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NOAA Announces \$1.3 Million Recovery Act Contract to Repair Galveston Laboratory

NOAA today announced a \$1.3 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act contract to **Complete Building Corporation** from **Charleston, South Carolina**, to repair and replace parts of the NOAA Galveston laboratory that were damaged in Hurricane Ike in September 2008.

The project, which is expected to be concluded by October 2010, will build a new NOAA Marine Mammal Stranding Network Building to replace the structure that was completely destroyed by the hurricane.

“This project allows us to take another step towards full restoration of our Galveston facility so seriously damaged by Hurricane Ike,” said William Broglie, NOAA’s Chief Administrative Officer, who is responsible for NOAA’s facility program. “This Recovery Act funded project will allow NOAA to continue its critical research and conservation efforts in the Gulf, including protection of threatened and endangered marine species.”

The Galveston Laboratory is part of the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Fisheries Science Center and provides scientific information on the management of commercial and recreational shellfish and finfish, conservation of coastal habitats, and protection of threatened and endangered marine species of the Gulf of Mexico.

The laboratory conducts research on sea turtles, including the highly endangered Kemp’s Riley sea turtle, and is the only federal facility in the nation dedicated to the captive rearing of sea turtles. The NOAA supported marine mammal stranding network not only rehabilitates marine mammals, but supports critical research at the laboratory.

NOAA’s mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth’s environment; from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Visit: <http://www.noaa.gov>.

On the Web:

NOAA Fisheries Service Galveston Laboratory: <http://galveston.ssp.nmfs.gov/>

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

NOAA Recovery Website: <http://www.noaa.gov/recovery/>