

School of Marine Sciences



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The Honorable Senator Susan Collins
The United States Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Collins:

As I informed your staff, I was delighted to learn that our competitive proposal in response to NOAA Funding Opportunity Number OAR-CIPO-2008-2001597 (joint with the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Rutgers University and the University of Maryland) was selected to form a NOAA cooperative institute for the Northeast. We were chosen because of our expertise and exciting project suggestions in the areas requested: 1) Ecosystem Forecasting, 2) Ecosystem Monitoring, 3) Ecosystem Management, Protection and Restoration of Resources, 4) Sustained Ocean Observations, and 5) Climate Research. We named our organization "A Cooperative Institute for the North Atlantic Region" (CINAR).

I am writing to you in a less auspicious vein in your capacity on the Senate Appropriations Committee to inquire about the lack of correspondence between the text of the funding opportunity and our experience in CINAR. That text reads that, "NOAA expects that approximately \$7M will be available for the CI in the first year of the award." NOAA lacks funding at this level this year and apparently also for FY10.

The topics covered in the funding opportunity announcement are critical to Maine and the Northeast as a connected, coastal whole and will become more intensely so as the coastal oceans are further developed to produce energy. The University of Maine and the Gulf of Maine Research Institute have talented people ready to help with these critical issues for fisheries and coastal marine health. I am writing to inquire why NOAA apparently lacks the resources to implement the funding opportunity as it was envisaged and announced. I would appreciate any insights and prognosis that your office could provide. Thank you in advance for your time and effort.

Sincerely yours,

Peter A. Jumars
Professor and Director

M. Eckardt, UMaine
J. Cortinas, NOAA