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Subject Conover named Dean and Director of MSRC

Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce the appointment of David Conover to the position of Dean and Director of the Marine Sciences Research Center. Professor Conover has been at Stony Brook since 1981 and is widely recognized for his research in the ecology and evolutionary biology of fishes and fisheries science, has 20 years of experience in the administration of interdisciplinary research programs, and has served a term as Associate Dean for Research at the Center.

His current sponsored research support comes primarily from the NSF Ocean Sciences Division, and he leads a research group of about ten. He has authored or co-authored about seventy publications. Last summer his group's studies indicating fishery management plans should incorporate the potential for evolutionary change in harvestable biomass were published in Science, and the findings have attracted considerable media attention.

Professor Conover was selected after an international search and is lauded by the search committee as being 'articulate, organized, energetic, persistent and extremely focused.' While continuing to build the national and international stature of the MSRC in marine and atmospheric sciences, he plans to enhance the Center's position as the regional resource for a wide range of environmental issues. He has already begun to assume the duties of this new position and I am delighted to welcome him to this new post.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the search committee, and particularly Professor Gil Hanson who served as chair, for their excellent work.

During Professor Marvin Geller's five year term as dean and director, the Center has had several important accomplishments including creation of a marine animal pathology laboratory in partnership with Cornell, acquisition of a well-equipped marine research vessel, and the recruiting of several excellent faculty. On behalf of the university I want to thank him for his leadership and to wish him the best as he returns to full time teaching and research.

- Robert L. McGrath, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs