RecorDIM Initiative
Letter of Intent
(draft)

Date: January 30, 2004
From: Marc-André Bernier
Title: Marine Archaeologist
Division: Underwater Archaeological Services
Organization: Parks Canada Agency

To: Robin Letellier
International Coordinator
RecorDIM Initiative

Subject: Proposal for the Creation of a RecorDIM Task Group

This letter of intent is to confirm our interest in the RecorDIM Initiative and to propose a **RecorDIM Task Group** to address a GAP identified at the RecorDIM Roundtable-3 held in Antalya Turkey.
Our intention is to start filling a gap related to the management and recording of submerged cultural resources in North America. The title of our proposed task group is '**A Trilingual Glossary on the Management of Submerged Cultural Heritage'**. Its purpose, objectives, milestones and deliverables are outlined in appendix A. The people and organizations that will be representing the **Information User and Provider** in this project are Marc-André Bernier of the Underwater Archaeological Services of Parks Canada Agency (UAS-PAC) (provider), David Conlin of the Submerged Resources Centre of the United States National Park Service (SRU-USNPS) (provider) and Laura Castilllo of the Underwater Archaeology Section of the Instituto Nacional de Arqueologia y Historia (UAS-INAH) (user and provider).
Marc-André Bernier of the UAS-PAC will chair and manage the activities of this task group as defined in appendix A.
We understand that, by undertaking this task group responsibility, that UAS-PAC, SRU-USNPS and UAS-INAH become a Partner in this initiative. We also understand that this Task Group definition and its eventual outputs will be posted on the RecorDIM web site.
We thank you for the opportunity to participate to this 5-year initiative and believe that the network of RecorDIM Partners and their task group outputs will benefit conservation practices worldwide.

Director
Parks Canada Agency

Appendix A
A Glossary on the Management of SCH - *Task Group Proposal*
(draft for discussion)

Task Group Name / Title: '**A Glossary on the Management of Submerged Cultural Heritage**'
- Chair-person: Marc-André Bernier
Organization: (possibly) UAS-PCA
- Information User representative: possibly Laura Castilllo
Organization: (possibly) (UAS-INAH)
- Information Provider representative: David Conlin
Organization: (possibly SRU-USNPS)

Project Outline

The recording of the underwater cultural heritage (UCH) is presently at a critical turning point internationally. The recent development of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage has put the multiple preoccupations of managing this non-renewable resource at the fore-front of international heritage scene. Various initiatives have been pushed world-wide to increase awareness on the new Convention and on the general issue of educate and the management of UCH. Through this new explosion of international interaction in the field of UCH, it quickly became apparent that dialogues were sometimes rendered difficult because of the language and cultural nuances expressing the various ideas and concerns. These difficulties occur not only between providers (eg. archaeologists) but even more between providers and users (eg. Archaeologists and managers).

Recording is an intricate part of the management of UCH and constitutes one of the main tools used in this process. The language and cultural difficulties also create somewhat of a barrier when the recording process is transferred from one international entity to another. Therefore, it seems important to the proponents of this task group that the establishment of an understanding of other realities in the expression of UCH is critical to facilitate the development of recording procedures and successful international management of UCH.

The proposal is the creation of a glossary illustrating the words, expression and concepts of UCH management and recording as used in various languages and geographical contexts. The cross-lingual illustration of these concepts in the various languages would not come solely from a straight translation of the term, nor in the simple translation of definitions, but principally in the presentation of the context that a word or expression is used.

The proposal, as it will be first develop, situates the task group in a regional context, that is North America, concentrating in the use of the selected terms in three geographical contexts and in three languages : Mexico (Spanish), United States (English), Canada (English and French). A number of 10 to 15 critical terms will be selected for this exercise. The value of this regional approach is multiple. First, a more limited approach at first makes this proposal more realistic and feasible. Second, the North-American integration presently happening in various field is making these three countries and these three languages more and more naturally linked. Third, a closer working relationship, or link, is presently blooming between three major national players in the field of UCH management. For all these reasons, this initiative, although regional, is definitively seen as being important to solidly establish the interactions in the field of recording and managing UCH between important North-American players and to fill the gap between them and eventually between other players not initially involved in this exercise. If this task group proves to be successful, an expansion of the glossary to include other geographical contexts (the Americas, etc.) and other languages can certainly be considered.

This proposal will also with another initiative which consists on an international workshop on the management of underwater cultural heritage which is planned to take place in the fall of 2004 at the Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Park, Nova Scotia, Canada (or in the fall of 2005). This workshop, most likely held under the umbrella of UNESCO, will aim to train UCH managers, archaeologists, conservators, etc, (users and providers) on the subject of management of UCH. This workshop will principally target participants from countries with less resources. Among the elements addressed in the workshop will be recording of UCH and conservation issues. The product coming out of the present glossary initiative would be inserted into the workshop material.

Deliverables:
This task group will produce a written glossary in three languages addressing a 10-15 words or concepts which are key into the understanding the UCH and its management. The description of these will come mainly under the presentation of the context in which it is used in the various selected geographical areas. This document will be made available on the Getty Conservation Institute's server (Information Wharehouse).

Project Resources (that have been secured for this task group):
- **Person-days**
It is anticipated that this task will not be very demanding in that it will consist of:
$ selecting the key words or concepts to be incorporated;
$ cumulating the relevant references for each word or concept
$ collating the information coming from each team member

Since this will be spread out over several months, this task could require approximately 1 hour/week per team member.

Budget

No budget is required at this time.

Other Task Group Team Members (i.e. that will collect / review warehouse information)
- each team member will be able to receive some help from members of their respective groups as sources of information for referencing the terms of the glossary.

Milestones:
- Starting date: February 2004
- Final selection of terms: end of February
- Mid-project review date (by RecorDIM Liaison Officers): Spring of 2004
- Completion date: August 2004
_____ date: _____
Task Group Chair