
Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association Solicitation for Regional Coastal Ocean Observing System Projects

As part of the FY 18 (Year 3, June 1, 2018 - May 31, 2019) Scope of Work for the grant titled *Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA): Supporting Resilient Ecosystems, Communities, and Economies*, SECOORA is investing in coastal ocean observing system project(s) in the Southeast that promote integration of the ongoing Regional Coastal Ocean Observing System (RCOOS) as well as address the needs of stakeholders. These projects leverage existing capabilities and deliver data and/or new products that address stakeholder needs in the identified [SECOORA focus areas](#).

Request for Proposals

SECOORA is currently sustaining observing, modeling, and data management subsystems for the US Southeast coastal waters that provide the basis for the RCOOS by supporting and integrating existing assets and observations. SECOORA supports maintenance and operation of in-situ moorings and coastal stations, glider missions, and High Frequency (HF) radar observational networks from North Carolina to West Florida. SECOORA also supports a multi-scale, multi-resolution modeling subsystem for the US Southeast coastal waters to deliver model data and products for coastal resource and emergency response managers and other users. Funding for SECOORA is provided from NOAA through the US Integrated Ocean Observing System Program Office. For this Request for Proposals, SECOORA has a maximum of \$30,000 in funding to collect additional observations that address one or more of the following environmental concerns within the region:

- Harmful algal blooms
- Sound in the marine environment
- Coral health

The primary goal of this solicitation is to provide support for a short-term (or limited) observing activity in the Southeast that will improve understanding of these environmental concerns. Projects should address a key gap in scientific understanding, technology, or data. Observations may be physical, bio-optical, chemical, or acoustic with the intent to integrate with SECOORA's observational, modeling, and/or data management sub-systems. The project should support SECOORA's scientific and operational goals and align with one of the SECOORA focus areas. The responder, recognizing and keeping in mind the maximum availability of funds, is expected to propose a feasible project in the SECOORA region that will combine/leverage existing observational and modeling assets to address scientific and operational goals and end user needs.

Eligibility

Proposals must significantly involve stakeholders who are knowledgeable about the environmental concern being addressed. Proposals must have a concise research question (i.e. hypothesis) in order to receive favorable reviews. For the proposal to be considered eligible for award, all work included in the proposal must take place in the SECOORA region. Respondents are encouraged to identify cooperative partnerships with NGOs, local, state, or national organizations. Respondents are also encouraged to contact and collaborate with the existing SECOORA principal investigators or with other funded projects and leverage their existing funding, assets, and resources towards the proposed observing project.

Funding Availability

Grant awards will range between \$5,000 and \$30,000 with an estimated 1 to 2 awards provided. Matching/in-kind funds are not required but are highly encouraged. Investigators may only propose one-year (12 months maximum) projects. Projects should be planned around a June 1, 2019 start date. Individuals may be the lead PI or co-PI on only one proposal but can be a participant on multiple proposals. Federal employees/agencies are ineligible for this funding opportunity.

Application Process

Proposals should be succinct, but sufficiently detailed for review by peers, potential users of results, and program advisors. Narrative text should be typed in 11-point Times font with 1-inch margins. Proposals should be submitted as a single PDF file via e-mail to Jennifer Dorton (jdorton@secoora.org) by **April 15, 2019**. The proposal should be a maximum of **3 pages** and must include the following elements:

1. Title
2. Key personnel
3. Identification of environmental concern being addressed
4. Project Description including research question and methodology
5. Identification of SECOORA focus area addressed and users/stakeholders engaged
6. Deliverables and timeline

Required additional information (which does not count towards the 3-page limit):

7. References cited
8. [Budget](#) and [budget justification](#)
9. CV for lead PI
10. A signed letter of commitment from at least one user/stakeholder that clearly identifies their role in the project
11. One (1) page data management plan. Note that all data must be shared with SECOORA for publication on the SECOORA data portal and in the SECOORA data catalog. No embargo periods on data are allowed. If you have questions about data sharing, metadata creation, or the data management plan, please send them to dmac@secoora.org.
12. University-affiliated PIs also must include a [proposal endorsement form](#) signed by their respective sponsored programs office

Notification of Proposal Award

Notification of funding decisions provided no later May 17, 2019.

Proposal Review Procedures

Anonymous reviews will be conducted for all applications. All proposals will be reviewed for scientific and technical merit, and the ability to address one or more of the identified environmental concerns.

1. SECOORA will convene a review panel of 3-5 participants. The panel may include SECOORA staff, SECOORA members, other subject matter experts, and an IOOS Program Office representative.
2. The review panel will review the submitted proposals and recommend recipient(s) and funding amount(s).
3. Funding will be allocated to awardees via contracts between SECOORA and the awardee.

This is an open and competitive process. SECOORA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals received as a result of this process. SECOORA reserves the right to request that respondents make modifications to proposals at any time before a contract is awarded.

Criteria for Evaluation

All proposals will be reviewed for scientific and technical merit. Project quality will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Project addresses one or more of the following environmental concerns within the region: Harmful algal blooms, sound in the marine environment, or coral health.
- Research question clearly identified and methods appropriate to complete proposed work.
- Regional focus or contributing to a regional-scale enterprise.
- Inclusion of tangible user/stakeholder contributions to the project.
- Reasonableness of budget for proposed work.

Questions Regarding Solicitation

For any questions related to this solicitation, please contact Jennifer Dorton, SECOORA RCOOS Manager via either email (jdorton@secoora.org) or telephone (910.443.1708). For specific questions related to data sharing, metadata creation, and data management plan development, e-mail dmac@secoora.org.