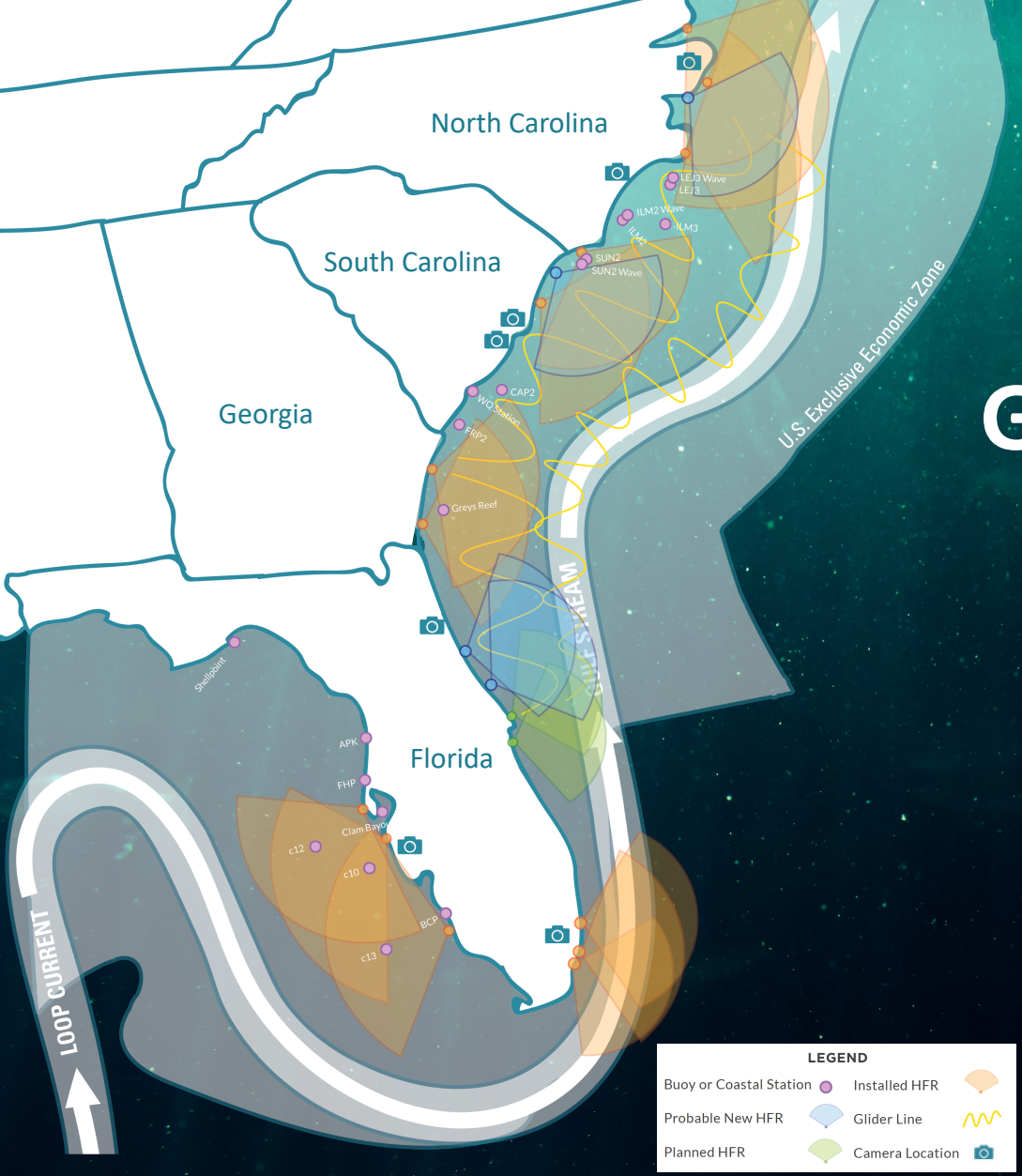


SECOORA
Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association

Georgia's Coastal Receiver Array

Chris Kalinowsky

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

SECOORA Annual Meeting
www.secoora.org/2019-annual-meeting

In-Situ YOUR EYES IN THE FIELD
IOOS Integrated Ocean Observing System
YSI
CODAR OCEAN SENSORS

Objective and Approach

Objective

- Maintain an array of 24 acoustic receivers in Georgia's nearshore and offshore waters.
- Track the movement of animals tagged with Vemco telemetry tags.
- Share animal detections within the research community via the FACT Network.
- Use and contribute animal movement data to guide current and future resource management.

SECOORA Focus Area

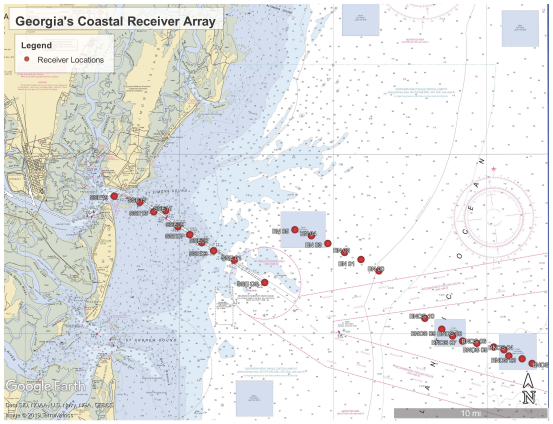
- Ecosystems: Water Quality and Living Marine Resources

Stakeholders:

- Collaborating researchers throughout the Southeast.
- Currently there are 283 member researchers from 93 partner groups participating in the FACT Network.
- State and Federal resource managers.

Accomplishments

- **Secured funding for 2019!** Prior to ATN-SECOORA funding, Georgia's CRA was in jeopardy. Prior funding had expired and receivers were scheduled to be removed from the water.
- Instead, thanks to ATN-SECOORA funding, the array was extended further into offshore waters and now ranges from 1-24 miles offshore.
- Hosted (in partnership with the FACT Data Wrangler) a data processing workshop in Richmond Hill, GA. Prepared and pushed all CRA data (historic and current) to the FACT/SECOORA node.
- Transitioned to FACT/SECOORA node for all data sharing.



FACT Fish Move.

Impact

- Data from this project are providing new and exciting discoveries in the movements and migrations of marine animals.
- Most recently, data were used as part of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) Atlantic Cobia Stock Identification Workshop.
- Georgia's CRA complements similar projects in both SC and FL but is the only one of its kind in Georgia marine waters. Without funding, receivers would be removed, creating a large gap in regional observational coverage.
- To date, over 670 individual tagged animals have been detected representing 41 different species.
- Data are shared with over 46 different research groups from 10 different state, federal, and non-governmental organizations.
- ***"Clearly, the data resulting from the large-scale, cooperative, acoustic telemetry network, of which SC and GA are a part, are showing that many of our assumptions about fish movements and population connectivity – information essential for effective fisheries management – were wrong."***
  (Dr. Aaron Adams, Bonefish & Tarpon Trust).