



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
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Silver Spring MD 20910

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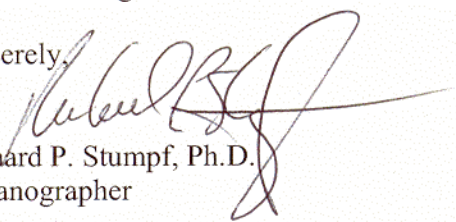
Dear Don,

I am writing in support of your proposal to the NOPP program: "Applications of the Environmental Sample Processor (ESP) to Harmful Algal Bloom Management: Field Deployments, Technology Transfer, and Commercial Evaluation".

NOAA has implemented an operational capability for forecasting of Harmful Algal Blooms in the Gulf of Mexico. We are moving forward with plans to expand this capability through a set of regional operational forecast capabilities, specifically including the Gulf of Maine, and I am lead scientist for the transition of research capabilities into the operational forecasts. The Gulf of Maine is a priority region for implementation of this capability because of the significant and annual HAB impacts and because of the significant progress in research. Critical to the success of an operational forecast system are moorings that provide the necessary data on the presence of HAB cells (along with important oceanographic properties) at critical locations. The GoMOOS moorings can provide the critical information where the HAB transport is greatest. I cannot emphasize enough how adding HAB ESP sensors to this observing system will aid in assuring accurate and reliable operational forecasts of HABs. An operational system will be closely integrated with the local fisheries management community and depend on the GoMOOS and regional research community.

I strongly endorse your proposal and look forward to coordination with your group on HAB monitoring and forecasting efforts in the Gulf of Maine.

Sincerely,


Richard P. Stumpf, Ph.D.
Oceanographer

