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Dr. Matthew K. Howard
(979-862-4169 voice)
21-June-2002

Mr. Francis Mitchell
NOAA/ National Oceanographic Data Center
1315 East-West Highway, SSMC3
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282

Dear Francis Mitchell,

We have embarked upon a new U.S. Minerals Management Service program entitled Cooperative Research on Sperm Whales and their Response to Seismic Exploration in the Gulf of Mexico under MMS Cooperative Agreement No. 1435-01-02-CA-85186. This study will include three years of field research during which time physical oceanographic measurements will be made in the Gulf of Mexico using expendable bathythermograph (XBT) probes, Conductivity-Temperature-Depth (CTD) and acoustic Doppler current profiler (ADCP) instruments and flow-through temperature, salinity, fluorescence and chlorophyll data. Data derived from these instruments will be subjected to quality control and quality assurance procedures by personnel at Texas A&M University prior to archival at NODC. At the end of the program, the full body of processed physical oceanographic data will be submitted to you or your designee for long-term archiving at NODC. The data will be submitted in digital form as plain ASCII text files with complete metadata using the same format used in previous submissions by us to NODC of data from the MMS LATEX and MMS NEGOM programs. NODC has assigned this program the **NODC Project Number 0428**.

We are required to negotiate a data archiving agreement with NODC within 30 days after award. This letter constitutes and describes this agreement. Please sign and date this letter below and send it to me at the address given above.

Thanks,
Matthew Howard
Matthew Howard

I agree to this data archiving agreement.

[Signature] 6/27/02
Francis Mitchell Date
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KURT J. SCHNEBELE