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31 March 2016

Dr. Jose Manuel Piña Gutiérrez
Consortium of Marine Research Institutions of the Gulf of México
Universidad Juárez Autónoma de Tabasco
Av. Universidad S/N. Zona de la Cultura, Col. Magisterial
86040 Villahermosa, Tabasco, México

Subject: Amendment to Continue CiiMAR-GOM and GOMURC MOU

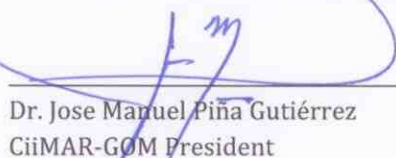
Dear Dr. Piña Gutiérrez,

The Gulf of Mexico University Research Collaborative (GOMURC) met with CiiMAR-GOM representatives, Dr. Porfirio Alvarez Torres and Ms. Rosa Martha Padrón López, on February 4, 2016, in Tampa. An objective was to address the "Sunset and Modification" clause of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between CiiMAR-GOM and GOMURC, as signed on March 21, 2014, by you and the GOMURC Board Chair at the time, Dr. Monty Graham.

As prescribed in the MOU, in early 2016, "the CiiMAR-GoM President and the Chairman of the GOMURC Board will submit to each Party an analysis of MOU activities and positive impacts," and then decide whether to continue or terminate the MOU. As indicated by my signature below as current GOMURC Board co-Chair, with full consent from the Board, per our attached discussion and conclusions, and with your input and signature on this letter, both MOU parties consent to continue the MOU until Dec. 31, 2017, upon which time the same Sunset procedure will apply.

We thank you for your continued and valued partnership.


Date 20 April 16
Dr. Christopher F. D'Elia, GOMURC Board co-Chair
Dean, College of the Coast and Environment, Louisiana State University


Date _____
Dr. Jose Manuel Piña Gutiérrez
CiiMAR-GOM President

NOTES RELATED TO THE SUNSET AND MODIFICATIONS TO THE CIIMAR-GOM AND GOMURC MOU**February 4, 2016, Tampa, FL****Participants:**

- **GOMURC:** Dr. Larry McKinney (TX), Dr. Chris D'Elia (LA), Dr. Monty Graham (MS), Dr. John Valentine (AL), Dr. Bill Hogarth (FL), Andy Shepard (GOMURC Dir.), Kristy Tavano (GOMURC Coordinator)
- **CiiMAR-GOM:** Dr. Porfirio Alvarez Torres, and Ms. Rosa Martha Padron Lopez

MOU collaborative activities include: Communications, Regional Initiatives, and Outreach and Education.

Dr. Alvarez Torres gave a presentation outlining CiiMAR-GOM collaborative activities including US partnerships (available upon request). Combined highlights from this presentation and GOMURC include:

Communications:

- Engagement of US partners in numerous regional science meetings in Mexico from 2013-2015, including CiiMAR-GOM meetings
- Inclusion of CiiMAR-GOM representatives on GOMURC news listserv (<http://gomurc.usf.edu/index.php/news-mainmenu>) and GOMURC Board meetings
- GOMURC provided support for CiiMAR-GOM representatives to attend GOM Oil Spill and Ecosystem Science Conferences in U.S.

Collaborations on Regional Initiatives:

- CiiMAR-GOM and Gulf Coastal Ocean Observing System signed MOU similar to GOMURC MOU pledging to coordinate ocean and coastal observing activities and help build Mexican capabilities.
- Research expeditions on R/V Weatherbird operated by GOMURC partner FIO, led by CIMAGE II research consortium which includes Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), is comparing long-term Ixtoc and DWH spill conditions and ecosystem impacts.
- Hypoxia In the GOM initiative.

Education Collaborations:

- Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean's Alliance for Environmental Educators
- Student and faculty exchanges between CiiMAR-GOM and GOMURC member institutions (TAMU-CC)

REASONS TO CONTINUE:

- Many regional initiatives address stressors on Gulf ecosystems that are likely to increase in coming decades, e.g., climate drivers, coastal development in harm's way, over-nuttrification, overfishing
- Bilateral Forum on Higher Education, Innovation and Research (FOBESII) offers new opportunities to promote the next generation of GOM scientists and engineers
- CIMAGE II science will continue through 2017; new restoration programs just now beginning to fund science for restoration and sustainability.
- Growing need for observations via system-of-systems involving all GOM countries.

In conclusion, participants agreed to value of continuing MOU for at least another two years (Dec. 31, 2017).