

Jennifer Dorton

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Jennifer Dorton is the Deputy Director for the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association and is responsible for the regional coastal ocean observing system and is the lead for the SECOORA data management subsystem. She works with the individual data providers in the southeast to implement quality control best practices and to share their data through the SECOORA data management system so that it is visible to regional and national stakeholders. The Deputy Director also works with national interests related to observing and data management, including participation in NOAA and inter-Regional meetings such as the Animal Telemetry Network, Marine Biodiversity Observing Network, and IOOS DMAC network to assure SECOORA remains engaged with national and regional partners.

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Project Management | Grant Writing | Fund Management | Community Engagement

EDUCATION

- Project Management Certification, January 2016, PMP number 1892171
- M.S. Recreation and Leisure Services Administration, 2000, East Carolina University
- B.S. Health Policy & Administration and Business Administration (double major), 1996, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Deputy Director

Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association **September 2017 – present**

- Coordinate twenty-three (23) funded PIs for the SECOORA 5-year Cooperative Agreement with the NOAA Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS). Assure project goals and objectives are met; track and approve budgets and expenditures; coordinate PI conference calls and in-person meetings; and, work with individual PIs to apply for additional federal or state grants that align with the SECOORA [Strategic Plan](#). Write semi-annual progress reports and final reports for submission to funding agency.
- Draft and finalize all Environmental Compliance documentation for new SECOORA assets. Submit documents to the NOAA IOOS Environmental Compliance Coordinator for NEPA consultations with state and federal agencies.
- Manage the SECOORA data management contractor, Axiom Data Science. Work with Axiom to develop data management plans for SECOORA and all funded PIs. Identify improvements for the SECOORA data portal to provide a better user experience. Identify archived data sets from within the SECOORA domain from academic programs and state and federal agencies for inclusion in the portal.
- Lead or participate on proposal writing teams to leverage the work conducted in the SECOORA 5-year Cooperative Agreement and expand ocean observing in the 4-state region.
- Developed the [2020 – 2025 SECOORA Regional Coastal Ocean Observing System Strategic Operational Plan](#) based on stakeholder-identified needs in the four-state region. Manage annual document updates with the SECOORA Science Committee.
- Lead the SECOORA Request for Proposals process for mini-grant opportunities; post RFPs on SECOORA eGrants; and manage peer reviews and proposal selection efforts.
- Participate on the SECOORA Annual Members meeting planning team and Board of Director meetings.

- Participate in state, regional, and national efforts such as SECART, the Marine Biodiversity Network, and Soundscape Observatory. Member of the NOAA Integrated Ocean Observing System QARTOD Board of Advisors.
- Represent SECOORA at national and state workshops and symposia.

University Program Specialist/Project Coordinator

University of North Carolina Wilmington, Wilmington, NC **November 2004 – October 2017**

Program Manager/co-Principal Investigator for the UNCW [Coastal Ocean Research and Monitoring Program](#), funded by the NOAA Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) and SECOORA.

- Led a team of 3 employees who maintain offshore mooring equipment and provide data management and web design expertise. This includes providing access to training and skill development courses, as well as completing employee performance evaluations.
- Administer annual program budgets of over \$300,000 so that requirements, as outlined in grant proposals, can be met on time.
- Assist the UNCW federal programs office by providing communications materials for Congressional offices. Met with Congressional leaders and staff on behalf of UNCW to highlight the success of CORMP and request continued federal support.

Lead PI/Project Manager for the development the NOAA funded [Marine Weather Portal](#) developed in coordination with NOAA National Weather Service (NWS) offices in the southeastern US.

- The project team collaborates with NWS offices in the southeast on hardware, software (e.g. mapping services, NWS product integration), and content management system requirements for the Marine Weather Portal.
- Supervise contract data management and web design services.
- Due to the distributed project team, hold scheduled teleconferences to discuss portal development and implementation.

Lead PI/Project Manager for North Carolina Sea Grant special projects.

- Authored a 20 Year NC Sea Grant research portfolio review, 1994 – 2014.
- Responsible for planning, execution, and closure of small-scale (< 30 people) and state-wide scientific research symposia and events. Examples of large events including:
 - [2014 NC Sea Grant Symposium: Investments and Opportunities](#) (157 attendees)
 - [2015 North Carolina Coastal Conference](#) (220 attendees)
 - [2016 Graduate Student Training Symposium](#) (65 attendees)
 - [2017 North Carolina Coastal Conference](#) (200 attendees)
- Coordinator for the NC Sentinel Site Cooperative ([NCSSC](#)): Work with the NCSSC Core Management Team and its partners to accomplish goals and objectives as outlined in the NCSSC Implementation Plan.

Project Manager for the GSAA Coast and Ocean Portal

Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association

January 2012 – March 2014

- Led a regional information management system project team comprised of state agency managers, data management and GIS professionals, and NGO participants to develop the Governors' South Atlantic Alliance (GSAA) [Coast and Ocean Portal](#).
- The Coast and Ocean Portal was built to support regional priority management issues: Port maintenance and expansion, beach nourishment, habitat conservation, and hazard vulnerability assessment.
- To assure successful implantation, the following stakeholder engagement activities were completed by the team:

- Assessed coastal manager data and information needs, technical requirements, and existing information management tools for coastal zone management departments within the four state region (NC, SC, GA, FL).
- Designed a regional information management system and developed the final GSAA Coast and Ocean Portal based on user surveys and listening sessions. This ensured the portal met identified user requirements and created user buy-in for the final product.

**Environmental Program Manager for the NSF Ocean Observatories Initiative
Raytheon, Washington DC**

May 2011-August 2012

Assisted the National Science Foundation (NSF) funded Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI) with Environmental Compliance efforts.

- Participated on the Environmental Compliance Team to assure that OOI addressed NEPA compliance requirements for federal actions. This included assisting with the preparation of the Site-Specific Environmental Assessment.
- Provided guidance to OOI project personnel on Federal and State permits required to deploy ocean observing infrastructure in US waters.
- Served on OOI Source Selection Evaluation Boards for instrument procurements. Drafted MOUs between

CERTIFICATIONS, CONTINUING EDUCATION, AND AWARDS

- Data Analysis using Excel, Swain Center, April 2016
- Project Management Certification, January 2016, PMP number 1892171
- Project Management Certification Program, Swain Center, UNCW, 2015
- UNCW \$5 Million Club for receiving over \$5M in extramural funding
- Recipient of the NOAA in the Carolinas Leadership Award, February 2012
- Recipient of the NOAA National Weather Service Public Service Award, April 2007

PUBLICATIONS

- Bushnell, M., Bailey, K., Bosch, J., Burger, E., Dorton, J. Easley, R., Heitsenrether, R., King, J., Grissom, K., Tamburri, M., Thomas, J., Waldmann, C. 2020. QARTOD-Prospects for Real-Time Quality Control Manuals, How to Create them, and a Vision for Advanced Implementation. 22 pp. doi: 10.25923/ysj8-5n28
- Bushnell, M., Bailey, K., Bosch, J., Burger, E., Dorton, J. Easley, R., Heitsenrether, R., King, J., Grissom, K., Tamburri, M., Thomas, J., Waldmann, C. 2020. Prospects for Real-Time Quality Control Manuals, How to create them, and a Vision for Advanced Implementation. In 2020 Ocean Sciences Meeting Proceedings.
- Iwamoto, M.M, Dorton, J., Newton, J., Yerta, M., Gibeaut, J., Shyka, T., Kirkpatrick, B., and Currier, R. 2019. Meeting Regional, Coastal and Ocean User Needs With Tailored Data Products: A Stakeholder-Driven Process. *Front. Mar. Sci.* 07 June 2019. doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2019.00290
- Dorton, J., Galvarino, C, Porter, D., Hernandez, D. 2018. Integrating marine weather data, forecasts, and user assessments to upgrade the Marine Weather Portal. *Oceans 2018/MTS IEEE Charleston.* doi: 10.1109/OCEANS.2018.8604621.
- Bushnell, M., Heitsenrether, R., Thomas, J., Galvarino, C., Burger, E. Dorton, J. Leonard, L. 2018. Status and Near-Term Plans for the U.S. IOOS Quality Assurance / Quality Control of Real-time Oceanographic Data (QARTOD) Project. *Oceans 2018/MTS IEEE Charleston.* doi: 10.1109/OCEANS.2018.8604787
- Porter, D.E., J. Dorton, L. Leonard, H. Kelsey, V. Subramanian and D. Hernandez. 2015. Integrating environmental monitoring and observing systems in support of science to inform decision making: case studies for the Southeast. Chapter in *Coastal Ocean Observing Systems*. Y. Liu, H. Kerkering and R. Weisberg (eds.). Elsevier Press.

- Leonard, L., Dorton, J. 2013. Approaches to understanding and meeting the needs of decision makers in the Carolinas. In: CERF 2013 Proceedings.
- Leonard, L., Dorton, J. 2013. Informal Coastal Science Education Activities: Reaching Target Audiences in the Carolinas. In: Southeastern GSA Proceedings.
- Leonard, L., Dorton, J., Culver, S., and Christian, R. 2009. Coastal and Estuarine Observing in North Carolina: Integrating Observations & Science to Understand Our Coastal Environment. ECU Press. 30p.
- Fletcher, M., Leonard, L., Dorton, J., Hanson, J. 2009. Carolinas Regional Coastal Ocean Observing System (Carolinas RCOOS): a model for integration of sub-regional observing systems. In: Oceans 2009 Proceedings.
- Dorton, J.R., Subramanian, V., Galvarino, C., Porter, D.E. 2009. Ocean observing: Linking observations to the NWS and marine community. In: Oceans 2009 Proceedings.
- Dorton, J., Porter, D., Galvarino, C., Pfaff, S., Subramanian, V. 2009. Southeastern Marine Weather Portal: NWS and COOS Working Together for the Benefit of the Marine Community. In: 2009 Coastal GeoTools Abstracts.
- Dorton, J.R., Porter, D.E., Pfaff, S.R., Quagliariello, J.A., Cothran, J., King, S. 2008. Carolinas Coast Marine Weather Portal: NOAA's NWS and coastal ocean observing systems working together for the marine community. In: 2008 Ocean Sciences Meeting Abstracts.
- DeVoe, M.R., Buckley, E., Dorton, J.R., Fletcher, M., Leonard, L., Lumpkin, P., Mooers, C., Pietrafesa, L., Porter, D.E., Seim, H., Sheldon, S., Weisberg, R., and Xie, L. 2007. Regional coastal IOOS development in the South Atlantic Bight. *Marine Technology Society Journal*. 40(4):110-117
- Dorton, J., Leonard, L., Fletcher, M., Purvis, C., Pfaff, S. 2007. Carolinas Coast Marine Weather Portal, COOS and NOAA's NWS working together for the marine community. In: Estuarine Research Federation 2007 Abstracts.
- Fletcher, M., Porter, D.E., Leonard, L., Moss, M., Durako, M. Dorton, J., Pietrafesa, L., Buckley, E. and Xie, L. 2006. Adaptive integration of sub-regional coastal ocean observing systems: A case study of the Coastal Ocean Research and Monitoring Program (CORMP) and the Carolinas Coastal Ocean Observing and Prediction System (Caro-COOPS). In: Oceans 2006 Proceedings.