



June 1, 2001

Dr. Peter August, Director
Coastal Institute
University of Rhode Island
Graduate School of Oceanography
Narragansett Bay Campus
Narragansett, RI 02882-1197

Dear Dr. August:

Many of us at Rutgers University have had a long history of conducting research in the local national parks. Through the years we have had a variety of associations with the National Park Service and have had many opportunities to cooperate with the Park administrators as well as with Park Scientists. More recently, we were pleased to see the development of the North Atlantic Coast Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit at the University of Rhode Island. It represents an excellent example of the mutually-beneficial association of University research expertise and agency needs.

We, at Rutgers University, recognize the strengths of joining in cooperative programs that foster the opportunities to conduct research within the coastal parks and to participate in the shaping of broad research agendas on a regional scale. To that end, Rutgers University is very interested in joining the North Atlantic Coast Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit and becoming a partner with the University of Rhode Island in this venture.

I have read the agreement that describes the basis of the CESU and I believe that all of the points will be acceptable to the University. We are prepared to take the steps toward adding Rutgers to the North Atlantic Coast CESU and wish to initiate this effort.

Thank you for this opportunity and I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Norbert P. Psuty
Associate Director, IMCS

Cc: J. F. Grassle, Director, IMCS
C. Roman, Unit Director, USGS, BRD
M. Foley, Chief Scientist, NE Region, NPS

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