

October 18, 2005

To: Members of the SURA Coastal Research Committee

From: Carolyn Thoroughgood, SURA Coastal Research Committee Chair  
Jerry P. Draayer, SURA President and CEO

Subject: Coastal Research Committee Meeting at SURA Board Meeting, November 8 & 9, 2005

You are cordially invited and strongly encouraged to attend the SURA Coastal Research Committee meeting on November 8, 2005 from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm (reception to follow). The SURA Coastal Research Committee will meet as part of the bi-annual SURA Board of Trustees Meeting.

The Fall 2005 meeting of the SURA Board of Trustees, hosted by The George Washington University (GWU President and SURA Council Chair Stephen Trachtenberg and Board Past Chair Donald Lehman), will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 8 & 9, 2005, at the GWU campus, Elliott School of International Affairs, 1957 E Street, NW, Washington, DC. See draft agenda and other information at [http://www1.sura.org/2000/2005\\_Documents/BoT\\_Nov05/trustees\\_nov05.htm](http://www1.sura.org/2000/2005_Documents/BoT_Nov05/trustees_nov05.htm).

This is an important time for the coastal research component of SURA. The SURA Coastal Ocean Observing and Prediction (SCOOP) Program, now in its third year, has made substantial progress and will continue to evolve in 2006 with funding from the Office of Naval Research. To ensure everyone is on the same page vis-à-vis what has transpired to date, Philip Bogden, Acting Director of SCOOP, will present an update with the intent of stimulating discussion regarding programmatic focus for the next year.

The SURA Coastal Research Committee is responsible for monitoring, overseeing and evaluating the progress and outcome of projects and activities in SURA coastal research. The goal of this meeting is to help the Committee fulfill its charge by allowing them to review progress to date of the SCOOP program and help set its vision for the future. Your thoughts and perspectives are important to us. Engaging the SURA Coastal Research Committee in the continuing development of the SCOOP Program will allow us to evolve it into a useful tool for the entire coastal community. The recommendations made at this meeting will be brought to the full Board for approval.

Some representative issues to be brought before the Coastal Committee are:

- Given SURA's unique capability to bring together information technology and coastal sciences, what role should SURA Coastal play in the future of the Integrated Ocean Observing System?
- How can the SURA Coastal Research Committee best meet its charge to "monitor, oversee and evaluate the progress and outcome of projects?" For example, could Scientific Interest Groups be formed to address specific components (e.g., coastal modeling, use cases, funding opportunities, etc.)? Does the Committee need to meet outside of the SURA Board meetings?
- How can progress be made in the current SURA Coastal Research arena that could help serve SURA, the ocean community, and the public?
- What should the long-term business plan for funding Coastal Research at SURA be?

The draft agenda for the Coastal Research Committee meeting is attached. Please let us know of your plans to attend and don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions.