



**MAINE
SEA GRANT PROGRAM**

Research • Communications • Extension

December 28, 2001

Dr. Dennis McGillicuddy
Dept. of Applied Ocean Physics and Engineering
Bigelow 209b - MS 11
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute
Woods Hole, MA 02543

Dear Dr. McGillicuddy:

I am writing in support of your proposal to NSF/NOAA for the purpose of transitioning the findings from the previously funded ECOHAB0-Gulf of Maine project to make the information useful to managers in the region. I am familiar with much of the work done under the ECOHAB program in the Gulf of Maine and as the former manager of the Biotoxin Monitoring Program for the State of Maine, I fully endorse all efforts to attain a better understanding of the ecology and predictability of toxigenic phytoplankton in this region.

The Maine Sea Grant program is eager to participate in workshops and other activities related to this project. Our program currently supports the coordinator for the Maine Phytoplankton Monitoring Program, a collaboration with the Maine Department of Marine Resources that utilizes volunteers to make phytoplankton observations along the coast of Maine. Through the participation of this program, the coordinator, and my own interest in HAB issues, we are committed to helping to bring together the right people to ensure that your workshops include the key managers in the region. I am also very familiar with the process and protocols used by the US Food and Drug Administration and the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference for the adoption of new regulatory standards and monitoring protocols. This may be helpful as you proceed with your project. Our skills in meeting facilitation and group process may be useful for workshops and other planning activities and I urge you to contact us as you begin developing these components of your project.

It is understandable that the task you face has significant scientific and technical challenges, but I believe that you and the other collaborators are fully capable of addressing these challenges. Further, I commend you for taking the next steps at attempting to engage the generally rigid regulatory agencies in working to provide more contemporary tools for bloom forecasting. Indeed, the regulatory agencies need these types of tools, but they are often overwhelmed with the monitoring and management protocols in hand and are frequently ill-prepared to engage in dialogue with the research

community. Facilitation of this type of dialogue is a talent that Sea Grant may be able to provide and the program in Maine is willing to help with this aspect.

If I can be of further assistance, please don't hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely,

Paul S. Anderson
Director (acting)