



Progress Report

Project Title: Disaster Relief Supplemental Act (DRSA) - Repair and Replacement of Observing Assets, Real Property, and Equipment in the Gulf of Mexico, Southeast, and Caribbean Regions Non-competitive Request for Applications (RFA) - NOAA-NOS-IOOS-2024-2008259 Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023

Award number: #NA24NOSX012C0037

Period of Activity: 06/01/2024 – 09/30/2024

Submission Date: 09/30/2024

Principal Investigator: Debra Hernandez, SECOORA Executive Director

Co-investigators: Jennifer Dorton (SECOORA)

I. PROJECT GOAL:

SECOORA supported assets, specifically HFR, water level stations, surface buoys and subsurface moorings in Florida, South Carolina, and North Carolina were damaged during the passage of Hurricane Ian in September 2023. Hurricane Ian crossed the path of two surface buoys and two subsurface moorings in the Gulf of Mexico on September 28 as a Category 5 Hurricane. It made landfall on the southwest coast of Florida where it then damaged the HFRs located in Venice, FL and destroyed the HFR in Naples, FL. Additionally, water level sensors in Captiva, FL and Sanibel, FL were also destroyed. The storm crossed Florida, and entered the Atlantic Ocean, finally making a second US landfall on September 30 as a category 1 storm near Georgetown, SC. The HFR located in Georgetown, SC was damaged and two buoys off the coast of South Carolina and one buoy off the coast of North Carolina sustained damages. Repairs are needed to bring these stations back into full operation. Without data, the ability to forecast and respond to future disasters in our region will be significantly impacted. The goal of this award is to repair assets damaged during the passage of Hurricane Ian so they are fully operational.

Objectives from the proposal are identified in Section II Progress and Accomplishments. High-level accomplishments and any issues identified by each project team member are included for each objective. Status of each deliverable is reported as complete, on-track, or delayed. If the milestone is delayed, a justification for the delay and description of activities employed or to be employed to mitigate the delay are provided.

II. Progress and Accomplishments

Objectives	Status
Objective 1: Hurricane Ian Repairs – High Frequency Radar	

The following accomplishments detail the status of Hurricane Ian repairs to High Frequency Radar (HFR) in SC and FL: • Subawards were issued in mid-September to the University of South Carolina (UofSC) and the University of South Florida (USF). • Repair work will begin during the next reporting period.	Not started
Objective 2: Hurricane Ian Repairs - Coastal Real-time Buoys and Subsurface Non Real-time moorings	
The following accomplishments detail the status of Hurricane Ian repairs to Buoys and Subsurface moorings in NC, SC and FL: • Subawards were issued in mid-September to the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW) and the University of South Florida (USF). • Repair work will begin during the next reporting period.	On-track
Objective 3: Hurricane Ian Repairs - Water Level Sensors	
The following accomplishments detail the status of Hurricane Ian repairs to water level sensors in SC and FL: • Subawards were issued in mid-September to Hohonu. • Repair work will begin during the next reporting period.	

III. PROJECT CHALLENGES/MODIFICATIONS:

- None noted

IV. BUDGET SUMMARY:

- Give details on any delays with initiating a contract/subaward. Note any issues with the previous year funds or other issues that occurred during the reporting period. Will this result with a work stoppage or cause significant problems with the partnership?
 - The start date for this award in eRA Commons is 6/1/2024; however, SECOORA did not receive notice of award funding until 8/24/2024. This is a 3-month delay between the period of performance start date and the notice of award funding.
 - Once the award was made, SECOORA had to write subaward contracts and send them to recipient institutions for execution. The contracts were sent to sub-awardees in mid-September. We are now waiting for all the fully executed contracts to be returned to SECOORA.
 - This is a two-year award and we have already lost four months of time due to delays with NOAA Grant Management making the award to SECOORA. SECOORA will keep the IOOS Program office informed of how these delays may impact the full execution of repairs work by SECOORA partners.
- Give a brief update on project invoicing for the reporting period. Were there any delays with invoicing or payment?
 - SECOORA has not received any invoices for this reporting period. Subawards were sent to recipient institutions in mid-September and we are awaiting the fully executed subawards awards to be submitted back to SECOORA.
 - ASAP funds have been drawn down to purchase supplies that have been requested by USF. The supply items will be purchased in early October.
- Provide details on any property or equipment charged directly to the award having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit during the period.
 - No equipment was purchased during this reporting period.

- Include changes in key scientific, technical or management personnel, not included in certification.
 - No changes
 - Include changes to the organizational structure such as: changes in status or partners organizations and points of contact. As a reminder, a change to the award's Principal Investigator and a change in an award's Key Person Specified in the Application requires NOAA approval through Grants Online.
 - No changes to organizational structure
 - Provide an update about travel completed during the reporting period.
 - SECOORA, the Lead PI for this award, does not have any funds for SECOORA personnel travel. Subawardees (i.e., other RA glider team members) are using travel funds to cover roundtrip travel to locations where asset repairs will be conducted.
 - Are there any plans to initiate a new partnership (contract or subaward) during the next reporting period?
 - No
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