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**NOAA Marine Science Laboratory in New Jersey
Opens Doors to Public October 3 and 4**

Visit a working laboratory, see a 32,000 gallon research aquarium, view live marine animals and even touch a few at the James J. Howard Marine Sciences Laboratory in Sandy Hook, N.J. on October 3 and 4.

NOAA's Fisheries Service and its marine science neighbors at Sandy Hook are sponsoring the open house. Expect to see displays of current research from NOAA, the American Littoral Society, Brookdale Community College, the Marine Academy of Science and Technology, the National Park Service, the New Jersey Marine Science Consortium, and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Artificial Reef Program.

The two-day event features a variety of family-friendly activities including a self-guided tour of the Howard Laboratory where local species will be on view in NOAA's 32,000 gallon research aquarium. There will also be live marine animals on display in various smaller laboratories and several "touch tanks" of friendly sea creatures.

NOAA staff scientists will present talks during the day on topics such as bluefish gliding studies, ecosystems-based research, the history of the bay scallop fishery, and fish reproduction. The American Littoral Society will discuss their fish tagging program. A final schedule of talks will be posted on the NOAA Howard Laboratory public website. A NOAA commercial fishery liaison and marine mammal specialist will also be on hand to explain new gear requirements to reduce the risk of entangling large whales in pot and trap fisheries, and to field other questions about marine mammals.

The Open House will run from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 3rd and from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 4th. Please allow at least two hours to complete the self-guided tour. The event is free, and there is plenty of parking.

The NOAA Fisheries Service' Howard Laboratory is part of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center. Its scientists conduct research in ecology to understand the importance of habitat changes and human disturbances on fish and shellfish productivity.

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.

NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources. Visit <http://www.noaa.gov>.

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On the Web:

NMFS NEFSC James J. Howard Laboratory & directions: <http://sh.nefsc.noaa.gov>
NOAA Fisheries Service: www.nmfs.noaa.gov/