

Network Model

Summary –Network of professionals who meet regularly to discuss issues of mutual interest and collaborate where resources and interest allow. Usually, the issues are narrowly focused on one primary topic of interest.

Membership

- Open to all professionals from government, academia, non-profits, or the private sector who have an interest in sharing information on the primary topic and related 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 Network
- Chair or leader is needed to convene the group, serve as a catalyst to keep activities moving, and enable decision-making.
- Often decisions are made via consensus of the group.

Meetings

- Steering committee conference calls are usually monthly
- Webinars may be held on on the primary topic and related research and hot topics, and are open to the public. Frequency of the webinars depends on purpose and maturity of the network
- In-person meetings for a regional network are annually or bi-annually, i.e. every other year.

Activities

- Members share information via newsletters, webinars, and informational materials.
- Steering Group synthesizes and disseminates the most recent scientific, technical, socioeconomic, and or policy information relevant to the primary topic of interest and via peer-reviewed publications.
- Steering Group identifies knowledge gaps and sets regional priorities for addressing the primary topic.
- Steering Group encourages scientific research, collaborations, and data sharing. Projects and collaborations may result from mutual interest of members and are supported by member resources.

Funding

- Funding (or resources provided by volunteers) is needed to support the basic infrastructure to keep the network operational, i.e. website, webinar access, person to create newsletters and/or manage monthly calls, provide travel and host annual meeting.
- Majority of network activities are volunteer-based
- Contributions/donations from interested partners

Budget Estimate

~ \$20,000 for personnel and basic support

~ \$10,000 for annual meeting