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## UNH Names New Marine Program Director

By [Sharon Keeler](#)  
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DURHAM, N.H. -- The University of New Hampshire has named Jonathan Pennock as the new director of its Marine Program. He also joins the Department of Natural Resources as associate professor.



**Jonathan Pennock**  
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Pennock, from Mobile, Alabama, brings 19 years of experience to the position. He was previously on the faculty of the University of Alabama and chair of university programs at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, where he directed a statewide marine consortium and taught courses on such topics as oceanography, marine biology, estuarine science and marine biochemical processes.

"What attracted me to this position was the university's exceptionally strong faculty and the tremendous amount of marine-related work being done here," says Pennock. "Marine Program faculty bring in millions of state and federal dollars for sponsored research projects, in addition to the \$10 million Hubbard Endowment, which makes for a very strong and stable program."

UNH has seen tremendous growth in its marine programs over the past decade. Nationally and internationally renowned programs in such areas as ocean mapping, coastal marine science, estuarine science and open ocean aquaculture have moved the university to the forefront of its field. Pennock will be responsible for unifying the various marine-related activities at UNH under one identity.

"Right now, it's hard for people, especially students, to get a clear picture of everything UNH offers in marine science," says Pennock. "That's understandable considering the growth that has taken place here over a brief time. In the short term, we will be promoting the research and academic missions of the marine program by developing identity pieces -- like a Web site and publications -- that will rejoin these initiatives under one umbrella."

Pennock says his long-term goals involve building on the strengths of current programs, creating linkages with other academic areas on campus, and developing a comprehensive strategic plan for marine education and research at UNH. A key part of this will be to unify some of the university's marine-related academic programs to better take advantage of the new research centers and initiatives developing on campus.

"UNH is in a unique location that makes it an ideal place to study marine science," says Pennock. "From the Durham campus we extend all the way out the coast, from the Ocean Engineering Laboratory and Joint Hydrographic Center on campus, to the Jackson Estuarine Laboratory on Great Bay, to the Coastal Marine Laboratory and Shoals Marine Laboratory on the Gulf of Maine. We want these facilities and our programs to become even more well-known to the citizens of New Hampshire, scientists and prospective students from all over the country."

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