

# Development of a Mid-Atlantic Surf Hazards Awareness and Research Coordination (SHARC)

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*“Collaborating to improve the forecasting, understanding, and prevention of surf hazards”*

### Partnerships

SHARC was created through a partnership between the Mid-Atlantic Regional Association Coastal Ocean Observing System (MARACOOS) and New York Sea Grant (NYSG). Our local, regional, and national partners include, NOAA, the National Weather Service, local emergency management, academic researchers, lifeguards, and community leadership.



### Why Surf Hazards?

Surf hazards, such as dangerous waves and currents, pose a significant and sometimes fatal threat to beachgoers; this includes rip currents, which alone kill over 100 people each year nationally. Improving prediction models and raising awareness can help reduce ocean rescues and fatalities.

### Goals

- Create a space for expert, professional, and stakeholder collaboration within surf hazard reporting, information sharing, outreach, and education
- Improve surf hazard forecasting through coordinated data collection
- Promote surf hazard awareness and education
- Prevent incidents and fatalities



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