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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **NH Sea Grant Hosts Public Forum May 10 On Ocean Commission Report**

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NH Sea Grant

May 6, 2004

**WHAT:** NH Sea Grant will host a panel discussion on the recently released U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy preliminary report.

**WHEN:** Monday, May 10, 2004, 1 p.m.

**WHERE:** Theater II on the third floor of the University of New Hampshire’s Memorial Union Building (MUB). Complimentary parking will be available in Lot C, located on Mill Road.

**DETAILS:** Andrew Rosenberg, member of the commission and UNH professor of natural resources in the Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space, will provide an overview of the report, followed by a panel discussion and question-and-answer session. Panel members include:

Ann Bucklin (moderator)  
Director, NH Sea Grant

Janet Campbell  
Director, UNH Center of Excellence for Coastal Ocean Observation and Analysis (COOA)  
Topic: Coastal ocean observing systems

David Goethel  
NH Commercial Fisherman  
Topic: Fisheries from a fisherman’s perspective

Jennifer Hunter  
Director, NH Estuaries Project  
Topic: Managing New Hampshire’s coastal watershed

Richard Langan  
Director, UNH/NOAA Cooperative Institute of New England Mariculture and Fisheries (CINEMar)  
Codirector, UNH/NOAA Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology (CICEET)  
Topic: Sustainable marine aquaculture

Marjorie K. Smith  
State Representative, D-Durham  
Topic: Monitoring water quality

**BACKGROUND:** The report is the first major government assessment of the state of the oceans in 35 years. It recommends sweeping changes in the way marine resources are studied and managed, citing habitat loss, commercial fishing, polluted runoff and invasive species as pressing issues threatening the coastal areas where half the nation's population now lives.

New Hampshire has more than 230 miles of inland tidal shoreline in addition to 18 miles of open ocean coastline on the Gulf of Maine. It is also the fastest growing state in New England, expanding by about 19,000 people every year — many of who move into these sensitive coastal areas. While not everyone lives next to the sea, six of the 10 counties in the state are classified as wetland counties, meaning they contain major rivers and streams that flow into the ocean.