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**NOAA, GLOUCESTER MARITIME HERITAGE CENTER PARTNER
FOR 'FAMILY FUN DAYS'**

NOAA is partnering with the Gloucester Maritime Heritage Center (GMHC) to sponsor *Family Fun Days*, at the maritime center during September 21-23.

This free three-day event includes live music, hands-on activities for kids, and food. A wooden boat will be constructed during the festivities in the GMHC boatshop and raffled on Sunday. Mark Kurlansky, internationally known author of "Cod: A Biography of the Fish and Changed the World," will autograph and read from his works.

Friday events are especially for kids, commencing at 9AM and ending at noon. The official opening is on Saturday at 10AM. NOAA, state and local officials will be there, a NOAA geodetic marker will be installed to commemorate the 200th celebration, and Gloucester Mayor John Bell will be presented with a special award.

Numerous other exhibits and activities for the whole family are planned, showcasing the maritime and ocean science legacies of Gloucester and NOAA on Cape Ann. These include weather balloon launches, touch tanks with marine animals, Gloucester fishing vessel tours, and hands-on underwater robot operation. NOAA's Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary and NOAA's Preserve America Program will also be highlighted.

A full schedule of events is posted on the web, check the site for specific times for events.

NOAA is participating in this event as part of the agency's year-long celebration to commemorate 200 years of science, service and stewardship to the nation that began with the creation of the Survey of the Coast in 1807.

NOAA Fisheries Service is dedicated to protecting and preserving our nation's living marine resources and their habitat through scientific research, management and enforcement. NOAA Fisheries Service provides effective stewardship of these resources for the benefit of the nation, supporting coastal communities that depend upon them, and helping to provide safe and healthy seafood to consumers and recreational opportunities for the American public.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department, is celebrating 200 years of science and service to the nation. From the establishment of the Survey of the Coast in 1807 by Thomas Jefferson to the formation of the Weather Bureau and the Commission of Fish and Fisheries in the 1870s, much of America's scientific heritage is rooted in NOAA.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and information service delivery for transportation, and by providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners, more than 70 countries and the European Commission to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes, predicts, and protects.

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On the Web:

Family Fun Days Event Website: www.nero.noaa.gov/familyfundays/

Gloucester Maritime Heritage Center: www.gloucestermaritimecenter.org/

NOAA: www.noaa.gov

NOAA 200th Celebration: celebrating200years.noaa.gov