Sanctuary. The Agreement provides for the resolution of claims against the University of Miami, Department of Commerce, on behalf of NOAA, and the University of Miami Administration (NOAA) and the University of Miami, Department of Commerce. The parties agree that NOAA shall be the permanent custodian and conservator of the cultural resources. Funds received from the University will reimburse NOAA for costs incurred to conserve the artifacts as well as to ensure long-term curation.

Public Comment

NOAA will receive comments from the public on the settlement agreement for a period of thirty (30) days from the date of this publication. Comments on the settlement agreement should be addressed to Sharon Shutter, Office of General Counsel for Natural Resources, NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway, SSMCr3, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282.

Effective Date of the Agreement

The effective date of the settlement agreement will be upon completion of the public comment period, notification to the University from NOAA that it has accepted the settlement agreement, and payment by the University to NOAA of $2.9 million. Payment from the University will be made within 15 days of receipt of such notice.

For Further Information Contact:
Copies of the settlement agreement may be obtained from Harriet Sopher, Sanctuaries and Reserves Division, National Ocean Service, NOAA, SSMCr4, 11th floor, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910; or Billy Causey, Marathon office of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, P.O. Box 500368, 5550 Overseas Highway, Main House, Marathon, FL 33050.

Dated: November 22, 1997.

Monica Medina,
General Counsel, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.