



# Press Statement

February 16, 2018

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## **STATE AND NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAMS MOURN LOSS OF A QUIET CHAMPION FOR WATER RESOURCES AND A DEAR FRIEND**

**Robert W. Light, PhD  
1953-2018**

(ERIE, PA) – Dr. Robert W. Light, former associate dean for research and outreach and chief operating officer of Penn State’s Behrend College, and the founder and former director of the Pennsylvania Sea Grant College Program passed away on Tuesday, February 13, 2018. Pennsylvania Sea Grant Director, Sarah Whitney, and National Sea Grant College Program Director, Jonathan Pennock, share these thoughts at this sad time.

### **Sarah Whitney, Director, Pennsylvania Sea Grant**

“While Pennsylvania Sea Grant was a small part of all that Bob did, he had a huge impact on getting the program to where it is now. Bob founded and then led the Pennsylvania Sea Grant program for nearly twenty years, and just retired as director in 2017. A quiet leader, Bob saw the strength and talent in others and empowered each of us to work collaboratively, seek answers and solve problems. He will be sorely missed.”

### **Jonathan Pennock, Director, National Sea Grant College Program.**

“Bob was a mentor to many, unselfishly lending his time and wisdom to me and other newly minted Sea Grant directors as we started our careers in Sea Grant. Bob was a visionary leader for Pennsylvania Sea Grant and was instrumental in leading and growing the program through its first twenty years. I was honored to participate in the review panel that evaluated and recommended Pennsylvania Sea Grant program to the highest status as the Pennsylvania Sea Grant College Program. This achievement would not have happened without Bob’s leadership and the caliber of the Pennsylvania Sea Grant team that Bob built.”

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