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MARINE RESOURCES
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November 30, 2007

Dr. Donald M. Anderson
Biology Department, MS #32
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Woods Hole, MA 02543

Dear Don:

I am happy to support the NOPP proposal, "Applications of the Environmental Sample Processor (ESP) to Harmful Algal Bloom Management: Field Deployments, Technology Transfer, and Commercial Evaluation", you are submitting with MBARI. As a member of the Board of Directors of the Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System (GoMOOS) and Director of the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) research and monitoring programs, I fully support this collaborative effort to support ocean observing, improve our capability to monitor and understand harmful algal blooms (HABs), and manage our living marine resources.

Data from the GoMOOS buoy array have been invaluable to Maine DMR in helping us to better understand circulation patterns in the Gulf of Maine, the effects of temperature on molting of lobsters, movements of shrimp, and predictions of *Alexandrium* distribution during the 2005 red tide event. However, none of those buoys contain sensors to indicate the presence of HAB species in the region. Utilizing ESP buoys just offshore of Casco Bay, Maine and at the GoMOOS B site in an array to obtain near real-time estimates of *Alexandrium* abundance would be extremely useful information to our resource managers since that region of the coast is the first to experience shellfish toxicity each spring.

I fully support the development of tools and products that will support our stock assessment and management activities in the Northeast. If you need supporting information on shellfish toxicity along the Maine coast to compare with the ESP measurements, please let us know. Good luck with your proposal.

Sincerely,

Linda P. Mercer

Linda P. Mercer, Director
Bureau of Resource Management

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