



June 12, 2006

Heritage Center Celebrates New season

On Friday evening, June 9<sup>th</sup>, over 200 people gathered at the Gloucester Maritime Heritage Center to celebrate the start of the 2006 season and the opening of the new Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Exhibit. Spirits were high despite the perpetual drizzle as children delved into the touch tanks in Sea Pocket Lab (the outdoor aquarium) and examined phyto and zooplankton under the video microscopes in the Plankton Lab. Guests checked out the wooden boats under construction in the boathouse and listened to the music of Pick 3 under the tent overlooking the harbor.

Executive director Harriet Webster and GMHC president Geoff Richon welcomed the crowd. Webster noted that over 1300 children participated in GMHC field trips this spring, dissecting over 500 squid! Dr. Craig MacDonald, superintendent of the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary described the sanctuary's partnership with GMHC. Volunteer and GMHC vice president Nancy Sullivan was presented the center's first ever "Passionate and Tireless Award" in recognition of her tremendous contribution to the GMHC education program.