

SouthEast Acoustics Consortium Report 2013

Activities and Save-the-date Notice: April 2014

The SouthEast Acoustics Consortium (SEAC) formed in 2012 as a regional working group that brings together researchers from academic institutions, federal and regional fisheries and environmental management agencies and private industry to advance the use of active acoustics (e.g., fishery sonar, echosounders) for studying the coastal and marine environments. The Consortium members actively engage in collaborative research and partnerships to meet the following objectives:

- ✚ To Inventory activities, interest, expertise and assets related to active acoustics research in Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico waters of the southeast US and Caribbean.
- ✚ To identify data gaps and management needs and the potential to fill those gaps using acoustic technologies.
- ✚ To inform regional managers and scientists on the state of the science and emerging acoustic technologies
- ✚ To encourage education and training through agency-academic partnerships.

The Consortium maintains a [website](#), an email listserv [seac\(at\)fiu.edu](mailto:seac(at)fiu.edu), a [LinkedIn page](#), and hosts workshops on alternate years.

Highlights of SEAC activities in 2013

- ✚ Growth of partnerships and sharing of assets and expertise to address technical problems (e.g., systems integrations, calibration), development of new applications, or to address emerging regional management needs
- ✚ SEAC members participate in regional habitat mapping methodology development in the Gulf of Mexico
- ✚ Collaborative research between academia and private industry to test-bed new applications of imaging sonars
- ✚ Increased participation by undergraduate/post graduate students on NOAA and partner research cruises involving acoustic technologies (right)
- ✚ SEAC members participate in development of international metadata standard for water column data collected using fishery sonars
ICES. 2013. A metadata convention for processed acoustic data from active acoustic systems, SISP 3 TG-AcMeta, ICES WGFAST Topic Group, TG-AcMeta. 35 pp. And the document is found [here](#).



Students acquiring acoustic data on the NOAA Ship Nancy Foster

Save-The-Date: Second Biennial SEAC Workshop and Forum Gulf Coast State College, Panama City, FL April 2014

Following the success of the inaugural SEAC workshop at Florida International University in March 2012 (see the report [here](#)), the Consortium will host the second biennial workshop and forum in April 2014 at the Gulf Coast State College in Panama City, FL. As with the workshop in 2012, we are seeking contributions agencies and partners to defray the cost to participants. Invitations and calls for presentations will be sent in early 2014. The workshop will include formal presentations and informal discussion and demonstration of emerging sonar technologies. Formal training sessions for acoustic data processing are also being discussed.



Participants at the 2012 SEAC Workshop at FIU, Miami, FL