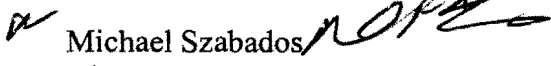




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

SEP 22 2009

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Chris Doley  
Chief, NOAA Restoration Center

**FROM:**  Michael Szabados  
Director, Center for Operational Oceanographic  
Products and Services

**SUBJECT:** CO-OPS Support of NERRS

I would like to register my support for the NERRA proposal to the NOAA Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration National and Regional Partnership Grant. The National Geodetic Survey (NGS), Center for Oceanographic Operational Products and Services (CO-OPS) and the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) have developed an effective partnership to apply NGS and CO-OPS products and services to the NERRS in support of the NERRS sentinel site and restoration priorities. CO-OPS has been instrumental in developing the guidance within the NERRS to establish vertical control at reserves in support of long-term habitat mapping.

In the past two years, CO-OPS has been providing geospatial data for improved marine spatial planning within the Reserve System, including system-wide and site-based consultations on establishing local tidal datums and elevations. This has included training reserve staff to enhance their capabilities to utilize this information in conjunction with local elevation data to build reserve capacity. We have supported two trainings thus far, and reserve staff have been successfully using survey-grade leveling and GPS equipment purchased by the NERRS for this partnership. Further, CO-OPS has been assisting reserve staff in calculating and utilizing local tidal datums and recommending strategies to do so when they are out of range of an National Water Level Observation Network (NWLON) station.

CO-OPS support of this proposal is consistent with the priorities of our partnership. We will be happy to serve as reviewers for the competition to restore fish habitat in, or in proximity, to the NERRS, and to provide consultation on effective strategies to determine and monitor water levels and elevations on a project-specific basis. Additionally, if project recipients request on-site support from CO-OPS staff, we will try to accommodate their needs to the extent possible assuming travel funds are available from project principal investigators.

We are excited about this proposal as it offers an opportunity to apply CO-OPS products and services to enhance the effectiveness of NOAA investments in restoration by bringing the best geospatial information and technology to project design. This will result in maximizing project effectiveness over the long-term given projected local climate change impacts. Our NGS-CO-OPS-NERRS and hopefully Restoration Center collective partners



will demonstrate to NOAA the value of cross-office collaborations, and investment in the NERRS, which are important NOAA trust resources.

Our point of contact for this proposal is Allison Allen. Allison can be contacted at 301-713-2897 x 161 ([Allison.allen@noaa.gov](mailto:Allison.allen@noaa.gov)).