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REGIONAL LEADERS SUPPORT MARITIME AQUARIUM'S MASTER PLAN

NORWALK, CT (October 17, 2007)—Although The Maritime Aquarium is located in Norwalk, its impact is felt throughout the region. Look what these regional leaders had to say about the Aquarium's new master plan:

“The Aquarium's new plan has the ability to motivate and excite young people so they return to their classrooms and say, ‘I want to learn more. I want to study Long Island Sound. I want to do more science. I want to get a degree and become a marine biologist.’ We all have a vested interest in having more young people choose careers in science, math and engineering.”

—Theodore Sergi, President, Connecticut Science Center
Former Commissioner of Education, State of Connecticut

“For 20 years, The Maritime Aquarium has done yeoman's work in educating our population about the importance of Long Island Sound. With this Master Plan, the Aquarium will become even more effective at helping people understand what an asset the Sound is to our region, and how much our region relies on a healthy Sound for our quality of life, and how important it is to protect this natural asset.”

—Mayor Dannel P. Malloy (Stamford, CT)

“The interpretive framework of The Maritime Aquarium's Master Plan—about how people are shaped by and, in turn, shape natural systems—is especially exciting. My research shows that a sustainable relationship with the natural world is critical to our intellectual, emotional and

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spiritual development as humans. The Aquarium of the future promises to illuminate this relationship quite powerfully.”

—Dr. Stephen R. Kellert, Tweedy Ordway Professor of Social Ecology
Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies

“Investment in The Maritime Aquarium’s plan for the future will produce extraordinary, multi-dimensional returns for our region. The economic impact is important, but other impacts are even more profound. This institution is an essential asset, strengthening our sense of place, teaching us about Long Island Sound, improving our children’s understanding of their responsibility as citizens, and increasing our own understanding of our impact on this planet. The Maritime Aquarium truly belongs to everyone. In order to continue to serve *all* people, regardless of background, it needs to grow.”

—Christopher P. Bruhl, President and CEO, The Business Council of Fairfield County

“The Aquarium’s new plan puts children at the center of science and immerses them in a totally engaging experience. It will generate the excitement that captures the interest of children and adults alike and result in much deeper thinking about science. Especially for children who don’t otherwise have access to nature and the Sound, the opportunity to experience a piece of their own world in this dramatic way helps them make sense of their environment and want to learn and study more. I see this project as the impetus for young people to buy into the idea that we have to save all this, a way for us to pass on the work of keeping Long Island Sound alive. It makes children part of their ecosystem.”

—Leslie Alexander, Retired Principal
Bridgeport Public Schools

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"The Maritime Aquarium is already an anchor, but this master plan makes it the center of the universe with regard to the \$1.2 billion redevelopment effort currently underway in Norwalk.

The Aquarium will become one of the largest attractions in New England for tourists and businesses, helping to make South Norwalk an important destination for the region. The new master plan will make a real jewel shine much brighter, as The Maritime Aquarium attracts more families, and creates partnerships with more schools to educate our children, like the one with Jefferson Science Magnet School. Norwalk is proud to be home to such an important regional asset."

—Hon. Richard A. Moccia, Mayor of Norwalk

"Congratulations to The Maritime Aquarium on their plans to develop a state-of-the-art facility to connect students of all ages to our state's tremendous natural resources.

Environmental Education that is interactive and hands-on has never been as important as it is now with our children spending more and more time indoors and less and less time playing outdoors and experiencing nature's wonder. And we all know, the future of Long Island Sound and the surrounding environment will soon rest in the hands of these young students and we want them to learn at a young age what it takes to be a steward of the environment. At DEP we are committed to reconnecting youngsters and families with the outdoors through an initiative we call No Child Left Inside. The expansion of The Maritime Aquarium connects perfectly with this effort because it will encourage people to learn more about the Sound and its importance to Connecticut and the surrounding region."

—Gina McCarthy, Commissioner

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

For more information on The Maritime Aquarium's master plan, call the Aquarium at 203-852-0700 or visit. www.maritimeaquarium.org.

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