

## **NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE NEWS RELEASE SOUTHEAST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 25, 2007

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### **Morehead City Resident Receives NOAA Distinguished Career Award - Ethel A. Hall Honored for 40 Years of Service**

Ethel A. Hall, Biological Science Technician for NOAA Fisheries Service, received the NOAA Distinguished Career Award for nearly 40 years of dedication to fisheries research earlier this week. Dr. William Hogarth, NOAA Fisheries Service's Assistant Administrator, bestowed the award on Ethel Hall during a ceremony on April 24, 2007 in Silver Spring, Md. The Distinguished Career Award recognizes long-term achievement in advancing the goals and mission of NOAA Fisheries.

"We are extraordinarily proud of Ethel," said her technical supervisor Joseph W. Smith. "Ethel's attention to detail over the decades has undoubtedly improved the quality of the agency's menhaden data and associated research endeavors."

Ethel began working for NOAA Fisheries Service on November 14, 1967 in Brunswick, Ga. She transferred to the Beaufort Laboratory in 1969 and was immediately enrolled in the Menhaden Sampling Program. Her primary research involves ageing Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico menhaden. Menhaden are aged by counting the rings that appear on their scales. On average in recent years, Ethel ages about 10,000 menhaden samples annually. Her co-workers estimate that Ethel has aged over 660,000 menhaden in her remarkable 40-year career with NOAA Fisheries. Commercial landings in the menhaden fisheries annually exceed one billion pounds, and represent the second largest fishery in the United States in terms of weight.

Ethel was born and raised on Sapelo Island, Ga., and is a long-time resident of Morehead City, N.C. After receiving her primary education on Sapelo Island, Ethel attended ninth grade at Todd Grant High School in Darien, Ga. She graduated from Risley High School in Brunswick, Ga., in 1959, then attended Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, N.C. 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 60 countries and the European Commission to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes, predicts and protects.

Media Note: [View Photo of Ethel A.Hall](#)

On the Web:

Southeast Fisheries Science Center <http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/>

NOAA Fisheries Service <http://www.noaa.gov/fisheries.html>

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