APPENDIX XV

R. JAHNKE LETTER DATED 5 JANUARY 1997

5 January 1997

Dr. Kenneth Johnson
Chair, UNOLS Council
Moss Landing Marine Laboratory
P.O. Box 450
Moss Landing, CA 95039

Dear Ken,

This letter is to inform you of our intent to replace the R/V Blue Fin in the near future. The design for the replacement vessel has not been finalized but conceptually, we plan on obtaining a 90-100 foot, fiberglas monohull outfitted for general-purpose oceanographic research. The current design includes berths for 20 scientists and crew. We have already received funding to initiate the final design and are optimistic that funding for construction will be made available in the next fiscal year.

Because we are located in the apex of the South Atlantic Bight with no other UNOLS vessels in our region, we believe that we fulfill a strategic need in support of coastal research. We intend, therefore, to request UNOLS status for the Blue Fin Replacement Vessel. Once the replacement vessel is operational, it is our plan to remove the R/V Blue Fin from the UNOLS fleet thus retaining the fleet at its present distribution.

In developing the final financial plan for the vessel, we have estimated acquisition, maintenance and operations costs based on the usage rate of the Blue Fin over the past few years. It is likely that UNOLS status could influence this rate. Before we proceed further, therefore, we would like to be informed if there is any objection to our planned incorporation of the Blue Fin Replacement Vessel into the UNOLS fleet. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We would be willing to meet with UNOLS officials and discuss this issue. Since the final funding decision will be made in the near future, it would be most useful if a letter supporting our plans could be supplied by UNOLS.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Jahnke
Skidaway UNOLS Representative

cc: Jack Bash, UNOLS
    Herb Windom