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STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, STONY BROOK, N.Y. 11794, 516-246-7710

### "The Year of the Coast"

An Open Letter from the Director of the Marine Sciences Research Center,  
State University of New York at Stony Brook:

Conservationist groups throughout the country have designated 1980 as the "Year of the Coast". For all of us who live on Long Island, every year is the year of the coast. Nowhere in the United States are the qualities of people's lives more intimately connected to its coastal areas. But we can no longer afford to take our environmental benefits for granted. As with liberty, eternal vigilance is necessary.

#### The Challenge

We make varied and sometimes conflicting demands on our coastal waters. We use them for cooling our power generating plants; for shipping and transport; for some of our waste disposal; for commercial and recreational fishing; and we use them for recreation. We place a high value on conserving the aesthetic qualities of these environments. If ever there were a place where people will have to use their heads and their knowledge to live in harmony with their environment, it is here on Long Island.

#### Where to Start

The Marine Sciences Research Center (MSRC) is the appropriate institution to take a leading role in Long Island's response to the "Year of the Coast". The MSRC is the center for research, graduate education and public service in the marine sciences for the State University of New York system. Two features distinguish us from other leading oceanographic institutes: our clear and persistent focus on coastal waters and the effectiveness with which our staff translates the results of research into forms readily applicable by managers and planners to resolution of societal problems.

#### What We Can Do Now

To understand the natural processes governing our coastal environment, and to translate that understanding into effective management, is critical to all our interests. The MSRC is embarking on a program to establish a research position for a person to devote himself or herself entirely and without distraction to the study of Long Island's Coastal problems--a Long Island Marine Scholar. The research position will be permanent; the holders of it will be temporary. There is good reason for this. Limiting appointments to this special position to three years ensures maximum effectiveness and will guarantee the persistent focus of the position on Long Island's coastal problems.

#### How You Can Help

Our goal is to raise an endowment fund of \$500,000 over the next twelve months to assure a permanent position for future Long Island Marine Scholars. A single gift from you can help attain this goal; no gift is too small. Donations (made payable to the "Stony Brook Foundation, Marine Scholar Fund") are tax deductible and should be mailed to the Marine Sciences Research Center, SUNY at Stony Brook, NY 11794. If you share our concern for conserving those qualities of Long Island's coastal environment that we cherish, please join us in this important effort.

Most sincerely,

*J. R. Schubel*

J. R. Schubel, Director