



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Coast Day NJ Comes To Cape May**

(Sandy Hook, NJ)...The New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium (NJMSC) and the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) Office of Maritime Resources will co-host the 9<sup>th</sup> annual *Coast Day NJ: A Celebration of the Sea* on Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. The festival, dedicated to showcasing New Jersey's \$50 billion coastal economy, will take place in Cape May at the Lobster House Restaurant and Dock and the NJ Audubon Society Nature Center of Cape May from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Admission and all activities are free.

As the recipient of the prestigious Governor's Tourism Award for Ecotourism and the Monmouth-Ocean Development Council's (MODC) Tourism Achievement award, *Coast Day NJ* provides family-oriented activities designed to educate visitors about New Jersey's coastal environments and maritime heritage. Activities will include hands-on marine science exhibits, demonstrations, eco-tours, crab races and more. Attendees can also tour a commercial fishing vessel, pull a seine in Cape May Harbor or go behind the scenes at a fish-packing facility. The New Jersey Audubon Nature Center of Cape May will also offer its "Harbor Safari" tour throughout the day.

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*Coast Day NJ* is highly-regarded for its non-commercial focus and continues to attract more participants and visitors each year. The Alliance for a Living Ocean (ALO), the New Jersey Sea Grant Extension Program (NJSSEP), Marine Trades Association (MTA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Aquatic Discoveries-The Wetlands Institute, The Cape May National Wildlife Refuge, and The Marine Mammal Stranding Center are among the dozens of exhibitors who will be at this year's festivities.

This year, *Coast Day NJ* will include a press conference announcing the Stewart Tweed Memorial Scholarship fund, recently established by NJMSC and its New Jersey Sea Grant Extension Program. Stewart was a long-time Marine Extension Agent for New Jersey who passed away in February 2007. The scholarship will perpetuate Stew's memory by recognizing his twenty-seven years of service and commitment to New Jersey's commercial fishing industry and his valuable contributions toward revitalizing the State's oyster populations. Beginning in 2008, scholarships will be awarded to a graduating high-school or vocational school senior and an undergraduate or graduate student pursuing studies, careers or research focused on aquaculture and fisheries. Since its inception, Stew Tweed was a fixture at *Coast Day NJ*, educating thousands of visitors every year about commercial fishing and shellfish farming and treating them to samples of the Cape May Salt Oyster. "Cape May Salts" as they are now commonly known, are cultivated oysters Stew was instrumental in developing from an oyster seed project which have since evolved into a viable, commercially successful New Jersey seafood product shipped nationally and globally.

Governor Corzine and New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Charles Kuperus are both invited speakers at the press conference, where Stew's family will be presented with a special plaque from the Department of Agriculture honoring and commemorating Stew's contribution to the State's

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shellfish industry and commercial fishing, and several legislative resolutions are expected to be presented.

The New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium is a non-profit affiliation of colleges, universities and public sector groups dedicated to advancing greater knowledge of New Jersey's marine and coastal environment. NJMSC meets its mission through innovative research, education and outreach designed to address coastal sustainability and ecosystem health, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, marine technology, science based management and science literacy. For further information about Coast Day NJ, contact Claire Antonucci at (732) 872-1300, ext. 22, email [cantonucci@njmsc.org](mailto:cantonucci@njmsc.org), or visit the News and Events Page at [njmsc.org](http://njmsc.org)

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