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### **NOAA Awards Milford Laboratory Repair Contract to WS Anderson Incorporated**

NOAA today announced a **\$1,447,000** award to **WS Anderson Incorporated** from **Brockton, Massachusetts**, for repair and modernization of its marine fisheries laboratory in Milford, Connecticut. This project is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The project, which is expected to be concluded by July 2010, will improve energy efficiency at the laboratory, replace aged elevator and roof systems, and improve life/safety issues in the laboratory. The facilities at the Milford laboratory include a 4,800 square foot structure, dating back to 1940, and a 28,000 square foot laboratory-office building that was completed in 1966. The two buildings house 30 laboratories and offices.

“The Milford Laboratory supports NOAA’s ecosystem-based research mission in the northeast, and provides valuable research and science-based information to help sustain the commercial and recreational fishing and shellfish industries,” said William Broglie, NOAA’s chief administrative officer. “This ARRA-funded project makes long-needed enhancements to the laboratory’s aging infrastructure; improves the efficiency of the lab’s heating, ventilation and cooling systems; and positively impacts both our employees and the local economy.”

The Milford Laboratory is located on the shore of Long Island Sound and is part of NOAA’s Northeast Fisheries Science Center. Present research done at the facility emphasizes marine aquaculture for both commercial use and stock enhancement, including studies of fish and shellfish diseases, feeding and growth of marine species, and the functions of nearshore ecosystems. A well-integrated aquaculture program includes studies of the culture of fish and shellfish to develop methods suitable for commercial use as well as for stock enhancement and restoration. Nearshore habitats are being studied to determine what characteristics make a habitat suitable for a particular species.

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On the Web:

NOAA Milford Laboratory: <http://www.mi.nmfs.gov/>

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

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