



# **NEWS FROM NOAA**

**NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

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## **NOAA, NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES JAMES J. HOWARD MARINE SCIENCES LABORATORY CELEBRATES OPEN HOUSE 2006**

On September 29 and 30, 2006, the NOAA Fisheries Service James J. Howard Marine Sciences Laboratory will open its facility at Sandy Hook, NJ to the public. Joining NOAA this year will be the American Littoral Society, Brookdale Community College, the Marine Academy of Science and Technology, the National Park Service, and the New Jersey Marine Science Consortium to present their ongoing research and programs.

The two-day event features a self-guided tour of the Howard Laboratory, as well as talks and displays on the ecology of coastal and estuarine fish and shellfish, and the effects of human activities on the coastal environment. Visitors can view the 32,000 gallon saltwater aquarium and watch NOAA divers swim with the bluefish and striped bass. There will also be live marine animals on display in the various smaller laboratories and a "touch tank" of friendly sea creatures. The two-day event will include many educational as well as entertaining activities geared for all ages.

Staff scientists will present talks during the day and titles are being finalized at this time. Planned topics include fish reproduction, life at sea for researchers, and mythical tales of the sea. A final schedule of talks will be posted on the laboratory's public website.

The Marine Academy of Science and Technology's (MAST) seawater classroom will be open so visitors can see how the students learn first-hand about marine biology.

The Open House is scheduled from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup> and 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. In the past, attendance has been quite good, so allow at least two hours to complete the self-guided tour. The event is free, and there is plenty of parking.

NOAA Fisheries Service is dedicated to providing and preserving the nation's living marine resources and their habitat through scientific research, management, and enforcement. NOAA Fisheries 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.

In 2007 NOAA, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department, celebrates 200 years of science and service to the nation. Starting with the establishment of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey in 1807 by Thomas Jefferson much of America's scientific heritage is rooted in NOAA.

The agency 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 60 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:

NMFS NEFSC James J. Howard Laboratory: <http://sh.nefsc.noaa.gov/>

NOAA Fisheries Service: [www.nmfs.noaa.gov/](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/)

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