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Improving NOAA's service to the Nation through collaboration

Southeast & Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team Overview

Katharine Egan, NOAA's Southeast & Caribbean Regional Coordinator
SECART All Hazards Workshop, Jacksonville, FL
May 20, 2024



Regional Collaboration Network

- Objective: Integrated services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders
- Vision: A unified and regionally integrated NOAA
- Mission: To identify, communicate, and respond to regional needs, catalyze collaboration; and connect people and capabilities to advance NOAA's mission and priorities.



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Regional Collaboration Strategy 2016

NOAA Engagement Objective

Integrated services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders

Regional Collaboration Vision

A unified and regionally integrated NOAA

Regional Collaboration Mission

To identify, communicate, and respond to regional needs, catalyze collaboration; and connect people and capabilities to advance NOAA's mission and priorities

GOAL #1: Address regional challenges by connecting people and resources

- Gather information on place-based issues and impacts.
- Identify and fill data, communication, coordination, and resource gaps.
- Develop and extend NOAA's interdisciplinary capacity to improve regionally tailored cross-line office activities.

GOAL #2: Exchange both national and regional insights that inform action

- Enhance leadership understanding of regional issues and the interconnectedness of NOAA expertise.
- Search, gather, integrate, and disseminate information.
- Provide guidance and support of NOAA-wide, cross-line regional programs.

GOAL #3: Improve the understanding of and respect for NOAA's broad mission and regional capabilities

- Foster interaction among NOAA and with partners by serving as effective liaisons.
- Elevate awareness and value of NOAA in the region.
- Build a more informed NOAA workforce.

CORE VALUES

Regional knowledge and context matter

Partnerships and shared responsibility are foundational

Relationships are based on mutual trust and respect

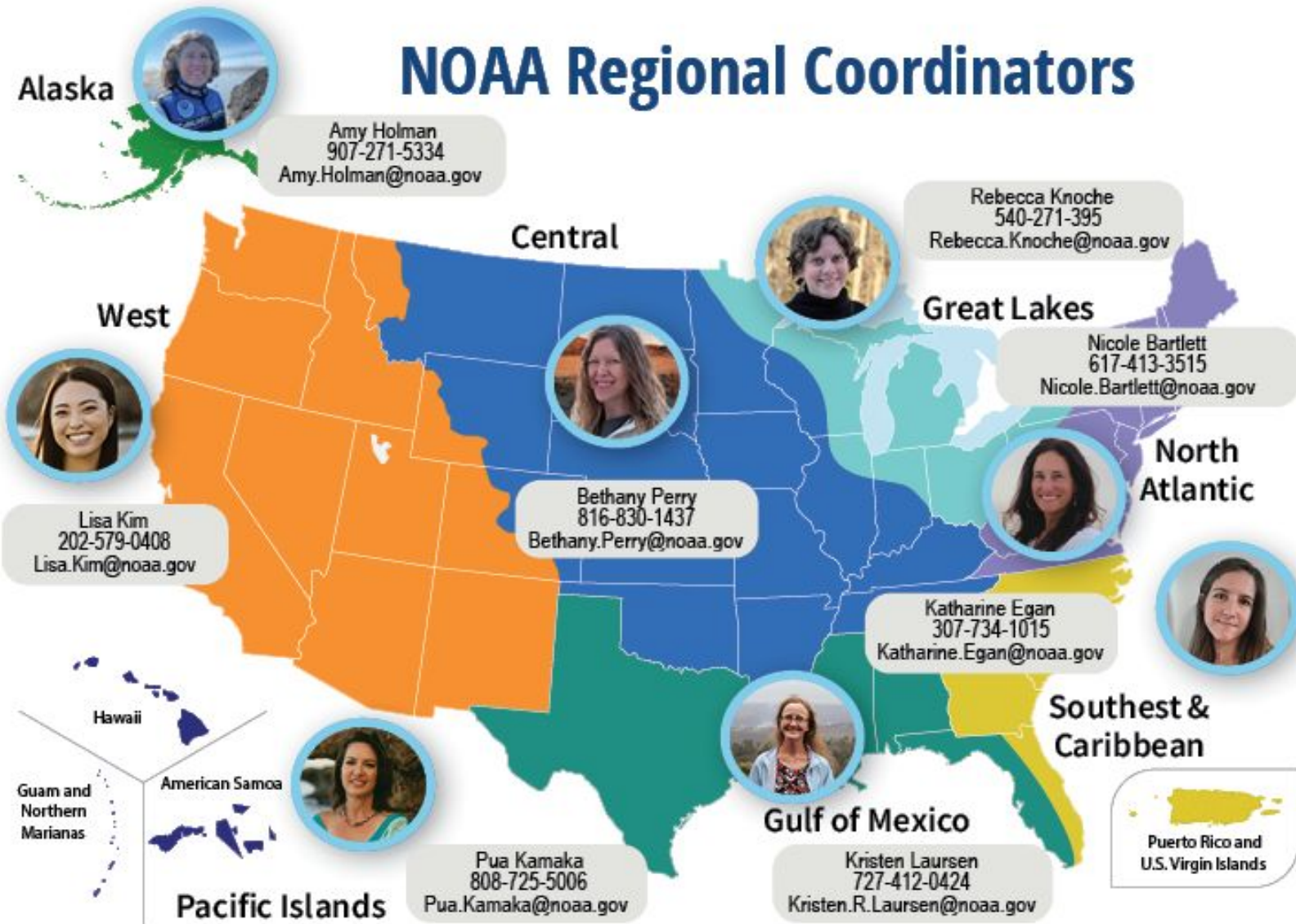
Collaboration is essential to successful leadership

Innovation and creativity are integral to executing NOAA's mission



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NOAA Regional Coordinators



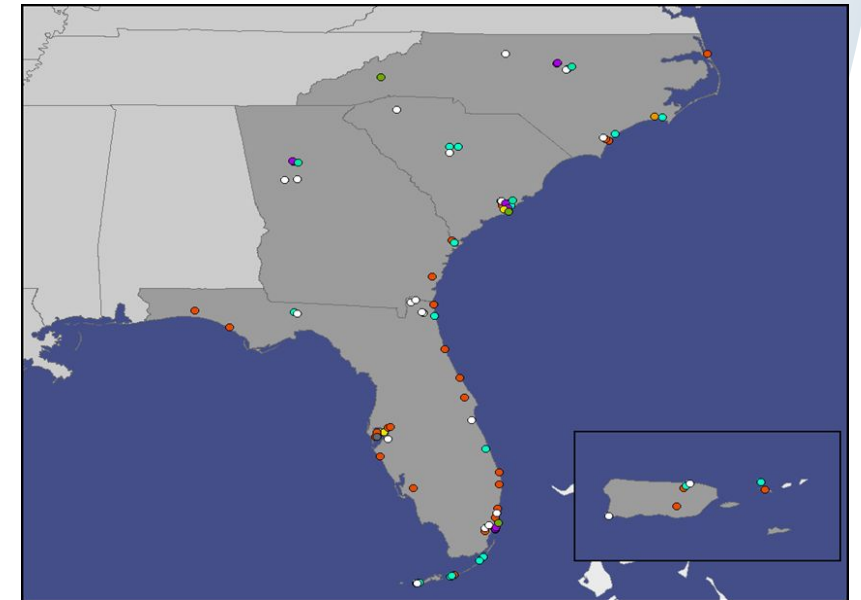
<https://www.noaa.gov/regional-collaboration-network>



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NOAA in the Southeast and Caribbean

- Four states (NC, SC, GA, FL) and two territories (PR, USVI), 42 million people, and 18,000 miles of coastline
- 28 NOAA facilities and 2300 employees serving the NOAA mission
- State and university partners throughout the region, including Sea Grant Programs, Coastal Management Programs, Estuarine Research Reserves, and Cooperative Institutes



What is SECART?



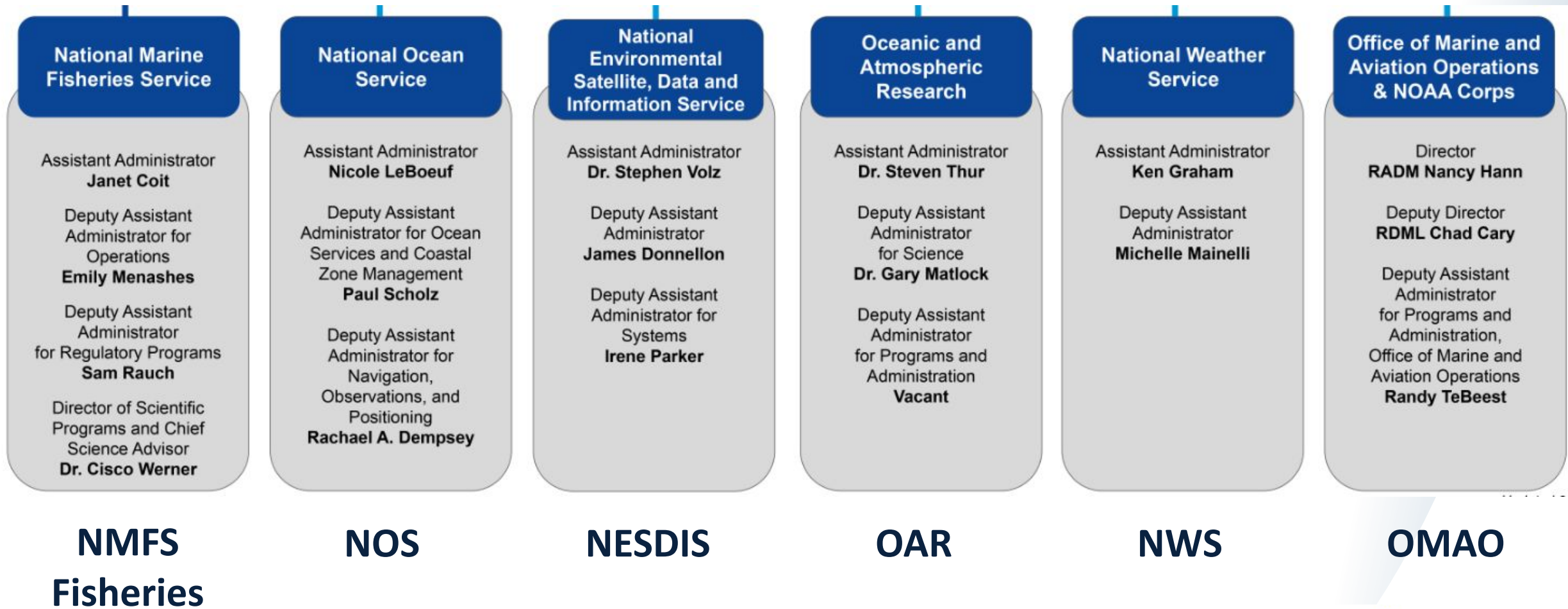
Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team (SECART)

- One of 8 teams in the Regional Collaboration Network (RCN)
- Collection of:
 - 18 NOAA representatives from most line offices
 - 4 core partners: SECOORA, NC NERRs, Sea Grant, CIMAS
- Progress through growing strategic partnerships (both internal and external) and a focus on cross-line office gaps in NOAA mission execution.
- Budget: \$50K annually



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NOAA Line Offices



Fisheries

National Marine Fisheries Service

Assistant Administrator

Janet Coit

Deputy Assistant
Administrator for
Operations

Emily Menashes

Deputy Assistant
Administrator
for Regulatory Programs

Sam Rauch

Director of Scientific
Programs and Chief
Science Advisor

Dr. Cisco Werner

- Southeast Fisheries Science Center
- Southeast Regional Office

NMFS Fisheries



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National Ocean Service

National Ocean Service

Assistant Administrator
Nicole LeBoeuf

Deputy Assistant
Administrator for Ocean
Services and Coastal
Zone Management
Paul Scholz

Deputy Assistant
Administrator for
Navigation,
Observations, and
Positioning
Rachael A. Dempsey

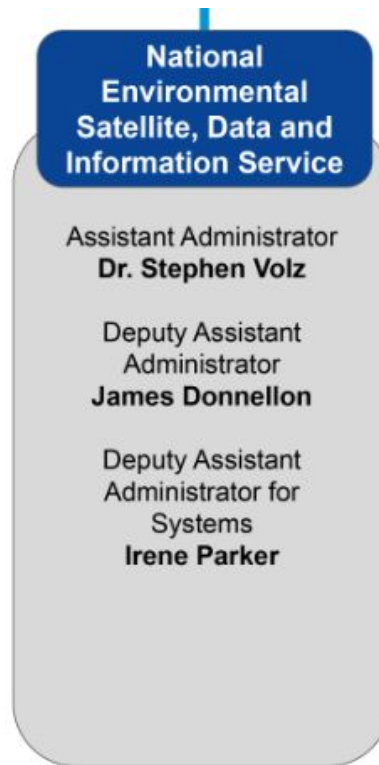
- Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
- Office of Coast Survey
- Office for Coastal Management
- Coral Reef Conservation Program
- Disaster Preparedness Program
- National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science

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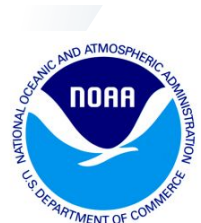
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NESDIS



NESDIS

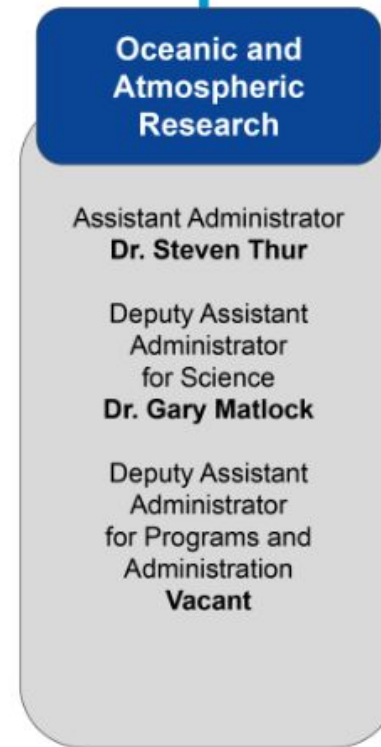
- Regional Climate Services Directors: Eastern Region & Southern Region
- National Centers for Environmental Information



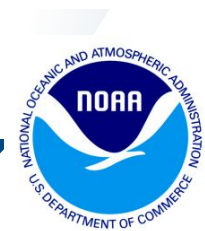
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Research

- Atlantic Oceanographic & Meteorological Laboratory
- National Integrated Drought Information System



OAR



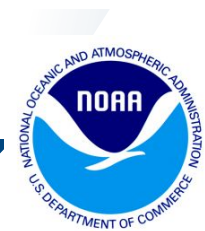
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Weather Service

- Columbia WFO
- Key West WFO
- Morehead City/Newport WFO
- San Juan WFO
- Southeast River Forecast Office



NWS



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Collaboration is not possible without our partners

- Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA)
- Florida Sea Grant
- Cooperative Institute For Marine And Atmospheric Studies (CIMAS)
- North Carolina National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERRs)



UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
COOPERATIVE INSTITUTE for
MARINE & ATMOSPHERIC STUDIES



NORTH CAROLINA
COASTAL RESERVE &
NATIONAL ESTUARINE
RESEARCH RESERVE



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SECART Strategic Goals FY23-25

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

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

Goal 3: Promote the sustainability of the region's coastal and marine ecosystems (**ECOSYSTEMS**)



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FY 2023 Activity Plan

Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team



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

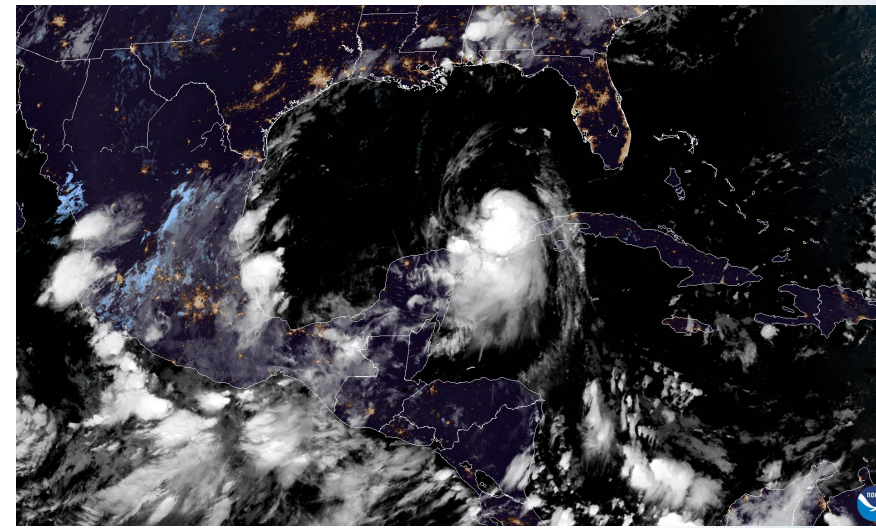
November 2022

Annual Activity Plans

Describes the purpose, approach, partners, milestones, and budget for each activity within the three priority goals.

Resilience Projects

- Hurricane Awareness Webinar Series
- *Sargassum*
 - Updates to the Southeast and Caribbean Disaster Guide
 - *Sargassum* Management and Policy Analysis
- Disaster workshop and exercise for the City of Jacksonville, FL
- Climate & equity regional pilot projects on extreme heat: Miami, FL and Charleston, SC
- Southeast & Caribbean Disaster and Resilience Partnership (SCDRP)



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How to engage with us!

- Do you have an idea to tackle an issue that could use NOAA coordination? SECART can help.
- Want to learn more about what NOAA is doing in your area? SECART can connect you with services and people.
- Connect with a SECART member so you can be involved in an activity next fiscal year.



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Questions?

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region.secarib@noaa.gov

Extra Slides

RCN History

- 2002: NOAA Administrator established five Regional Coordination **pilot programs**
- 2006: NOAA Executive Council assessed pilot programs and provided guidance to establish **Regional Collaboration** led by the Executive Oversight Group (DAAs from every line office) and overseen by the DUS-O
- 2009: Eight full-time coordinators hired to support Regional Collaboration teams nationwide
- 2016: DUS-O designated National Team Lead, Louisa Koch (Director, NOAA Office of Education) as senior executive sponsor; HQ liaison position created



Team Members as of May 2024

Nic Alvarado, Navigation Manager Florida and US Caribbean, [Office of Coast Survey](#)

Emily Carpenter, Lead Meteorologist, [Weather Forecast Office, Columbia, SC](#)

Lauren Carroll, Communications Specialist, [National Centers for Environmental Information](#)

Virginia Croom, Assistant Regional Administrator, [NMFS Southeast Regional Office](#)

Beth Dieveney, Policy Analyst, [Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary](#)

Katie Eaton, Education & Outreach Coordinator, [Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Studies at University of Miami](#)

Katharine Egan, Regional Coordinator, [Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team](#)

Rebecca Ellin, Reserve Manager, [NC National Estuarine Research Reserve](#)

Ian Enochs, Research Ecologist, [Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory](#)

Debra Hernandez, Executive Director, [Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association](#)

Chip Kasper, Meteorologist-in-Charge & Regional Team Lead, [Weather Forecast Office, Key West, FL](#)

Todd Kellison, Ecosystems Research Branch Chief, [Southeast Fisheries Science Center](#)

Sherry Larkin, Director, [Florida Sea Grant Program](#)

Aranzazu Lascurain, Southeast & Caribbean Lead, [Office for Coastal Management](#)

AK Leight, Research Fishery Biologist, [National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, Oxford Laboratory](#)

Ellen Mecray, Eastern Region Climate Services Director, [National Center for Environmental Information](#)

Sharon Mesick, Southern Region Climate Services Director, [National Center for Environmental Information](#)

Ernesto Rodriguez, Meteorologist-in-Charge, [Weather Forecast Office, San Juan, PR](#)

Richard Okulski, Meteorologist-in-Charge, [Weather Forecast Office, Columbia, SC](#)

John Schmidt, Hydrologist in Charge, [Southeast River Forecast Center](#)

Dana Wusinich-Mendez, Atlantic-Caribbean Team Lead, [Coral Reef Conservation Program](#)

Allyssa Zebrowski, Southeast Regional Preparedness Coordinator, [Disaster Preparedness Program](#)



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Working group members as of May 2024

Tashya Allen, Southeast and Caribbean Learning Services Coordinator, [Office for Coastal Management](#)

Jennifer Dorton, Deputy Director, [Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association](#)

David Glenn, Meteorologist-in-Charge, Weather Forecast Office, Newport/Morehead City, NC

Shirley Murillo, Deputy Director, Hurricane Research Division, [Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory](#)

Meredith Muth, Southeast & Caribbean Regional Drought Information Coordinator, National Integrated Drought Information System

Matt Pendleton, Southeast Geospatial Coordinator, [Office for Coastal Management](#)

Chris Taylor, Ecologist, [National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, Beaufort Laboratory](#)



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Engagement

- Annual SECART meeting (August 2024, Key West, FL)
- NOAA in the Caribbean
- Supporting the Southeast and Caribbean Disaster Resilience Partnership (SCDRP)
- Participation in NOAA Ambassador events & outreach events
- Communications activities: refreshing SECART's outreach materials, website, focus on Congressional engagement



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NOAA in the Caribbean

NOAA's Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team (SECART) initiated NOAA in the Caribbean in 2011.

NOAA in the Caribbean is a forum to improve engagement, communication, coordination, and collaboration between NOAA and partners working in the Caribbean to more effectively and efficiently deliver services.

[More information here!](#)



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NOAA in the Caribbean Executive Team as of April 2024

Lee Carrubba, Acting Division Chief, National ESA Section 7 Coordinator, NOAA Fisheries, [Office of Protected Resources](#)

Zoraida P. Pérez Delgado, Program Analyst, [OAR International Activities Office](#)

Sammi Ebersole, International Relations Specialist, [Office of International Affairs](#)

Katharine Egan, Regional Coordinator & Interim Chair, [Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team](#)

Trika Gerard, Chief of Staff, NOAA Fisheries, [Southeast Fisheries Science Center](#)

Jay Grove, Research Fishery Biologist, NOAA Fisheries, [Southeast Fisheries Science Center](#)

D'amy Steward, Knauss Fellow and Executive Secretariat, [Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs](#)

Allyssa Zebrowski, Southeast Regional Preparedness Coordinator, [Disaster Preparedness Program](#)

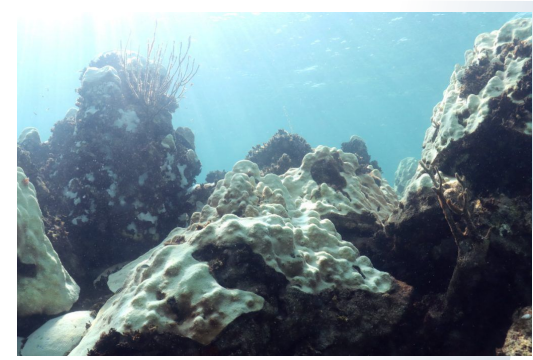
Products:

- **Email listserv** for timely updates and to get updates on the following products
- **Quarterly newsletter** with stories and information on what NOAA and partners are up to in the Caribbean. Translated into Spanish thanks to our partners at Puerto Rico Sea Grant.
- **Community group meetings** every two months for information sharing, presentations, and briefings
- **Annual partner meetings** where we dive deep on a topic of interest to partners.



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Ecosystems



- Connecting NOAA Regional Fellows with SECART
- Drones in the Coastal Zone Community of Practice
- Coastal Resilience Workshop for the Gullah Geechee Nation
- Supporting the National Coral Disease Coordinator at Florida Sea Grant



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