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Professor Ilana Berman-Frank-A Short Bio

The outgoing Director of the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences and incoming Head of the Mediterranean Sea Research Center of Israel, I transferred to the University of Haifa in March 2018 after ~ 16 years as a faculty member at the Faculty of Life Sciences, Bar Ilan University where I headed the Aquatic Ecology and Biological Oceanography Laboratory. The Berman-Frank laboratory studies the impacts of aquatic ecosystems on the environment and society, ranging from the local to the global scales, from Lake Kinneret to the Mediterranean and Red Seas, to the South Pacific Ocean. Currently I am the lead co-investigator of a team from University of Haifa and from GEOMAR (Kiel, Germany) in a Helmholtz funded project endorsed by the Decade of Ocean Sciences: The Eastern Mediterranean Sea Centre- An Early-Warning Model-System for our Future Oceans. We have also expanded this partnership and have collaborated with scientists from the United Arab Emirates to develop an infrastructure for marine observation systems in the Arabian Gulf and to use the regional data from the Mediterranean and Arabian Gulf to better understand how to sustainably

manage our marine systems under climate change.

I have experience in local and international capacities promoting marine sciences. I have served as President of the Israeli Association of Aquatic Sciences; Co-Chair of the International Group of Aquatic Primary Productivity (GAP); and Chair of the Education Committee, Mediterranean Sea Research Center of Israel. Currently I am serving as a member of the Board of the International Association of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO), Board of Directors for "EcoOcean" an environmental NGO promoting marine research and education, and on national committees advising the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry for the Protection of the Environment and for the Ministry of Innovation, Science & Technology on the need for Blue-Tech in Israel.

One of the highlights of my career was organizing and leading an international course (on behalf of EcoOcean) bringing together graduate students from Mediterranean countries in conflict to work jointly on marine and environmental issues affecting us all beyond national borders. Seeing the students being able to put aside religious, cultural, and political differences to work and study together on issues affecting them all was an enlightening moment that I believe can make a difference.

In addition to being a scientist – am a proud mother of four daughters and grandmother of four grandchildren.

