



# Press Release

**For Immediate Release**

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**OCEAN FUN DAYS Offers Activities & Adventures in Coastal Education**

(Sandy Hook, NJ).....The New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium (NJMSC), New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG) and the New Jersey Department of Transportation's Office of Maritime Resources (NJDOT-OMR) will sponsor *OCEAN FUN DAYS* on Saturday, May 19 at Island Beach State Park and Sunday, May 20 at NJMSC's Headquarters on Sandy Hook. Admission and all activities are free at both locations and the event will run from 11 am to 3 pm, rain or shine.

*OCEAN FUN DAYS* will once again provide the public with a unique opportunity to learn more about New Jersey's ocean and coastline. Visitors can find out about marine research, bay environments, shorebirds, fish habitat, boating safety and more. Both locations will offer exhibits, demonstrations, and dozens of hands-on activities including seining and a new feature this year, seashore origami. Guided birding and beach eco-tours will be conducted at both events and special tours of Battery Potter and the Nike Radar Site will be available on Sunday at Sandy Hook.

Visitors this year can have their photos taken with *OCEAN FUN DAYS* mascots *Stella the Seastar* or *Pearl the Puffer*, get caught up in the excitement of Fiddler Crab Races and

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enter a free drawing at the NJNG Exhibit for a Family of Five Fun Pack to Jenkinson's in Point Pleasant, that includes amusements, beach passes, mini-golf and aquarium admission.

*OCEAN FUN DAYS* also provides an ideal opportunity for scouts and other youth groups to learn and earn recognition for their experience. "Scouts for example, can meet badge requirements at *OCEAN FUN DAYS*, through unique experiences such as visiting a research vessel, seining with trained naturalists or observing shorebirds with an experienced guide," according to Thomas Hayes, Director of Customer and Community Relations at New Jersey Natural Gas. A special badge guide has been developed to help scouts plan their day. The guide is available by calling the NJMSC at 732-872-1300, Ext. 19.

*OCEAN FUN DAYS*, which has evolved into one of the Monmouth-Ocean areas most popular pre-summer educational eco-tourism events, was introduced by the New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium (NJMSC), and New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG) in 2004. The NJDEP Division of Parks and Forestry later joined in the event and this year the NJDOT Office of Maritime Resources has also become a sponsor.

The NJMSC is a private nonprofit organization of academic and private sector partners dedicated to providing a better understanding of New Jersey's marine and coastal resources and promoting their wise use. NJNG serves nearly half a million customers in Monmouth, Ocean, Middlesex and Morris counties and has a longstanding tradition of service to the community that goes far beyond customers' energy needs, focusing on education, energy conservation and the environment.

For more details including directions to *OCEAN FUN DAYS*, go to [www.njmssc.org](http://www.njmssc.org) and click on "News and Events."

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