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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TIDEWATER ELECTS R.A. (RICH) PATTAROZZI TO ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NEW ORLEANS, SEPTEMBER 27, 2001 - Tidewater (NYSE: TDW) today announced the election of R.A. (Rich) Pattarozzi to its Board of Directors.

Pattarozzi comes to Tidewater following a distinguished career in the energy industry. After more than 33 years of service, he retired in January 2001 as Vice President of Shell Oil Co. where his responsibilities included Shell Deepwater Development Inc., Shell Deepwater Production Inc. and Shell's Shallow Water Gulf of Mexico E&P business.

Born in LaSalle, Illinois, Pattarozzi graduated from the University of Illinois in 1966 with a BS degree in civil engineering. Following graduation, he joined Shell Oil Company and was initially assigned to the company's offshore engineering organization in New Orleans. He then served in a number of engineering as well as operations and administrative positions in Midland, Texas; Houston; Michigan; Bakersfield, Calif.; and New Orleans.

In April 1991, Pattarozzi was appointed General Manager of Shell's Deepwater Production Division, advancing quickly to General Manager of Shell's Deepwater Exploration and Production Division in October 1991. Five years later, in December of 1996, Pattarozzi assumed the position of President and Chief Executive Officer of Shell Deepwater Production Inc. and Shell Deepwater Development Inc. His responsibilities included overseeing the exploration, development and production of Shell's Gulf of

Mexico deepwater leasehold. In early 1999, Pattarozzi was promoted to the position of Vice President of Shell Oil Co., which he held until his retirement.

Pattarozzi is married and has two sons, ages 32 and 29. He and his wife, Janet, live in Metairie, La. He is active in several community and civic organizations. He was a former Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the United Way of New Orleans and is currently the Vice-chairman of Finance and member of the Board for the Offshore Energy Center in Galveston, Texas. He is also a member of the Board for the Louisiana Alliance for Education Reform.

In addition to sitting on Tidewater's Board of Directors, Pattarozzi is also a member of the Board of Directors for Transocean Sedco Forex (RIG), Global Industries (GLBL), Stone Energy (SGY), and OSCA Inc. (OSCA) all of which are publicly traded companies on the NYSE or NASDAQ.

Tidewater Inc. owns and operates nearly 570 vessels, the world's largest fleet of vessels serving the global offshore energy industry.

Contact: Liberty Hodges (504) 568-1010

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

TIDEWATER INC.

By: /s/ Cliffe F. Laborde

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Cliffe F. Laborde
Executive Vice President, General
Counsel and Secretary

Date: September 27, 2001