



DATE: January 23, 2018  
TO: FDEP  
FROM: Dr. Lisa McGarity, Professor of Chemistry  
Florida SouthWestern State College  
RE: *Ocean Habitats, Inc.*

To Whom It May Concern:

Professor Emily Porter and I recently formed a partnership with *Ocean Habitats, Inc.*, a non-profit organization that designs, builds and installs Mini Reefs on Marco Island. Our involvement with Ocean Habitats includes water sampling around these salt water habitats and species identification on the reef platforms. The water sampling parameters that we are testing for are as follows: temperature, phosphate ion, turbidity, pH, ammonia, nitrite ion, nitrate ion, salinity, and dissolved oxygen. Approximately 85 college chemistry students and high school students from three local high schools will test and record data from at least four separate Mini Reef sites. The samples are tested approximately once every two weeks, with general weather and tidal conditions also recorded. This data will be stratified and variances will be analyzed. We are thrilled to be a part of this STEM research and sustainability initiative.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

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