



Progress Report

Project Title: Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA):
Phase 2 Implementation of the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act

Award number: NA25NOSX012C0035-T1-01 / NA25NOSX012C0035

Period of Activity: 06/01/2025 – 09/30/2025

Principal Investigator(s): Debra Hernandez, SECOORA Executive Director

I. PROJECT MILESTONES:

Milestone Table. Goals and Milestones from the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA) award are identified by Topic in Section III Progress and Accomplishments. High-level milestones/deliverables, accomplishments and any issues are included for each objective. Status of each milestone/deliverable is reported as complete, on-track, delayed, or not started. 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. Environmental Compliance

SECOORA has submitted Environmental Compliance Questionnaires for all activities outlined in this award, except for installation of new Surface Elevation Tables (SET). New SET locations are unknown currently. SECOORA will submit an ECQ for SET installations once the SET Community of Practice has identified high priority gaps in coverage that need to be filled.

III. Progress and Accomplishments

Project and Task(s)	Status
Topic 1: To support improved and enhanced coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes observing systems	
Goal A: Invest in observing infrastructure for the Southeast	
- SECOORA will continue supporting the Water Level Network (wl.secoora.org) by working with partners at Coastal Carolina University (CCU). The subaward agreement to CCU will be issued in early October 2025. - Mote Marine Laboratory (MML) operates the Ocean Acidification (OA) sensor in Looe Key within the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Under this award, SECOORA will purchase a new SeapHOx so that the MML team has a second sensor, allowing OA data to be collected continuously from this location. The SeapHOx is scheduled for delivery in mid-January 2026. Additionally, SECOORA will issue a subaward agreement to MML in early October.	Not started

• SECOORA is working with the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW) to continue operating 2 met/ocean buoys and 1 wave buoy on the east coast of Florida. The subaward agreement to UNCW will be issued in early October 2025. • SECOORA plans to invest in temperature sensors to monitor Marine Heatwaves. These will be low-cost sensors that can be added to existing buoys and moorings. SECOORA is currently conducting a review of water temperature sensor locations in the southeast. Once this review is complete, a gap analysis will help SECOORA identify appropriate locations for sensor placement in late Year 1 with sensors being purchased in Year 2.	
Objective B: Recapitalize existing observing infrastructure for the Southeast	
SECOORA is investing in infrastructure recapitalization for gliders, HFR, and estuarine soundscape monitoring. Subawards will be issued to the following universities in October so that the project teams can purchase equipment and supplies for appropriate asset operation and sparing. • UGA Skidaway Institute of Oceanography (SkIO) – Glider reinvestment • University of South Carolina – HFR reinvestment • University of Miami – HFR reinvestment • Florida Institute of Technology – HFR reinvestment • University of South Carolina Beaufort – passive acoustic sensor reinvestment (for soundscape monitoring)	Not started
Topic 2. To enhance associated sharing and integration of Federal and non-Federal data to inform the most pressing regional coastal and ocean management challenges.	
Goal A: Data and product development to support high priority regional management issues	
SECOORA will continue sharing information relevant to Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) managers through the Regional Ocean Data Sharing Program webpage (https://secoora.org/southeast-regional-ocean-data-sharing-initiative/). Additionally, based on CZMA input, SECOORA will work with researchers at SkIO and the University of South Carolina to develop, test, and implement autonomous (glider) passive acoustic monitoring of North Atlantic right whales in the South Atlantic Bight (SAB). SECOORA will issue subaward agreements to SkIO and USC in early October.	Not started
Goal B: Support Communities of Practice to address regional ocean data sharing needs in the southeast	
<u>Surface Elevation Table Community of Practice:</u> In early October, SECOORA will issue a subaward agreement to Jacksonville University for their team to continue leading the Surface Elevation Table (SET) Community of Practice for the Southeast. Additionally, a contract will be issued to Tetra Tech to manage and improve the SET website (https://oceansmap.com/secoora-set/). <u>Drone Community of Practice:</u> SECOORA staff will work with Drone CoP members to re-engage the community and share best practices related to drone operations and the use	Not started

of drones in research applications. SECOORA will support virtual meetings and webinars to share these best management strategies. The first webinar will be hosted in January 2026.

Southeast and Caribbean Disaster Resilience Partnership (SCDRP): SECOORA will support the SCDRP Director and the SCDRP annual meeting. A contract with the SCDRP Director will be issued in October 2025. The SCDRP Annual meetings will take place in Charleston, SC in March of 2026 and funds will be used to help with meeting support.

III. PROJECT CHALLENGES/MODIFICATIONS:

This was originally written as a 3-year proposal; however, the award was only issued for two years. Additionally, due to priority and policy changes at universities and partner organizations, several subawards will not be executed as originally intended:

- SECOORA will not issue a subaward to Florida International University for continued water level monitoring efforts.
- SECOORA will not issue a subaward to The Nature Conservancy (TNC) for the Southeast Marine Mapping Tool.
- SECOORA will not issue a subaward to Duke University for the Drone Executive Courses as Duke is no longer offering these courses. SECOORA staff will continue to work with partners in the southeast to support the Drone Community of Practice.
- Funds that were originally allocated to TNC and Duke University will be used to provide salary support for the Southeast and Caribbean Disaster Resilience Partnership (SCDRP) Director and the SCDRP 2026 and 2027 Annual meetings.
- Funds originally allocated for Florida International University are being moved to fund shiptime to support buoy operations on the east coast of Florida and to HFR reinvestment.

IV. BUDGET SUMMARY:

- Were the oldest ASAP TAS BETC accounting lines invoiced first?
 - This is Year 1 of the award and subawards are being issued in early October. At this time, no funds have been drawn down from the ASAP system for this award.
- 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?
 - There has been a delay in issuing subawards and contracts for this award as SECOORA staff were dealing with multiple award notices/actions with similar deadlines. All subawards and contracts will be initiated in October 2025.
- 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 since subawards and contracts have not been issued as of 9/30/2025.
- 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 period.
- Include changes in key scientific, technical or management personnel, not included in certification.
 - No changes have been made this reporting period.
- Include changes to the organizational structure such as: changes in status or partners organizations and points of contact.

- No changes to the SECOORA organizational structure have been made this reporting period.
 - SECOORA will not issue a subaward to Florida International University, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), or Duke University.
 - SECOORA will issue a contract to Claire McGrath, the Southeast and Caribbean Disaster Resilience Partnership (SCDRP) Director for continued SCDRP support.
 - Provide an update about travel completed during the reporting period.
 - No travel has been charged in this reporting period
 - What are the total travel expenditures to date on the award through the reporting period?
 - None
 - Are there any plans to initiate a new partnership (contract or subaward) during the next reporting period?
 - Yes – in lieu of supporting the Duke Drone Executive courses and the TNC Marine Mapping Tool, SECOORA will provide salary support for SCDRP Director and the SCDRP 2026 and 2027 Annual meetings.
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