

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, August 18, 2009

Contact:

Shannon Gilson, 202-482-4883, sgilson@doc.gov

Ben Sherman, 301-713-3066,

ben.sherman@noaa.gov

**THURSDAY: COMMERCE SECRETARY LOCKE TO ANNOUNCE
RECOVERY ACT AWARDS TO SUPPORT
EFFICIENT MARINE NAVIGATION AND CREATE JOBS**

WASHINGTON – On Thursday, Commerce Secretary Gary Locke will announce millions of dollars of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding to strengthen the economy, create jobs, and support safe and efficient marine commerce and trade, which contributes more than \$742 billion and 13 million jobs to the economy annually. The awarded contracts will help the Commerce Department’s National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) map the seafloor, collect data in critical coastal areas, and update nautical charts of approximately 2,000 square nautical miles in the Chesapeake Bay and other areas along the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf of Mexico.

WHO: U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke
NOAA National Ocean Service, Assistant Administrator, John H. Dunnigan
NOAA Office of Coast Survey, Director, Captain Steve Barnum

WHAT: Announcement of America Recovery and Reinvestment Act Contract Awards

WHEN: Thursday, August 20, 11:15 a.m.
Press Check-in: 10:45 a.m.

WHERE: Half Moone Cruise & Celebration Center- Virginia Room (*located adjacent to Nauticus*)
1 Waterside Drive
Norfolk, VA 23510

RSVP: Press should RSVP to Charmion Kinder at (202) 482-4883 or ckinder@doc.gov by 5:00 p.m. EDT, Wednesday, August 19th. For logistical information contact the NOAA Public Affairs Office at 202-482-6090.

NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources. Visit: <http://www.noaa.gov>.

###