Supporting the Blue Economy - SECOORA 2018 Annual Meeting

SECOORA Principal Investigator Abstracts

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Marine Weather Portal: Upgrades and Stakeholder Requested Enhancements

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Regional coastal ocean observing systems, as part of the IOOS initiative, provide opportunities for increased access to meteorological and oceanographic data over and beyond the data that NOAA and other federal agencies have been able to provide. One of the challenges faced by IOOS-funded organizations is how to aggregate data from multiple sources in a meaningful way for stakeholders. SECOORA members have worked together since 2007 to develop and continuously improve the Marine Weather Portal (MWP), hosted on the SECOORA website. The MWP aggregates data provided by the NOAA National Data Buoy Center, National Weather Service (NWS), National Estuarine Research Reserves, IOOS Regional Associations, and other sources into a map-based product specifically developed for the marine community.

The goals of the Marine Weather Portal (MWP) are to: 1) provide 24/7 access to critical marine weather information for the commercial and recreational marine communities in the southeast US and Gulf coast regions; 2) make NOAA and other provider data more widely accessible on one website; and, 3) provide the site in a customizable format which the NWS offices can use for their Marine landing page. The MWP allows users to access standardized map-based marine weather pages, color coded active hazards, marine observations, point-and-click coastal waters forecasts, and detailed five-day marine forecasts, among other features.

The MWP was developed by meteorologists, web designers, data managers, and outreach personnel with SECOORA, University of North Carolina Wilmington, University of South Carolina, Second Creek Consulting LLC, and NWS offices in coastal states across the Southeast and Gulf of Mexico. The MWP is currently used to disseminate standardized, consolidated marine information for the SECOORA and Gulf of Mexico Ocean Observing System regions: http://mwp.secoora.org. During Year 2 of the project, the MWP team added newly developed NWS hurricane products to the site; NWS Active Hurricane Threats and Impacts; and, NWS Potential Storm Surge Flooding. Additonally, PIs Dorton and Galvarion presented the MWP at the NWS office in Tampa, FL and to the NWS office and Gulf of Mexico Disaster Response Center in Mobile, AL. Finally, PI Dorton presented at the 2017 Coastal and Esturine Research Federation (CERF) conference.