

A Great Day in the Great Lakes!
September 8, 2007
John G. Shedd Aquarium

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which is celebrating its 200th anniversary, will host a *Great Day in the Great Lakes!* in Chicago, IL, to highlight NOAA's history of working in the Great Lakes region with special emphasis on the partnerships that have made this work a success and on the issues of importance to Great Lakes Stakeholders as defined in the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy.

It all started in 1807 with President Thomas Jefferson's vision to support his fledgling nation's economy by ensuring safe maritime commerce. He accomplished this by creating the Survey of the Coast, the first federal science agency and precursor to NOAA's navigation services. In 2007, NOAA celebrates 200 years of science, service, and stewardship - expanding Jefferson's dream into a realm of unimagined possibilities.

From those humble beginnings 200 years ago, NOAA's impact is now worldwide. Spanning sensors on the bottom of the ocean floor to complex environmental satellites orbiting the Earth - the men and women of NOAA recognize the importance of their work to the American public and our global community. NOAA takes pride in its heritage and you may learn more by taking a moment to visit the Web site (www.celebrating200years.noaa.gov) that chronicles the agency's beginnings and visions of the future.

So in celebration of the Great Lakes, our history with it, and all of its treasures – join us for *A Great Day in the Great Lakes!* on September 8, 2007 at the John J. Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, IL. This fun-filled family event will include:

- A Discovery Tent with NOAA informational displays and a variety of environmentally-themed activities. The day long tent fair will showcase NOAA exhibits with representatives from all NOAA activities, featured invited speakers, and agency booths/educational activities highlighting the NOAA's activities in the Great Lakes region with special emphasis on the challenges facing the region today and the steps NOAA and others are taking to address them. NOAA is involved in a number of areas including climate, weather, ecosystem ecology, waves, ice, water levels, sanctuaries, satellites, coastal zone management, Sea Grant, invasive species, beach conditions and new technologies.
- Tours of the NOAA Green Ship, one of the first ships in the U.S. fleet to operate petroleum-free and winner of a White House Closing-the-Circle Award. The ship uses 100 percent bio-products for engine fuel, motor oil, and hydraulic oil. Staff experts from the Lake Michigan Field Station will be on hand to highlight the features of the vessel and its importance in performing Great Lakes research and to answer questions.