UNCW’s Coastal Ocean Research and Monitoring Program (CORMP)
Lynn Leonard & Chris LaClair
University of North Carolina Wilmington

Co-investigators and Partners:
Overview

CORMP supports 22 real-time observing platforms along the coasts of NC, SC and FL east coast:

- 7 Oceanographic & Meteorological buoys\(^1\)
- 8 Wave buoys\(^1,2\)
- 3 Coastal weather towers
- 1 Coastal water quality station
- 3 Coastal water level stations\(^2\)

Plus, 1 non real-time instrumented frame (currents/waves + CTD)

Provide quality controlled real-time data with a target collection efficiency of at least 85%.

Support other SECOORA partner initiatives (e.g. FACT, USACE/CDIP, MWP, coastal water level).

Increase value of observations through product development and stakeholder outreach.

\(^1\) Does not include assets on FL east coast

\(^2\) Includes partnership activities co-supported with non-SECOORA funds
Accomplishments

Observing Array Expansion
- New wave buoy at FRP2
- Partner w/ Fripp Island Sea Rescue

Data Integration
- 2 real-time water level stations (UNCW)
- Coastal camera @ MSNB_N (NCSU)

Web-page enhancements & Alerts
- NCEP wave forecasts, spaghetti models, vessel track layers
- 1900+ SAST alerts

“The wave buoy has been worth her weight in gold for us and indirectly the public we serve and agencies we work with.”  
– Eric Roberts  
Fripp Island Sea Rescue
Looking Ahead

Buoy locations kept up to date with USCG. Mariners responsible for updating navigational charts and always keeping a lookout. But accidents happen......

Reduce vessel strikes & platform down-time

- Communication
- Relocation
- Vessel Tracking & AIS
- Visibility, sensor upgrades, redundancy