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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TIDEWATER ELECTS TWO OFFICERS AND PROMOTES ANOTHER

NEW ORLEANS, DECEMBER 6, 2001 -- Tidewater Inc. (NYSE:TDW) announced today that it has elected Jeff Platt, head of its South and Central American divisions, and Jim Donnelly, head of its European and African divisions, to the office of Vice President. The Company also announced the promotion of Stephen Dick to Executive Vice President in charge of all North American operations.

Platt, who joined Tidewater in September of 1996, most recently served as the Company's area manager for Brazilian operations. He will continue to be based in New Orleans.

Donnelly joined the Company in 1996 through Tidewater's acquisition of Hornbeck Offshore Services where his service began in November of 1994. He has most recently served as area manager of Tidewater's North Sea division and will continue to be based out of Aberdeen, Scotland in the United Kingdom.

Stephen Dick has been with Tidewater since 1971. In 1996 Dick was promoted to senior vice president with responsibilities for overseeing Tidewater's activities in the North Sea and West Africa. He is currently based out of Douala, Cameroon. Concurrent with assuming his responsibilities over all North American operations he will relocate to Tidewater's headquarters in New Orleans.

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

Contact: Keith Lousteau (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

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

Date: December 6, 2001