



NOAA NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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Santa to Visit Woods Hole Science Aquarium December 23

Thursday Afternoon Hours Extended for Special Event

Santa Claus will make his annual visit to the Woods Hole Science Aquarium on Thursday, December 23, from 4 to 6 p.m. The Aquarium, operated by NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center, is normally open on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., but will remain open until 6 p.m. on December 23 for this special visit.

Santa's helpers will provide an art activity for younger children, and everyone is welcome to have their picture taken with Santa. Light snacks will be served.

The Aquarium collection includes approximately 140 species of marine fish and invertebrates that are native to New England waters. Programs operated at the Aquarium in partnership with the Marine Biological Laboratory include those for marine animal health, summer internships for high school students, and special exhibits. The facility is also home for two harbor seals, LuSeal and Bumper, who cannot be released to the wild. Seal feeding time is always a popular and informative event, and Aquarium staff will feed the seals around 4 p.m.

The Woods Hole Science Aquarium is open year-round Tuesdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Aquarium is a federal facility and will be closed December 24 and 31, as well as December 25 and January 1. Admission is free; however, donations are accepted.

The public aquarium has been part of the federal fisheries laboratory in Woods Hole since 1885, when a permanent marine science laboratory complex was completed on Water Street after moving from original facilities established in 1871 on nearby Little Harbor. The Woods Hole Science Aquarium is the oldest continuously operating research aquarium in the United States.

Visit the Aquarium on the web at aquarium.nefsc.noaa.gov.

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Related web links:

Woods Hole Science Aquarium: <http://aquarium.nefsc.noaa.gov/>

History of the National Marine Fisheries Service:

<http://www.history.noaa.gov/legacy/nmfshistory.html>