



NOAA

REGIONAL COLLABORATION
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION



Drone workshop grows government-academic-industry partnerships in Southeast Atlantic and US Caribbean

The *Drones in the Coastal Zone* virtual workshop kick-started efforts to establish a regional network and community of practice in the Southeast and US Caribbean. NOAA and partners wrapped up a month of biweekly webinars that were rescheduled from an in-person workshop postponed due to COVID-19. 750 participants attended the sessions representing federal and state agencies, academic institutions and private industry in the Southeast and US Caribbean. The six sessions included lightning science talks, panel discussion, and live technology demonstrations on drone training, data management, mission planning, and regulatory, policy and ethics considerations.

Participants identified key data gaps in coastal management:

- Coastal habitat and environmental condition
- Hazards and damage assessments
- Species and wildlife management

Participants shared best practices that would improve the effectiveness, efficiency and safety of drone operations. A key outcome was a call for a regional drone network to continue sharing best practices, grow collaborations and achieve mutual goals in coastal management. All sessions were recorded and are provided on the [workshop website](#) along with additional information resources. The workshop achieved one of NOAA's Uncrewed Systems Strategy goals by growing a regional network and community of practice to advance the use of UAS and drones to address coastal management challenges.



The workshop was sponsored by the following organizations:

