

North Atlantic Coast Cooperative Ecosystems Study Unit (CESU)

Self Assessment

January 2004



Prepared by:

University of Rhode Island

University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Rutgers University

University of Massachusetts

Stony Brook University

Maryland Coastal Bays Program

National Park Service

US Geological Survey

www.ci.uri.edu/naccesu/

**North Atlantic Coast – CESU (NAC-CESU)
Self-Assessment**

12 January 2004

Prepared by

**University of Rhode Island (Host), University of Maryland Eastern Shore,
Rutgers University, University of Massachusetts, Stony Brook University,
Maryland Coastal Bays Program, the National Park Service, and the US
Geological Survey**

The reader of this self-assessment is encouraged to visit the website for the North Atlantic Coast CESU. The website lists and summarizes most of the research, technical assistance and education projects underway through the NAC-CESU. Background documents referenced in this self-assessment are included on the website (Role and Mission Statement, Strategic Vision Statement) along with information on the NAC-CESU university partners and agencies.

<http://www.ci.uri.edu/naccesu/>

Criterion 1: Were the formal commitments identified in the CESU agreement (and amendments) fulfilled?

1) Did the host university and partner institutions conduct with participating federal agencies a program of research, technical assistance and education related to the CESU objectives?

The NAC-CESU has worked with all of the partner and federal agencies on more than 30 different natural resource-related research, technical assistance, and education programs representing \$1.8 million of funding. Examples include: working with the USGS and the NPS on monitoring for mosquito borne diseases; working with the USGS and the NPS on measuring and mapping erosion in barrier beach ecosystems of Assateague Island National Seashore, Gateway National Recreation Area, Cape Cod National Seashore and Fire Island National Seashore; and hosting workshops on Marine Protected Areas and geostatistical analysis methods for natural science researchers, and USGS/NPS personnel. Under the recently established NAC-CESU Cultural Resource initiative, 3 projects totaling \$116,000 are currently underway.

2) Did the host university and partner institutions develop and adopt with participating federal agencies a CESU role and mission statement?

A Role and Mission statement for the NAC-CESU was prepared in 1999 by the founding university institutions (URI and University of Maryland Eastern Shore) and federal agencies (NPS and USGS). The Role and Mission Statement describes the purpose of the CESU, identifies the biogeographic scope of the NAC-CESU (i.e., coastal habitats and watersheds from Maine to Virginia), lists the coastal issue-oriented focus of the CESU, summarizes the research, technical assistance and cooperative education mission, and presents fundamental administrative procedures and roles of the host and partner institutions, Managers Committee, and agencies. The Role and Mission statement was revised in 2003 to include sections on the emerging role of the NAC-CESU in cultural resource fields. The Role and Mission Statement is included in the supporting documents to our Self Assessment report.

3) Did the host university and partner institutions develop and adopt with participating federal agencies a multi-year CESU strategic plan?

In January 2000 the NAC-CESU convened a 1-day meeting with more than 25 representatives from partner academic institutions, federal agencies, and potential federal agency partners to develop a Strategic Vision for the CESU. This strategic planning document identifies the priority research themes of the NAC-CESU (nutrient enrichment and contaminants, landscape ecology and maintenance of habitat diversity, restoration ecology, coastal geomorphic processes, monitoring and modeling long-term change, natural and cultural resources and heritage). Outreach themes identified in the strategic plan include data and information exchange and education programs. This planning document has guided the definition of research, technical assistance, and education topics supported by NAC-CESU funding. As with the Mission Statement, the Strategic Vision Statement was revised in 2003 to reflect the cultural resource components of the CESU and addition of new university partners.

4) Were periodic meetings of the CESU convened for the purpose of collaboration and coordination of CESU activities?

The first meeting of all partners was conducted in January 2000 to create the NAC-CESU Strategic Vision statement. The NAC-CESU Managers Committee convened at the University of Rhode Island in February 2001, January 2003, and is scheduled to meet in February 2004. The University of Rhode Island hosted a CESU breakfast in February 2002 to welcome Charles Roman, the new NPS coordinator of the NAC-CESU. In December 2003, the NPS coordinator was invited to a luncheon at Stony Brook University, a new partner, to introduce the

university to the CESU program. The University of Rhode Island has participated in all of the CESU Washington events sponsored by the National CESU Program (June 1999, June 2001, June 2003), providing poster presentations, serving on panels, and speaking at the Senate briefing breakfast.

5) Did the host university and partner institutions develop with participating federal agencies annual work plans to guide the activities of the CESU?

We do not have a formal "annual work plan" planning process among the partners of the NAC-CESU. However, at our annual managers meetings new directions and goals for the coming year are identified (e.g., invitation of new partners, strategies to enhance education opportunities, etc.) and pursued. Further, in January 2003 the NAC-CESU co-hosted and participated in a 2-day coastal research strategic planning workshop for scientists from the four divisions of USGS in the Northeastern U.S. Several NAC-CESU partner institutions participated in the planning workshop.

The National Park Service, the primary funding agency within the NAC-CESU produces an annual summary of NPS-related CESU activities.

6) Were students encouraged to participate in the activities of the CESU?

To date, 23 undergraduate and 29 graduate students have participated in natural resource related CESU research and outreach activities. In addition, several more students are participating in cultural resource related projects. This student participation has already resulted in the preparation of 11 Ph.D. and Masters theses from the partner universities. Furthermore, students have participated in all of our training workshops, and extensive laboratory and field research. At the February 2004 Managers Committee meeting, a main agenda item will include discussion of the creation of a NAC-CESU graduate student fellowship program.

7) Did the host university and partner institutions offer educational and training opportunities to participating federal agencies' employees?

The NAC-CESU has hosted two training workshops specifically targeted for federal partners on: a) scientific and technical issues in the establishment and management of Marine Protected Areas, and b) advanced methods in geospatial statistical analysis and modeling. The Marine Protected Areas workshop was attended by coastal park managers from Maine to Maryland, including several representatives from Washington and Regional NPS offices. The geostatistics workshop was attended by URI and University of Massachusetts faculty, students and research staff; scientists from federal partner agencies (NPS, USGS), and prospective NAC-CESU federal partner US EPA.

The NAC-CESU sponsored a project to assist NPS park managers with establishment and maintenance of natural resource-based web sites. A university technician with web experience is interacting with specific parks (Cape Cod, Gateway, Boston Harbor Islands) and regional programs (NPS Coastal and Barrier Network) to update their websites and train NPS personnel on website maintenance needs.

The NAC-CESU sponsors a SCEP graduate student (Student Career Experience Program). Following successful completion of a M.S. degree from the University of Rhode Island and training at a national park site, this minority student will have the opportunity to be converted to a full-time federal employee within the National Park Service.

8) Did the host university provide basic administrative and clerical support, access to campus facilities, suitable office space and basic services for federal agencies' personnel to be located at the host university?

The University of Rhode Island (URI) provides offices, administrative and clerical support, and access to university facilities (e.g., labs, libraries) to scientists in residence from the NAC-CESU federal partners. Currently, URI hosts 4 NPS resident scientists and 2 USGS resident scientists. These scientists are fully integrated into the academic environment of the university. They have status as "professor-in-residence" or adjunct faculty, thereby serving as major professors for graduate students (with professor in residence appointments), serving on graduate student committees, and participating in all activities of their respective academic departments (i.e., Graduate School of Oceanography, Department of Natural Resources Science, and Department of Plant Sciences). The University of Rhode Island also provides office space and in-kind administrative support for a US EPA scientist, currently serving an IPA (Intergovernmental Personnel Act mobility program) appointment. Although US EPA is not yet a formal federal agency partner in the NAC-CESU, there has been active collaboration on projects among scientists from our partner universities, NPS, USGS, and the US EPA Atlantic Ecology Division laboratory in Narragansett, RI.

9) Did the host university coordinate activities, as appropriate, with the partner institutions and develop administrative policies for such coordination?

Formal coordination between our academic and federal partners occurs at our annual managers meeting and as necessary by regular email contact. The NAC-CESU administrative team consists of Charles Roman - NPS, Howard Ginsberg - USGS, Peter August - URI, and Kira Stillwell - URI Coastal Institute. The team meets and works together regarding NAC-CESU administrative issues on a daily basis.

The NAC-CESU is beginning to facilitate individual research and technical assistance projects with co-investigators from several CESU partner universities. For the project on West Nile Virus in Northeastern US Parks, faculty and students from URI are surveying the northern parks in the region, while University of Maryland Eastern Shore personnel are addressing the region's more southern parks. The investigators, along with a USGS scientist, will collaboratively synthesize the information. On another project, scientists from URI, Rutgers University, Stony Brook University, and USGS are all collaborating to prepare technical white papers, or state-of-knowledge papers, on a diversity of topics relevant to management and protection of natural resources at Fire Island National Seashore. One of the major strengths of the CESU program is the opportunity to draw from a wealth of technical expertise.

10) Did the host university establish a CESU Managers Committee and convene annual meetings?

The first meeting of all partners was in January 2000 to create the NAC-CESU Strategic Vision statement. Although not formally described as an annual Managers Committee meeting, this January 2000 meeting served the purposes of such a meeting. The NAC-CESU Managers Committee convened at the University of Rhode Island in February 2001, January 2003, and is scheduled to meet in February 2004.

Criterion 2: Were the projects successfully completed, and was there effective delivery of relevant and high quality project results to managers, consistent with the mission of the CESU?

1) Were projects conducted successfully, with all project deliverables accepted by collaborating federal agency(s) providing project funds?

All of the completed NAC-CESU projects have been successful and their deliverables have been made and accepted by collaborating Federal partners. Many NAC-CESU research projects are in progress. A comprehensive list of most NAC-CESU projects (completed and ongoing) can be found at the NAC-CESU website: www.ci.uri.edu/naccesu/CESU_projects.htm. A summary is included in our supporting documents to the self assessment.

2) Were some projects unsuccessful, with project deliverables rejected by collaborating federal agency(s) providing project funds?

To date there have been no cases where NAC-CESU project deliverables were rejected by collaborating federal agencies.

3) *Did the host university and partner institutions provide effective delivery of relevant and high quality project results to managers, consistent with the mission of the CESU?*

The NAC-CESU has used a variety of methods to convey the results of research projects to resource managers. These include publications in peer reviewed journals, presentations to resource managers at their field locations, presentations at national/international conferences, workshops, and the recent development of a comprehensive and informative NAC-CESU website (www.ci.uri.edu/naccesu/). A copy of the opening page of the NAC-CESU web site is included in our supporting documents.

Criterion 3: Was there involvement of the partner institutions as appropriate in the activities and projects of the CESU?

1) *Did partner institutions participate in activities of the CESU?*

All of the partner institutions (University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Rutgers University, University of Massachusetts, and Stony Brook University) have attended training workshops, managers meetings, and/or strategic planning sessions.

2) *Did partner institutions participate in projects of the CESU?*

The National Park Service provided almost all funding to support NAC-CESU projects. Since establishment of the NAC-CESU in 1999 a total of 29 projects have been supported. Number of projects and total funding support obligated to each partner institution is provided below.

University of Rhode Island (founding host)
18 projects
Total support: \$1,122,434

University of Maryland Eastern Shore (founding partner)
2 projects
Total support: \$99,714

Rutgers University (partner since Sept. 2001)
7 projects
Total support: \$185,831

University of Massachusetts, Amherst (partner since June 2002)
3 projects (Cultural Resource)
Total support: \$116,540

Stony Brook University (partner since August 2003)
3 projects
Total support: \$411,383

Criterion 4: Did the CESU facilitate collaboration and substantial involvement among its federal agency partners?

In January 2000 the NAC-CESU hosted a 2-day meeting of the federal and academic partners to identify priority research topics, coordinate research areas, and assess ways in which future partnerships and collaboration may occur.

In November 2002, the NAC-CESU co-sponsored a Long-term Monitoring Symposium at Cape Cod National Seashore. This Symposium summarized development of the ecosystem monitoring program at the Seashore, with presentations by CESU scientists representing NPS, USGS, University of Rhode Island, and University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

In January 2003 the NAC-CESU co-hosted a strategic planning session involving our Federal partner, the USGS. The NPS, URI, and UMass-Amherst also participated in this workshop to identify fruitful areas of multi-institutional partnership and collaboration in research and outreach to focus on coastal issues of the northeastern US.

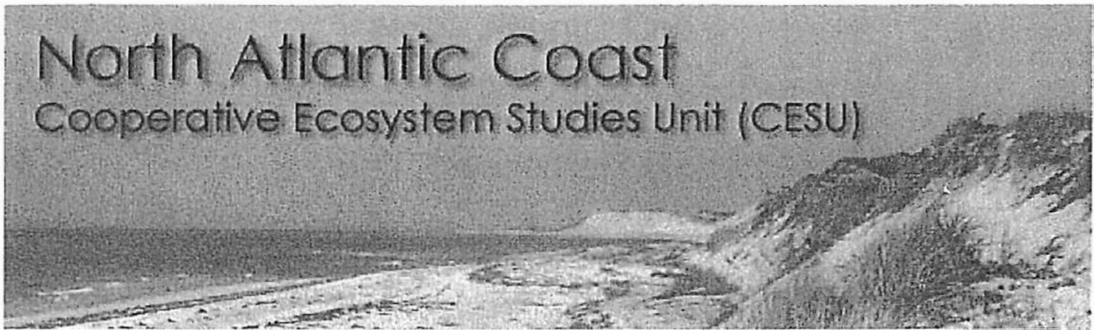
In October 2003, the NAC-CESU co-sponsored the Boston Harbor Islands Science Symposium, a session focused on presentation of science relevant to the Boston Harbor Islands national park area and identification of long-term park monitoring and research needs. This symposium will culminate in a special issue of the journal NORTHEASTERN NATURALIST, co-edited by Charles Roman (NPS NAC-CESU Research Coordinator), with several contributions from investigators affiliated with the University of Rhode Island and partner institution UMass-Amherst.

In December 2003, the NAC-CESU and Stony Brook University hosted a meeting that provided an opportunity for park managers at Gateway National Recreation Area and Fire Island National Seashore to meet with university scientist to discuss park research and technical assistance needs.

NPS and USGS personnel have been actively involved in individual research, technical assistance, and outreach/education projects. Each CESU project has a federal scientist or manager as a primary contact who facilitates technical collaboration between the agency and university cooperators. For all projects, NPS and USGS scientists serve as federal technical collaborators, providing active participation with university investigators and students in study plan

design, field data collection, data analysis and interpretation, report preparation, professional publication, and/or other tasks.

The US EPA and NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) have expressed an interest in becoming federal partners in the NAC-CESU. Their addition to the NAC-CESU network would add significant technical strength in a variety of disciplines that are important in coastal natural and cultural resource management. We will work closely with NOAA NMFS and US EPA over the next year to do what is necessary to include them in the NAC-CESU partnership.



Self Assessment Report

Supporting Documents

North Atlantic Coast
Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit

Self Assessment Report

Role and Mission of NAC CESU

Host University



UNIVERSITY OF
RHODE ISLAND

University Partners



THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY
RUTGERS

 University of
Massachusetts
UMASS Amherst

**STONY
BROOK**
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Role & Mission

of the
The North Atlantic Coast
Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Agency Partners



 **USGS**
science for a changing world

December 1999
(Revised - October 2003)

Introduction: CESUs; a New University-Federal Collaborative

The North Atlantic Coast Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (NAC-CESU) was established in June 1999 by cooperative agreement between agencies of the Department of the Interior (National Park Service and USGS Biological Resources Division) and the University of Rhode Island, with its partner institution, University of Maryland Eastern Shore. In subsequent years the NAC-CESU has expanded to include Rutgers University, the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and Stony Brook University as academic partners. Maryland Coastal Bays Program has also joined the NAC-CESU. In addition, the mission of the NAC-CESU now includes a strong focus on the study and management of cultural resources, as well as the initial natural resource interests.

The North Atlantic Coast CESU is part of a national network of biogeographic programs being established to provide research, technical assistance, and education to federal land management, environmental and research agencies. CESUs will generate collaborations among federal managers and policy-makers, federal researchers, and the academic community. Each partner brings a different perspective and wealth of technical knowledge allowing for the development of new, innovative and creative solutions to the myriad of environmental, cultural and social issues that confront our nation's ecosystems. Host universities are selected by a highly competitive process insuring that each CESU is founded on scientific excellence. To date, 16 CESUs have been established across the continental United States, Alaska, and the Caribbean.

Biogeographic Scope and Issues-Oriented Focus of the North Atlantic Coast CESU

The geographic scope of the CESU includes the North Atlantic coastal zone from Maine to the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia. CESU activities will encompass all ecosystems and cultural resources of coastal watersheds, including barrier islands, estuaries, nearshore oceanic environments, salt and freshwater wetlands, coastal ponds, plus terrestrial watersheds and processes that affect the coastal environments.

The Department of the Interior has many holdings along the North Atlantic coast from Maine to Virginia (map follows document). Just within the National Park Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service, there is one National Park, three National Seashores, two National Recreation Areas, one National Preserve, and numerous National Wildlife Refuges. Other federal agencies also manage extensive land areas within the northeast coastal zone. Increasing urbanization and an expanding recreationally oriented public has exacerbated potential threats to these northeast coastal

ecosystems. This has increased the demand for high-quality science, usable and concise information for resource managers, and responsive technical assistance.

The CESU will focus on the management of Department of the Interior lands and other federal lands that lie in the increasingly urban and suburban coastal zone. Some examples of critical issues confronting the management of federal lands follow:

- Shoreline erosion
- Nutrient enrichment and eutrophication
- Accelerated sea level rise and climate change
- Exotic species expansion
- Overexploitation of renewable resources
- Vector-borne diseases and insect pests
- Loss of habitat quality and biodiversity
- Protection of cultural resources and heritage

Projects of the North Atlantic Coast CESU will endeavor to understand the fundamental ecosystem processes that are affected by a particular issue, to develop natural and cultural resource management solutions based on sound science and an appreciation for societal needs, and to monitor the effectiveness of those solutions. This will require multidisciplinary teams of scientists, social scientists, and managers. The CESU provides the perfect suite of partners for implementing the team approach.

Role and Mission

The North Atlantic Coast CESU is charged with conducting coastal research, providing technical assistance, providing opportunities for education, and enhancing partnerships and cooperative approaches for addressing issues faced by federal land managers. The North Atlantic Coast CESU will entail collaborations between the university partners and federal agencies with substantive active participation by the federal agencies in research and other CESU activities.

Research Mission

- Identify and describe critical research needs for federally managed lands.
- Establish research priorities based on the needs of federal resource managers.
- Conduct research within the North Atlantic Coast biogeographic region.

- Apply research results to support the preservation, management and restoration of North Atlantic Coast ecosystems and cultural resources.
- Monitor the success of resource preservation, management and restoration efforts.

Technical Assistance Mission

- Identify and describe the critical technical assistance needs of federal land managers.
- Provide technical assistance, training, planning support, and other needed services for federal resource managers in a way that is timely and relevant to their critical needs.

Cooperative Education Mission

- Establish cooperative education/internship positions for undergraduate and graduate-level students.
- Encourage the professional development of federal scientists and managers involved in the CESU.
- Provide opportunities for technical training of federal scientists and managers.

Partnership/Collaboration

- Encourage participation by other federal research and management agencies and universities involved in coastal programs.
- Develop collaborative approaches for establishing research & management priorities
- Facilitate collaboration to enhance the generation, synthesis, and use of scientific information for the resolution of critical coastal issues

Administration & Operation

The research, technical assistance, education and partnership missions of the North Atlantic Coast CESU will be under the direction and guidance of a Managers Committee, as stipulated in the cooperative agreement. The Manager's Committee consists of a representative from each Federal Agency participating in the North Atlantic Coast CESU. The Committee, in cooperation with the host university and partners will serve the following functions:

- Prepare a multi-year strategic plan – a document that guides the general direction and fundamental focus of the CESU program.
- Prepare annual work plans, providing specific research projects, technical assistance activities, training opportunities, and cooperative education ventures that will be undertaken.

- Coordinate technical peer review of CESU research products.
- Seek participation of other federal research and management agencies and partner universities as the North Atlantic Coast CESU program develops.

The North Atlantic Coast CESU Managers Committee and partners will meet annually, or at a greater frequency as needed. The host institution will maintain and distribute minutes of each meeting. Other agencies and partners can be added to the CESU following consensus agreement amongst all agencies and partners.

The CESU is intended to provide direct contacts between federal agency scientists, federal managers, and university researchers. The USGS currently has coastal scientists who are duty-stationed at URI, each with collateral duties focused on the CESU. The National Park Service has duty placed a fulltime CESU Research Coordinator at URI. In addition, senior level National Park Service natural resource management professionals are duty-stationed at URI, and it is expected that they will participate in CESU activities. Federal scientists and managers who are in residence at the university are expected to provide valuable services to the university, including support and mentoring of graduate students, teaching, collaboration with university faculty/ staff/ students on CESU projects, participation in academic department activities, and active involvement in the overall intellectual atmosphere of the university.

The CESU will maintain a modest staff to coordinate and plan meetings and workshops, to address administrative matters, to draft written documents for the Managers Committee, and to perform other functions as determined necessary by the Managers Committee.

Funding for CESU activities will be administered by modification to the establishing cooperative agreement which was fully executed on 18 June 1999 between the USGS-Biological Resources Division, the National Park Service, the University of Rhode Island and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and thereafter amended to include additional partners. The agreement is in effect for a period of five years and can be continued for another 5 years by mutual consent of the participating parties. Near the end of the initial five-year period, the CESU Working Group, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, will conduct a technical review of North Atlantic Coast CESU accomplishments.

North Atlantic Coast
Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit

Self Assessment Report

Projects Completed or Underway

Research Projects

David Bengtson & Conrad Recksiek. Feasibility of Sampling Surf-Zone Fishes in National Seashore Waters.

David Conover. Managing the Fisheries Resources of Fire Island National Seashore

Clement Counts III. Analysis of Benthic Invertebrate Occurrence, Community Structure, and Correlation with Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Beds at Assateague Island National Seashore.

Mary-Jane James-Pirri. Monitoring the Success of Salt Marsh Restoration by Evaluating Trophic Relationships: a Multiple Stable Isotope Approach.

Mary-Jane James-Pirri. Implementing Long -Term Monitoring of Salt Marsh Communities within the Northeast Coastal and Barrier Network of the National Park Service.

Keith Killingbeck. Vegetation Monitoring at Capped Artesian Wells, Fire Island National Seashore.

John King and Charles Roman. Assessment of Trends in Contaminant Inputs and Cultural Eutrophication in Cape Cod National Seashore and Acadia National Park.

John King. Relationships Among Barrier Island Processes, Sea Level Rise, and Maintenance of Salt Marsh Habitat at Fire Island National Seashore.

Roger LeBrun, Jeurel Singleton, and Howard Ginsberg. Determination of the Distribution of Mosquito Species Associated with West Nile Encephalitis and Survey of Potential Breeding Habitat in National Park Service Units in the Northeast and National Capital regions.

Douglas Levin. Influence of geological framework on shoreline retreat rates, Assateague Island National Seashore, Maryland & Virginia

Scott Nixon. Assessment of Nutrient Loading in Coastal Ecosystems: Assateague Island National Seashore.

Karl Nordstrom. Investigation of Bayside Erosion at Fire Island National Seashore

Sheldon Pratt. Inventory and Monitoring at the Cape Cod National Seashore: Benthic Macrofauna.

Norman Rubinstein. Application of Federal Environmental Monitoring and Remote Sensed data in Support of the Goals of the North Atlantic Coast - Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit.

Malcolm Spaulding. Hydrodynamic Assessment of Estuarine Restoration of Pilgrim Lake, Moon Pond, and Salt Meadow, Truro, Massachusetts.

Y. Q. Wang. Development of Salt Marsh Change Detection Protocol Using Remote Sensing and GIS.

Workshops

Virginia Lee. Marine Protected Areas and the Northeast National Park Service.

Technical Support

Geospatial Statistical Analysis: A Seminar

State of Knowledge Papers in Preparation for the FIRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE General Management Plan

Technical Assistance in the Northeastern U.S. Coastal Parks: Coastal Processes

Technical Assistance in Website Development and Enhancement for Coastal National Parks

Topographic Survey and Data Analysis, Big Egg Marsh, Jamaica Bay, Gateway National Recreation Areas

North Atlantic Coast
Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit

Self Assessment Report

Cultural Resource Projects

North Atlantic Coast CESU - Cultural Resource Projects

Work Item: Civic Engagement Initiative and CESU Cultural Resource Assistance

Partner Institution: UMass – Amherst

P.I.: Dr. David Glassberg

Amount: \$46,505

Performance Period: 10/1/02 – 9/30/04

NPS Contact: Shaun Eyring, Lloyd Chapman

Work Item: Springfield Armory Archeological Overview and Assessment

Partner Institution: UMass – Amherst

P.I.: Dr. Mitch Muholland

Amount: \$30,035

Performance Period: 9/18/03 – 9/18/04

NPS Contact: William Griswold

Work Item: Implementation of Region wide Archeological Sites Management Information System (ASMIS)

Partner Institution: UMass – Amherst

P.I.: Dr. Mitch Muholland

Amount: \$40,000

Performance Period: 9/18/03 – 9/30/04

NPS Contact: Allen Cooper

3 projects

UMass – Amherst

NPS funding \$116,540.00

North Atlantic Coast
Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit

Self Assessment Report

Web Site Opening Page

www.ci.uri.edu/nacesu

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the homepage of the North Atlantic Coast Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU). The page features a header with a landscape image and a navigation menu. The main content area includes a news item about the 2004 Managers Meeting and a detailed paragraph about the CESU network. At the bottom, there is a map of the North Atlantic region and a list of agency partners.

**North Atlantic Coast
Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU)**

- NAC CESU Home
- Mission Statement
- Personnel Profiles
- Projects
- Publications
- Contacts

2004 Managers Meeting (click here for details).

Federal land management, environmental, and research agencies, along with the nation's universities, share several science-based goals as they prepare for the 21st century: high-quality science, usable knowledge for resource managers, responsive technical assistance, continuing education, and cost-effective research programs.

To achieve these goals, a network of Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESUs) has been established. Presently, the CESU network is comprised of 16 regional programs across the continental United States, the Caribbean, Alaska, Hawaii and the Pacific Islands. All tolled, the 130 academic institutions, 13 Federal agencies and 35 Non-Governmental Organizations involved with the CESU effort rank it among the largest of collaborative research partnerships encompassing natural and cultural resources in the United States. Click here for more information on the [CESU](#).

Agency Partners

- UNASS Amherst
- Stony Brook Univ.
- Rutgers Univ.
- Univ. of RI (HOST)
- Univ. Maryland

North Atlantic Coast
Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit

Self Assessment Report

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