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UNH Dean Named to Presidential Commission on Ocean Policy

By Kim Billings
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DURHAM, N.H. -- Andrew Rosenberg, dean of the College of Life Sciences and Agriculture at the University of New Hampshire, is one of 16 people named by President George W. Bush to serve on the National Commission on Ocean Policy. Rosenberg was nominated by U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R- N.H.). The commission will examine ways in which the U.S. manages its ocean and coastal policies and programs.

Last year, Congress passed the Oceans Act of 2000 -- bipartisan legislation to create the National Commission on Ocean Policy that brings together oceanographic experts like Rosenberg, policy makers, industry representatives and environmental groups.

"I am grateful to Senator Gregg for nominating me for this position, and for his continued support of marine science programs at UNH. It is an honor to be appointed to this commission, and a tribute to the great work taking place in marine sciences at the University of New Hampshire," Rosenberg says. "I am excited to have the opportunity to be part of the discussion on marine policy, and hope I can provide valuable advice as we reevaluate the nation's laws and policies regarding the oceans and coasts."

Congress last convened a commission of this kind in 1966, and its findings led to the creation of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and set the stage for several pieces of landmark legislation.

The commission will examine federal efforts to address critical coastal management needs and scientific and technical research issues; as well as look at how the nation might utilize discoveries made possible by advances in ocean technology.
Currently, the U.S. generates more than 30 percent of its Gross Domestic Product from coastal areas, and nearly one out of every six jobs is marine-related. By the end of this decade, about 60 percent of Americans will live along the coasts. Despite these facts and projections, there is no national entity to establish a comprehensive and consistent national ocean policy.

Rosenberg, who became UNH dean last year, has had a distinguished career in the marine sciences. As former deputy director of the National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Rosenberg was a key agency policymaker and liaison to Congress, senior levels of the administration, resource management partners and the public. He managed 2,600 employees and a $420 million budget.

This post followed ten years with the National Marine Fisheries Service, where he was Northeast regional administrator and chief of research coordination in Maryland and Massachusetts. In this position he played a major role in developing and implementing recovery plans for New England fisheries which now are showing improvements on the George's Bank and other fishing grounds. Rosenberg also implemented protection plans for marine mammals such as harbor porpoise and right whales, and endangered species like Atlantic salmon.

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