



Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association
SECOORA and Observing In Action: Georgia



Monitoring the Southeast's Coasts

The ocean and coastal waters of the southeast U.S. help drive local weather and regional climate conditions, support ecologically and economically significant ecosystems (which include important fisheries), and provide tourism, boating, and other recreational opportunities. The oceans and coasts annually provide over \$675 billion dollars worth of economic impact in the southeast U.S.*

There are no state boundaries for ocean currents, marine wildlife, and weather patterns, so it is critical for states to work together to develop, implement and maintain a robust coastal and ocean observing system. SECOORA, the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association, is assisting NC, SC, GA and FL to integrate extensive and widely scattered information and data acquired in the RA footprint. SECOORA provides opportunities to leverage resources across the region and to pool expertise in addressing national and regional needs and response (e.g. Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill). Because SECOORA is one of 11 Regional Associations established through the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS), it also brings national ideas and resources to the table.

SECOORA members use coastal and ocean observations to address a variety of management issues.

HIGH FREQUENCY RADAR ON JEKYLL ISLAND, GA

A High Frequency (HF) Radar installation along the GA/SC coast was installed on Jekyll Island, GA with primary funding from the Georgia Research Alliance, the Office of Naval Research grant funding for the SEACOOS project, plus a significant contribution from SkIO. This is the third HF Radar that SECOORA is partially supporting. The three systems work together to create a detailed map of surface ocean currents across an area stretching more than 125 miles off shore from SC to North FL. They facilitate collaborative work across the southern border into Florida. The new site will approximately double the shelf area over which wave heights and directional wave spectra can be estimated, and will significantly increase the shore parallel extent of shelf-edge Gulf Stream surface current observations.

SECOORA Members in Georgia

Georgia Aquarium

Kennesaw State University

Skidaway Institute of
Oceanography (SkIO)

For More Information

Southeast Coastal Ocean
Observing Regional Association
<http://www.secoora.org/>

U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing
System (IOOS)
<http://ioos.gov>



Photo of the WERA 12-antenna receive (Rx) site. Seven antennas are mounted on a public boardwalk and five are in the dune woods/scrub. Photo: Trent Moore, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography

*National Ocean Economics Program. J. Kildow, C. Colgan, J. Scorse, *State of the U.S. Ocean and Coastal Economies*, June 2009.

Basic Observation Buoys Workshops

Three interactive workshops (January 2009, March 2010, and December 2010) have introduced the concept of a scaled-down, functional platform for collecting information on water conditions and chemistry to over ten regional university scientists and informal and formal educators in FL, GA, SC, NC and VA. These workshops have been hosted by Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, University of North Carolina, Jacksonville University and were co-sponsored by NOAA's Chesapeake Bay Office, IOOS, SECOORA, Kennesaw State University, and COSEE SE. The goals were to test various design platforms, advance the next generation of BOBs with a focus on sensor instrumentation, and develop regional strategies for outreach.



Angela Bliss from University of Georgia and Jim Nelson from Skidaway Institute of Oceanography assemble a BOB, a Basic Observation Buoy designed to teach students from kindergarten through graduate school about observing technologies. Image Credit: Lundie Spence, COSEE-SE

Member of the Southeast Atlantic Marine Debris Initiative Consortium

SECOORA is a member of the southeast (SE) Atlantic-Marine Debris Initiative (SEA-MDI) Consortium, housed at University of Georgia. This regional partnership with NOAA's Marine Debris Division aims to create collaborative regional strategies addressing Marine Debris prevention, reduction and mitigation. This program will enhance existing programs and partnerships by increasing involvement of organizations, industry, and/or communities in preventing marine debris, and combining resources with national and regional partners to increase the geographic scope and pace of marine debris prevention activities through the use of culturally relevant outreach methods, information on alternative disposal methods, and the development and dissemination of tools and innovative products to address marine debris.