

**NORTH ATLANTIC COAST
COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNIT**

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

between

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. Geological Survey--Biological Resources Division
National Park Service**

and

**UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND (HOST)
University of Maryland – Eastern Shore**

ARTICLE I - BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

- A. This Cooperative Agreement between the U.S. Geological Survey--Biological Resources Division, and the National Park Service (hereinafter called Federal Agencies), and the University of Rhode Island and its partner institution(s) is to establish and maintain the North Atlantic Coast Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit. The North Atlantic Coast CESU is associated with a national network of CESUs.
- B. The objectives of the North Atlantic Coast Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) are to:
- Provide research, technical assistance and education to federal land management, environmental and research agencies and their potential partners;
 - Develop a program of research, technical assistance and education that involves the biological, physical, social, and cultural sciences needed to address resources issues and interdisciplinary problem-solving at multiple scales and in an ecosystem context; and

- Place special emphasis on the working collaboration among federal agencies and universities and their related partner institution(s).
- C. The U.S. Geological Survey--Biological Resources Division (hereinafter called BRD) works with others to provide scientific understanding and technologies needed to support the sound management and conservation of our Nation's biological resources (Secretarial Order No. 3202). In accordance with 16 U.S.C.1a-2j, 16 U.S.C. 5933 and Secretarial Order No. 3202, the BRD is authorized to enter into a cooperative agreement to establish the North Atlantic Coast CESU to assist in providing research, technical assistance and education.
- D. The National Park Service (hereinafter called NPS) is responsible for the management of areas in the National Park System to conserve the scenery, the natural and historic objects, and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations (16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.). In accordance with 16 U.S.C.1a-2j and 16 U.S.C. 5933, the NPS is authorized to enter into a cooperative agreement to establish the North Atlantic Coast CESU to assist in providing research, technical assistance and education.
- E. The University of Rhode Island (hereinafter called Host University) is one of the nation's premier academic institutions for the study of coastal ecosystems and associated watersheds. There are more than 200 faculty and 40 departments and programs that work in the field of marine, coastal, and environmental research, teaching, or service. The University of Rhode Island hosts a mixture of University programs, federal cooperative partnerships, and major federal laboratories that contribute to a diverse and enriched community all focused on coastal zone ecosystems.
- F. The partner institution(s) to the Host University includes the University of Maryland – Eastern Shore, (hereinafter called Partner Institution(s)).

ARTICLE II - STATEMENT OF WORK

- A. Each Federal Agency agrees to:
1. Provide administrative assistance, as appropriate, necessary to execute this agreement and subsequent modifications;
 2. Conduct, with the Host University and Partner Institution(s), a program of research, technical assistance and education related to the North Atlantic Coast CESU objectives and to the extent allowed by each Federal Agencies' authorizing legislation;
 3. Provide opportunities for research on federal lands or using federal facilities in cooperation with Federal Agencies, as appropriate, and according to all applicable laws, regulations and Federal Agencies' policies;
 4. Provide funds for basic support and salary for release time of Host University and Partner Institution faculty, as appropriate;

5. Provide project funds and/or collaboration to support specific research, technical assistance and education projects, as appropriate;
6. Make available managers to serve on the North Atlantic Coast CESU Manager's Committee;
7. Comply with the Host University's and Partner Institution(s)' rules, regulations, and policies regarding professional conduct, health, safety, use of services and facilities, use of animals, recombinant DNA, infectious agents or radioactive substances, as well as other policies generally applied to Host University and Partner Institution personnel;
8. Ensure its employees follow the Code of Ethics for Government Employees;
9. Allow Federal Agency employees to participate in the activities of the Host University and Partner Institution(s), including serving on graduate committees and teaching courses, as appropriate, and as specifically determined in modifications to the agreement; and
10. Be individually responsible for their agency's role in administering the agreement, transferring funds, and supervision of agency employees, as appropriate.

B. The Host University agrees to:

1. Establish, in consultation with the Federal Agencies and Partner Institution(s), the North Atlantic Coast CESU;
2. Conduct, with participating Federal Agencies and Partner Institution(s), a program of research, technical assistance and education related to the North Atlantic Coast CESU objectives;
3. Provide release time for faculty to engage in participating Federal Agencies research, technical assistance and education activities related to the North Atlantic Coast CESU objectives, as appropriate;
4. Provide basic administrative and clerical support as appropriate;
5. Provide access for North Atlantic Coast CESU staff to campus facilities, including library, laboratories, computer facilities on the same basis or costs as other faculty members of the Host University to the maximum extent allowable under state laws and regulations;
6. Provide suitable office space, furniture and laboratory space, utilities, computer network access and basic telephone service for Federal Agencies personnel to be located at the Host University, as appropriate;
7. Offer educational and training opportunities to participating Federal Agency employees, as appropriate;
8. Encourage its students to participate in the activities of the North Atlantic Coast CESU;
9. Coordinate activities, as appropriate, with the Partner Institution(s) and develop administrative policies for such coordination; and
10. Establish a North Atlantic Coast CESU Manager's Committee and convene a meeting of this committee, at least annually, to provide advice and guidance, review of the annual work and multi-year strategic plans, and assist in evaluating the North Atlantic Coast CESU.

- C. Each Partner Institution agrees to:
1. Conduct, with participating Federal Agencies and the Host University, a program of research, technical assistance, and education related to the North Atlantic Coast CESU objectives;
 2. Offer educational and training opportunities to participating Federal Agency employees, as appropriate; and
 3. Encourage students and employees to participate in the activities of the CESU.
- D. All Federal Agencies, the Host University and Partner Institution(s) agree to:
1. Establish and maintain the North Atlantic Coast CESU closely following the CESU Concept Paper (10 November 1997), adapting key elements to local and regional needs, as appropriate;
 2. Develop and adopt a North Atlantic Coast CESU role and mission statement;
 3. Develop a multi-year strategic plan;
 4. Make modifications, as appropriate, to this agreement that individually include a specific "scope of work" statement and a brief explanation of the following:
 - (a) the proposed work and what is being modified in the agreement;
 - (b) the project contribution to the objectives of the CESU;
 - (c) the methodology of the project;
 - (d) the substantial involvement of each party;
 - (e) the project schedule;
 - (f) the specific deliverables;
 5. Coordinate in obtaining all necessary state, federal, and tribal permits and/or permissions from private landowners in order to conduct projects occurring under this agreement;
 6. Follow OMB Circulars A-21, A-87, A-102, A-110, and A-133, as appropriate, and specifically 43 CFR Part 12 (Department of the Interior).

ARTICLE III – TERMS OF AGREEMENT

- A. This agreement shall continue for a period of five (5) years from the effective date of execution. The effective date of this agreement shall be determined from the date of the last signature.
- B. By mutual consent and at the end of this agreement, a new agreement, for a separate and distinct (5) year period, can be entered into to continue the activities of the North Atlantic Coast CESU.
- C. For the purposes of this agreement, amendments are changes (edits, deletions, or additions) to the agreement that do not involve the transfer of funds. Amendments may be proposed by any of the Federal Agencies, the Host University or by the Host University on behalf of any of the Partner Institution(s). Amendments shall be in writing, signed and agreed to by all signatories to this agreement.

- D. For the purposes of this agreement, modifications are specific two-party agreements between one of the Federal Agencies and the Host University and/or a Partner Institution in support of the goals of this broad agreement. Modifications will be issued by a Federal Agency, will transfer funds to support the statement of work, and will conform to each Federal Agency's respective procedures.
- E. A separate interagency agreement is required to facilitate transfer of funds from one federal agency to another federal agency.

ARTICLE IV - KEY OFFICIALS

A. The technical representatives for the Federal Agencies are as follows:

1. U.S. Geological Survey--Biological Resources Division

Dr. Charles Roman
U.S. Geological Survey
Pantuxent Wildlife Research Center
University of Rhode Island
South Ferry Road (Central Receiving)
Narragansett, RI 02882
Phone: (401) 874-6885
Fax: (401) 874-6889
Email: croman@gsounl.gso.uri.edu

2. National Park Service

Dr. Mary Foley
National Park Service
15 State Street
Boston, MA 02109
Phone: (617) 223-5024
Fax: (617) 223-5097
Email: mary_foley@nps.gov

B. The technical representative for the Host University is:

Dr. Kenneth Hinga
Assistant Dean
University of Rhode Island
Graduate School of Oceanography
South Ferry Road
Narragansett, RI 02882
Phone: (401) 874-6888
Fax: (401) 874-6889
Email: kHINGA@GSOSUN1.GSO.URI.EDU

C. The technical representatives for the Partner Institution(s) are:

1. University of Maryland – Eastern Shore
Roman Jesian, Ph.D. rjesian@mail.umes.edu
Scientific Director
Catherine Bolek, M.S. csbolek@mail.umes.edu
Administrative Director
1129 Early Childhood Center
Princess Anne, MD 21853-1299
Phone: (410) 651-6107
Fax: (410) 651-7768

ARTICLE V – AWARD

- A. Award under this agreement is as specified in the incorporated budget (Article XI 1.).
- B. Upon signature of all parties and upon satisfactory submission of a budget from the Host University, the Federal Agencies will obligate funds as follows:

U.S. Geological Survey--Biological Resources Division

\$10,000 is awarded to the Host University to carry out this agreement.

National Park Service

\$10,000 is awarded to the Host University to carry out this agreement.

- C. Payments will be made by the Federal Agencies for work in accordance with OMB Circulars A-21, A-110, A-102, A-133 and specifically, 43 CFR Part 12 (Department of the Interior).
- D. A 15% indirect cost rate will be paid on work covered by the agreement and all its modifications.

No indirect cost will be charged by the Host University for funds transferred directly from a participating Federal Agency to a Partner Institution via a modification to the agreement.

- E. Award of additional funds or in-kind resources will be made through modifications to the agreement. Copies of all modifications to the agreement shall be kept on file with the Host University.
- F. Nothing herein shall be construed as obligating the Federal Agencies to expend, or as involving the Federal Agencies in any contract or other obligation for the future payment of money, in excess of appropriations authorized by law and administratively allocated for specific work.

ARTICLE VI - PRIOR APPROVAL

Prior approvals are in accordance with OMB Circulars A-110 or A-102, specifically

43 CFR Part 12 (Department of the Interior).

ARTICLE VII - REPORTS AND/OR DELIVERABLES

- A. OMB Circulars A-110 or A-102, specifically 43 CFR Part 12 (Department of the Interior) establishes uniform reporting procedures for financial and technical reporting.
- B. As appropriate, the Host University will convene periodic meetings of North Atlantic Coast CESU Federal Agencies and Partner Institution(s) (hereinafter called cooperators) for the purpose of collaboration and coordination of CESU activities. The first meeting will be convened within 90 days from the date this agreement is executed. Five (5) copies of the meeting minutes will be delivered to each Federal Agency.
- C. A role and mission statement will be adopted and agreed to by all North Atlantic Coast CESU cooperators within 120 days from the date this agreement is executed. Five (5) copies of the adopted mission statement will be delivered to each Federal Agency.
- D. Annual work plans will be developed to guide the specific activities of the North Atlantic Coast CESU and will:
 - 1. Describe the North Atlantic Coast CESU ongoing and proposed research, technical assistance and education activities;
 - 2. Describe anticipated projects and products; and
 - 3. Identify faculty, staff and students involved in the North Atlantic Coast CESU during the year.The first annual work plan (for FY1999) will be delivered 120 days from the date this agreement is executed. Five (5) copies of the annual work plan will be delivered to each Federal Agency.
- E. A multi-year strategic plan will be developed to generally guide the North Atlantic Coast CESU and will be delivered within 12 months from the date this agreement is executed. Five (5) copies of the multi-year strategic plan will be delivered to each Federal Agency.

ARTICLE VIII - PROPERTY UTILIZATION AND DISPOSITION

Property utilization and disposition is in accordance with OMB Circulars A-110 or A-102, specifically 43 CFR Part 12 (Department of the Interior).

ARTICLE IX - TERMINATION

Termination of this agreement is in accordance with OMB Circulars A-110 or A-102, specifically 43 CFR Part 12 (Department of the Interior) requires approval of each of the Federal Agencies and the Host University.

ARTICLE X – REQUIRED/SPECIAL PROVISIONS

A. REQUIRED PROVISIONS:

1. **NON-DISCRIMINATION:** All activities pursuant this agreement and the provisions of Executive Order 11246; shall be in compliance with requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252 42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq.); Title V, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 394; 29 U.S.C. § 794); the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (89 Stat. 728; 42 U.S.C. § 6101 et seq.); and with all other Federal laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination on grounds of race, color, national origin, handicap, religious or sex in providing of facilities and service to the public.
2. **CONSISTENCY WITH PUBLIC LAWS:** Nothing herein contained shall be deemed to be inconsistent with or contrary to the purpose of or intent of any Act of Congress or the laws of the District establishing, affecting, or relating to the agreement.
3. **APPROPRIATIONS (Anti-Deficiency Act, 31 U.S.C. 1341):** Nothing herein contained in this agreement shall be construed as binding the Federal Agencies to expend in any one fiscal year any sum in excess of appropriations made by Congress, for the purposes of this agreement for that fiscal year, or other obligation for the further expenditure of money in excess of such appropriations.
4. **OFFICIALS NOT TO BENEFIT:** No Member of, Delegate to, Resident Commissioner in, Congress shall be admitted to any share or part of this agreement or to any benefit to arise therefrom, unless the share or part benefit is for the general benefit of a corporation or company.
5. **LOBBYING PROHIBITION:** The parties will abide by the provisions of 18 U.S.C. 1913 (Lobbying with Appropriated Moneys), which states:

No part of the money appropriated by any enactment of Congress shall, in the absence of express authorization by Congress, be used directly or indirectly to pay for any personal service, advertisement, telegram, telephone, letter, printed or written matter, or other device, intended or designed to influence in any manner a Member of Congress, to favor or oppose, by vote or otherwise, any legislation or appropriation by Congress, whether before or after the introduction of any bill or resolution proposing such legislation or appropriation: but this shall not prevent officers or employees of the United States or of its departments or agencies from communicating to Members of Congress on the request of any Member or to Congress, through the proper official channels, requests for legislation or appropriations which they deem necessary for the efficient conduct of the public business.

6. LIABILITY PROVISION:

Governmental Parties

The Federal Agencies, Host University and Partner Institution(s) which are governmental parties, accept responsibility for any property damage, injury, or death caused by the acts or omissions of their respective employees, acting

within the scope of their employment, to the fullest extent permitted by law, including laws concerning self-insurance.

To the extent work by governmental parties is to be performed through sub-contract by non-governmental entities or persons, the governmental party sub-contracting work will require that subcontracted entity or person to meet provisions (a), (b), and (c) for non-governmental parties stated below.

Non-governmental Parties

Work provided by non-governmental entities or persons, will require that entity or person to:

- (a) Have public and employee liability insurance from a responsible company or companies with a minimum limitation of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per person for any one claim, and an aggregate limitation of three million dollars (\$3,000,000) for any number of claims arising from anyone incident. In subsequent modifications, the parties may negotiate different levels of liability coverage, as appropriate. The policies shall name the United States as an additional insured, shall specify that the insured shall have no right of subrogation against the United States for payments of any premiums or deductibles due thereunder, and shall specify that the insurance shall be assumed by, be for the account of, and be at the insured's sole risk; and
- (b) Pay the United States the full value for all damages to the lands or other property of the United States caused by such person or organization, its representatives, or employees; and
- (c) Indemnify, save and hold harmless, and defend the United States against all fines, claims, damages, losses, judgments, and expenses arising out of, or from, any omission or activity of such person organization, its representatives, or employees.

Non-governmental Partner Institution(s) shall provide the Federal Agencies confirmation of such insurance coverage, prior to beginning specific work authorized herein and specified in subsequent modifications.

B. SPECIAL PROVISIONS:

1. Joint publication of result is encouraged; however, no party will publish any results of joint effort without consulting the other. This is not to be construed as applying to popular publication of previously published technical matter. Publication may be joint or independent as may be agreed upon, always giving due credit to the cooperation and recognizing within proper limits the rights of individuals doing the work. In the case of failure to agree as to the manner of publication or interpretation of results, either party may publish data after due notice (not to exceed 60 days) and submission of the proposed manuscripts to the other. In such instances, the party publishing the data will give due credit to the cooperation but assume full responsibility of any statements on which there is a difference of opinion.

2. That the results of any cooperative studies may be used for development of theses in partial fulfillment of requirements for advanced degrees and nothing herein shall delay theses publication.
3. Individual modifications shall include specific plans for data management, sharing, and archiving, as appropriate.

ARTICLE XI – DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

A. The following are to be incorporated into this agreement:

1. Budget for funds awarded in this agreement
2. DI-2010, Certifications for the Host University and Partner Institution(s) regarding debarment, suspension and other responsibility matter, drug-free workplace requirements and lobbying.

ARTICLE XII - AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES

The following authorizing signatures are attached:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

A. U.S. Geological Survey--Biological Resources Division

B. National Park Service

C. UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

D. University of Maryland – Eastern Shore

ARTICLE XII - AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES (cont.)

A. U.S. Geological Survey--Biological Resource Division

Date

ARTICLE XII - AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES (cont.)

B. National Park Service

Date

ARTICLE XII - AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES (cont.)

C. University of Rhode Island

Date

ARTICLE XII - AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES (cont.)

D. University of Maryland – Eastern Shore

Date