Statement of Purpose

The health of humans and their communities is increasingly at risk from climate-induced changes in marine and coastal ecosystems. Many of these changes, such as environmental degradation, resource depletion, and worsening natural disasters, give rise to economic and sociopolitical instability and thus are also emerging as threats to national security in countries around the globe. With more than a third of the world’s population living 50 miles or less from a shoreline, and 13 of the world’s 20 largest cities located in coastal areas, it is essential that the interdependency of oceans, climate, and national security be better understood. Through strategic convening, research, and communication efforts, the Collaborative Institute for Oceans, Climate and Security (CIOCS) advances solutions to complex problems for people and organizations best positioned to address these growing challenges to humanity.

“Our coastal communities are threatened by the changing climate, and if we don’t act now we’ll pay a higher price later. The Collaborative Institute is providing us the tools we need to conserve our oceans and adapt our lifestyles and shorelines.”

US Senator John Kerry (D-MA)
Chair, Senate Foreign Relations Committee
ABOUT US
Founded at the University of Massachusetts Boston, the Collaborative Institute for Oceans, Climate and Security was established on the principle that collaborative partnerships are best equipped to address the threats posed by changes in climate and oceans. The Collaborative Institute’s interdisciplinary network creates a tableau of expertise in areas such as international governance, conflict resolution and peace-building, human security, business management, urban harbor and coastal marine spatial planning, and environmental and ocean sciences.

Among the Institute’s defining characteristics are the following:

- **World-renowned staff and faculty** from UMass Boston’s 8 colleges and more than 40 institutes and centers, including the Department of Environmental, Earth and Ocean Sciences, which offers a unique trans-disciplinary focus on linked watershed-coastal systems.

- **Battelle Memorial Institute**, a Signature Collaborator, is the world’s largest independent research and development firm and manages or co-manages seven national laboratories for the U.S. Department of Energy and Department of Homeland Security.

- An international **Council of Advisors** composed of presidents and executive directors of globally recognized private firms, nonprofits and grant-making organizations, as well as scientists and policy experts based in academia, international organizations, and nonprofit research institutions.

- **Project Collaborators** from the public and private sectors focusing on issues such as marine food security, ocean acidification, sustainable energy, biodiversity conservation, urban climate resilience, and emergency preparedness and response.

- **USA Focal Point status in the International Ocean Institute**, an international nongovernmental body with special consultative status at the United Nations, providing access to collaborators in 25 countries where sustainable ocean governance is a pressing concern.

KEY STRATEGIES
- Design and participate in strategic convenings and communications that strengthen key decision makers’ understanding of the national security implications of changing oceans and climate.

- Develop research, science, and technology that lead to effective place-based pilot projects, recommend appropriate mitigation and adaptation strategies to governments, and provide replicable models of research excellence.

- Educate stakeholders and future leaders affected by, or responsible for maintaining, the complex interdependencies of oceans, climate, and security.

CONTACT INFO
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Since 2000, damages by natural disasters total $980 billion.

The U.S. coastal zone is home to 53% of the population and accounts for 80% of tourism revenue.

From 2000 to 2010, 70% of natural disasters took place where the world’s most vulnerable populations reside.

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