# FY2011: Regional Integrated Ocean Observing System Development

U.S. IOOS® is an operational system and a network of regional partners responsible for regional observations, data management, modeling and analysis, education and outreach, and research and development. The overarching purpose of U.S. IOOS is to address regional and national needs for ocean data and information. NOAA continued a merit-based funding process in 2011 to further development of the IOOS regional network. IOOS regional partners provide coordination with regional stakeholders while contributing data and other outputs to the national system – supporting regional priorities while advancing national objectives.

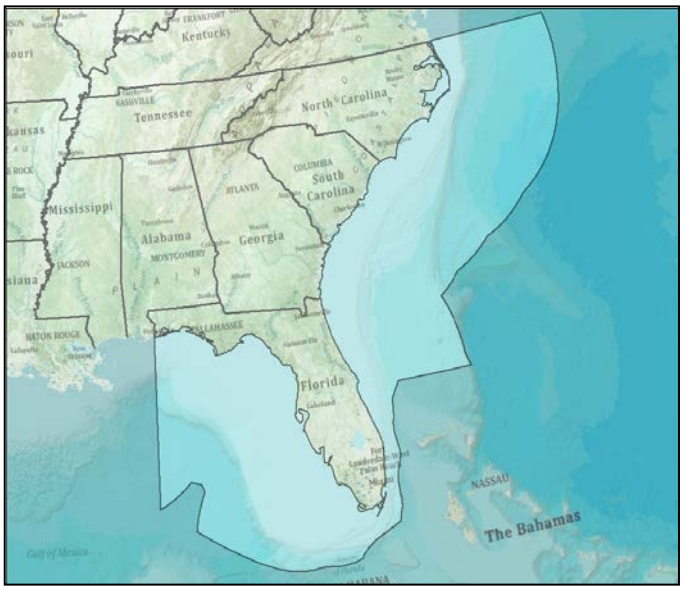
## SOUTHEAST ATLANTIC REGION

The region serviced by the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA) encompasses four states, over 42 million people and spans the coastal ocean from North Carolina to the west Coast of Florida. The region is vulnerable to hurricane hazards, potential impacts from oil drilling off Cuba and neighboring regions, and climate change because of low-lying coastal land and corals and other habitats that will be the first indicators of significant ecological impact. A regional observing system is critical to understanding risks and reducing impacts, as well as supporting the economy of the SE. SECOORA supports the need of the southeastern United States for real-time, or near real-time, marine information on coastal and ocean conditions that protects our people, environment and economy.

### NOAA Funding:

Prior to FY 2011, IOOS regional partners received two awards – one for development of the Regional Coastal Ocean Observing System (RCOOS), and one for planning and stakeholder engagement by a Regional Association (RA). In FY 2011, IOOS made a single award to each region for management of these activities. Funds awarded by NOAA since establishment of the U.S. IOOS Program Office are as follows:

FY 2011 - $2,015,000
FY 2010 - $1,680,000, $399,670 RA
FY 2009 - $500,000 RCOOS (plus 3 additional implementation awards totaling $2,444,150), $391,991 RA
FY 2008 - $400,000 RCOOS, $384,535 RA




### Regional Priorities:

The ocean and coastal waters of the southeastern United States support ecologically and economically significant ecosystems; provide tourism, boating, and other recreational opportunities; and generate over $675 billion annually in economic impact within our region. SECOORA is working to integrate and augment existing observational, modeling, data management and education assets to provide lasting benefits in these areas and for the people, communities, and natural resources that make the Southeast unique, including:

- Protection of people and communities through quantitative improvements in the forecast of potentially destructive winds, waves, and storm surges;
- Improved coastal and marine use decision-making through enhanced and more comprehensive characterization of the coastal and marine environment;
- Improvements to public safety through more timely and site-specific health advisories, storm surge and rip current warnings;
- Safer and more efficient marine operations and emergency response through enhanced coastal and marine situational awareness;
- Better-informed decision-making regarding commercial and recreational fisheries, and shoreline and climate change impacts.

Fisheries, coastal development and erosion, storms and coastal hazards, and water quality are all critical concerns that require informed management policy and strong science. Towards that end, in FY11 and for the next five years, SECOORA will work to achieve the following objectives:

- Ensure stakeholder needs are met through assessment and governance mechanisms that effectively prioritize the distribution of Regional Coastal Ocean Observing System (RCOOS)-related funding and other resources that are required to meet critical regional needs.
- Coordinate and begin to execute the build out plan for a fully instrumented RCOOS in the Southeast with defined service levels, commensurate with funding, that provides coordinated monitoring, assessment and prediction.
- Maintain an observing subsystem that includes moored and coastal stations, high frequency radars (HFR), gliders and storm event monitoring subcomponents.
- Support a multi-scale, multi-resolution modeling framework that includes shelf and estuarine circulation and surge/inundation prediction, and uses the observing subsystem for verification, assimilation, and operation.
- Build upon the Data Management and Communication (DMAC) infrastructure to optimize existing operations, facilitate technology evolution / transfer, and address structural / project management complexities.
- Support an education and outreach (E&O) program partnered with other RAs and other marine education organizations including SE Sea Grant offices and COSEE-Southeast that engages diverse education and stakeholder audiences to understand the benefits of ocean observing to society.

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