AGENCY NAME:	South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium				
AGENCY CODE:	P26	SECTION:	048		



# Fiscal Year 2014-15 Accountability Report

# **SUBMISSION FORM**

	South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium generates and provides science-based information to enhance the practical use and conservation of coastal and marine resources that foster a sustainable economy and environment for the state of South Carolina and its citizens.
AGENCY MISSION	

Please identify your agency's preferred contacts for this year's accountability report.

	<u>iname</u>	<u>Pnone</u>	<u>Emaii</u>
PRIMARY CONTACT:	M. Richard DeVoe	843-953-2078	rick.devoe@scseagrant.org
SECONDARY CONTACT:	Susannah Sheldon	843-953-2078	susannah.sheldon@scseagrant.org

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2013-14 Accountability Report, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

AGENCY DIRECTOR (SIGN/DATE):	M Riha Delle
(TYPE/PRINT NAME):	M. Richard DeVoe, September 14, 2015
Board/Cmsn Chair (Sign/Date):	007-
(TYPE/PRINT NAME):	Col. Alvin A. Taylor, September 14, 2015

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## **AGENCY'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

The S.C. Sea Grant Consortium optimizes the economic, social, and environmental potential of the state's coastal and marine resources through support of integrated research, education, extension, and communications programming. The Consortium also addresses the uncertainty that change brings with it to the coastal region, to foster adaptation and prosperity. It does so by engaging the talents and expertise found at South Carolina's leading university and research institutions and within the agency to increase our knowledge about the natural, cultural, economic, and social environments of South Carolina and the region to inform the decision-making process.

## Strategic and Implementation Planning

The S.C. Sea Grant Consortium is currently operating under its FY2014-17 Strategic and Implementation Plan (<a href="http://www.scseagrant.org/pdf">http://www.scseagrant.org/pdf</a> files/SCSGC-Strat-Plan-2014-2017.pdf</a>). The Consortium's 2014-17 Strategic Plan was vetted through the agency's Program Advisory Board, and formally approved by the Consortium Board of Directors on October 2, 2012. The Consortium plan was then submitted to the NOAA National Sea Grant Program Office (NSGO) on October 31, 2012 for review, and approval was received from NOAA Sea Grant in November 2013.

The agency's strategic plan has specific performance measures and target metrics for the agency's three strategic administrative and management areas: (1) Planning, Program Management, and Overall Performance, (2) Connecting with Users, and (3) Human Resources. In addition, the Consortium has outlined specific vision statements, goals, objectives, strategies, performance measures and metrics for each of the agency's five strategic programmatic focus areas: (1) The Coastal and Ocean Landscape, (2) Sustainable Coastal Development and Economy, (3) Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, (4) Hazard Resilience in Coastal Communities, and (5) Scientific Literacy and Workforce Development.

#### Performance Measures and Metrics

The Consortium's current Strategic and Implementation Plan includes several dozen performance measures and metrics which are tracked on an annual basis. The Consortium's FY2014-15 State Accountability Report is focused on the goals and objectives, and the resultant outputs and outcomes, which make up its three strategic administrative and management areas. Updates on these metrics are presented to the Consortium Board of Directors, the State of South Carolina (through the agency's State Accountability Report), and the NOAA National Sea Grant College Program (through formal reporting) on an annual basis.

## **Impacts and Accomplishments**

Consortium research, extension, education, and communications activities conducted through its five strategic program focus areas have resulted in more than 50 economic, natural resource, policy and management, and social impacts and accomplishments in the state and region during FY2014-15, but are too numerous to include in this report. However, they can be viewed at <a href="http://www.scseagrant.org/content/?cid=642">http://www.scseagrant.org/content/?cid=642</a>.

#### <u>Information Delivery</u>

The Consortium has become a primary source of information for coastal and marine information and assistance. As an example, the Consortium's Web site (<a href="http://www.scseagrant.org/">http://www.scseagrant.org/</a>) statistics continue to significantly increase. During FY2014-15, the Consortium Web site received 1,401,983 hits and 258,981 unique visits; 867,874 downloads were made. The Consortium's communications and education specialists produce awardwinning and relevant products and services (e.g., *Coastal Heritage* magazine, the Consortium's Web site, COSEE Southeast program, etc.). And the Consortium continued its successful e-news brief called

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CoastalScience@Work to keep key state leaders and decision-makers aware of Consortium programs, activities, and impacts.

#### **Agency Staffing**

The Consortium holds 14 state FTE positions, two of which are currently vacant but soon to be refilled, and an additional two which are vacant due to budget limitations. In addition, the Consortium currently employs three temporary grant employees, and presently has four graduate student interns on board for training and experience in a variety of coastal and ocean resource arenas. Almost half of the Consortium's staff have been with the agency for more than 15 years; their expertise and experience make them an invaluable resource for the agency and the state.

It should be noted that over the past five years, the agency lost over 135 years of experience due to four senior staff retirements and three resignations. In addition, two Sea Grant extension staff left to pursue other opportunities – in light of the Consortium's vulnerability at the time – to further their careers elsewhere. This (1) created significant difficulty in recruiting both new and experienced professionals to assume these vacant positions, (2) limited our ability to seek and acquire additional program funding, and (3) affected program milestones and project timelines.

However, the past two legislative budget seasons have been very positive for the Consortium. The Governor recommended level funding for the Consortium for the last two fiscal years (FY14-15 and FY15-16) in the Executive budget request, for which we are most grateful. The Consortium has continued to foster efficiencies in its staffing. Four of the positions vacated over the past five years have been consolidated into two, the agency has brought in young talent and fresh thinking to complement the veteran staff, and the Consortium is providing more graduate student internship experiences to assist its professional staff with programming and projects.

## **Budget Situation and Future**

The Consortium was able to secure budget increases in state recurring funds in both FY2014-15 and FY2015-16, along with some nonrecurring program funds in FY14-15. The Consortium's state appropriation (recurring funds) increased from \$448,982 in FY13-14 to \$559,288 in FY14-15, a 24.6% increase. The Consortium also received \$100,000 in non-recurring funds to support its Stormwater Pond Research and Management Collaborative. The nonrecurring portion of the agency's budget request for FY14-15 was vetoed by the Governor, but the S.C. General Assembly overrode the veto in June 2014. Agency leadership recognizes that the state budget situation for future years will continue to present challenges for the Consortium, and thus discussions about means by which Consortium support can be sustained, increased, and diversified will continue with the Consortium's Board of Directors, Program Advisory Board, and others.

The Consortium was appropriated \$50,000 in recurring funds for FY15-16 to support two-thirds of an information technology and communication position, with the remaining portion supported with Sea Grant funds. This position will enhance the agency's information security processes, and will provide internal expertise in information technology, hardware and software, and social media platforms.

## Extramural Funding and the State Budget

The Consortium continues to demonstrate its ability to secure competitive extramural funding for its programs, which tempers its need to approach the S.C. General Assembly for state funding. At the federal level, the Consortium continues to receive its base federal funding from the NOAA National Sea Grant College Program, which makes up a significant portion of the agency's non-state support. Together with federal funds received through other competitive sources, total extramural support for the Consortium during FY14-15 was \$2.15 million, reflecting a significant increase over the FY13-14 level, reflecting an upward turn for Consortium

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extramural support, which had been declining over the previous four years. The Consortium appears to have turned the corner and is seeing a modest increase in extramural support this year and growth is expected to continue. Nevertheless, the decline in the agency's extramural funding from FY10-11 to FY13-14, due both to internal and external circumstances, represents an area of increased attention by the agency to continue the upward trend.

#### Return-on-Investment

The Consortium continues to compete for and receive non-state (extramural) grant funding to support its diverse portfolio of coastal and ocean programs desired by the agency's stakeholders in the state and region. This funding represents an excellent return-on-investment for the state of South Carolina; from 2005-2015 (10 years), the Consortium has secured over \$36,446,930 in non-state competitive funding from a state investment of  $$^54,612,646$ , a 790 percent return to the state.

Over the last six years, the Consortium's annual Return-on-Investment is as follows:

FISCAL YEAR	STATE	NON-STATE	TOTAL	RETURN- ON- INVESTMENT
2009-10	\$ 405,460	\$3,621,363	\$4,026,823	893%
2010-11	\$ 363,559	\$4,628,702	\$4,992,261	1273%
2011-12	\$ 332,223	\$3,462,152	\$3,794,375	1042%
2012-13	\$ 444,486	\$2,698,699	\$3,143,185	607%
2013-14	\$ 448,982	\$1,641,003	\$2,089,985	465%
2014-15	\$ 559,288	\$2,152,154	\$2,711,442	385%

#### External Evaluation of the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium

The leadership and staff of the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium have spent a significant amount of time and energy preparing for its NOAA National Sea Grant College Program Site Visit Evaluation, which was held September 1-2, 2015 in Charleston, SC. A 20-page briefing book (<a href="http://www.scseagrant.org/pdf">http://www.scseagrant.org/pdf</a> files/SCSGC-2015-Briefing-Book.pdf) was prepared for the Site Visit team in preparation for the review.

An external Site Visit Review Team visited South Carolina, chaired by our NOAA National Sea Grant program officer and co-chaired by a member of the National Sea Grant Advisory Board, with a Sea Grant Director as a review team member. Members of the NSGO Site Visit team were:

- Ms. Sami Grimes, Acting Deputy Director, NOAA National Sea Grant College Program Office
- Dr. Paulinus Chigbu, Member, National Sea Grant Advisory Board, and Professor & Director, NOAA Living Marine Resources Cooperative Science Center, University of Maryland Eastern Shore
- Dr. Jim Eckman, Director, California Sea Grant College Program
- Dr. Jim Murray, Deputy Director (retired), NOAA National Sea Grant College Program Office
- Dr. Mary C. Watzin, Dean, College of Natural Resources, North Carolina State University

In addition, Mr. Craig McLean, J.D., the Assistant Administrator for NOAA's Office of Ocean and Atmospheric Research, attended as an observer.

The Site Visit Review Team met with the Consortium's program management team, program advisory committees, the Consortium Board of Directors, and more than 100 constituents and stakeholders to review and evaluate the Consortium in three broad areas:

- 1. Program Management and Organization (leadership, organization, program team approach, and support)
- 2. Stakeholder Engagement (relevance, advisory services, and relationships), and
- 3. Collaborative Network Activities (coordinated planning and cooperative work with other Sea Grant programs and other local, state and federal agencies/organizations).

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The Site Visit Review Team is now in the process of preparing a detailed site visit report, with findings and possible recommendations to improve the Consortium's performance. In the interim, the Team provided the Consortium Executive Director and management staff initial findings of the review prior to their departure which, suffice it to say, were extremely positive. Detailed results of the NSGO Site Visit evaluation will be provided once the final report has been received by the agency.

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	Agency Code:	P20	Section:	046						A COUTH CHES	Program Template
Program/Title	Purpose	General	<i>FY 2013-14 Expe</i> Other	<u>nditures</u> Federal		TOTAL	General	FY 2014-15 Expe	enditures Federal	TOTAL	Associated Objective(s)
I. Adminstration	The principal purpose of the consortium is to provide a mechanism for the development and management of the Sea Grant Program for South Carolina and adjacent regions that share a common environment and resource heritage. The consortium serves to support, improve, and share research, education, training, and advisory services in fields related to ocean and coastal resources.	451,550 \$	14,579 \$	2,604,214	\$	3,070,344	\$ 504,368 \$	36,457 \$	1,774,348	\$ 2,315,172	1.1.1; 1.1.2; 1.1.3; 1.1.4; 1.1.5; 1.1.6; 1.2.1; 1.2.2; 1.2.3; 1.2.4; 1.2.5; 1.2.6; 1.2.7; 1.2.8; 2.1.1; 2.1.2; 1.2.1; 2.1.4; 2.2.1; 2.2.2; 2.2.3; 2.2.4; 2.2.5; 2.2.6; 2.2.7; 2.2.8; 2.3.1; 2.3.2; 2.3.3; 2.3.4; 3.1.1; 3.1.2; 3.1.3; 3.1.4; 3.1.5; 3.1.6
	la. Research and Education	\$ 61,050 \$	- \$	1,808,714	Ś	1,869,764	\$ 65,345 \$	25,455 \$	1,103,419	\$ 1,194,218	
	lb. Extension	\$ - \$	- \$	483,046		483,046			348,945		
	Ic. Communications	\$ 110,100 \$	7,368 \$	152,023		269,491			144,616		
	Id. Administration	\$ 280,400 \$	7,211 \$	160,431	\$	448,042	\$ 336,762 \$	- \$	177,367	\$ 514,129	
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				SOUTH	Strategic Planning Template
Туре	Goal	<u>Item #</u> Strat	<u>#</u> Object	Description	
G	1			<u>Planning, Program Management, and Overall Performance</u> : Annually support effective plan efforts to meet the mission and programmatic goals of the Consortium	ning, financing, and performance
S		1.1		Implement ongoing planning activities and an efficient administrative and management Consortium's programmatic themes	system which supports the
O			1.1.1	Identify and assess programmatic focus areas by engaging at least 200 stakeholders juniversities and colleges, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector annually	from state and federal agencies,
0			1.1.2	Assess and update the Consortium's strategic plan based on input from five extension targeted outreach to partner organizations by October 2016	advisory board meetings and
0			1.1.3	Annually engage the Consortium's 30-member Program Advisory Board in setting ove developing strategies for program development	rall program priorities and
0			1.1.4	Maintain monthly communications with the Consortium's liaisons at the university levinteraction between university officials and faculty and Consortium staff	vels to promote open and viable
0			1.1.5	Maintain a rigorous technical peer review process for all competitive research, educate received by the agency by securing a minimum of four impartial reviews for each proposal received.	
0			1.1.6	Continue the ongoing activities of the Consortium management team (Core Group) to information exchange to set the agency's short- and long-term directions through bimonthly	-
S		1.2		Develop, maintain, and enhance the Consortium's funding levels and financial and repo programmatic goals of the research, education, extension, and communications programs	~ .
0			1.2.1	Adhere to Consortium Board and State leadership directives to maintain and, where p	ossible, enhance state funding
0			1.2.2	Secure extramural funding of \$2,000,000 annually in support of Consortium programs citizens and state of South Carolina	and activities to benefit the
0			1.2.3	Obtain \$500,000 in research and outreach funding through National Sea Grant Core of annually	and other National competitions
0			1.2.4	Ensure that the Consortium's accounting and fiscal management procedures meet or policies, regulations, and guidelines through annual outside review	exceed federal, state, and local
0			1.2.5	Develop and implement a Sea Grant Network-wide Web-based management informa program progress and document performance by June 2016	tion system (eSeaGrant) to track
0			1.2.6	Prepare State Accountability and National Sea Grant Reports on an annual basis	
0			1.2.7	Ensure that the most current software and equipment are used to enhance efficient o	perations

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				Strategic Planning Template				
Туре	Goal	<i>Item #</i> Strat	<u>#</u> Object	Description				
0	Goal	Strat	1.2.8	Prepare for the quadrennial external National Sea Grant Program Assessment review in September 2015				
				Connecting with Users - Needs of the Consortium's diverse constituencies throughout the state and region are well-				
G	2			documented and addressed				
S		2.1						
				Engage constituents in the identification of coastal and marine resource issues and needs through a range of activities				
0			2.1.1	such as surveys and individual contact on a biennial basis				
0			2.1.2	Annually seek programmatic guidance from five extension specialist advisory committees				
0			2.1.3	Seek programmatic guidance from ad hoc program area advisory groups				
0			2.1.4	Maintain and expand partnerships with federal, state and local governments, business and industry, non-Consortium				
			2.1.4	universities, and NGOs				
S		2.2		Ensure that Consortium programs are effective in providing the necessary science-based information and that this				
		2.2		information is delivered to target audiences in a timely fashion and appropriate formats				
0			2.2.1	Produce and distribute quarterly issues of Coastal Heritage magazine, which covers relevant issues pertaining to				
			2.2.1	coastal- and marine-resource policy, science, and history				
				Enhance the knowledge and awareness of coastal residents and visitors on the value of coastal and ocean resources				
0			2.2.2	through Consortium communications efforts through 2,500 publication distributions and 200,000 web site visits				
				Serve as the co-coordinators of the annual S.C. Beach Sweep/River Sweep litter cleanup program with the S.C.				
0			2.2.3	Department of Natural Resources to engage 100 site coordinators, clean 125 coastal locations, and engage 16,000 coastal				
				volunteers				
				Publicize Consortium-funded research, education, and outreach through 950 print, broadcast, electronic, and web-				
0			2.2.4	based media placements				
0			2.2.5	Regularly maintain and enhance the information on the Consortium Web site and ancillary Web sites				
0			2.2.6	Produce and distribute electronic and hard copy publications and products, targeted to constituent needs				
0			2.2.7	Engage community volunteers in Consortium outreach activities				
0			2.2.8	Solicit formal evaluations from at least 50% of Consortium conference and workshop participants				
S		2.3		Bring diverse perspectives together to facilitate interactions and discourse on critical coastal and ocean issues				
0			2.3.1	Periodically engage constituents in discussions of emerging issues affecting coastal S.C. and the region				
0			2.3.2	Coordinate multi-investigator partnerships working together to solve critical resource needs				
0			2.3.3	Broker resolutions to resource management questions				
0			2.3.4	Provide leadership on committees and other forums that seek to resolve coastal and ocean resource challenges				
G	3			<u>Human Resources</u> - A highly qualified, well-trained, and professionally recognized agency staff				

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				Strategic Planning Template
Туре	Goal	<u>Item #</u> Strat	Object	Description
S		3.1		Encourage an "environment of excellence" to maintain and hire talented staff and support the development of professional and other skills among the Consortium staff in partnership with other agencies and professional organizations
0			3.1.1	Hire highly qualified personnel through broadly distributing position announcements and a rigorous selection process involving staff members and partners as appropriate
0			3.1.2	Seek partnerships with member organizations to jointly support a minimum of three key management and/or programmatic staff
0			3.1.3	Retain five extension specialist staff to effectively provide science-based information to their constituents
0			3.1.4	Annually enhance skills, capabilities (including the possibility of cross-training), and professional development goals of the Consortium staff through attendance at workshops, seminars, and development events and activities
0			3.1.5	Promote performance excellence through incentive-based efforts and program competition, and encourage staff through staff recognition and awards
0			3.1.6	Encourage staff to become actively involved in professional organizations pertinent to their staff positions (e.g., as committee members, elected officers)
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				•				ormance Measurement Template
em Performance Measure	Last Value 13-14	Current Value 14-15	Target Value	Time Applicable	Data Source and Availability	Reporting Freq.	Calculation Method	Associated Objective(s)
Planning, Financing, Performance  National Sea Grant Performance Rating	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	2/14-1/15	Nat'l Sea Grant College Program	Annual	Nat'l Sea Grant Criteria	Goals 1, 2 ,
Communications Awards (#)	6	7	4	7/14-6/15	Communications Department	Annual	Awards from national, regional, state.	2.2; 3.
Res/Educ Proposals Submitted (#)	29	21	35	2/14-1/15	Grant Files	Annual	Total related proposals submitted during the federal fiscal year	1.1.
Res/Educ Proposals Funded (#)	14	8	20	2/14-1/15	Grant Files	Annual	Total related proposals funded during the federal fiscal year	1.1.
Multi-Institutional/PI Projects (#)	8	6	5	2/14-1/15	Grant Files	Annual	Total funded proposals with multiple investigators or institutions	1.1.5; 2.3.
University Faculty Engaged (#)	50	52	40	2/14-1/15	Grant Files	Annual	Total number of university faculty engaged on funded proposals	3.1
Grads/Undergrads Supported	45	82	30	2/14-1/15	Grant Files	Annual	Total number supported on funded proposals and through fellowship programs	3.1
State Recurring Funding	\$448,982	\$559,288	\$500,000	7/14-6/15	State Budget	Annual	Annual budget as appropriated by S.C. State Legislature	1.2
Extramural Funding	\$2,598,380	\$2,152,154	\$4,000,000	2/14-1/15	Internal	Annual	Total non-state funding received by Consortium	1.2.2; 1.2
Return on (State) Investment	601%	385%	800%	7/14-6/15	Internal	Annual	Extramural funding divided by state funding	1.2.2; 1.2
Single Agency Audit  Customer Service/Satisfaction	No Findings	No Audit	No Findings	State	State Audit	Annual	State Auditor Guidelines	1.2
Partnerships w/ Stakeholder Groups(#)	230	663	200	7/14-6/15	All Staff	Annual	Partners on all research, education, extension, management, and communications activities	1.2.8; 2.1
Extension Programs	43	70	80	7/14-6/15	Extension Staff	Annua	Programs developed by or in conjunction with Extension staff	2.2
Participants - Extension Events	4,217	3,590	4,000	7/14-6/15	Extension Staff	Annual	Events hosted or attended by Extension staff	2.2
Pubs/Products - Extension	11	12	30	7/14-6/15	Extension Staff	Annual	Publications and products developed by or in conjunction with Extension staff	2.2
K-12 Teachers Trained	221	1,209	200	7/14-6/15	Education Staff	Annua	Workshop/meeting attendance	2.2.3; 2.2
K-12 Students Reached	8,480	33,049	7,500	7/14-6/15	Education Staff	Annual	Multiplier of 25 students/teacher trained plus direct classroom activities	2.2.3; 2.2
Number of Curricula Developed	6	4	5	7/14-6/15	Education Staff	Annual	1 curriculum per issue of quarterly Coastal Heritage; additional based on funded project objectives	2.2.3; 2.2
Pubs/Products - Communications	32		25	7/14-6/15	Communication Director	Annua	Communications records	2.2.1; 2.2.2; 2.2
Unsolicited Requests for Pubs	1,739	459	500	7/14-6/15	Communication Director	Annua	Communications records	2.2.5; 2.2
Publications Distributed	2,725	802	2,500	7/14-6/15	Communication Director	Annua		2.2.5; 2.
News Releases (#)	9	11	12	7/14-6/15	Communication Director	Annua		2.
Placements from News Releases Unsolicited Media Placements	125 29	137 53	150	7/14-6/15	Communication Director	Annua		2
Agency Web Site - Hits	1,261,646	1,401,983	1,200,000	7/14-6/15 7/14-6/15	Communication Director Communication Director	Annual Monthly	Communications records Google Analytics/Sawmill	2.2.5: 2
Agency Web Site - Unique Visits	229,925	258,981	200,000	7/14-6/15	Communication Director	Monthly	, , ,	2.2.5; 2
Agency Web Site - Downloads	844,814	867,874	850,000	7/14-6/15	Communication Director	Monthly	Google Analytics/Sawmill	2.2.5; 2.
Beach Sweep Volunteer Site Capts. (#)	120	110	110	9/14	Communication Director	Annua	Site Captain Participation	2.2.4; 2.
Beach Sweep Volunteers (#)	4,558	3,137	3,500	9/14	Communication Director	Annua	Attendance	2.2.4; 2
Human Resource Results								
Agency Staff Retention/Rehiring	4 Vacancies	4 Vacancies	3 Vacancies	7/14-6/15	Administrative Department	Annua	Number of vacancies in the agency's FTE positions	3.
Staff Training Opportunities	48	17	15	7/14-6/15	All Staff	Annua	Total for staff	3.1.4; 3.
SG Extension Staffing Level	0 Vacancies	1 Vacancy	0 Vacancies	7/14-6/15	Extension Director	Annual	Number of vacancies in the agency's existing extension positions	3.

Staff-Institutional Partnerships (#)	1	1	1	7/14-6/15	All Staff	Annual	Number of extension positions jointly funded with a member institution	3.1.2
Staff Leadership Roles [(S)elected] (#)	28	41	10	7/14-6/15	All Staff	Annual	Number of national, regional, state, and local leadership roles for which Consortium staff serve	2.3.3; 2.3.4; 3.1.6