



Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Rosemary Higgins

Tel. 732-872-1300 ext. 19

email: rhiggins@njmsc.org

Ocean Fun Days Make Learning a Shore Thing

(Sandy Hook, NJ)...Did you know that horseshoe crabs have blue blood? Or that seastars have an eye on the tip of each arm? Come to the Fifth Annual Ocean Fun Days to learn about more cool sea creatures and other treasures of the Jersey Shore. 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 once again present *OCEAN FUN DAYS* on Saturday, May 17 at Island Beach State Park and Sunday, May 18 at the NJMSC Headquarters on Sandy Hook. Admission and all activities are free at both locations and the event will run rain or shine from 11 am to 3 pm.

OCEAN FUN DAYS offers the public a unique opportunity to learn more about New Jersey's ocean and coastline and encourages environmental stewardship. Visitors can find out about marine research, bay environments, shorebirds, fish habitat and more. Both locations will offer exhibits, student science fair projects displays, demonstrations, and dozens of hands-on activities including seining, fishing workshops, marine crafts and more. Guided bay and beach eco-tours will also be conducted at both events. Visitors to the Sandy Hook location can enjoy

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**Building #22 Fort Hancock, NJ 07732 tel. 732-872-1300 fax: 732-291- 4483
www.njmsc.org email: general@njmsc.org**

Revolutionary and Civil War reenactments and take ranger guided tours of historic sites as part of Fort Hancock's Civil Defenses Day.

Now in its fifth year, *OCEAN FUN DAYS* has evolved into one of the Monmouth-Ocean area's most popular educational eco-tourism events. The event was originally organized and sponsored by the New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium (NJMSC) and New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG) who later welcomed the NJDOT Office of Maritime Resources as a sponsorship partner.

Highlights of the 2008 event will include souvenir photos taken with *OCEAN FUN DAYS*' newest mascot Limulus the Horseshoe Crab, NJMSC's famous Fiddler Crab Races and a chance to win a Family of Five Fun Pack to Jenkinson's in Point Pleasant, by entering a free drawing at the NJNG Exhibit.

Scouts and other youth groups can apply their *OCEAN FUN DAYS* experience to badge requirements through unique experiences such as seining with an experienced guide. Detailed information for Scouts is available at www.njmssc.org/oceanfunday.html

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 and click on "News and Events."

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