

Instructions: Attach to the application, as an exhibit, a narrative statement, in pdf format, describing the NOAA Project and Regional association, that the data provided to the national network is used by NOAA and the US Coast Guard.

This Federal Communications Commission (FCC) permit application is for oceanographic high-frequency (HF) radars that are operated as part of the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA's) Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) HF radar network (please see: <https://ioos.noaa.gov/project/hf-radar/>). IOOS has developed a national data management and distribution system for all U.S. HF radar surface current data. Approximately 160 HF radars, operated by 27 U.S. institutions, are part of the network, and their data (surface ocean currents) are delivered to NOAA national data servers. The surface current data are used by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and integrated into their Search and Rescue (SAR) system, where they made available for SAR teams via the USCG's Environmental Data Server (EDS). Additionally, the IOOS-funded Short-term Prediction System (STPS) forecasts surface current flows based on the HF radar data and the STPS is also available in the EDS. Further, HF radar data are often used by the NOAA's Office of Response & Restoration's Emergency Response Division (ERD) in support of oil and hazardous material spill response operations. NOAA is responsible for providing scientific support to the Federal On-Scene Coordinator for oil and hazardous material spills. To support this mandate, NOAA ERD utilizes HF radar data where available to assist with spill tracking and clean up efforts.

The HF radar systems outlined in this application are operated by **The University of Georgia** with federal funding from NOAA IOOS made available to the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA, <https://secoora.org/>). SECOORA is one of eleven U.S. IOOS Regional Associations (RAs, <https://ioos.noaa.gov/about/regional-associations/>). These RAs are regional U.S. IOOS partners essential to building and supporting U.S. IOOS. They provide increased observations, distinctive knowledge, critical technological abilities, and apply these towards the development of products to meet regional and local needs. The RAs guide development of and stakeholder input to regional observing activities and serve the nation's coastal communities, including the Great Lakes, the Caribbean, and the Pacific Islands and territories. The SECOORA region of operations includes North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. SECOORA provides funding to academic institutions in this region to operate and maintain HF Radars. HF Radar operators include the East Carolina University's Coastal Studies Institute, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, University of South Carolina, University of Georgia's Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, Florida Institute of Technology, University of Miami, and University of South Florida.