Florida Department of

Memorandum **Environmental Protection**

TO: Russel Frydenborg, Program Administrator
Standards and Assessment Section

FROM: Nia Wellendorf NKW
Standards and Assessment Section

DATE: December 19, 2011

SUBJECT: Audit findings for field sampling performance for marine water sampling by Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, conducted April 13, 2010

Attached to this memo are the final audit report and final audit checklists for the subject audit, conducted by Joy Jackson and yourself. This field audit was of water quality sampling and field parameter data collection conducted by Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute (HBOI) as part of a grant from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

This audit revealed several deficiencies in sample preservation, calibration and documentation for field meter calibrations and verifications. Water quality samples were analyzed at the DEP lab for the first year of this project (2010), but not for subsequent sampling events. If DEP finds that the data collected under this project would be useful, the data should be used with caution. Some of the nutrient samples would have been preserved more than 15 minutes and sometimes hours after collection, acid preservation may have been done with the inappropriate acid or samples may not have been acidified, and field meter calibration and verification records may be incomplete. Please see the audit report and checklists for complete audit results.

If you have any questions about the findings or recommendations, please call me at 245-8190 or email me at Nijole.Wellendorf@dep.state.fl.us.

Attachments (2): Field Audit Report (Word document)
Completed Field Audit Checklists (Excel workbook)

cc: Dr. Brian Lapointe, HBOI
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