

Community of Practice (CoP) Model

Summary – An open network of interested participants that receive monthly or quarterly newsletters and share information via webinars and a biannual in-person meeting.

Membership

- Open to all professionals from government, academia, non-profits, or the private sector who have an interest in sharing information on ocean and coastal issues at a regional scale in NC, SC, GA, or FL.

Leadership

- A steering committee composed of volunteers to help guide the direction of the CoP
- A chairperson of the steering committee organizes steering committee conference calls and other ad-hoc workgroups; oversees product development by interns/students

Meetings

- Steering committee conference calls roughly every 6 months to re-evaluate the direction of the CoP
- In-person meetings of the CoP every two years, funding dependent, to bring the community together to share case studies and lessons learned across the region
- A goal of quarterly webinars, with a webinar workgroup meeting as needed prior to the webinars, which are open to the CoP and public
- Ad-hoc meetings of CoP members at other meetings as deemed appropriate

Activities

- Monthly or quarterly newsletters that include upcoming events of interest and highlights from projects occurring in the region
- Quarterly webinars on topics of interest to the community
- Biannual in-person meetings that provide a networking opportunity for CoP members
- Compilation of a resource directory to provide CoP members with contacts across the region

Funding

- Majority of the CoP model success is volunteer-based. Chairperson typically includes time into his/her workplan to devote to CoP activities.
- A small amount of annual funding (~\$3000) from an interested federal partner (i.e. NOAA SECART) provides a student intern to help compile newsletters, organize webinars, keep resource directory up-to-date, and help organize in-person meetings.
- Grants pursued by chairperson for in-person meeting funding or commitments from organizations within the region to help host meetings.

Budget Estimate

- \$20,000 – in-person meeting (mainly to cover venue and travel support for local government members) (*only occurs every 2 years*)
- \$3,500 – student intern support
- Time of chairperson – included in salary, so not an external source of funding