

South Atlantic Regional Research Plan (SARRP)

Updated May, 2009

Overview: The Sea Grant Programs from the South Atlantic states (NC, SC, GA, FL) are working through the Georgia Coastal Research Council (www.gcrc.uga.edu) to develop a coordinated research program for our region. The South Atlantic effort is being conducted in concert with similar projects in other Sea Grant regions across the US and Insular Pacific. Our primary goals are to identify regional priority research and to foster productive cooperation among regional partners.

Progress to-date: The objectives of the project are as follows:

1. Inventory existing research plans - We have compiled Research Needs information from more than 170 sources. This document is available on our website. We distilled more than 100 categories of "research needs" into the DPSIR (Driver-Pressure-State-Impact-Response) model, which is a useful framework for natural resource decision making.

2. Established an active Regional Advisory Group - The Regional Advisory Group is comprised of resource and planning professionals who are committed to the SARRP process. The group first met in December 2007, and most recently convened for the Strategy Team workshop in April 2009.

3. Conducted stakeholder survey to identify priority issues - This was a widely distributed web-based survey, which ran from August 25 through September 30, 2008. Of the 552 respondents who began the survey, 524 finished (a 94.9% completion rate). The Survey Summary report is posted on our website.

4. Developing a research plan that addresses priority issues. In April 2009 we convened a highly successful Strategy Team Workshop, consisting of our Advisory Group members along with additional invited coastal experts. NOAA's Coastal Services Center provided expert facilitation. The team identified priority research questions that are associated with each priority coastal issue, and in alignment with Research Priorities of both the Ocean Research Priorities Plan and the South Atlantic Alliance. The results of this meeting will form the basis for the regional research plan, a draft of which will be circulated among the Team members for comments during the summer 2009.

Establishing the South Atlantic Coastal Research Council. When the South Atlantic Research Plan is complete, we will continue to build on our partnerships through the South Atlantic Regional Research Council, which will serve as a platform for collaboration and resources sharing among partners and participants, and will also help to ensure the transfer of technology and information to the appropriate end users.

For more information: Please contact Christine Laporte (claporte@uga.edu) at the Georgia Coastal Research Council (706-542-1283), Department of Marine Sciences, UGA, Athens, GA 30602, or <http://www.gcrc.uga.edu/sarrp.htm>

Regional Advisory Group Representation:

FEDERAL AGENCIES

National Sea Grant
Nat'l Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
US Environmental Protection Agency (Region IV)
US Dept. of Defense (SERPPAS)
US Army Corps of Engineers
National Park Service
US Fish and Wildlife Service (Region IV)
US Geological Survey
National Estuarine Research Reserve System
US Dept of Homeland Security -- FEMA Region IV
USDA -- Natural Resources Conservation Service

REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Southern Association of Marine Laboratories
SE Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Assoc.
Southeast Aquatic Research Plan
Southeast & Caribbean Regional Team (NOAA)
South Atlantic Alliance (Governors Alliance)

STATE AGENCIES

NORTH CAROLINA:

Dep't of Environment and Natural Resources:
Division of Coastal Mgmt., Policy and Research
Division of Marine Fisheries
Division of Water Quality

SOUTH CAROLINA

Dep't. of Natural Resources: Marine Resources Div.
Department of Health and Environmental Control:
Ocean and Coastal Resource Management
and Water Quality Division

GEORGIA

Dept. of Natural Resources:
Coastal Resources Division
Environmental protection Division
Dept. of Com'ty Affairs: Planning & Quality Growth

FLORIDA

Dep't. of Env'tl Protection: Water Resources Mgmt.
& Coastal Management Program
Florida Oceans and Coastal Resources Council
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

