**January 12, 2015**

**SECOORA Solicitation for Regional Coastal Ocean Observing System: Southeast Observing Experiment**

As part of the SECOORA FY14 (Year 4, June 1, 2014 - May 31, 2015) Scope of Work for the grant titled *Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA): Coordinated Monitoring, Prediction and Assessment to Support Decision-Makers Needs for Coastal and Ocean Data and Tools*, SECOORA is investing in coastal ocean observing system project(s) in the Southeast that promote integration of the ongoing Regional Coastal Ocean Observing System (RCOOS) as well as addressing the needs of stakeholders. These projects will leverage existing capabilities, foster development and deliver data and new products that address stakeholder needs in the identified SECOORA thematic areas.

**Request for proposals**

SECOORA is currently sustaining observing, modeling, and data management subsystems for the US Southeast coastal waters that provide the basis for the RCOOS by supporting and integrating existing assets and observations. SECOORA supports maintenance and operation of in-situ and High Frequency (HF) radar observational networks from North Carolina to West Florida with funding from NOAA through the US IOOS Program Office. SECOORA is also supporting a multi-scale, multi-resolution modeling subsystem for the US Southeast coastal waters to deliver model data and products for coastal resource and emergency response managers and other users. The models that are currently supported in the SECOORA domain include: regional scale nowcast/forecast ocean circulation modeling system; estuarine and surge/inundation prediction (nowcast/forecast); beach water quality modeling in support of swimming advisories and fisheries habitat modeling for improving stock assessment. SECOORA has a maximum of $50,000 funding to conduct an observing experiment in the US Southeast coastal waters. The primary goal of this solicitation is to provide support for a short-term (or limited) observing activity in the SE to address a key gap in scientific understanding or technology or data that will improve currently supported SECOORA activities and/or user groups. Observations may be physical, bio-optical, chemical or acoustic data aimed at integration of SECOORA's observational, modeling and data management sub-system projects, and to support SECOORA's scientific and operational goals. The responder, recognizing and keeping in mind the maximum availability of funds, is expected to propose a feasible observing experiment in the SECOORA region that will combine/leverage existing observational and modeling assets to address scientific and operational goals and/or end user needs. While not limited to the following list, proposals should address the following:

- Geographic extent of the area of the experiment
- Objectives, scientific and technical approaches and anticipated results
- Relevance and benefits of the proposed observing experiment to ongoing SECOORA or other funded observing and modeling activities in the region
- Benefits of the proposed activity to stakeholders / end users
- Data Management

**Supplemental Solicitation Requirements Information**

Responders are expected to demonstrate the following skills and experience:

- knowledge of oceanography of SE and in the proposed study area,
- experience with observing system sensors deployment and operations,
- experience with and knowledge of equipment data handling and management and
- knowledge about SECOORA's theme areas and understanding of ongoing SECOORA projects and capabilities.

Responders are expected to have assets in their possession that are available for (or suitable to support) deployment. For the proposal to be considered eligible for award, all work included in the proposal must take place in the SECOORA region. Responders are encouraged to identify cooperative partnerships with local, state and federal agencies, contact and collaborate with the existing SECOORA principal investigators or with other funded projects and leverage their existing funding, assets and resources towards the proposed observing experiment.

**PROPOSAL PROCESS and TERMS**

1. SECOORA will convene a review panel of 3-5 participants. The panel will include SECOORA staff, a SECOORA member with relevant expertise, other subject matter experts, and/or a IOOS Program Office representative.
2. Solicitation for proposals (via email) will be sent out via SECOORA's email list and made available on the SECOORA web site. Proposals are due by 5:00PM ET on Monday February 9, 2015.
3. The review panel will review the submitted proposals and recommend recipient(s) and funding amount(s).
4. Funding will be allocated to awardees via contracts between SECOORA and the awardee.

This is an open and competitive process. SECOORA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals received as a result of this process. SECOORA reserves the right to request that respondents make modifications to proposals at any time before a contract is awarded. SECOORA reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive or not waive informalities or irregularities in bids or bidding procedures and to accept or further negotiate cost, terms, or conditions of any bid determined in the best interests of SECOORA even though not the lowest bid.

**SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS**
**Proposals should be sent to Vembu Subramanian (vembu@secoora.org) by 5 PM ET, Monday, February 9, 2015.**
The project proposal should be a maximum of 7 pages of 12-point text in PDF format, and must include the following elements.

1. Project Title and Duration
2. Key organizations/personnel involved
3. Project Description (Introduction, relevance and geographic location/extent)
4. Methodology/Technical details (Platform/Equipment, description of measurements, deployment, operations and data management)
5. Deliverables and Timeline
6. Brief budget summary and justification

CVs of key personnel should be attached as an appendix.

**Questions regarding solicitation**
For any questions related to this solicitation, please contact Vembu Subramanian, SECOORA RCOOS Manager via either email (vembu@secoora.org) or telephone (727.641.5258)