



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
OFFICE OF OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH  
Climate Program Office  
1315 East-West Highway, SSMC3, 12th Floor, R/CP  
Silver Springs, MD 20910-6233

April 4, 2007

Dr. Jean-Pierre Gattuso,  
Coordination Office  
EPOCA (European Project on Ocean Acidification)

Dear Dr. Gattuso:

Thank you for your letter describing your proposal EPOCA (European Project on Ocean Acidification). We appreciate your suggestion that we coordinate U.S. carbon cycle research efforts on ocean acidification with the European effort. A hallmark of successful global climate research programs has been international collaboration, we would welcome the opportunity to work with you on the challenge of ocean acidification.

NOAA, along with international partners, monitor global ocean properties, including concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub>, as well as aspects of the marine ecosystem. NOAA is presently developing plans for ocean acidification research that will focus on research topics related to two of NOAA's major program goals, namely Climate and Ecosystems. Within the scope of these two programs, NOAA will develop plans for research projected to commence beginning in 2009 that will focus on developing a better understanding of the metabolic and physiological responses of marine organisms to changes in pH and the ocean carbon system in the future, and identifying and modeling the chemical and biological implications and feedback mechanisms caused by ocean acidification on decadal to centennial time scales. These plans are in the early stages of development and will be refined over the next several months. During this period we will coordinate with US federal agencies, NSF, USGS, and NASA, and we will communicate the details of our research plans to you to initiate the process of coordinating an appropriate EU-US collaboration. We enthusiastically endorse your efforts to move forward in this research effort on ocean acidification and will look forward to the opportunity to form a close EU-US partnership at the international level.

Good luck with your proposal and please keep us informed of its progress.

Sincerely,

Chester J. Koblinsky  
Director, NOAA Climate Program Office

Steve Murawski  
Chief Scientist, NOAA Marine Fisheries Service



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cc: Richard Feely NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory  
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