

STATE OF THE SOUTHEAST COASTAL OCEAN REPORT

Executive Summary

The "State of the Southeast Coastal Ocean Report" is intended to be a reference document for a broad audience. This includes the sponsors and potential users of the regional coastal ocean information system, as well as the regional scientific community. The Report summarizes the status of major components of the coastal ocean observing system in the Southeastern U.S., describes some "environmental events" in the SE coastal ocean, and presents "news" briefs relating to various environmental programs in the region. It is envisioned that future contributions will be solicited on a continuous basis (particularly for "events" and "news"), with the full Report updated annually.

The present Report should be considered an initial effort, and one that will remain a "work in progress" in the coming years. Although this inaugural Report is a SEACOOS effort, it is envisioned that an annually updated "State of the Southeast Coastal Ocean Report" could become a product of the nascent Southeast Regional Association (SECOORA), expanding both the scope of the report, and its set of contributors, well beyond that of the present document.