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STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT

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## Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: July 27, 2009

### SCIENCE ON A SPHERE DEDICATION AT THE ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

The Alaska State Museum and NOAA are holding an opening ceremony dedicating Science on a Sphere, a new permanent interactive installation at the Alaska State Museum, Friday August 7 at 5:00 p.m. The community is invited to the ceremony and will have a chance to see the sphere free of charge on the same day, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., as part Juneau's monthly First Friday celebration. The dedication will be attended by NOAA officials from their Washington, D.C. headquarters and regional facilities. Les Morse, Deputy Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development will be officiating the program.

The suspended six-foot carbon fiber sphere uses computers and digital projectors to display dynamic animated images of the Earth's atmosphere, oceans, animal migration patterns, global warming trends, hurricane paths, aviation flight patterns and fisheries around the globe.

The Alaska State Museum features the sphere as an interpretive tool to provide global perspectives for Alaska and its neighbors and to illustrate the complex physical dynamics that comprise Earth's ecosystems. NOAA Fisheries funded the purchase of Science on a Sphere for the Alaska State Museum as part of the museum's and NOAA's educational enhancement partnership. NOAA serves as the principal government agency studying and monitoring many of the global systems displayed on the sphere. The sphere provides a tool for clearly visualizing these complete systems and understanding how they are interconnected on a global scale. "This collaboration between NOAA and the Alaska State Museum strengthens the educational efforts of both organizations," said John Oliver, Deputy Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries. "People come to the Alaska State Museum in Juneau to learn about Alaska's natural history, human history and art. With Science on a Sphere, they can see Alaskan weather, oceans, fisheries, flight paths, and animal migration patterns in relation to the rest of the globe through time."

A second Juneau sphere, also open to public viewing, is installed at NOAA's Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute at Lena Point. The Lena Point sphere is where NOAA Fisheries computer and data experts in Juneau try out new fisheries data sets that are used to convey and contextualize fisheries information from across the globe.

Summer hours at the museum are 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily except holidays. Admission is \$5. Visitors 18 and under are admitted free. An annual pass that allows unlimited visits to the Alaska State Museum and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka is available for \$15. Assistance is available for visitors with special needs. Please contact Visitor Services at 465-2901 before the visit.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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