



COASTAL INSTITUTE

The Coastal Institute
Narragansett Bay Campus
University of Rhode Island
Narragansett, RI 02882

Phone (401) 874-6513
Fax (401) 874-6869
Email jswift@uri.edu
www.ci.uri.edu

January 30, 2019

Dr. Tom Fish
National Coordinator
Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units Network
Department of the Interior
Main Interior Building
1849 C Street NW, Room 2649
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Dr. Fish:

By this letter we notify you of the University of Rhode Island's wishes to renew our role as lead institution in the North Atlantic Coast Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (NAC-CESU). Furthermore, we have received notification from all of our 25 non-federal partners* of their eagerness to remain in the NAC-CESU network. New Jersey Audubon, Natural Areas Association, and Bryn Mawr College have requested to be partners of the NAC-CESU and all our members support this addition. We are in the process of amending the NAC-CESU agreement to include their participation.

Please find enclosed the CESU self-assessment report for 2014-2018. As you will see, the NAC-CESU has been extremely active during this period and we look forward to continuing the NAC-CESU for another 5 years. Our membership has expanded in the number of federal and non-federal partners, and the diversity of projects in natural and cultural resource management is truly spectacular.

The NAC-CESU received the 2018 CESU Network National Award for its multidisciplinary and multi-institutional work following Hurricane Sandy. A cooperative agreement allowed the unit to quickly seek highly qualified investigators and obligate funds, which was crucial to the successful Hurricane Sandy storm response effort. Expertise was provided by URI and other partners (e.g., Stony Brook University, Rutgers University, CUNY, SUNY-ESF, University of Delaware, Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies, and Wildlife Conservation Society). We are very proud of this prestigious acknowledgement of our research and it is a testament to the strong spirit of collaboration we have among our partners.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Judith Swift
Director, URI Coastal Institute
URI CESU Representative

Donald DeHayes
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

***Non-Federal Partners**

University of Rhode Island (host university), 1999

University of Maryland Eastern Shore, 1999

Rutgers University, 200

University of Massachusetts at Amherst, 2002

Maryland Coastal Bays Program, 2003

Stony Brook University, 2003

University of Maine, 2005

City University of New York (CUNY), 2006

College of the Atlantic, 2007

SUNY-School of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF), 2008

Columbia University, 2009

Bates College, 2010

University of Massachusetts at Boston, 2010

Cornell University, 2011

Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies, 2011

Biodiversity Research Institute, 2012

Northeastern University, 2012

Harvard University, 2013

Manhattan College, 2013

Marine Biological Laboratory, 2013

Schoodic Education and Research Center, 2013

University of New England, 2013

University of Connecticut, 2014

University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, 2014

Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center Foundation, Inc., 2015