaster Recovery Partnership, and the US Climate Toolkit all provide mechanisms for climate/disaster resilience practitioners to share information and assist our region in becoming more resilient. There may be efficiencies and increased effectiveness by “merging” the CCOP and the SCDRP with a focus on the entire climate/disaster cycle - planning, response, recovery and mitigation. We will explore this option. Regardless of the outcome of the “merger” exploration, these networks are the perfect audience for engaging to add content to the US Climate Resilience Toolkit, thereby providing another venue for sharing best practices and lessons learned..

### **Approach:**

2020 is an “off year” for the bi-annual CCOP Workshop, so this gives us some time to explore a possible integration with the SCDRP - a conversation that began in Q4 of FY19. We will engage the Steering Committees for the CCOP and the SCDRP to work through the benefits and detriments, if any, of such and integration and possibly gain consensus to proceed with integration. At that point, we can begin identifying priorities and planning future engagements with the community. Building off the OCM/SECART meeting in St. Croix in 2019, we will examine a way to capture lessons learned from recent hurricanes - experiences that will help others in the future.

Concurrently with the above, we will work with NCEI and University of North Carolina Asheville (UNC-A) to set up a virtual workshop which UNC-A will lead to inform community/partnership participants about the Climate Toolkit and the types of information desired to populate a section for the Southeast Region.

### **Cost/Funding Source: \$2500**

\$1000 for RC travel to engage in discussions and steering committee meetings as needed. \$1500 for other SECART members travel related to this activity.

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

- Engage Steering Committees for CCOP and SCDRP regarding potential integration of the two efforts (Q1)
- Develop a plan for integration and set priorities for remainder of the year (Q1)
- Create an integrated web page for the effort (on SECOORA or SECART) (Q2)
- Host an integrated workshop focusing on priority issues as determined (Q3)
- Determine future of the CCOP Webinar Series, and if continuing, host 1-3 webinars
- Host a virtual workshop to introduce participants to the US Climate Toolkit and solicit input for a Southeast Region section.

## **Activity B3. 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 broad mission and regional capabilities

### **Leader(s):**

Mike Proud (NOAA/NWS, WFO Columbia, SC)

Rich Okulski (NOAA/NWS, WFO Columbia, SC)

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

### **Key Participants:**

Geno Olmi (SECART Coordinator)

Katie Krushinski (NOAA Disaster Preparedness Program, NOS)

Shirley Murillo (NOAA/OAR)

NWS Offices in Region

Various Partners

### **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. This activity will address the following:

- **Communication/Awareness.** 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 other federal, state and local agencies leading emergency response, recovery and restoration decisions and actions.
- **Preparedness.** Build on advances made at previous workshops focusing on hurricane impacts by improving overall operational readiness and disaster resilience across NOAA in the Southeast and Caribbean Region.
- **Capacity.** Link offices/agencies with available capacity (equipment, expertise, personnel) with those needing resources.
- **Training.** NOAA staff must be adequately trained in the tools and techniques to respond during disasters.

**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:**

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 *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.

In FY 20, we intend to hold an exercise/workshop focusing on response and recovery paired with Impact-Based Decision Support Services (IDSS) to bring together the NOAA, federal, state and local partners/responders. We are planning for two days of presentations highlighting primary and secondary roles in response, recovery and restoration as well as expertise, technology, equipment and products created/used through the phases. Presenters will also indicate areas where their agency can provide assistance/share resources and well as areas they need assistance/resources. Presentations will be broken into groups (i.e. technology, mapping, emerging technology, etc.) which will be followed by breakouts allowing more in depth discussion with agencies showing their capabilities. The final day will be a disaster exercise, likely focusing on an earthquake.

We are tentatively planning for the 2020 Workshop to be held in Charleston, Savannah, GA or Columbia SC in Q2 or Q3 2020. 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 3 days as well as those with limited travel funds but a desire to participate.

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 NOAA Disaster Resource Directory.

**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. \$2000 to be used for a meeting facility for approximately 150 people for 3 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). \$2000 for travel expenses. If a free meeting facility can be found those funds will also be applied to travel support.

**Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- Convene a steering committee to guide FY20 efforts (Q1)
- Select date and location of workshop (Q1)
- Plan workshop (Q1-3)
- Host workshop (Q2 or Q3)
- Organize and distribute/post workshop notes and materials (Q4)

**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 (NOAA/NESDIS)

Chip Konrad (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 quarterly climate summary and outlook will be produced for the Southeast. 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.

The primary objective is to continue to distribute regionally-specific quarterly climate summary and outlook for the Southeast. As in past years, 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.

The project team also will consider developing a survey to gain a better understanding of who is using the outlook, how they are using it and understand if there are any changes that could make it more useful to the end user. Mecray and Konrad will develop a survey of those receiving the outlook. The survey will determine who is using the information, how it is being used, identify possible tweaks to subsequent climate quarterly outlooks.

**Comms / Outreach Plan:** This activity is outreach - supplying climate summary, impact and outlook information to people who can use it. Results of the assessment will be reported to ReCo

HQ via the weekly reporting mechanism, and if sufficiently significant, will be highlighted on the SECART website.

**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. A 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

**Activity Lead(s):**

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

**Key Participants:**

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

**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). Development of a comprehensive guide, akin to what the Great Lakes and Pacific Regional Collaboration Teams have put together would address these needs in the Southeast and Caribbean Region.

**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 of 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:**

A primary objective is to complete and distribute a *Guide to Integrated NOAA Disaster Resilience in the Southeast and Caribbean Region* in electronic form (PDF file) to NOAA staff, partners, and stakeholders in the Southeast and Caribbean Region, building on work done in FY18 and FY19. Feedback will be sought from NOAA staff, partners, and stakeholders in order to improve a future version of the Guide. A secondary objective will be to develop and execute a dissemination and outreach plan in order to ensure that the Guide reaches the intended audience, and that awareness in the Region is raised.

In FY2019 we completed:

- The third annual NOAA Disaster Resilience workshop, in which we focused on the recovery portion of the disaster cycle
- Had a NOAA Rotational Assignment Program person work with us to make great progress on the guide.

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

Funding should not be necessary for this activity. However, the selection of an NRAP applicant to assist with the completion of the Guide may be considered. If a decision is made to create a “mobile, searchable” version of this guide, then we may need to identify resources to accomplish that.

**Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Complete and distribute draft of Guide to SECART Team for review (end of FY20 Q1; 31 December 2019).
- Complete a dissemination and outreach plan (FY Q2; 28 February 2020).
- Revise Guide, and distribute widely through multiple networks, in PDF format, via email and SECART website (end of FY20 Q2; 31 March 2020).
- Request feedback on the Guide from NOAA staff, partners, and stakeholders in the Region (end of FY20 Q3; 30 June 2020).



# **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 inform action
- Improve the understanding of and respect for NOAA’s mission and regional capabilities

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

Chris Taylor (NOAA/NOS/NCCOS)  
Virginia Fay (NOAA/NMFS/SERO-OHC)  
John McCombs (NOAA/NOS/OCM)  
Lou Licate (NOAA/NOS/OCS)

### **Key participants:**

Ashley Chappell, NOS OCS Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping  
Mary Conley, The Nature Conservancy

### **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 webinars (“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 periodic “habinars” (habitat webinars) on regional seafloor and habitat mapping activities
- Roll out seafloor mapping prioritization tool to state and federal partners in October using webinar demonstration of prioritization functions. Organizations will be given 2 months to identify representative and enter values. A summary webinar will be scheduled for January or February 2020. Outcomes from prioritization will be summarized in a report distributed early Quarter 3.

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

Outcomes from prioritization tool will be conveyed to SE agency and organization partners through webinars, these webinars will be advertised to program and line offices.

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

Funds from FY19 are still supporting a GIS analyst to finalize development of prioritization tool.

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

- Maintain periodic Habinars (1 per quarter)
- Prioritization tool demo webinar (Q1)
- Analysis and outcome from prioritization (Q2)
- Report of outcomes from prioritization tool results (Q3)

### **Activity C2: Supporting the NC Sentinel Site Cooperative: Science Symposium at the 2019 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. While initially planned as an independent science symposium, the symposium has now been incorporated as a session into the NC Coastal Conference (Nov 2019), providing a larger, receptive audience.

The session 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. 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 conference 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 special session of NC Sea Grant's Coastal Conference, to be held in November 2019 (FY20). SECART planned to use FY19 funds for this purpose but was unable to do so, therefore the activity is being included again as an FY20 activity. Planning for the symposium has been proceeding as planned. The NCSSC science symposium steering committee and staff will conduct the following activities in FY20 for the session :

- Finalize the session
- Advertise the session

- Lead and participate in the session
- Develop and share a brief summary of the session

**Comms / Outreach Plan:**

A brief summary will capture the highlights of the session and be shared with NCSSC partners via the NCSSC newsletter, the NOAA sentinel site program, and the SE region (including through SECART’s communication network).

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

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

**Key Project Milestones:**

- Finalize session (Q1)
- Host session at conference (Q1)
- Transfer funds as sponsor of session (Q1)
- Develop brief summary of the session (Q2)

**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):**

Rebecca Ellin, NC NERR

Dana Wusinich-Mendez, NOAA/NOS/OCM

**Key Participants:**

Ginny Fay (NOAA/NMFS)

Scott Cross (NOAA/NESDIS/NCEI)

Chris Taylor (NOAA/ NCCOS)

**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

**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 FY2020

- Receive status updates on two Habitat Focus Areas in the SECART region
- Increase awareness of ecosystem-related restoration
- 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 SE US Ecosystem Status Report

**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.

- Engage Habitat Focus Areas through briefings provided to the Ecosystems Workgroup and SECART (Puerto Rico - Dana Wusinich-Mendez, Biscayne Bay - Ginny Fay)
- Increase awareness of ecosystem-related restoration (e.g., Everglades restoration, FKNMS Restoration Strategy)
- Explore needs and opportunities for regional collaboration to support information sharing on ecosystem-related initiatives and trends in the southeast and Caribbean (e.g., living shorelines, ecosystem-based management, coral disease management)
- Continue to maintain awareness and assist with distributing updates for SE US Ecosystem Status Report. NMFS SEFSC will lead rollout and website development and SECART will assist by distributing report, relevant links and notices for webinars through various regional networks. (Chris Taylor)

**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. Training and support for Coral Disease prevention and Response in Puerto Rico**

### **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 (NOAA/NOS/OCM)

Auroroa Justiniano (NOAA/NOS/OCM)

NMFS Restoration Center (Sean Griffin/ Michael Nemeth)

SECOORA/CARICOOS (Debra Hernandez, Patricia Chardon)

### **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 Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD) 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 Mexico; Belize; Jamaica; the Dominican Republic; St. Thomas, USVI; St. Maarten and St. Eustatius, Dutch Antilles; and the Turks and Caicos Islands. With SCTLD confirmed in the Dominican Republic to the West and St. Thomas to the East, the research and management communities in Puerto Rico are preparing for the appearance of SCTLD on their reefs and have requested assistance in identifying this new disease and distinguishing it from other diseases that affect corals as well as information on how to monitor for and treat this disease.

The University of the Virgin Islands (Dr. Marilyn Brandt) has received a grant from NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program to conduct a training in the USVI on the detection of and response to SCTLD. The workshop will be held in November 2019 on St Thomas. SECART funding will allow key researchers and coral reef managers from Puerto Rico to participate in the training and increase their ability to detect SCTLD so that early intervention action can be taken upon its appearance.

**Target audience:**

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

**Desired Outcomes/Benefits:**

Support for PR DNER who has very limited capacity to respond in the event of SCTLD outbreak in PR.

**Approach:**

This activity would support travel to training for coral reef managers and researchers in Puerto Rico in prevention of and response to Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease. This disease has not yet been observed in PR but has spread rapidly across the SW portion of St Thomas rapidly and is expected to reach Puerto Rico this year. The training will enable transfer of knowledge and lessons learned from the experience of NOAA and key partners in Florida and the US Virgin Islands who have been leading efforts to respond to this disease and dealing with its impacts to U.S. coral reef resources.

**Estimated Cost and Funding Source(s):** \$6,000

\$6,000 in SECART funds to support invitational travel for 5-10 to attend SCTLD prevention and response training in St Thomas, USVI.

OCM/CRCP is funding additional travel and workshop costs.

**Key Milestones:**

- Training workshop to be held on November 6-7 in St Thomas, USVI

**Activity C5. Identify data and service needs/requirements of SE state shellfish sanitation entities, improve awareness to existing NOAA capabilities, and share best practices in shellfish sanitation across SE states (NC, SC, GA, FL).**

**Regional Collaboration Goal(s) 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

**Lead(s):**

John Schmidt (NOAA/NWS/SERFC)

David Glenn (NOAA/NWS/WFO Morehead City)

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

### **Key Participants:**

NWS

NC, SC, GA, FL State Shellfish Sanitation Entities

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

There is a great range of data analysis capabilities and methodologies employed across the southeast US states in the execution of state shellfish sanitation missions. Recent SECART projects supporting the post-processing of NWS precipitation products for application in this community's decision-making process and recent interactions with NCCOS/Oxford Lab and the state of NC and the NWS SERFC are highlighting the need for a regional meeting to share best practices and identify gaps such that NOAA entities might provide a more effective and efficient level of support for this community. While the focus of the FY20 project is the shellfish sanitation community, the expectation is that this will set the groundwork to expand to aquaculture in future years.

### **Target audience:**

State shellfish sanitation entities.

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

- Best practices will be shared amongst state officials.
- Gaps in data availability and usage will be identified and addressed.
- Potential decision support tools and datasets will be identified during a gap analysis with action item assignments or small teams established to address.
- Assessment of the feasibility/need of expansion to aquaculture community in FY21.

### **Approach:**

One-day workshop with approximately 12 attending in Charleston, SC facilitated by local NOAA facilitator.

1. Overview of each state's sanitation workflows, methodologies, challenges, successes.
2. Example(s) from each federal office on existing state collaborations with shellfish sanitation and a broader description of mission and capabilities.
3. Exercise to identify shared best practices
4. Exercise to identify service and/or data gaps that could be addressed by existing resources or by establishing small working groups.

We have the potential to coordinate with ISSC (Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Commission) meeting, which is usually in August.

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

Communicating with constituency group and federal partners via email, phone call, and conference call in preparation phase. Report of meeting will be produced, including action items.



**Estimated Cost and Funding Source(s): \$5,000**

\$3000 in SECART funds for federal travel support and \$2000 in SECART funds for non-federal travel support to workshop.

**Key Project Milestones:**

- Establish Planning Team (Q1)
- Execute one-day meeting (Q2-Q3)
- Produce document of meeting notes and action items (Q4)

**Activity C6: SE and Caribbean Regional Workshop on Using Drones for Coastal Management and Conservation**

**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)

John McCombs (NOAA/NOS/OCM)

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

Abbey Wakely, SECOORA

Dave Johnston, Duke University Marine Lab

Scott Eastman, Whitney Jenkins, SE NERRS

John Quinlan, NMFS SEFSC

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

Drones are being utilized for a wide variety of research and management purposes. Many technical challenges exist to effectively implement drones including permitting, technology specifications, data management and analysis.

**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:**

- A workshop report will provide a summary of outcomes, specifically addressing research and management applications in the coastal zone, best practices for implementing drone technology and an overview of current and emerging technologies in drone hardware and analytical software
- A regional network of drone expertise
- Increased awareness by decision makers of the requirements, capabilities, challenges and limitations in drone technologies in coastal ecosystems

### **Approach:**

In FY19, SECART convened a steering committee to scope a regional workshop to provide an opportunity for interested scientists and managers in the region to 1) network with other users, 2) gain knowledge of technical challenges and requirements associated with varying science and management applications, and 3) assess regional needs for future collaboration and best practice sharing. The workshop, which has been scheduled for 31 Mar - 2 Apr in NC, the workshop will cover aspects of drone technology including governmental policy and procedures, mission planning and data management, and demonstrations on emerging drone technologies, imaging and data analysis and visualization techniques. The workshop will also provide a venue to share experiences and network with experts and colleagues around the Southeast and US Caribbean.

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

- A SaveTheDate was distributed to NOAA staff and partners in the SE and Caribbean.
- A website has been developed and will be used to share important information
- A workshop summary will be distributed SECART and the NOAA UAS initiative.
- The workshop will be held 31 Mar - 2 Apr 2020
- A workshop report will be drafted and distributed by the end of FY20.

### **Estimated Cost and Funding Source(s): \$2200**

\$2200 of SECART funds, including \$1400 for SECART members travel and \$800 for RC travel. Supplemental funding: SECOORA and IOOS will provide \$25,000 (funds received from joint proposal). NMFS SEFSC has been awarded \$31,000, with \$20,000 dedicated to SEFSC FTE staff to attend. Additional in-kind will be provided by Duke University and NCCOS Beaufort Laboratory

### **Key Project Milestones:**

- Steering committee meetings and planning calls. Save the date and survey of potential participants sent out. (Q1)
- Host workshop 31 March - 2 April. (Q1)
- Preliminary quick-look summary distributed to participants and NOAA (Q2)
- Draft workshop report (Q4)

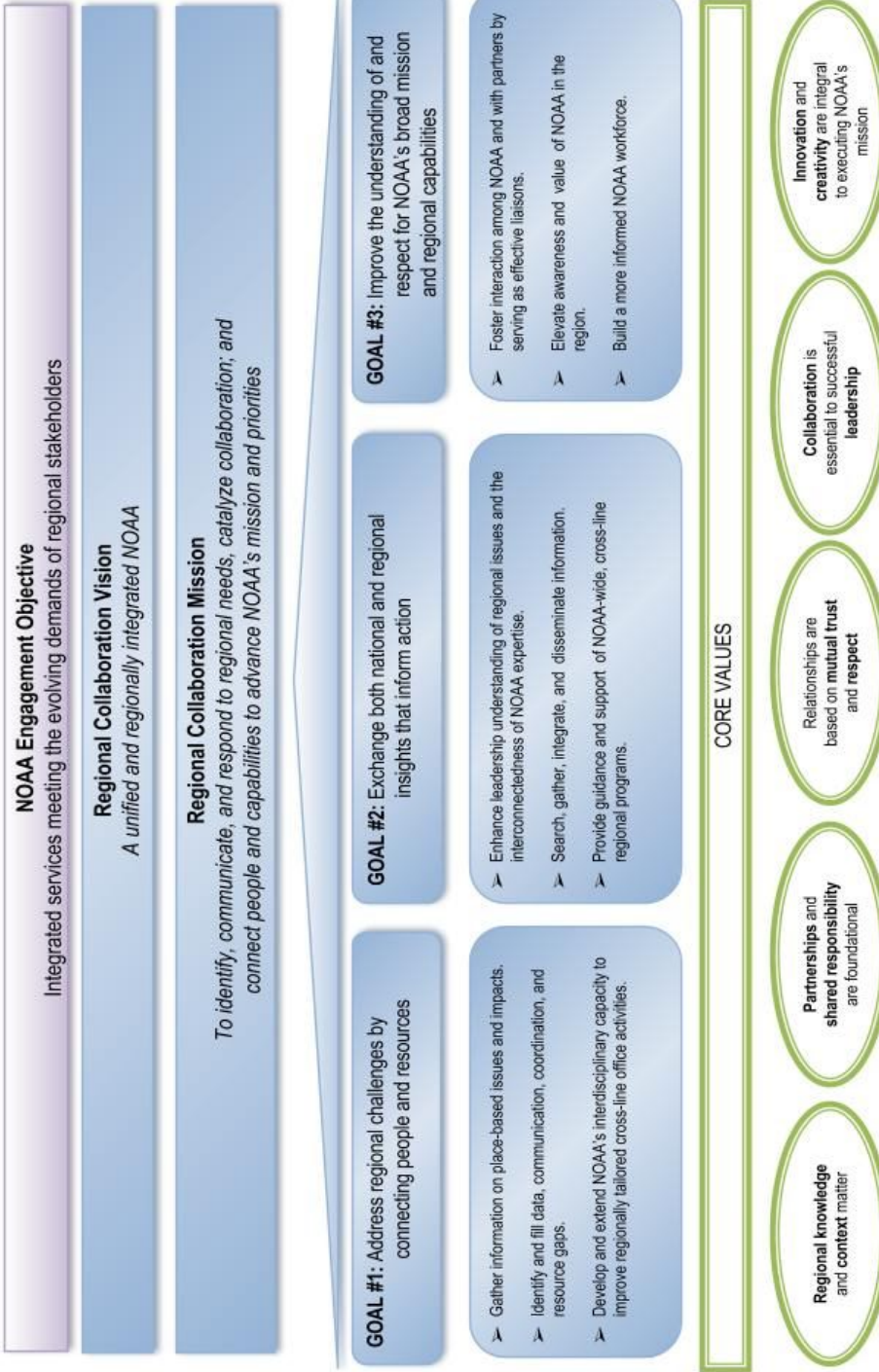
## Section III. Appendices

### Appendix 1. Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team Membership (Oct 2019)

Name	Affiliation	Location	E-mail
Barnes, Tomma	NOS/NCCOS	Beaufort, NC	<a href="mailto:Tomma.Barnes@noaa.gov">Tomma.Barnes@noaa.gov</a>
Cross, Scott	NESDIS/NCDDC	Charleston, SC	<a href="mailto:Scott.Cross@noaa.gov">Scott.Cross@noaa.gov</a>
Dieveney, Beth	NOS/ONMS	Cedar Key, FL	<a href="mailto:Beth.Dieveney@noaa.gov">Beth.Dieveney@noaa.gov</a>
Devoe, Rick	SC Sea Grant	Charleston, SC	<a href="mailto:Rick.Devoe@scseagrant.org">Rick.Devoe@scseagrant.org</a>
Ellin, Rebecca	NC DEQ	Beaufort, NC	<a href="mailto:Rebecca.Ellin@ncdenr.gov">Rebecca.Ellin@ncdenr.gov</a>
Fay, Ginny	NMFS/SERO	St. Petersburg, FL	<a href="mailto:Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov">Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov</a>
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Hernandez, Debra	SECOORA	Charleston, SC	<a href="mailto:Debra@secoora.org">Debra@secoora.org</a>
Kasper, Chip	NWS/WFO	Key West, FL	<a href="mailto:kennard.kasper@noaa.gov">kennard.kasper@noaa.gov</a>
Kirtman, Ben	Univ. Miami, CIMAS	Miami, FL	<a href="mailto:bkirtman@rsmas.miami.edu">bkirtman@rsmas.miami.edu</a>
Licate, Lou	NOS/OCS	Miami, FL	<a href="mailto:Louis.Licate@noaa.gov">Louis.Licate@noaa.gov</a>
Lokken, Scott	NOS/NGS	Raleigh, NC	<a href="mailto:Scott.Lokken@noaa.gov">Scott.Lokken@noaa.gov</a>
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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 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).

## Appendix 4. SECART FY2020 Spend Plan

<b>FY20 SECART Activities</b>			
<b>Priority/Activity</b>	<b>SECART Funds</b>	<b>RC Travel portion</b>	<b>Supplem. 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. Enhance NOAA’s mission through strategic engagement with regional partners	3200	2200	
Activity A2. Advance NOAA’s mission through engagement with the NOAA in the Caribbean Collaborative	3500		
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.	3100	1500	
Activity A4. Enhance the capacity of the SECART to lead organizational integration within the region.	12,500	1500	
Activity A5. Improve the capacity of NOAA’s inter-regional and national integrated services	6000	4200	TBD
<b>Priority: Improve Economic, Environmental, and Social Resilience of Communities to Weather, Water, and Climate Impacts</b>			
Activity B1. Resilience Webinar Series	0	0	0
Activity B2. Engaging the Community in Disaster Resilience	2500	1000	0
Activity B3. Improving Disaster Resilience in the Southeast and Caribbean Region: Exercise with Partners for Large Scale Disasters NOAA Response Posture to Large-Scale Disasters Within the SECART Region.	4000	0	0
Activity B4. Supporting the Southeast Regional Climate Quarterly Outlook.	0	0	0
Activity B5. A Guide to Integrated NOAA Disaster Resilience in the Southeast and Caribbean Region	0	0	0
<b>Priority: Promote the sustainability of the region’s living marine resources and the habitats upon which they depend.</b>			
Activity C1. Improving coordination and prioritization of seafloor	0	0	0



mapping in the southeast region			
Activity C2. Supporting the NC Sentinel Site Cooperative: Science Symposium at the 2019 NC Coastal Conference	2,000	0	0
Activity C3. Improve awareness of NOAA resources and capabilities to address ecosystem issues in the SE and Caribbean	0	0	0
Activity C4. Training and support for Coral Disease prevention and Response in Puerto Rico	6,000	0	0
Activity C5. Identify data and service needs/requirements of SE state shellfish sanitation entities, improve awareness to existing NOAA capabilities, and share best practices in shellfish sanitation across SE states (NC, SC, GA, FL).	5,000	0	0
C6. SE and Caribbean Regional Workshop on Using Drones for Coastal Management and Conservation	2,200	800	56,000
	<b>50,000</b>	<b>11,400</b>	<b>56,000+</b>
	<b>SECART Funds</b>	<b>RC Travel</b>	<b>Supplem. funding</b>