

**Susan Snow-Cotter of Hingham, environmentalist, ocean expert**

16 December 2006

The Patriot Ledger

HINGHAM - Susan A. Snow-Cotter, 45, of Hingham, an ocean policy expert and environmental leader, died Wednesday after a battle with breast cancer.

Mrs. Snow-Cotter was an integral part of the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management for more than 12 years. She began in 1994 as its first ocean policy coordinator and developed the state's first strategic plan for aquaculture. In 1998, she became assistant director and was later appointed director. She headed the nation's first Environmental Affairs Ocean Management Initiative.

"Susan's dedication and enthusiasm for the environment, as well as her positive outlook and leadership, inspired many of her friends and colleagues," said Robert W. Golledge Jr., Executive Office of Environmental Affairs Secretary. "Susan's impact on our environment will be felt for many years to come."

She was the chairperson of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment and of the state's Coastal Hazard's Commission. She served on the Northeast Regional Ocean Council and the U.S. Committee on Ocean Policy's Federal/State Task Team on Research Priorities.

She led a region-wide effort to map the sea floor off the New England Coast and led many efforts to bring innovative changes to the region.

Mrs. Snow-Cotter was also active in Hingham town government and was a former member of the Hingham Harbor Development Committee.

"Susan was one person in this town with whom I could connect on issues related to the ocean and its protection," said Maggie Merrill of Hingham. "She worked on a very high level in the state, but never was condescending ... Her love of the ocean was deep-seated in that it gave her great pleasure and solace to walk the beach in Hull and row with the crew in Hingham Harbor." .

Mrs. Snow-Cotter was raised in Medfield and earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. She earned a master's in marine affairs from the University of Washington.

She enjoyed traveling around the world with her husband, and returned to Medfield in 1994 after living on the island of Saipan. They moved to Hingham in 1995.

She is survived by her husband, W. John Cotter Jr.; a daughter, Carley Cotter, and a son, Nicholas Cotter, of Hingham; her parents, Frederick S. and Joan M. (Reinstein) Snow Sr. of Medfield; two brothers, Frederick S. Snow Jr. and Stephen P. Snow of Holliston; a sister, Pamela M. Snow of Colrain; and an aunt, uncle, cousins and many nephews and nieces.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Monday at Old Ship Church, 107 Main St., Hingham.

Arrangements were made by Pyne Keohane Funeral Home, Hingham.