



MEDIA ALERT

July 3, 2008

CONTACT: Dan Williams – 206.616.6353 or dw7@u.washington.edu

Kids Explore Marine Science at NOAA's Seattle Facility

At NOAA Science Camp, middle-schoolers work with NOAA scientists, camp staff and each other to explore various ocean and coastal concepts. These concepts will prove instrumental in the campers' ability to formulate reasonable hypotheses for determining the cause and effects of an environmental problem that serves as an over-arching theme for the week. Campers learn to work together to complete large- and small-group challenges through hands-on science activities and games.

The week culminates with a scientific symposium, at which the campers share the results of their small group projects with family, friends and scientific experts. Each person attending the camp leaves with increased environmental knowledge and an awareness of how NOAA science applies to their local and global communities.

Who? Youth entering seventh and eighth grades in the fall of 2008.

Where? NOAA's Sand Point Facility on Lake Washington, 7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Seattle.

When? Session I: July 7-11, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Session II: July 14-18, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Camp Highlights – During the week, Science Campers will:

- ∞ Try on dive gear and simulate a dive in a hyperbaric chamber.
- ∞ Learn how to tell the age of fish and find out about management of fish

- populations.
- ∞ Identify individual whales by their tails.
 - ∞ Find out what marine mammals feed on and where they go.
 - ∞ Analyze water samples and see how buoys sample the ocean to help predict large-scale climate events.
 - ∞ Learn about hazardous substances and how to respond to an oil spill.
 - ∞ Learn about how wind is produced and other things affecting weather.

NOTE: Visitors must have security clearance from NOAA. Please call in advance and make arrangements with Lisa Hiruki-Raring, 206-526-4410.

NOAA Science Camp is a grassroots effort to increase environmental literacy in the Puget Sound area and help campers gain an understanding of environmental issues in their own communities. Event sponsors are NOAA, Washington Sea Grant and the Joint Institute for the Study of the Atmosphere and Ocean.

Washington Sea Grant, part of the University of Washington's College of Ocean and Fishery Sciences, funds marine research and works with communities and businesses to manage and protect marine resources.