Debra Hernandez, Executive Director of the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA), will discuss a regional infrastructure supporting ongoing research, ocean observing, data management and modeling in the Southeast. This monitoring and reporting of environmental information is vital for weather forecasts and hurricane warnings, safe boating and fishing, and beachgoer safety. As part of a federally mandated program, SECOORA focuses national resources on local priorities including:

- Water Quality
- Marine and Extreme Weather
- Ocean Sound
- Sea Level Rise
- Tourism and the Economy
- Safety at Sea

Dwayne Porter, PhD, Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina, will provide a ‘deep dive’ on one SECOORA funded project How’s the Beach.

As more people live near coastal areas, an increasing need exists to provide robust and timely measures of potential illness risk from fecal water pollution. How’s the Beach provides daily forecasts of bacteria levels for recreational swimming waters and shellfish harvesting areas in the Grand Strand and Charleston Harbor area, Chesapeake Bay, MD, Outer Banks of NC, and Sarasota and Manatee counties in FL.

Radar-based rainfall estimates and coastal ocean observing system platforms provide real-time environmental data used to forecast the bacteria levels. With this information, *Enterococci* concentration estimates are provided in near real-time. These forecasted bacteria concentrations and swim advisories can be visualized against the EPA threshold for swimming safety on howsthebeach.org.

Explore ocean data at www.secoora.org