

## Preeminent oceanographer appointed to the US Arctic Research Commission

**Washington, DC** - President Obama further advanced his Arctic legacy today by appointing Dr. Larry Mayer to a four-year term on the US Arctic Research Commission (USARC), an independent federal agency that advises the President and Congress.

The Honorable Fran Ulmer, the presidentially designated Chair of the USARC, commended the appointment and said, "We're fortunate and grateful to have a research scientist and scholar of such caliber and experience appointed to the USARC. Dr. Mayer's work has significantly advanced the field of oceanography, and it directly benefits society. For example, his maps of the seafloor in the high Arctic, north of Alaska, are essential contributions to our nation's efforts to establish the full extent of our continental shelf. Dr. Mayer replaces Commissioner Dr. Warren Zapol, who served two terms on USARC and made invaluable contributions toward advancing Arctic human health research."

Professor Mayer is the founding director of the Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping at the University of New Hampshire and the co-director of the NOAA/UNH Joint Hydrographic Center. He has a broad background in marine geology and geophysics and his research interests include sonar imaging, remote characterization of the seafloor, and advanced applications of 3-D visualization to ocean mapping challenges. He is jointly appointed in UNH's Ocean Engineering and Earth Science Departments. Mayer has participated in more than 90 scientific research expeditions (over 70 months at sea) during the past 40 years. He has been chief or co-chief scientist of numerous expeditions including seven cruises on the USCG Icebreaker *Healy* mapping unexplored regions of the Arctic seafloor in support of a potential U.S. submission for an extended continental shelf under the Law of the Sea Treaty.

Mayer was awarded the Keen Medal for Marine Geology, an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Stockholm, the University of New Hampshire's Excellence in Research Award and the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography's Distinguished Alumni Award. He served on the President's Panel for Ocean Exploration, and chaired a National Academy of Sciences committee on "National Needs for Coastal Mapping and Charting." He co-chairs NOAA's Ocean Exploration Advisory Working Group and chairs the National Academy of Sciences Ocean Studies Board.

"I am very honored to have been appointed to the Commission," said Mayer. "With growing recognition of the critical role that the Arctic plays in a myriad of global issues including national security, resources and climate, it is incumbent on us to assure that we conduct the best possible research in order to better understand this complex and fragile region."

The USARC's mission is to develop and recommend US Arctic research policy to the President and Congress and to build cooperative links in Arctic research within the federal government, with Arctic residents, the State of Alaska, researchers, and international partners. To learn more, please visit the USARC at [www.arctic.gov](http://www.arctic.gov) and subscribe to our daily electronic newsletter, the "[Arctic Update](#)," which provides useful information about recent events, upcoming conferences, research initiatives, and news.

###

**Media Contact:** Kathy Farrow, 703-525-0112 (o) 703-851-7332 (c), [kfarrow@arctic.gov](mailto:kfarrow@arctic.gov)