Coastal Ocean and Research and Monitoring Program (CORMP)
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The Coastal Ocean Research and Monitoring Program (CORMP), begun in 2000 as an exploratory coastal ocean research program focusing on collection of data applicable to physical and ecological predictive models, fisheries sustainability, and habitat quality, is emerging as a comprehensive coastal ocean observing system serving the region's scientific research community and an established and growing constituency of public service and local users. During the proposed funding period, the CORMP observing array will be expanded to provide near real-time, quality assured oceanographic and marine meteorological data over a region extending from the South Carolina-North Carolina border to north of Cape Lookout, NC. These data will be web-available and compliant with the Ocean.US Data Management and Communication Subcommittee (DMAC) and SouthEast Atlantic Coastal Ocean Observing System (SEACOOS) data management standards, thereby ensuring integration and interoperability with other Integrated Ocean Observing Systems (IOOS) within and beyond the Southeastern Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA). These efforts constitute a strong commitment by CORMP to provide a balanced regional observing system dedicated to serving a full spectrum of users who stand to benefit from CORMP in the region.

CORMP consists of four focus areas: ocean observations, data management, ecosystem research and modeling, and outreach and education. These focus areas operate synergistically to achieve programmatic objectives to**:**

1) provide a regional hub in a national observing system,
2) collect and disseminate physical and ecological data to establish baseline conditions, identify responses to stochastic events, predict and verify long-term trends, and
3) engage regional partners, stakeholders and end-users in the development and implementation of a sustainable ocean-observing program.

CORMP will supplement its expanded observing capabilities by utilizing emerging technologies (i.e. Webb Glider; MODIS) to collect data at temporal and spatial scales needed to ensure quality control (i.e., independent validation of mooring data) and to support research, modeling and the development of user-driven end products. Further, CORMP will provide a seamless and sustainable two-way flow of information among its partners and end-users, SECOORA affiliates, and other national IOOS programs, thereby facilitating the program’s ability to adapt to evolving needs and emerging technologies. Through these efforts, CORMP will provide a model for a comprehensive coastal observing system that is fully integrated with user-driven needs and research to address issues of prime regional importance.